



A CHRONICLE OF



TURKISH AMERICAN RELATIONS

1923 - 2023



G. Lincoln McCurdy

Commemorating the Centennial
of the Republic of Türkiye

OCTOBER 29, 1923 – OCTOBER 29, 2023



Foreword

Few would deny that Turkish-American ties have been immensely consequential not only for those two countries but also for the broader course of global history. Any serious account of America's role in the world from the second half of the twentieth century to the present must grapple with its engagement with Türkiye. Situated at the nexus of the Balkans, the Middle East, and Eurasia, and astride the Black, Mediterranean, and Caspian seas, Türkiye, for the past eight decades, has proven indispensable to the conduct of American statecraft across these regions. In turn, Türkiye has leveraged its partnership with the United States to establish itself as a major power.

The history of Turkish-American interaction is anything but simple. Its dynamics have always been complex. The United States, despite its superpower status, has never been able to take Türkiye for granted as an ally. Although smaller in population and territory, Türkiye is far from a minor state: it ranks among the twenty largest countries in the world and occupies a strategic geography of enduring importance. More fundamentally, the Turkish-American relationship has been shaped by a deep and layered historical memory. For much of the twentieth century, the Turkish Republic appeared—at least to the superficial observer—a young and impressionable state eager to stand alongside, and at times emulate, the United States politically and culturally. Yet it was also the heir to a once world-conquering empire and civilization that predated the United States by centuries. That legacy of achievement and loss has persistently informed Turkish officials' assessments of their country's vulnerabilities and their judgments of the power and reliability of their American counterparts.

Now, as the international order undergoes profound disruption and the United States reassesses its role in the world, the importance of middle powers such as Türkiye is steadily growing. Understanding the foundations of U.S.–Türkiye ties will be essential not only for navigating bilateral relations but also for shaping the future of the international system.

A Chronicle of Turkish American Relations is both timely and essential. Scholars, students, diplomats, and policymakers will find in its pages an authoritative and remarkably comprehensive guide to a relationship that has shaped regional and global politics alike. The volume provides not only a detailed chronological account of the key political events and personalities that have defined bilateral engagement but also an illuminating record of the cultural connections that have bound the two societies—ranging from the inimitable Eartha Kitt's 1953 rendition of “Uska Dara” (“*Üsküdar'a Gider İken*”) to Hidayet “Hedo” Türkoğlu's career in American professional basketball in the 2000s. I know of no comparable work that assembles this material with such breadth, clarity, and accessibility.

G. Lincoln McCurdy brings to this engaging volume more than four decades of direct and deep engagement with Turkish-American affairs—from his service as American Consul for Commercial Affairs in Istanbul to his leadership of the Turkish Coalition of America and the

American-Turkish Council in Washington, D.C. Only someone with such sustained, intimate familiarity with both countries could have produced so expansive and multifaceted a chronicle. Importantly, the *Chronicle* does not shy away from the relationship's tensions: it captures the lows as well as the highs and candidly identifies the irritants and obstacles that have hindered cooperation and impeded partnership. The result is a volume that will serve as an indispensable reference for anyone seeking to understand the past, present, and future of Turkish-American ties.

Even as America, Türkiye, and the wider world have changed so profoundly over the past century, their bilateral ties remain as consequential as ever. This volume offers scholars, researchers, and curious readers of all backgrounds an exceptional tool for acquiring the knowledge and perspective required to better understand the present and anticipate the future of Turkish-American relations.

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May 2026

The U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Istanbul: The Palazzo Corpi

The renowned Palazzo Corpi, located in Tepebaşı, symbolized the American presence in Istanbul for over 120 years, beginning in 1882 when the U.S. government leased the mansion for its diplomatic mission until 2003. In 1907, the U.S. government acquired the Palazzo Corpi through a poker game. It became the first government-owned diplomatic building in Europe and the second in the world. In the early years of the Turkish Republic, Palazzo Corpi was the center of American diplomatic activities in Türkiye until the U.S. Embassy relocated to Ankara, after which the premises became the U.S. Consulate General. For more detailed information about the history of this splendid architectural gem, please refer to Chapter 8 of the Chronicle.

Photo Credit: A photo of the Palazzo Corpi in the 1920s from the George Grantham Bain collection at the Library of Congress.

As a young Foreign Service officer, I was fortunate to serve as the Consul of Commercial Affairs in Istanbul during a time when the city still exuded the charm of an earlier era. I also had the unique privilege of working in the Palazzo Corpi. Below is a group photo of the American and Turkish staff of the U.S. Consulate General posing at the front entrance of the Palazzo Corpi during my tour in the spring of 1981.

I am the first person on the left of the second row, along with members of the Turkish commercial staff. The U.S. Consul General Robert Bigelow Houghton is standing fifth from the right, and the Deputy Principal Officer Louis E. Kahn is fifth from the left. It was an honor for me to serve under Consul General Houghton in addition to his successor, Daniel O. Newberry, who was the Consul General from 1981 to 1985.

G. Lincoln McCurdy

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Synopsis	8
Chapter 1 Historical Overview (1923-2023).....	31
Chapter 2 Leaders of United States and Türkiye	54
Chapter 3 Bilateral State and Private Visits by Leaders	58
Chapter 4 A List of Turkish and U.S. Ambassadors	66
Chapter 5 Turkish American Elected Officials	69
Chapter 6 Highlights of Influential People and Stories of Interest	71
Chapter 7 Establishment of Key Organizations (Non-Governmental and Private Enterprises).....	174
Chapter 8 Diplomatic Buildings in Ankara, İstanbul, Washington, DC, and New York.....	199
Chapter 9 American Schools, Hospitals and Other Institutions Established During the Ottoman Era and Continued to Operate Under the Turkish Republic.....	205
Chapter 10 Türkiye – U.S. Bilateral Trade Relations, 1969 to 2023	219
Chapter 11 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows.....	222
Chapter 12 American Movies and Television Episodes/Series Filmed in Türkiye.....	224
Chapter 13 Armenian American Hostility Towards Türkiye and Turkish Americans	228
Chapter 14 Honoring Three Brave Turkish Women Who Shaped U.S. Perception of Türkiye	241
Afterword.....	254
G. Lincoln McCurdy Bio Summary.....	256

Introduction

As the Turkish Republic celebrated its centennial on October 29, 2023, I came to realize that both Americans—including Turkish Americans—and Turks have a limited understanding of the dynamic relationship between Türkiye and the United States, and the rich, ongoing interactions between the Turkish and American peoples.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, I researched the bilateral relationship over the past century and summarized my findings in “*A Historical Chronicle of Turkish American Relations*.” In the Chronicle, I present a comprehensive overview of significant events; leaders and ambassadors from both countries; bilateral state and private visits; profiles of influential individuals; community-centered narratives; the historical background of diplomatic facilities in Washington, Ankara, İstanbul, and New York; and the establishment of key organizations—both governmental, non-governmental, and private—that have shaped the U.S.–Türkiye relationship from 1923 to 2023.

This document is intended as a resource for all audiences—Americans, Turks, and Turkish Americans alike—to better understand the history and development of relations between Türkiye and the United States.

I also believe the Chronicle can serve another purpose: inspiring younger generations, particularly Turkish Americans, to appreciate their heritage and to engage constructively in civic and political life. Such engagement can help ensure a more informed and balanced dialogue on historical events. It can also strengthen the vital relationship between the two countries and contribute to efforts to address global challenges through peaceful cooperation.

G. Lincoln McCurdy

Acknowledgements

I was fortunate to have the support of family, friends, and the broader community as I undertook the project to compile the history of Turkish American relations over its first century.

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following organizations for their invaluable assistance and encouragement.

- Special thanks to Foreign Economic Relations Board/Dış Ekonomik İlişkiler Kurulu (DEİK) of Türkiye and the Türkiye -U.S. Business Council (TAİK) for their support in the publication of this book, *A Chronicle of Turkish American Relations, 1923-2023*.
- The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) for providing space on its website to host the *Chronicle*. I am especially grateful to ATAA's Boards of Trustees and Directors, particularly Trustees Ülkü Ülgür, Ergün Kırlikovalı, and Bülent Başol, as well as ATAA Presidents Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin and Alev Wieland.
- The American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA-DC). I am grateful to ATA-DC and its leaders, Sevtap Schreffler, Demet Cabbar, and Özge Sert, for their support and for recruiting two exceptional student volunteers through its Young Cultural Ambassadors Program (YCAP) to assist with my research.
- The Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Special thanks go to Anıl Ertay, Orhun Demirel, Fatih Öztürk, and Fırat Sırma for their encouragement and assistance. Elif Gürsoy and Çağrı Arıcı of the Embassy's Commercial Office were tremendously helpful in gathering trade and investment statistics.
- The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Burcu Keriman Erdoğan Tuncer graciously assisted me with research in the ministry's archives.

I would also like to recognize the extraordinary contributions of several individuals

Michael Stoil served as my editorial consultant. Hakan Dakın, ATAA's Art, Media & Communication Director, spent countless hours formatting the document for posting on the ATAA website. Peter Poullada provided moral support and many valuable suggestions. Lucie Rice, an Indiana-based illustrator and designer, created the title page design.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Barış Ornarlı, who encouraged me to pursue this project and carefully reviewed the content for accuracy. Richard Outzen provided valuable advice on structuring my research findings and informed me about significant events in the U.S.–Türkiye military alliance. Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı and Tuna Şanlı offered important feedback on draft versions of the manuscript. Lydia Borland and her colleague Cem Gürsoy provided guidance on U.S. legislation affecting Türkiye.

Tülay Spicker not only provided moral support but also introduced me to Destek Media Group, the publisher of the *Chronicle*. At Destek, Kaan Cumalıoğlu was enthusiastic and supportive, offering valuable guidance.

David Saltzman assisted me in understanding legal issues between Türkiye and the United States. Dr. John Hasse was an indispensable resource regarding the story of Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegün. Yılmaz Polat helped compile information on bilateral state visits. Cemil Özyurt was always available to provide insight into the Turkish American community in New York and shared fascinating stories about earlier generations of Turkish Americans. Haldun Taşman was also an excellent source of information on Turkish American achievements and personal stories.

Crystal Staebell spent countless hours after her workday assisting me with research and preparing the reference pages. Emre Ergüder provided tremendous assistance during the final editing process in preparation for publication.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the following students, whose contributions were invaluable to this project:

Sibel Mehmed and Albert Aslan Yelken, participants in ATA-DC's Young Cultural Ambassadors Program (YCAP); Miray Serttaş, a student at Koç University who interned at the Turkish Embassy; and Anjali Pellegrin, a student at the University of Notre Dame who interned in Washington, D.C.

Additional helpful contributions and suggestions came from friends and colleagues in both the United States and Türkiye, including: Işıl Acehan, Erju Akman, Uğur Akıncı, Hande Akmehmet, Sevil Altınsoy, İsmail Arslan, Ahmet Atahan, Ali Utku Atalay, Jess Bailey, Oya Bain, Helen Gülgün Bükülmez, Deniz Çelek, Ali Çınar, Ülfet Çokmez, Nihat Çubukçu, Hakan Dakın, Nick Danforth, Mert Deniz, Emre Ergüder, Ata Erim, Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin, Günay Evinch, Tuba Fırıncıoğlu-Apaydın, Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Ahmet and Ece Kılıç, Scott Kilner, Ali Kıran, Gamze Kızıltan, Sibel Kulaksız, Sibel Mehmed, Davut Okutçu, Sylvia Önder, Peter Poullada, Scott Oudkirk, Frank Ricciardone, Vega Sankur, Nil Sarıtepe, Rıdvan Sezer, Liz Shelton, Atilla and Özlem Soran, Meldan Tanrısal, Burcu Tansu, Ayşegül Taşkın, Derya Taşkın, Gülgün Terzioğlu, Çiğdem Tüzün, Nurten Ural, Sezen Uysal, Sinem Vatanartiran, Gizem Şalcıgil White, Cherie Weible, Michael Williams, Mirat Yavalar, Sel Yackley, Leşar Yurtsever, and John and Evelyn Zimmerman.

The support I received from the individuals and organizations above not only strengthened the quality of the *Chronicle* but also fostered a sense of community and meaningful relationship-building.

Synopsis

The following is a general overview of Turkish American relations during the first century of the Turkish Republic, founded on October 29, 1923. It is a compelling story that reflects the evolving interaction between the Turkish and American peoples as Türkiye transformed from the remnants of a collapsed empire into a dynamic regional power.

To fully grasp the dynamics between the United States and the newly founded Turkish Republic a century ago, one must first understand the prevailing American attitudes toward the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish people before 1923. I have drawn extensively from Justin McCarthy's insightful book, *The Turk in America, The Creation of an Enduring Prejudice*, which vividly captures the sentiments of that period.

American Perceptions of the Ottoman Empire and Turks in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Beginning in the early 19th century, many Americans regarded Ottoman rule and its Turkish leadership with deep prejudice. This attitude took root with the arrival of the first American missionaries in the Ottoman Empire who landed in İzmir in 1820. In both missionary accounts and popular writings of the period, Turks were frequently depicted through derogatory and racist stereotypes—most infamously as the “Terrible Turk.”

One telling example of these attitudes came from U.S. Senator John Tyler Morgan of Alabama, who served in the Senate from 1877 to 1907. Commenting on the Ottoman Empire's treatment of Armenians, he callously remarked that “it would be a good thing if the colored people in the United States were all transported to Africa and their places here filled with Armenians, who are having such a hard time in Turkey.”¹

American Negative Perceptions Towards Turks

This negative perception among many Americans stemmed primarily from four sources:

(1) **The American Missionary Community:** The American missionary community, particularly the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), based in Massachusetts. Driven by a zealous commitment to spreading Christianity worldwide, the ABCFM sought not only to evangelize but also to establish a Christian state in Anatolia. Many of its mission reports from the Ottoman Empire were distorted and conveyed a condescending attitude toward Muslims. The organization even promoted the notion that Muslims should be governed by Europeans. Influenced by this worldview, *The New York Times* published an editorial on November 13, 1895, urging European powers to go to war against the Ottoman Empire and bring about its destruction. The American missionary establishment went further still, advocating that the United States join efforts to dismantle the Ottoman state.²

(2) **American Philhellenism:** In the 1820s, Americans overwhelmingly supported the Greek rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. This support played a crucial role in the early

development of American philhellenism, as many believed that Greece was fighting against despotism and striving to reclaim its rightful place among free nations. For Americans, Athens was the birthplace of democracy. Thus, the Greek revolt was often likened to the American Revolution.

Additionally, American missionaries and Protestant groups perceived the war as a Christian struggle against Muslim rulers, specifically the Ottoman Turks. The idea of a "Christian people oppressed by the infidel Turk" resonated deeply within American religious communities. As a result, fundraising efforts were organized in major cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia to provide humanitarian assistance and other aid to the Greek people in their fight for independence.

Prominent American politicians, including President John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, Senators Daniel Webster of New Hampshire and Henry Clay of Kentucky, along with Edward Everett of Massachusetts, who was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives at the time, were notable advocates for Greek independence.

(3) American Voices of Influence: Several influential American travelers and officials who visited the Ottoman Empire also contributed to shaping negative impressions. Among them were Commodore David Porter, the first U.S. Minister to the Ottoman Empire in the 1830s, and John L. Stephens, an early American explorer, writer, and diplomat active in the same decade. In the 1850s, Herman Melville voiced similar critical views of Ottoman society.

After the Civil War, Admiral David Farragut toured Ottoman ports, while Mark Twain visited İstanbul, İzmir, and the Holy Land in the 1860s. Former President Ulysses S. Grant stopped in İstanbul and the Holy Land—then under Ottoman rule—during his world tour in early 1878. Clara Barton later traveled to Anatolia in the 1890s to assist Armenians caught in the conflict between the Ottoman state and Armenian revolutionary groups.

During World War I, Henry Morgenthau, U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, publicly denounced the treatment of Armenians. Former President Theodore Roosevelt, who was closely aligned with the ABCFM and had visited the Holy Land after his presidency in 1910, consistently described the Ottoman government as corrupt and brutal, calling repeatedly for Western intervention on behalf of Armenian Christians.

(4) British War Propaganda: A powerful propaganda campaign waged during World War I by the British government and the American missionary network further entrenched these negative perceptions. The British War Propaganda Bureau—known as Wellington House—played a central role in popularizing the image of the “Terrible Turk,” particularly targeting American public opinion.

These factors combined to shape a deeply unfavorable image of the Ottoman Empire in the United States, one that influenced American foreign policy during the First World War. Although the U.S. and the Ottoman Empire never fought directly, Washington effectively treated

the Ottomans as an adversary. Under pressure from its German ally, the Ottoman Empire severed diplomatic relations with the United States on April 20, 1917.

American Support for Christian Minorities in the Ottoman Empire During World War I

During World War I, prior to the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Ottoman Empire in 1917, American missionaries reported extensively on the suffering of Christian communities in Eastern Anatolia. These reports inspired the creation of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief (ACASR) in November 1915. James L. Barton, secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), served as the committee's chairman. Barton maintained a close personal relationship with President Woodrow Wilson, whose worldview—shaped by his Protestant upbringing—was sympathetic to European Christians and often viewed non-Christian peoples through a paternalistic lens.

It is noteworthy that, during this same period, no prominent American voices condemned the ethnic cleansing of Turks, Muslims, and Jews in Southeastern Europe, which had occurred from the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth.

The ACASR quickly became an influential force within the Wilson Administration and the U.S. Congress. It successfully lobbied both chambers to pass a Joint Resolution for the Relief of Armenian and Syrian Sufferers on January 11, 1916, authorizing the President to designate a national fundraising day for the victims of war and massacre in Armenia, Syria, and the broader Near East. Following its passage, President Wilson proclaimed October 21–22, 1916, as official fundraising days, generating millions of dollars in donations for the ACASR.

In June 1918, before the end of the war, the committee was renamed the American Committee for Relief in the Near East (ACRNE). It expanded its fundraising campaign nationwide, enlisting the support of prominent philanthropists, clergy, and political leaders from both parties. Among its notable backers were former President William Howard Taft, future Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt, future Vice President Charles Dawes, and future Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

After World War I, American public and political support for aiding destitute Christian populations of the collapsed Ottoman Empire remained strong. On August 6, 1919, Congress passed Public Law 66-166, granting ACRNE a federal charter—an extraordinary measure of endorsement—without opposition in either chamber. The organization was subsequently renamed Near East Relief (NER), with James L. Barton continuing as chairman.³

NER inherited the humanitarian mission of its predecessors and raised millions of dollars to assist Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian Christians displaced by the war. Although its principal focus remained on these groups, NER also extended limited assistance to Muslims and Jews, particularly widows and orphans in famine-stricken regions of Anatolia and Syria. The organization later became known as the Near East Foundation (NEF), which continues to operate today from Syracuse, New York.

A Proposed American Mandate in Former Ottoman Territories

Following the Ottoman Empire's surrender in October 1918, the victorious European powers—Britain, France, Italy, and Greece—met at the Sèvres peace negotiations to divide the remnants of the Ottoman Empire among themselves. During these talks, they also proposed that the United States assume a mandate over portions of the former Ottoman territories.

In the United States, a vigorous lobbying campaign emerged in favor of accepting such a mandate. The effort was led by James L. Barton, chairman of the Near East Relief and secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, as well as James W. Gerard, former U.S. ambassador to Germany and head of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia. The *New York Times* also endorsed the idea.

Several versions of the mandate were proposed, envisioning American control over İstanbul and the Turkish Straits, much of eastern Anatolia, the Caucasus, and parts of Syria and Palestine.

In a full-page *New York Times* article in 1919, James W. Gerard of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia argued that the United States had both a moral and civilizational duty to take on the mandate. He described the Armenians as “brother Christians” deserving of protection and characterized the mandate as “a great opportunity for the propagation of Anglo-Saxon civilization in the Near East.” He claimed the mission would require only “a few thousand marines” to undertake this mission. Other proponents echoed this view, asserting that Turkish resistance had been broken and that one regiment would suffice for occupation.⁴

Many American church leaders also supported a U.S. mandate over eastern Anatolia, then referred to as Turkish Armenia. Former U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, also advocated for an American mandate and called for the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire. He believed that occupying the region would not be difficult, stating, “We here in the United States must realize that Turkey has at last shot her bolt. She is finished.”⁵

President Wilson also favored the idea of an American mandate in the former Ottoman territories. In 1919, he authorized two commissions to investigate local conditions: the King-Crane Mission (June-August 1919) and the Harbord Mission (August-October 1919), officially known as the American Military Mission to Armenia.⁶

The King-Crane commission was led by Charles Richard Crane, an industrialist, trustee of Robert College, and president of the board of the American Women's College in İstanbul, and Henry King, president of Oberlin College in Ohio and an official of the Federal Council of Churches. Both men were sympathetic to the Armenian cause.

The Harbord Mission, composed primarily of U.S. military personnel and led by General James Guthrie Harbord, met with Turkish Nationalist leader Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk). Kemal firmly opposed the establishment of an American mandate but expressed interest in American economic assistance.⁷

Both missions were influenced by the American missionary community and, portrayed the Turks unfavorably in their findings. The King-Crane report recommended establishing an independent Armenian state in eastern Anatolia under American mandate and suggested that the U.S. also assume responsibility for Syria and Palestine, reflecting local preferences. The Harbord report while outlining both the advantages and disadvantages of an American mandate, concluded that if undertaken, the mandate should extend over all of Anatolia, including İstanbul, and ideally encompass all of Transcaucasia—Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.⁸

The U.S. Senate Rejection to Accept an American Mandate

After receiving favorable reports, strong backing from the American missionary community, and the support of a sympathetic public, President Woodrow Wilson requested in May 1920 that Congress authorize him to accept a mandate to assist the Armenians. However, the U.S. Senate rejected the proposal by a vote of fifty-two to twenty-three.⁹

The Senate's refusal did not signal a shift in American opinion toward the Turks. Hostility toward the Turks remained deeply rooted in the American public consciousness, but widespread disillusionment with foreign entanglements following World War I had fostered a strong isolationist mood in U.S. politics. Before the vote on the Armenian mandate, the Senate had already rejected Wilson's appeals to ratify the *Treaty of Versailles* and join the League of Nations—first on November 19, 1919, and again on March 19, 1920.

Despite the Senate's decision, the *Treaty of Sèvres*, signed on August 10, 1920, between the Allied Powers and the Ottoman Empire, still designated President Wilson to delineate the borders of an independent Armenian state in eastern Anatolia. Yet, this vision quickly became unattainable. The Turkish Nationalist Movement, who controlled eastern Anatolia rejected the Sèvres Treaty, while Wilson's influence at home had sharply declined amid repeat legislative defeats and the approach of the 1920 presidential election. The situation changed further in December 1920, when the Soviet Union absorbed the short-lived independent Republic of Armenia.

To many within the American missionary establishment, the U.S. government's refusal to assume the Armenian mandate was viewed as a profound betrayal. Nevertheless, prominent advocates for American involvement in Anatolia continued to press their case. James L. Barton and Henry Morgenthau issued grave warnings about the potential consequences of American inaction. Morgenthau speculated that “millions of Jews in Russia and Poland would be murdered in the next few years, because the ‘wild people’ of Russia will feel that since the Turk was not punished, there was nothing to prevent them from ridding themselves of what they termed aliens and foreigners.” Barton called for direct intervention, asserting that “unless we are ready to help save the situation and do it soon, we should expect more widespread reports of atrocities from Moslem peoples in the country and leave Turkey to the Turks and the Turks alone.”¹⁰ Note: The author does not endorse these views but merely presents them to illustrate the lobbying dynamics of the period.

Woodrow Wilson left office on March 4, 1921, succeeded by Warren G. Harding, who was firmly committed to his campaign promise of a “return to normalcy” and disinclined to pursue any foreign adventures. Nonetheless, in 1922, Near East Relief (NER) shifted its strategy, lobbying Congress to urge the Allied Powers to intervene in the ongoing Greco–Turkish War / Turkish War of Independence (1919–1922). This initiative, however, met with no success.¹¹

American Reaction After the Turkish Victory Over the Greeks

Anti-Turkish groups in the United States were appalled by the Turkish victory over the invading Greek forces on August 30, 1922—an event that effectively ended the Greco-Turkish War. The triumph precipitated the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of Christians from Izmir, a process in which the U.S. Navy took part. Despite Greece’s defeat, American missionary and relief organizations continued their campaign against Türkiye, upholding the position long advanced by James L. Barton—Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and Chairman of Near East Relief—who had argued as early as 1918 that Türkiye was incapable of functioning as an “independent nation.” This narrative persisted into the final phase of the Turkish War of Independence.¹² In an August 1922 article in the *Christian Science Monitor*, Herbert Knapp of Near East Relief reinforced this negative portrayal, asserting that “the old government is in power, and Mustafa Kemal is merely a figurehead for a clique of these reactionaries.”¹³

Speakers from the missionary community and Near East Relief denounced the Turkish victory over Greece, offering their own account of the burning of Izmir in September 1922. The Federal Council of Churches mobilized 150,000 congregations nationwide, urging U.S. intervention on behalf of Greeks and Armenians in Anatolia and advocating the creation of an independent Armenia. Armenian American organizations also joined the anti-Turkish campaign.

At a gathering at the Yale Club, Bishop James Cannon of Near East Relief declared that “the object of the Kemalist advance into Europe was the extermination of Christians.” Yet, a more sober assessment came from George Horton, a former U.S. Consul General in Izmir and a fervent panhellenist, who was hardly sympathetic to the Turks. Horton argued that the American missionary community was deluding itself in believing it could spread Christianity in the Muslim world.

Nearly a year after the Turkish victory over the invading Greek forces, the long-held ambitions of the American missionary community to establish a Christian state in Anatolia came to a bitter end. The final chapter closed when the Turkish Nationalist Movement signed the Lausanne Treaty with European Allied powers on July 24, 1923, followed shortly thereafter by a separate agreement with the United States on August 6, 1923--the *Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey*, also known as the *Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne*, the “other” *Lausanne Treaty*, or the *Little Lausanne Treaty*.

American Reaction to the Declaration of the Turkish Republic

The declaration of the Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923, by the Turkish Grand National Assembly profoundly influenced American discussions about Türkiye. By establishing a

republican form of government, Turkish nationalists signaled their determination to create a modern, Western-oriented state. This transformation challenged the narrative promoted by anti-Turkish groups in the United States, which had long advocated for a hostile stance toward the Turks.

As a result, a new debate emerged over whether the United States should ratify the pending treaty and formally recognize the Republic of Türkiye. The once-powerful "Terrible Turk" stereotypes advanced by segments of the American missionary community were beginning to lose their persuasive force. At the same time, the American public—disillusioned after World War I--was turning inward toward isolationism, while U.S. business leaders began to perceive the opportunities presented by a newly reorganized and independent Turkish nation.

In 1923, prominent American publications such as *Time Magazine*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *The Atlantic* published favorable articles about Gazi Mustafa Kemal and his ambitious vision for a rapidly modernizing Türkiye. *The Saturday Evening Post* even featured an interview with Halid Edib Adıvar—a leading Turkish nationalist, feminist, and novelist—in which she discussed the evolving role of women in the new republic.

These portrayals captured the imagination of internationally minded Americans, many of whom were inspired by the emergence of a Western-oriented nation with a Muslim population rising from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire. While they tended to view the Ottoman past in a negative light, they admired Mustafa Kemal's emphasis on modernization, economic progress, and sweeping social reform.

The American missionary community, however, largely resisted cooperating with the new Turkish Republic—except for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), which dramatically reversed its earlier position. During the *Lausanne Peace Treaty* negotiations, İsmet İnönü, representing the Turkish Nationalists, informed the ABCFM's representative that Türkiye welcomed the continuation of the organization's schools and medical institutions, provided that they refrained from Christian proselytizing. With this assurance, and the Turkish Nationalists' approval to remain in the country, the ABCFM reconsidered its approach. In October 1923, its National Council voted to maintain its missions in Türkiye.

James L. Barton, the ABCFM's Secretary--who had once argued that Türkiye should not be granted independence—now recognized the sovereignty of the new republic, despite his view that justice for Armenians remained unfulfilled. Barton also conceded that the organization had committed mistakes in the past and had exaggerated certain claims in its wartime propaganda.¹⁴

The ABCFM's decision to acknowledge and cooperate with the Republic of Türkiye caused deep division within the broader American Protestant missionary community. The ABCFM, affiliated with the Congregationalist denomination, operated the many of the major Christian missions in İstanbul and Anatolia. Other Protestant groups in the United States, such as Presbyterians, Anglicans/Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists, Quakers, Lutherans, and the Dutch Reformed

Church, also maintained foreign missions around the world, including throughout other parts of the Ottoman Empire beyond Anatolia.

The Debate on U.S. Recognition of the Turkish Republic

The U.S. Senate became the main battleground over the ratification of the *General Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey*. On the one side, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) joined forces with American business interests—including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—to advocate for the treaty's approval. On the opposing side, other members of the missionary community united with the American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty, an organization that had originated as the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA) and would later become the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The treaty's opponents argued that the treaty failed to include guarantees for the protection of Armenians and other Christian minorities, or provisions for an independent Armenian state. Supporters, meanwhile, emphasized that the treaty granted the United States important commercial rights, missionary and property protections, and consular privileges within Türkiye. The debate over the treaty remained heated and prolonged, delaying the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations for three-and-a-half-years. When the Senate finally voted on January 18, 1927, the treaty fell short of the required two-thirds majority for ratification. Public opinion, reflected in the nation's press, was sharply divided: *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Wheeling Intelligencer*, and *Tampa Tribune* praised the treaty's rejection, while *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Atlanta Constitution*, *Pittsburgh Sun*, *New York Herald Tribune*, and *Philadelphia Public Ledger* condemned the Senate's failure to ratify it.

U.S. Recognition of the Turkish Republic

Despite the Senate's refusal to ratify the treaty and mounting pressure from Armenian American lobbying groups, President Calvin Coolidge's administration proceeded to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Republic of Türkiye. On February 17, 1927, the two governments exchanged notes officially recognizing one another. Later that year, both nations appointed ambassadors--Joseph C. Grew as the first U.S. ambassador to Türkiye and Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu as Türkiye's ambassador to the United States.

Commenting on the appointment of Grew as the ambassador to Türkiye, James W. Gerard--a prominent New York lawyer and former U.S. ambassador to Germany—expressed the disdain that many anti-Turkish circles continued to hold. Writing on behalf of the American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty, Gerard remarked: “it is difficult to understand why we should send an ‘Ambassador’ to Turkey—a primitive Asiatic country, with a population of 5,000,000, when we have reduced to a Legation our Embassy to Austria.”¹⁵

By 1930, the Senate ratified a new agreement between the two nations--the *Treaty of Commerce and Navigation Between the United States of America and the Turkish Republic*—a revised yet largely similar version of the original treaty signed almost seven years earlier in 1923.

However, Türkiye's hopes for substantial American economic assistance went unfilled, as the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 severely limited U.S. financial capacity abroad.

The Beginning of Closer Relations Between the United States and the Turkish Republic

Three influential Americans played a pivotal role in shaping perceptions of the new political order emerging from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire and in building support for the newly founded Republic of Türkiye. Two were distinguished public servants: Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol, who served as the U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul during the Allied occupation following World War I, and Joseph C. Grew, the Undersecretary of State who signed the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne and later became the first U.S. ambassador to Turkey. Both men worked diligently behind the scenes to promote ratification of the treaty and secure American recognition of the Republic.

The third key figure was Reverend Asa Kent Jennings, a private citizen who played a vital humanitarian and diplomatic role during the Turkish War of Independence and the early years of the Republic. Working closely with Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk), Jennings helped address a major humanitarian crisis and, in doing so, laid the groundwork for friendship between the Turkish and American peoples. In his book,¹⁶ Rifat N Bali noted that Jennings, at the request of Atatürk, established the first American Friends of Turkey and successfully mobilized business leaders, industrialists, and charitable organizations to contribute millions of dollars toward social, educational, and community development programs in Türkiye. In his appeals to fellow Christians, Jennings urged them to live out their faith by aiding non-Christians and encouraged American missionary groups to shift from proselytizing to providing social services. Through his efforts, he also sought to reshape the American public's perception of the Turkish people.

Even after the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, Türkiye faced major obstacles in reshaping American public opinion. Atatürk and his colleagues were acutely aware of the deeply ingrained “Terrible Turk” stereotype and the widespread hostility toward Türkiye in the United States. The new Republic needed external financial support to rebuild a nation devastated by war, promote economic and social development, and meet the pressing needs of its people. The United States was one of the potential sources of such support. The task was monumental: constructing a modern state from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, resettling millions of Muslim refugees from the empire's former territories and confronting an illiteracy rate of nearly 90 percent among a population of whom many did not even speak Turkish. Distrustful of European powers, Turkish leaders looked to the United States for guidance and assistance in modernization, industrialization, and social reform.

The republic's first two ambassadors to the United States, Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu (1927–1934) and Mehmet Münir Ertegün (1934–1944), distinguished themselves in Washington by cultivating close ties with political circles and projecting an image of a progressive, Western-oriented Türkiye. Yet, the task of promoting the Turkish Republic's achievements in America was not limited to official diplomats. Three remarkable and independent Turkish women—Halide Edib Adıvar, Selma Ekrem, and İsmet Şanlı—played a vital role in shaping American

perceptions of Türkiye during the 1920s and 1930s through their lectures and writings. Traveling to the United States on their own initiative, they spoke about the new rights of Turkish women and the sweeping social reforms enacted by the young republic. Acting as unofficial ambassadors, they helped dispel misconceptions about Türkiye —so much so that İsmet Şanlı even impressed President Franklin D. Roosevelt with her intellect, poise, and fluent command of English.

During the 1930s, American attitudes toward Türkiye began to soften. Anti-Turkish sentiment declined as the missionary community halted its organized campaigns against Türkiye, and the Armenian American lobby remained largely subdued until after Türkiye's intervention in Cyprus in 1974. In 1930, the first American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) organization was incorporated in New York, New York, under the leadership of Reverend Asa Kent Jennings, with the encouragement of Turkish President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk). William H. Hoover, Chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company, served as AFOT's first president.

In this more favorable climate, Charles Hitchcock Sherrill, who served as the second U.S. ambassador to Türkiye from May 20, 1932, to March 23, 1933, played an influential role in reshaping perceptions. Through his book *Modern Turkey* and several essays, Sherrill lauded President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk for his visionary leadership and the transformative reforms that ushered Türkiye into the modern era.

In 1935, Senate Majority Leader Joseph F. Robinson of Arkansas praised President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in a speech before the U.S. Senate, declaring that “under the guidance of President Kemal, the Republic of Türkiye has taken leadership in the world-wide warfare of humanity against the illicit narcotic drug traffic.”¹⁷ When news of Atatürk's death reached Washington on November 10, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed deep admiration and regret, stating, “My sorrow is that it is no longer possible to fulfill my strong wish to meet this great man.

Turkish American Relations During World War II and Post-War

Relations between the United States and Türkiye strengthened during World War II after the momentum shifted in favor of the Allies. In December 1943, for example, Turkish President İsmet İnönü met President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom at the Second Cairo Conference. The discussion centered on reevaluating Türkiye's neutrality and the possibility of Türkiye joining the Allies in the war. The meeting also decided to build an air base for the Allies near Adana. (Construction, however, did not begin until after the war.) This meeting laid the foundation for a military alliance between the U.S. and Türkiye later in the decade.

In 1946, in response to Soviet demands on Türkiye for shared administration on the straits, the United States countered Soviet pressure by sending ships to Turkish waters. The Soviet Union also pressed territorial claims, seeking the return of Kars and Ardahan (which had been part of the Russian Empire before World War I) to the Georgian and Armenian Soviet republics.

In 1947, Türkiye benefited from American support when it signed the *Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement* under the Truman Doctrine, which offered assistance to democratic nations in the face of the Soviet threat. Under this agreement, Türkiye received \$100 million in economic and military aid from the United States, which not only helped strengthen the Turkish military but also contributed to infrastructure development in Türkiye.

The United States also established the American Military Mission for Aid to Türkiye (AMMAT) in Ankara in 1947. AMMAT became the Joint American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JAMMAT) in 1949 and evolved into the largest of the U.S. European Commands, as well as the world's largest military assistance and advisory group in the 1950s. (JAMMAT was redesignated the Joint U.S. Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JUSMMAT) in 1958.)

The Honeymoon Period in Turkish American Relations

The 1950s were the peak of the honeymoon relationship between the United States and Türkiye. In 1952, Türkiye joined NATO, and in 1954, President Celâl Bayar became the first Turkish leader to make an official visit to the United States and to address the U.S. Congress. By the summer of 1954, Türkiye had signed the *Military Facilities Agreement* with the United States, allowing for a large-scale presence of U.S. troops in Türkiye. English started to replace French and German as the primary foreign language in Türkiye, and Turkish university students began to enroll in American educational institutions in greater numbers.

After the Turkish military removed Prime Minister Adnan Menderes from his office in 1960, the Eisenhower Administration voiced concern but accepted the coup, prioritizing stability in a key NATO ally. In the early 1960s, Türkiye, as an American and NATO ally, was dragged into two Cold War incidents. The first incident was with the downing of the U.S. U-2 aircraft flying over Russia on a spy mission. Türkiye had allowed the U.S. to use the Incirlik Air Base for U-2 missions. The second incident was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when the United States and the Soviet Union were on the brink of war due to the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The two countries ultimately resolved the crisis with an arrangement that included the U.S. removal of obsolete nuclear-armed Jupiter missiles from Türkiye.

On the 25th anniversary of Atatürk's death in 1962, President John F. Kennedy made memorable remarks about the greatness of Türkiye's founder and the alliance between the two countries. (See Chapter 6 for President Kennedy's complete statement.) Kennedy also launched his Peace Corps program in the same year.

The End of the Honeymoon

The "honeymoon" between Türkiye and the United States came to an end in 1964 amid the escalating ethnic conflict in Cyprus between Greek and Turkish communities. In December 1963, intercommunal violence broke out—an episode remembered by Turkish Cypriots as "Bloody Christmas." The violence continued into early 1964, prompting Türkiye to consider military intervention to protect the Turkish Cypriot population. On June 5, 1964, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson sent a sharply worded letter to Turkish Prime Minister İsmet İnönü, warning against such action. The tone of the letter deeply offended Turkish leaders and the public,

triggering a wave of anti-American sentiment across Türkiye. The Cyprus issue would go on to cast a long shadow over U.S.–Turkish relations, becoming a recurring source of tension and shaping Türkiye’s international position throughout the latter half of the republic’s first century.

As the 1960s gave way to the 1970s, anti-American feelings in Türkiye intensified. Growing resentment in Türkiye stemmed from Washington’s perceived indifference to Ankara’s position during the Cyprus crisis, its deepening involvement in the Vietnam War, and what many Turks viewed as an increasingly heavy-handed American approach toward their government. In early 1969, for instance, leftist students at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara set fire to the car of U.S. Ambassador Robert Komer, a striking symbol of the public’s discontent. By 1971, the hostility had intensified to such extent that the Peace Corps program—launched under President John F. Kennedy and involving roughly 1,457 American volunteers—was forced to shut down in Türkiye. In the same year, Türkiye experienced another military intervention with the “coup by memorandum,” which forced Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel to resign. The Nixon Administration viewed the action taken by the military as an internal matter and welcomed Türkiye’s continued reliability within NATO.

Two significant events in 1971 further strained the bilateral relationship. The first was the Nixon administration’s aggressive criticism of Türkiye’s poppy cultivation as part of the U.S. “War on Drugs.” Turkish officials and the public viewed this as hypocritical, given Washington’s silence on narcotics trafficking elsewhere. During the 1970s, members of the U.S. Congress introduced numerous resolutions aimed at penalizing Türkiye, adding to the growing friction.

The second event of tension was the Turkish government’s closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary on Heybeliada, one of the Princes’ Islands near İstanbul. Established in 1844, the seminary had long served as the main theological training center for the Greek Orthodox Church. Its closure outraged Greece and Greek Americans, who lobbied Washington to intervene, further complicating U.S.–Turkish relations.

Note: Although both nations remained NATO allies, relations between Greece and Türkiye were marred by mutual distrust. Greece objected to the treatment of its ethnic community in İstanbul, especially after the İstanbul pogrom of 1955, which saw widespread destruction of Greek-owned property, and the subsequent expulsion of thousands of Greeks during the 1960s. Türkiye, meanwhile, voiced deep concern for the rights and safety of the Turkish minority in Cyprus and Western Thrace. Disputes over territorial waters and airspace in the Aegean Sea further exacerbated tensions, underscoring the fragile balance within the alliance. Türkiye and Greece also disagree over the title of the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in İstanbul. The dispute centers on the title of the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Istanbul. Orthodox Christians worldwide refer to him as the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church. Türkiye, however, recognizes him only as the Patriarch of Fener (*Fener Rum Patriği*), a district of Istanbul, viewing him as the religious leader of the local Greek Orthodox community, and rejecting the use of the title “Ecumenical” (meaning “universal”) on the grounds that it implies political or international authority beyond Turkish borders.

The First Low Point in Turkish American Relations--Cyprus

Türkiye's international challenges intensified in the summer of 1974, when it launched the Cyprus Peace Operation in response to the overthrow of Archbishop Makarios, president of the Republic of Cyprus, by the Cypriot National Guard. The intervention aimed to safeguard the island's Turkish population and prevent Enosis—the proposed union of Cyprus with Greece. However, the operation became a rallying point for the Greek American community, which organized a powerful lobby that vilified Türkiye and revived the long-standing stereotype of the “Terrible Turk” in American discourse.

The Greek American lobby successfully pressured Congress to impose an arms embargo on Türkiye, alleging that Ankara had misused American weapons during the Cyprus operation. During congressional debates, some Members of Congress resorted to insulting and derogatory language toward the Turkish people. When the House of Representatives passed the embargo—despite objections from President Gerald Ford's administration--Greek American observers erupted in celebration within the chamber—a moment widely regarded as a low point in U.S.–Türkiye relations. In retaliation, Türkiye closed all U.S. military bases on its territory in July 1975. However, NATO bases were permitted to remain operational. The embargo also spurred Türkiye to begin developing its own domestic defense industry.

Although Congress lifted the arms embargo in July 1978 under pressure from the President Jimmy Carter's administration—which argued that the restriction weakened NATO's southeastern flank—Türkiye's Peace Operation in Cyprus had already rekindled a powerful anti-Turkish coalition in the United States. This alliance included various Greek and Armenian groups, notably the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), which evolved from earlier organizations that had opposed the *Lausanne Treaty* and advocated for an Armenian state in Anatolia. Since 1974, these Greek and Armenian American lobbies have continued to challenge Turkish American relations, shaping public opinion and promoting derogatory portrayals of Turks, often through imagery resurrecting the “Terrible Turk.”

The success of the Greek American lobby also emboldened Armenian American activists to push for U.S. characterization of the tragedies suffered by Armenians during World War I as genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire. The first such resolution was introduced in Congress in 1975. That same decade, Armenian terrorist groups launched a campaign of violence, assassinating Turkish diplomats and bombing Turkish diplomatic missions, Turkish American institutions, and others sympathetic to Türkiye. Turkish Americans—including children—were harassed in public and accused of genocide by members of the Armenian community.

Negative perceptions of Türkiye in the United States were further reinforced by the 1978 Hollywood film *Midnight Express*, based on the memoir of Billy Hayes, who was imprisoned in Türkiye for attempting to smuggle hashish. The film, which diverged significantly from the original book, portrayed Türkiye in an extremely unfavorable light. Though it won critical acclaim, it inflicted lasting damage on Türkiye's image abroad—harm that took years to mend.

A New Era of Good Relations

By 1980, relations between the United States and Türkiye had entered a period of renewal. Although Jimmy Carter had voiced strong criticism of Türkiye during his 1976 presidential campaign, he soon adopted a more pragmatic stance after taking office in January 1977. His administration not only secured the repeal of the arms embargo but also concluded the *Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA)* on March 29, 1980, to deepen military, economic, and social collaboration between the two nations.

When the Turkish military seized power again in 1980, ousting Demirel once more, the Carter Administration publicly regretted the interruption of democracy but privately saw the coup as restoring order and maintaining a pro-Western stance during the Cold War. With Ronald Reagan's inauguration in 1981, U.S.–Türkiye relations entered a new and constructive phase—one that would endure for more than two decades.

Turgut Özal, who had previously served at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., played a pivotal role in strengthening Türkiye's relations with the United States after becoming Prime Minister in 1983 and later President in 1989. Fluent in American ways of thinking, Özal was adept at engaging U.S. leaders and famously declared, "We don't want more aid; we want more trade." He also encouraged a generation of young, Western-educated Turkish technocrats—many with experience in the United States and often referred to as Özal's American Princes—to join and modernize the Turkish government.

In the 1980s, the Turkish American community witnessed the rise of several key organizations that worked to strengthen U.S.–Türkiye relations and counter anti-Turkish campaigns. The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the second American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) emerged as leading voices promoting Türkiye's image and responding to propaganda from Armenian and Greek groups. On the governmental front, the Turkish Embassy in Washington began hiring major lobbying firms to represent Türkiye's interests in Congress and oppose proposed Armenian genocide resolutions. Meanwhile, the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) launched the first Turkish American parade in New York in 1984, marking a milestone in community visibility. The following year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce established the U.S.–Türkiye Business Council in Washington, D.C., as the counterpart to the Türkiye–U.S. Business Council under DEİK (Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye).

The era of goodwill continued into the 1990s. Türkiye supported the U.S. in Operation Desert Storm, which liberated Kuwait in 1991, and allowed the U.S. to launch bombings in northern Iraq from the Incirlik Air Base. After the war, Türkiye also provided temporary refuge to thousands of Kurdish refugees fleeing from Saddam Hussein's brutal repression.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of 1991 and the conclusion of the Cold War, both the U.S. and Türkiye were forced to redefine their strategic relationship. Türkiye began to pursue a more independent foreign policy, emphasizing stronger ties with the Middle East and the Balkans, as well as building relationships with Turkic states in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

A tense episode unfolded in January 1996 when Türkiye and Greece nearly went to war over the sovereignty of two uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea, known in Turkish as Kardak and in Greek as Imia. Though tiny, the islets carried significant strategic and symbolic importance, as their ownership affected claims to territorial waters, airspace, and continental shelf rights—issues that had long fueled Greek-Turkish tensions. The crisis was defused through U.S. diplomatic intervention, which averted a potential military confrontation. Nevertheless, the incident deepened political friction and provided new leverage for the Greek lobby in its ongoing congressional efforts against Türkiye.

In 1997, Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan resigned under military pressure in what became known as the “postmodern coup.” The Clinton Administration expressed support for secular democracy while avoiding direct involvement.

The U.S. supported Türkiye in its fight against the PKK (Partiya Karkaren Kurdistan or Kurdistan Workers' Party). In 1999, the U.S. assisted Türkiye in capturing Abdullah Öcalan, the founder of the PKK. However, Kurdish rights in Türkiye became a contentious issue during the Clinton administration.

The 1990s also saw the formation of the American Turkish Council (ATC), which later merged with the U.S.-Türkiye Business Council, previously under the auspices of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This merger helped expand the ATC’s annual conference on commerce, defense, and culture, turning it into one of the largest bi-national events held in Washington, D.C. During this decade, the support of the Israeli lobby also played a role in opposing Armenian genocide resolutions in Congress. Although Türkiye has expressed sorrow for the loss of life experienced by Ottoman Armenians during the mass deportations of 1915—arguing that the deaths occurred amid wartime conditions, internal unrest, and intercommunal violence—it has firmly rejected both the “massacre” and “genocide” characterizations. Ankara has long maintained that the issue should be addressed by historians rather than politicians.

Throughout the 1990s, pro-Israel lobbying organizations and Jewish-American groups played a significant role in helping Türkiye oppose Armenian genocide recognition resolutions in the U.S. Congress. This cooperation was part of a broader strategic alignment among Türkiye, Israel, and the United States during the post-Cold War era. Additionally, the 1996 Turkey-Israel military cooperation agreement deepened support from pro-Israel groups for Turkish positions on Capitol Hill. Some Jewish-American organizations feared that U.S. recognition of the Armenian tragedies during World War I as genocide might diminish the singular status of the Holocaust in American political and educational discourse. (The Israeli lobby largely stopped actively helping Türkiye block Armenian genocide resolutions around 2008–2010. The primary reason was the collapse of Turkish-Israeli political and military relations, especially after Prime Minister Erdoğan’s public confrontations with Israeli Prime Minister Peres and the 2010 Mavi Marmara incident.)

Both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton visited Türkiye during this period. In November 1999, President Clinton made history by becoming the first American President to address Türkiye's Grand National Assembly.

A Second Low Point in Turkish American Relations—The Hood Event

In the early 21st century, relations between Türkiye and the United States suffered a serious setback. As the George W. Bush administration prepared for the Second Gulf War in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, it expected the cooperation of its long-time NATO ally. However, in March 2003, the Turkish Grand National Assembly narrowly rejected a motion that would have permitted U.S. troops to use Turkish territory as a northern front for the invasion of Iraq. The decision marked a turning point, effectively eroding the strong military affiliation that had characterized U.S.–Turkish relations since the Korean War.

Tensions deepened soon after the U.S. victory in Iraq. On July 4, 2003, American forces raided a Turkish special operations unit in Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq, detaining 11 Turkish soldiers and treating them as enemy combatants—placing hoods over their heads before interrogation. Following Türkiye's strong diplomatic protest, the soldiers were released, and a joint U.S.–Türkiye commission was formed to investigate the incident. Although the commission issued a statement of regret, the episode—widely known in Türkiye as the “Hood Event” (Çuval Olayı)—inflicted lasting damage on public perceptions of the United States and fueled anti-American sentiment across the country.

Despite President Bush's efforts to mend ties during the 2004 NATO Summit in İstanbul, public anger persisted. Cultural tensions further intensified when the 2006 Turkish blockbuster action film “Valley of the Wolves: Iraq” portrayed American soldiers as villains during the U.S. occupation of Iraq, echoing the backlash once provoked by the 1978 Hollywood film *Midnight Express*, which had depicted Turks in a highly negative light. Together, these events deepened the rift between the two allies and reshaped the tone of U.S.–Türkiye relations in the post–Iraq War era.

After an Encouraging Start, A Deterioration in Turkish American Relations

In 2009, following the election of a new U.S. administration, President Barack Obama made his first overseas state visit to Türkiye after attending the G-20 Summit in London, the NATO Summit in Strasbourg/Kehl, and the EU–U.S. Summit in Prague. In Ankara, he addressed the Turkish Grand National Assembly, underscoring Türkiye's importance as a strategic partner and regional power. The visit ushered in what many viewed as a renewed era of goodwill between Washington and Ankara.

However, this positive momentum began to fade by 2013, as the two allies grew divided over developments in Syria. When civil unrest erupted against Bashar al-Assad's regime in 2011, both the United States and Türkiye initially called for Assad's resignation and supported the Syrian opposition. The relationship soured after President Obama's administration decided not to take military action against Assad for his use of chemical weapons in 2013, instead prioritizing the fight against ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). The rift deepened when the U.S. began

arming and partnering with the YPG (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel / People's Protection Units) in Syria—widely regarded by Türkiye as the Syrian affiliate of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), a designated terrorist organization.

By this time, Türkiye had transformed economically and socially, building upon the reformist foundations of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Under Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's leadership, the country emerged as one of the world's top 20 economies, supported by a growing middle class and massive infrastructure and healthcare investments. Türkiye became a leading tourist destination and an exporter of defense products, while also asserting itself as a regional power in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans, Caucasus, and Middle East. It strengthened diplomatic and cultural ties with Turkic republics in Central Asia and significantly expanded its global diplomatic presence, including across the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

In the United States, the Turkish American community matured into a vibrant and influential diaspora in promoting Türkiye's rich heritage. The early 2000s saw the establishment of major civic and philanthropic organizations such as the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF), Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF), and Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF). The creation of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), the Turkish Heritage Organization (THO), and the five Turkish American Political Action Committees (PACs) elevated the community's visibility in Congress.

A milestone was achieved when the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives met exclusively with Turkish American leaders for the first time. The Gülen Movement also contributed to outreach efforts to Congress and the American public through cultural activities and sponsored trips to Türkiye. However, these initiatives were primarily organized to safeguard and advance the movement's own political and institutional interests rather than to genuinely support Turkish–American relations.

By 2016, Turkish American organizations such as ATAA, TCA, THO, and the PACs had achieved significant civic and grassroots successes, most notably by helping to defeat congressional resolutions that sought to label the 1915 Armenian tragedies as genocide, including a major resolution marking the centennial anniversary. The Congressional Caucus on U.S.–Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans (Türkiye Caucus) reached a record 160 members at the end of the 114th Congress, making it one of the three largest bilateral caucuses, alongside those for India and Taiwan. It included members from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and all five U.S. territories.

The Turkish American PAC contributions peaked during the 2015–2016 election cycle, although they remained modest compared to those of other ethnic communities. The American Turkish Council (ATC) and its Turkish counterpart DEİK-TAİK continued to host the premier business conference promoting bilateral trade and investment. Meanwhile, local Turkish American associations expanded their cultural programming nationwide. Another milestone came in 2016, with the founding of the Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC), which became an important voice for the community.

Note: While Gülenist organizations helped raise awareness of Türkiye and the bilateral relationship through cultural events and sponsored trips, they did not collaborate with other Turkish American groups to expand the Türkiye Caucus or to oppose congressional genocide resolutions.

A Third Low Point in Turkish American Relations—The Attempted Coup

The attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 2016 marked another major turning point in U.S.–Türkiye relations. Ankara viewed Washington’s response to the coup attempt as hesitant and delayed, deepening suspicions within the Turkish government. Turkish authorities accused Fethullah Gülen—who had been living in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999 and had previously supported the government—of masterminding the coup and designated his network as the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ).

During the coup attempt on July 15, 2016, FETÖ-affiliated plotters within the military bombed the Turkish Grand National Assembly with fighter jets. A total of 251 civilians were killed, and more than 2,000 were injured. In the aftermath, the government launched a sweeping crackdown, arresting tens of thousands of individuals suspected of FETÖ ties—including several Turkish nationals employed at U.S. diplomatic missions.

Around 20 American citizens were also detained during this period. Among them was Pastor Andrew Craig Brunson, an evangelical minister from the İzmir Resurrection Church, who was arrested in October 2016 on charges of espionage and alleged links to both FETÖ and the PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party). His imprisonment became a major diplomatic flashpoint, drawing sharp criticism from Congress over human rights abuses in Türkiye’s post-coup purges. The Trump administration responded by imposing tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum imports. However, this action coincided with a period of significant volatility in global financial markets, characterized by tightening liquidity and capital outflows from emerging economies. While these external pressures and trade restrictions contributed to fluctuations in the Turkish lira, the period also highlighted the resilience of Türkiye’s underlying economic structures. Under persistent U.S. pressure, Türkiye released Brunson in 2018, leading to a diplomatic de-escalation; nevertheless, the episode underscored the need for a more stable and predictable framework for bilateral strategic cooperation.

Türkiye, meanwhile, had its own grievances. In August 2016, it formally requested the extradition of Fethullah Gülen from the United States, accusing him of orchestrating the coup. Both the Obama and Trump administrations declined to move the case forward, citing insufficient evidence under the terms of the bilateral extradition treaty. The U.S. refusal to extradite Gülen became a major source of frustration for Ankara and a symbol of eroding trust between the two allies—a rift that would widen further in the years ahead over additional political, security, and regional disputes.

Continued Deterioration in Turkish American Relations

Following Donald J. Trump's inauguration as president in 2017, several issues emerged that challenged the bilateral relationship between the United States and Türkiye. In May, a violent

confrontation occurred outside the Turkish Embassy residence in Washington, DC, involving pro-Türkiye civilians, pro-PKK protestors, and Turkish security guards as President Erdoğan arrived for an event after meetings with the Trump administration at the White House. A federal grand jury in Washington, DC, indicted 19 individuals, including 15 Turkish security personnel, in connection with the incident. Notably, none of the pro-PKK protestors faced charges, even though they had inflicted serious injuries on pro-Türkiye civilians. This incident created another negative perception of Türkiye among the American public and members of the U.S. Congress.

In October 2019, the United States charged Halkbank with conspiring to evade U.S. sanctions against Iran. Furthermore, in 2019, the United States' refusal to supply Türkiye with advanced Patriot air defense systems significantly escalated bilateral tensions. Although Ankara had made persistent efforts since the late 2000s to strengthen its national air and missile defense capabilities, the negotiations reached a deadlock, reinforcing the perception in Türkiye that its longstanding security concerns were not being adequately addressed. This growing frustration ultimately contributed to Türkiye's decision to procure the Russian S-400 air defense system, a move that prompted a strong response from Washington, including Türkiye's removal from the F-35 fighter jet program and the imposition of sanctions by the Trump administration on the country's defense procurement agency and several officials. Concurrently, there was significant criticism from the U.S. regarding Turkish-led forces attacking U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces along Türkiye's northeastern border with Syria.

A Fourth Low Point in American Turkish Relations—U.S. Recognition of Genocide

Despite a cordial personal rapport between Donald J. Trump and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, 2019 marked another low point in U.S.–Türkiye relations. The already fragile ties created an opening for pro-Armenian members of Congress to renew their campaign for recognition of the Armenian genocide during the 116th Congress (2019–2020).

In April 2019, Representative Adam Schiff of California introduced H.Res. 296 in the House of Representatives, while Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey introduced S.Res. 150 in the Senate. At the time, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had supported similar resolutions since her first tenure as Speaker in 2007, presided over the House. Whether by coincidence or design, she scheduled the vote on October 29, 2019—the Republic Day of Türkiye, commemorating the founding of the Republic in 1923. The resolution passed overwhelmingly, 405 to 11, with three members voting present. Many lawmakers were unaware they were voting on a genocide resolution, instead viewing the measure as a rebuke of Türkiye for its purchase of the Russian S-400 missile system, military incursions into Syria, human rights abuses, support for Hamas, and the 2017 embassy brawl in Washington, D.C.

In the Senate, then controlled by Republicans under Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, S.Res. 150 passed by unanimous consent in December 2019. Although Republicans had historically shown greater support for Türkiye than Democrats, Senator McConnell allowed the resolution to advance amid growing concerns over Türkiye's S-400 acquisition and its actions in Syria—both viewed as national security threats by many in Congress. Less than two years later, President Joe Biden fulfilled a long-standing goal of Armenian American advocacy groups by becoming the

first U.S. president to formally recognize the massacres of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide in his April 24, 2021 Armenian Remembrance Day proclamation.

Although Türkiye, in recent years, has expressed sorrow for the loss of life experienced by Ottoman Armenians during the mass deportations of 1915—arguing that the deaths occurred amid wartime conditions, internal unrest, and intercommunal violence—it has firmly rejected both the wartime loss and characterizations. Ankara has long maintained that the issue should be addressed by historians rather than politicized by legislatures; nevertheless, amid already strained bilateral relations. Biden’s decision amounted to a de facto recognition of the Armenian Genocide, further deepening tensions between the two NATO allies.

After nearly 45 years of lobbying, Armenian Americans achieved success both in Congress and through an official presidential declaration. The Turkish government, which had spent tens of millions of dollars on lobbying and public relations efforts, was unable to prevent these outcomes. Prominent Turkish American organizations—including ATAA, FTAA, TCA, THO, ATC, and AFOT—along with American companies with major business interests in Türkiye, had devoted considerable resources to presenting Türkiye’s perspective to lawmakers.

Congress had refrained from passing such resolutions during the 2015 centennial, so why did both chambers act in 2019? The answer lay partly in the changing political climate following the failed coup attempt of July 2016. The event transformed Türkiye’s domestic and international posture, fueling political polarization, harsh rhetoric, and a sharp deterioration in bilateral relations. These tensions disheartened many Turkish Americans and Turophiles, leading to a decline in civic engagement and the closure or weakening of major community institutions. AFOT and the ATC shut down, while other organizations scaled back their activities. The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) closed its Washington office in 2020, and Turkish American PACs experienced a sharp decline in contributions. Concluding that it was no longer possible to influence congressional attitudes, the Turkish government reduced its engagement efforts on Capitol Hill.

Tensions in Turkish American Relations on the 100th Anniversary of the Turkish Republic

In the centennial year of the Turkish Republic, tensions between Türkiye and the United States persisted across multiple fronts. Disputes continued over the sale of advanced U.S. fighter aircraft to Türkiye, Ankara’s threat to block Sweden and Finland’s accession to NATO, and its support for Hamas following the outbreak of the Israeli–Hamas conflict. Meanwhile, the Armenian lobby in Washington remained active even after securing both a presidential proclamation and congressional resolutions recognizing the Armenian tragedies of World War I as genocide. In the 118th Congress (2023-2025), pro-Armenian lawmakers introduced H.Res. 2803 and S.Res. 1329, directing the Librarian of Congress to promote Armenian Genocide education programs.

Another setback for Türkiye’s image came when Armenian American advocacy groups successfully pressured Disney to reconsider the release of the Turkish film Atatürk: 1891–1919. Originally scheduled to premiere on Disney’s U.S. streaming platform on October 29, 2023—the

100th anniversary of the Republic's founding—the film was ultimately withdrawn from the platform.

A Full Circle of Turkish American Relations at the End of the Republic's First 100 Years

By the end of its first hundred years, U.S.–Turkish relations had, in many ways, come full circle. In the early years of the Republic, the establishment of diplomatic ties had been delayed largely due to lobbying by the American missionary community, strengthened by Armenian American influence. A century later, despite being NATO allies for over seventy years, the relationship remains fragile, often swayed by domestic political pressures in Washington.

While the missionary establishment's influence faded by the late 1920s, Türkiye now contends with new challenges rooted in perceived U.S. double standards and the growing role of ethnic lobbying in American politics. Today, Armenian, Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish American, and FETÖ-affiliated groups continue to shape congressional attitudes toward Türkiye. As relations between Türkiye and Israel cooled in the early twenty-first century, the Israeli lobby also emerged as a more influential player in U.S. policy toward Ankara. In addition, human rights organizations and church-affiliated advocacy groups, particularly those concerned with Christian minorities in Türkiye, have frequently criticized Turkish policies—helping to sustain echoes of the old “Terrible Turk” stereotype in some American political and media narratives.

At the same time, Turkish Americans have become a vibrant and successful part of American society, contributing significantly to various fields such as academia, science, business, and the arts. Across the country, hundreds of Turkish restaurants and businesses have thrived. Additionally, the importation of Turkish goods, including food products, textiles, and construction materials, has increased considerably. However, many members of the community still have only a partial understanding of the historical and political forces that have shaped Turkish American relations since the founding of the Republic in 1923. As a result, a strong and unified Turkish American voice has continued to be absent from the American political arena.

Turkish American Relations as the Turkish Republic Enters Its 2nd Century

Once a major recipient of U.S. aid and the junior partner in the bilateral alliance, Türkiye has entered its second century as a regional power and a more independent actor in global affairs. While the two nations remain NATO allies, their relationship has become increasingly transactional. What is especially notable today is that both countries are confronting internal challenges to their democratic institutions.

Unresolved issues dating back to the aftermath of World War I continue to cast a shadow over U.S.–Turkish relations. Persistent sources of friction include conflicts in Syria, the Israeli–Palestinian question, the Cyprus dispute, and disagreements over territorial waters in the Aegean Sea. Additional tensions stem from the continued closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary, concerns over minority rights, and the status of Kurdish and Christian communities within Türkiye.

Other enduring controversies—such as claims regarding the so-called Pontic Greek genocide, debates about the burning of İzmir in 1922, and disputes over the title and status of the Ecumenical Patriarch in İstanbul—remain part of the complex historical narrative influencing perceptions in Washington. Furthermore, Türkiye’s acquisition of advanced U.S. weapons systems continues to be a politically sensitive matter.

Nevertheless, Türkiye and the United States have sustained a partnership rooted in shared strategic interests. As NATO allies, the two countries continue to cooperate closely on regional security, counterterrorism, and defense modernization. Türkiye supported U.S. operations in Afghanistan and has played a significant role in defending Ukraine’s sovereignty and integrity, managing Black Sea security, and facilitating grain export agreements, efforts that align with U.S. objectives. In addition, this partnership has also been reinforced through critical assets such as Incirlik Air Base and continued collaboration in regional security. The two countries also work together on broader challenges including migration management, energy security, and stabilization efforts in the Middle East.

A century after the Republic’s founding, Türkiye still confronts many of the same obstacles that have long shaped its relationship with Washington—chief among them the influence of the anti-Turkish lobbying groups, particularly the Armenian and Greek communities, and the persistence of double standards in American foreign policy. Yet, despite these challenges, the partnership remains strategically vital to ensuring regional stability and prosperity.

As history has shown, Türkiye cannot rely solely on the U.S. Executive Branch to safeguard the relationship. The U.S. Congress has often posed the greater challenge, underscoring the need for a robust and sustained Turkish American advocacy presence.

Though Americans of Turkish heritage have made meaningful contributions across society, they remain underrepresented in political life, constraining their ability to foster balanced dialogue on U.S.–Türkiye issues. To date, only fourteen Turkish Americans have been elected to public office—all at the local or regional level. The first, elected in Illinois in 1976, served on a local school board. (See Chapter 5.) Until Turkish Americans hold seats in Congress or state legislatures, their voices will continue to be largely absent from national policy debates.

A stronger Turkish American political presence would not only promote mutual understanding between the United States and Türkiye but also help bridge divides among the descendants of the diverse peoples of the former Ottoman Empire—uniting them in service to their shared adopted country, the United States. Hopefully, the day when a Turkish American takes a seat in the U.S. Congress will come sooner rather than later.

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Chapter 1 | Historical Overview (1923-2023)

1920s

- 1923 The Republic of Türkiye officially declared by the Grand National Assembly and Mustafa Kemal Pasha elected as the Republic's first president on October 29.
- Türkiye and the U.S. signed "The Ankara Agreement" on December 24, resulting in payment to the United States of a lump sum of \$1.3 million in full settlement of claims of American citizens based on acts occurring during World War I.
- 1924 The Grand National Assembly abolished the Caliphate March 3. (Abdülmecit II was the last Caliph of the Ottoman Empire and the only caliph of the Republic of Türkiye.)
- The Grand National Assembly adopted a new constitution to replace the 1921 Constitution on April 20. The 1924 Constitution remained in force until 1961.
- 1927 U.S. Senate voted on the General Treaty Between the United States and Türkiye, known as the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty, on January 18. The treaty had been signed on August 6, 1923, in addition to an extradition treaty. Anti-Turkish sentiment, mainly of missionary interests and Armenians, opposed ratification. Senator William H. King (D) of Utah led floor opposition to the treaty, aided by lobbyists of the American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty. This group evolved from the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA), which later became the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Fifty senators voted in favor of the treaty, six short of the two-thirds of the Senate necessary for ratification. ¹
- The U.S. and Türkiye established diplomatic relations on February 17.
- The first U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye, Joseph C. Grew, en route to İstanbul from New York, and the first ambassador from the Republic of Türkiye to the United States, Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu, upon his arrival in the U.S., received Armenian assassination threats in protest. ²
- 1929 A new Treaty of Commerce and Navigation Between the United States and the Turkish Republic was signed in Ankara on October 1. This treaty was virtually identical to the General Treaty Between the United States and Turkey that was rejected by the U.S. Senate in 1927.

1930s

- 1930 U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation Between the United States of America and the Turkish Republic on April 22.
- 1934 Intense lobbying efforts by Turkish Ambassador Munir Ertegün at the U.S. Department of State and in Hollywood stopped Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's film production of The Forty Days of Musa Dagh. The movie, based on the novel of the same title, intended to depict a small community of Armenians in Hatay (Antakya) resisting deportation by Ottoman troops during World War I.
- 1936 An international agreement regulating maritime traffic through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus—the Montreux Convention—was signed on July 20 and went into effect on November 9. The United States was not a party to the Convention.
- 1938 Atatürk passed away in Dolmabahçe Palace on November 10, 9:05 am.
- 1939 Hatay (Antakya) previously under the rule of France since the end of World War I was annexed by Türkiye as a result of a plebiscite.
- Nazi Germany invaded Poland on September 1, starting the European Theatre of World War II. Türkiye remained neutral.

1940s

- 1941 Türkiye and Nazi Germany signed the German-Turkish Treaty of Friendship, a non-aggression pact, on June 18.
- Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7.
- The United States declared war on Japan on December 8.
- Nazi Germany declared war on the United States on December 11.
- Bulgaria declared war on the United States on December 13, causing Türkiye to share a border with a U.S. opponent.
- 1942 During World War II, the U.S. government began its Voice of America (VOA) shortwave broadcasts in Turkish in February 1942. The Turkish broadcasts were discontinued in 1945 but restarted in 1948.
- 1943 Turkish President İsmet İnönü met President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom at the

Second Cairo Conference, December 4-6. Discussion was on reevaluating Türkiye's neutrality and the possibility of Türkiye joining the Allies in the war. The meeting also decided to build an air base for the Allies near Adana. Construction, however, did not begin until after the war.

1944 Türkiye severed diplomatic and commercial relations with Nazi Germany on August 2.

Ambassador Munir Ertegün, the dean of the diplomatic community in Washington, died from a heart attack on November 11. His body was carried back to Türkiye on the USS Missouri in April 1946.

1945 Türkiye declared war on Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan on February 23.

World War II ended in Europe with Nazi Germany surrendering on May 8.

World War II ended in the Pacific with the Empire of Japan surrendering on September 2.

The United Nations (UN) officially came into existence on October 24. The U.S. and Türkiye were among the 51 original members.

1946 In response to Soviet demands on Türkiye for shared administration on the straits, the United States countered Soviet pressure by sending ships to Turkish waters. ³

Congress created the Fulbright Program in August to promote peace and understanding in the world through an international educational exchange between the United States and other countries, including Türkiye. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas had proposed this program in a bill in 1945.

The body of Turkish Ambassador Munir Ertegün who passed away in November 1944 in Washington, DC, was carried back to Türkiye on the USS Missouri in April. The quarterdeck of the USS Missouri had been the site of the surrender of the Empire of Japan on September 2.

1947 President Harry S. Truman announced to Congress on March 12 his Administration's foreign policy of American "support for democracies against authoritarian threats." This became known as the Truman Doctrine and marked the accepted beginning of the Cold War between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United States. Congress designated Türkiye and Greece as special aid recipients against Soviet threats under the Truman Doctrine.

The United States and Türkiye signed the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement under the Truman Doctrine on July 12 offering support to democratic nations against the Soviet threat. Türkiye received \$100 million of economic and military aid from the United States, which not only helped to strengthen the Turkish military but also contributed to the infrastructure development in Türkiye.

The American Military Mission for Aid to Türkiye (AMMAT) was established in Ankara in August. AMMAT became the Joint American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JAMMAT) in 1949. JAMMAT became the largest of the U.S. European Commands by 1951 and the world's largest military assistance and advisory group. JAMMAT was redesignated the Joint U.S. Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JUSMMAT) in 1958.

1948 The United States was the first nation to recognize Israel on May 14.

1949 Turkey was the first Muslim majority country to recognize Israel in March 1949.

1950s

1950 North Korea crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea on June 25, start of the Korean War.

Türkiye declared its intent to send a brigade to fight under UN Command in Korea on July 25.

Arrival of the first troops of the Turkish brigade in the Korean War on October 19. The brigade was attached to the U.S. 25th Infantry Division throughout the war. Türkiye sent 15,000 troops to South Korea.

After its arrival the first Turkish brigade saved the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division from total annihilation at the Battle of Wawon (Kunu-ri) and received a Presidential Unit Citation from President Harry Truman for its heroic efforts. General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander of the UN Coalition Forces, said, "the Turks are the hero of heroes. There is no impossibility for the Turkish Brigade." In its bulletin entitled *Turkey: Forgotten Ally in a Forgotten War*, marking the 59th anniversary of the signing of the war's armistice on July 27, 2012, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) highlighted "The Turkish intervention in Korea was unique in its timeliness and urgency. . . The camaraderie on the battlefield led to deep relations between American and Turkish soldiers. . ."

1951 Construction of an air base outside of Adana began by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the base became operational in 1955. (The decision to build the air base was made during World War II at the Second Cairo Conference in December 1943.) The Turkish General Staff and the U.S. Air Force signed an agreement in

1954 for shared use of the base. The air base was officially named Adana Air Base on February 21, 1955 but renamed Incirlik Air Base on February 28, 1958. Incirlik was a base for CIA-operated U-2 flights in the 1950s; today it remains a strategic facility for U.S. military operations, housing tactical nuclear weapons.⁴

The first exchange of American and Turkish scholars and graduate students began under the Fulbright Program.

1952 Türkiye joined NATO on February 18. As a result, The U.S. military began stationing personnel in the İzmir region later that year.

1953 Armistice signed on July 27, ending the Korean War.

1954 Turkish President Bayar addressed the U.S. Congress on January 29.

Türkiye signed the Military Facilities Agreement with the United States on June 23, allowing a large-scale presence of U.S. troops in Türkiye.

1955 The Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), also known as the Baghdad Pact, was established by Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom with support from the United States on February 24. CENTO was a Cold War military alliance against the Soviet Union based on the NATO model. However, the alliance proved to be ineffective. The headquarters for CENTO was initially located in Baghdad but was later moved to Ankara after Iraq left the alliance in 1958. CENTO was dissolved on March 16, 1979, after the Iranian Revolution.

State-sponsored pogrom primarily against the Greek population in İstanbul, September 6-7. Mob attacks targeted private property and Greek Orthodox churches and cemeteries. Dozens were killed and over 1,000 people injured. This sad and tragic event against the Greek minority did not help Türkiye's image in the U.S., and the Greek American lobby referred to it in its anti-Türkiye campaigns.

1956 The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in collaboration with the U.S. Air Force and the Turkish government, began conducting U-2 reconnaissance flights from Incirlik Air Base over the Soviet Union. These flights continued until 1960, when they were halted due to the international repercussions of the Gary Powers U-2 incident, which involved the downing of Powers' plane by a Soviet missile. (It's important to note that Francis Gary Powers' flight originated from Peshawar, Pakistan, not from Incirlik Air Base, before crossing over the Soviet Union.)

1960s

- 1960 The Turkish military overthrew the government of Prime Minister Adnan Menderes on May 27.
- Cyprus became independent from British rule on August 16 with the signing of the Treaty of Guarantee by the United Kingdom, Greece, and Türkiye.
- 1961 A constitutional referendum was held in Turkey on July 9 to replace the 1924 Constitution. The new Constitution was approved by nearly 62% of voters.
- Former Prime Minister Adnan Menderes was sentenced to death by a military court and was executed by hanging on September 17 U.S. President John F. Kennedy sent a plea to spare his life.
- 1962 The launching of President John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps program in Türkiye. The program was dissolved in 1971 due to growing anti-Americanism in Türkiye and the underutilization of volunteers. Some 1,457 Americans served as Peace Corps volunteers in Türkiye.
- 1962 In October, the United States and the Soviet Union were on the brink of war due to the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The two countries resolved the crisis in the end with an arrangement including U.S. removal of obsolete nuclear-armed Jupiter missiles in Türkiye.
- 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22 in Dallas, Texas.
- Prime Minister İsmet İnönü attended the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, following his assassination on November 22.
- Intercommunal violence beginning on December 21 between Greek and Turkish populations in Cyprus intensified into an armed conflict known by Turkish Cypriots as "Bloody Christmas."
- 1964 Intercommunal violence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots continued through the first months of the year. Türkiye threatened to intervene to protect Turkish Cypriots.
- 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson sent a strongly worded letter on June 5 to Turkish Prime Minister İsmet İnönü opposing intervention in Cyprus. As a result, anti-Americanism increased in Türkiye.
- Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7 after a naval confrontation between the United States and North Vietnam a few days earlier. The joint resolution authorized President Johnson to take any measures to

maintain international peace and security in Southeast Asia. It provided the legal basis for the United States to intervene militarily in the Vietnam War without Congress's formal declaration of war. This resolution allowing the president to commit combat troops in Vietnam resulted in many anti-war protests in the United States and worldwide, including Türkiye.

- 1965 First U.S. ground troops arrived in Da Nang, South Vietnam on March 8.
- 1967 A student anti-imperialism demonstration held at İstanbul University on June 24, protested the visit of four ships of the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet to İstanbul.
- 1968 Prominent civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination on April 4 prompted racial violence nationwide. Riots in over 100 American cities resulted in more than 40 deaths and extensive property damage.
- Thousands of demonstrators, mainly students from İstanbul Technical University (ITU), were at the Bosphorus on July 17, protesting the landing of the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet. The protestors threw a few of the American officers disembarking into the water.
- 1969 U.S. troop presence in South Vietnam peaked at over 540,000.
- American Ambassador Robert Komer's car burned on the Middle East Technical University campus by leftist students on January 6.
- 1969 In February, thousands of left-wing students and labor unions gathered in İstanbul's Beyazıt District to protest the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet week-long visit to İstanbul, which started on February 10. The protestors marched to Taksim Square, met by right-wing students who marched from the Dolmabahçe Mosque. Up to 30,000 people were involved in the leftist protest and the rightist counter-protest, including pro-American elements. The violence occurred, resulting in the deaths of two with scores injured. The demonstrations on February 17 became known as "Bloody Sunday." Other anti-American protests occurred in İzmir, Adana, and Gaziantep during the visit of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.
- Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel attended the state funeral for President Dwight D. Eisenhower on March 31.

1970s

- 1971 The Turkish government closed the Greek Orthodox Halki seminary on the island of Heybeliada, the second-largest of the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmara.. Founded in 1844, the seminary served as the principal theological institution for

the training of Eastern Orthodox clergy. There has been a continuous campaign since the closing to have the school reopened, including the U.S. government's support for its reopening. The Turkish government maintained that it would have reopened the seminary if the Patriarchate had consented to administering the school under the Turkish government rather than being independent. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has also proposed an exchange between Greece and Turkey to resolve the issue. The Greeks would reopen the 17th century Fethiye Camii to a mosque to serve the current Muslim population in Athens, and Türkiye would reopen the Halki seminary. The status of the Halki seminary remains a contentious issue between Türkiye and Greece and for the Greek American community.

Turkish Military Memorandum (Second Military Coup) on March 12 forced Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel to resign. The military intervention took place during the period of increased street violence among political factions.

Unfortunately, the military takeover did not resolve the street violence, and it continued to increase in the 1970s after civilian rule was restored.

In his "War on Drugs," President Richard M. Nixon announced on June 30 that the Prime Minister of Türkiye Nihat Erim had agreed to eliminate the production of opium poppies by June, 1972. Officials of the Nixon Administration involved in the "War on Drugs" severely criticized Türkiye for its poppy production while overlooking drug smuggling in other countries. Members of Congress also introduced numerous resolutions in the 1970s to penalize Türkiye.

1973 The United States and North Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, an agreement to end the war and restore peace in Vietnam. The United States withdrew the last American combat troops from South Vietnam on March 29.

1974 The Turkish government decreed the resumption of poppy cultivation on July 1 despite U.S. opposition.

Archbishop Makarios, the president of the Republic of Cyprus, was overthrown on July 15 by the Cypriot National Guard led by Greek officers and instigated by the junta in Athens. Nikos Sampson, an ultra-nationalist, an anti-Turkish fanatic, and pro-Enosis (union between Cyprus and Greece), was installed as the president of the new government. Joseph Sisco, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, was sent to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to attempt mediation. Türkiye's Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit sought the United Kingdom's intervention in Cyprus being one of the three nations signing the Treaty of Guarantee for the independence of Cyprus. The UK, however, did not take action.

Türkiye launched Peace Operation in Cyprus on July 20 to protect Turkish minority and occupied 3% of the island.

The Greek military junta collapsed on July 23 mainly because of Cyprus and civilian rule was restored in Greece. Shortly after the change of rule in Greece, Nikos Sampson renounced the presidency in Cyprus.

Peace talks regarding Cyprus were held in Geneva, Switzerland from July 25 to 30 among the three guarantor powers—United Kingdom, Greece, and Türkiye.

Richard M. Nixon's resignation as president of the United States on August 9 influenced the U.S.'s response to the Cyprus crisis.

Türkiye launched its Second Peace Operation in Cyprus from August 14 to 16 and increased its occupation to 36.2% of the island.

American Ambassador Rodger Paul Davies to Cyprus was killed on August 19 by Greek Cypriot gunmen in Nicosia during an anti-American demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in protest of the U.S. failure to stop the Turkish intervention.

1975 A U.S. arms embargo on Türkiye passed by the U.S. Congress in late 1974 went into effect on February 5 despite President Gerald Ford's opposition. Congress accused Türkiye of violating conditions of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act which bars U.S. arms sales that are used in offensive acts and in violation of international law. Thus, Congress imposed the embargo because of Türkiye's use of U.S. weapons on Cyprus in the summer of 1974. Congressman Stephen John Brademas, Jr. (D-IN), the first Greek American elected to Congress, and the Greek American lobby had waged an aggressive lobbying to ensure the embargo's passage.

Türkiye declared on February 13 the areas in the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus that it controls as the "Federated Turkish State." The international community including the United States condemned Türkiye's action.

The Turkish government in July closed all U.S. military bases in Türkiye in retaliation to the congressional arms embargo on Turkey. The suspension of U.S. military activities in Türkiye did not affect the NATO command at the Incirlik and İzmir Air Bases.

1978 The separatist group Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) founded by Abdullah Öcalan with the objective to establish a Kurdish state in southeastern Türkiye.

The U.S. Senate on July 25, responding to President Jimmy Carter's appeals, voted 57 to 42 to repeal the arms embargo imposed on Türkiye for using U.S.

weapons on Cyprus. Seven days later, the U.S. House of Representatives, under intense White House lobbying, also voted 208 to 205 to lift the arms embargo, effectively repealing the arms embargo imposed on Türkiye.

1980s

1980 The United States and Turkey signed on March 29 the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA) to foster military, economic, and social development between the two countries. On defense matters, DECA addressed the U.S. use of military facilities in Türkiye and proposed military construction in addition to Turkish military needs.

The Turkish military on September 12 overthrew the government of Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel. Türkiye was on the verge of civil war averaging between 20 and 30 deaths per day from domestic terrorism by leftist and rightist groups and Kurdish separatists.

1981 President Ronald Reagan used the term “genocide” on April 22 in a statement about the Holocaust, “Like the genocide of the Armenians before it. . . the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.” President Reagan, however, did not use the term “genocide” in his statements about Armenian Remembrance Day on April 24 during his two terms of office.

1982 JCAG (Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide) members Hampig Sassounian and Krikor Saliba assassinated Turkish Consul General Kemal Arıkan in Los Angeles, California on January 28.

Armenian extremists assassinated Turkish Honorary Consul Orhan Gündüz on May 4 in Cambridge Massachusetts.

A constitutional referendum was held in Turkey on November 7 to replace the 1961 Constitution. It was approved by 91% of the voters.

1983 The Turkish Cypriot people declared their independence on November 15 from the Republic of Cyprus and established the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Türkiye was and continues to be the only country recognizing the TRNC. The declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriots was condemned by the United Nations.

1984 Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) was established to start producing American fighter aircraft locally under license for the Turkish Air Force.

The PKK launched an insurgency on August 15 to establish Kurdistan in southeastern Türkiye.

1987 The first American F-16Cs built in Türkiye were flown on October 20.

1990s

1990 Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on August 2.

1991 The United States and Allied Forces conducted Operation Desert Storm and liberated Kuwait from Iraq, January 17 – February 28, known as Gulf War I. Türkiye permitted the U.S. and coalition forces the use of its airspace and bases during the war and postwar patrolling of northern Iraq.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) dissolved itself on December 26, thereby ending the Cold War between the USSR and the United States, March 12, 1947 – December 26, 1991.

The U.S. government between 1991 and 1992 closed eight of twelve of its military bases in Türkiye and discontinued major military grant aid to Türkiye due to the post-Cold War environment. ⁵

1992 War broke out among Bosniaks (Muslims), Croats, and Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina on April 6 as a result of the breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Türkiye actively supported the Bosniaks. The war continued until the end of 1995.

1993 A Turkish general took over the command of a combined military force of the United States and United Nations known as UNOSOM II (United Nations Operation in Somalia) in Mogadishu, Somalia, in April. UNOSOM was spearheaded by the United States to battle lawlessness and famine in Somalia.

President Turgut Özal died from a heart attack on April 17. Neither President William Clinton or Vice President Al Gore attended his funeral. There was disappointment in Türkiye that former President George H. W. Bush did not attend the funeral service. Americans representing the United States at the funeral included former Secretary of State James Baker, Ahmet Ertegun, and MG Fred Haynes (USMC Ret.), president of the American Turkish Council.

1994 Congress withheld military loans to Türkiye until submission of executive branch report on alleged human rights violations in relations to Türkiye-PKK violence. ⁶

The Joint U.S. Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JUSMMAT) became the Office of Defense Cooperation Turkey (ODC-T) in 1994.

1995 The Bosnian War peace negotiations took place at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, in November, which resulted in the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Peace Accords. The Dayton Peace Accords ending the Bosnian War were signed in Paris on December 14.

NATO deployed peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina starting in December to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement. Türkiye played a key role in the NATO deployment.

The European Union–Türkiye Customs Union agreement came into effect on 31 December 1995, following a 6 March 1995 Decision of the European Community–Turkey Association Council to implement a customs union between the two parties. "The United States had supported Turkey's bid for EU membership through several steps in the process: from the EU Turkey Customs Union agreement in 1995 to Turkey's appointment as a candidate country in December 1999, and later to open the accession negotiations in October 2005. Backing Turkey's bid was a strategic component of the U.S. policy to anchor Turkey in the transatlantic community." ⁷

1996 With U.S. encouragement, Türkiye and Israel signed two secret cooperation agreements strengthening defense and intelligence ties. The alliance between Türkiye and Israel also fostered cooperation between Jewish and Turkish Americans. American Jewish organizations were particularly helpful in opposing Armenian genocide resolutions in Congress.

1997 The Turkish Military issued a memorandum on February 28 that initiated the resignation of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's government.

The PKK (the Kurdistan Workers Party) was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. Department of State in October.

1999 The deployment of international peacekeeping troops in Kosovo led by NATO known as the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in June to stop the fighting between ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians. Both the United States and Türkiye participated in the peacekeeping operation.

PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan was captured in Kenya by MIT (National Intelligence Agency of Türkiye) with the assistance of the CIA on November 15.

President Clinton was the first American president to address the Turkish Grand National Assembly on November 15.

The agreement to build the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline was signed in Türkiye on November 18 by Turkish President Süleyman Demirel, Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev, and Georgian President Eduard Shavdnadze in the presence of U.S. President William Clinton.

2000s

2001 The Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans was established in the U.S. Congress in March by Representatives Robert Wexler (D-FL, 19th District), Ed Whitfield (R-KY, 1st District), and Kay Granger (R-TX, 12th District). In the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the Türkiye-USA Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Caucus (Türkiye-ABD Parlamentolar Arası Dostluk Grubu) was formed with Kamran Inan serving as the first chairman.

The Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda inflicted the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil on September 11.

The United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7 in retaliation for terrorist attacks on September 11 by invading Taliban-ruled Afghanistan with a multinational force. Türkiye supported the U.S. in the war on terror and joined the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Turkish contractors also played an important role in Afghanistan infrastructure projects funded by the United States and other countries.

2002 Following the AK (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi/Justice and Development Party) Party's electoral victories in November, President George W. Bush welcomed Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chairman of the AK Party to the White House on December 10. Bush affirmed standing "side by side" with Türkiye and supported Türkiye's efforts at the time to join the EU.

2003 The Turkish Grand National Assembly on March 1 failed to pass legislation allowing American troops to transit Türkiye to invade Iraq. The vote was 264 votes in favor and 250 votes opposed; a 276 absolute majority was necessary for passage.

The U.S. began military operations into Iraq on March 20, the start of Gulf War 2.

American military operatives stormed a Turkish compound in Northern Iraq on July 4. During the campaign 11 Turkish military operatives were taken captive. The Turkish soldiers were led out in hoods and later interrogated. After requests

from Türkiye, the U.S. released the soldiers. A joint U.S.-Türkiye commission was later created to investigate the events. The commission released a joint statement of regret.

2008 Fetullah Gülen, an Islamic scholar, preacher, leader of the Gülen movement was granted permanent residency (Green Card) in the United States. He has lived in self-exile in the U.S. near Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, since 1999.

2009 On his first bilateral trip abroad, President Barack Obama addressed the Turkish Grand National Assembly on April 6.

2010s

2010 Anti-government protests in Tunisia initiated the Arab Spring movement that spread across much of the Arab world. The Arab Spring became an important component of the U.S. - Türkiye relationship. It eventually led to civil war in Syria, which developed into a major problem in the bilateral relationship.

Türkiye downgraded ties with Israel after Israel's raid on the *Mavi Marmara* (part of an activist-led flotilla seeking humanitarian relief for the Gaza Strip), leaving eight Turkish citizens dead.⁸

2011 Türkiye agreed to U.S./NATO deployment of missile defense radar on its territory.⁹

On April 12, John Boehner became the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to meet exclusively with leaders of the Turkish American community while in office.

Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK/4th) introduced H.R.2362, Indian Tribal Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011, with 12 cosponsors on June 24. One aspect of this bill, initiated by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), sought to attract foreign investment on tribal land from all 155 World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries, including Türkiye. Although there was strong bipartisan support and full backing of major tribes, it failed to pass in the House because of the Armenian and Greek lobbies.

2013 On May 28, hundreds of protesters opposed to plans to replace İstanbul's Taksim Gezi Park with a shopping mall were arrested. Subsequent nationwide protests

and corruption allegations increased domestic and Western criticism of Erdoğan and his government.¹⁰

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided a \$200,000 grant to Oregon's Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring (CTWS) to cover the cost of two water tanks that serve an elementary school. The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and the Turkish Embassy in Washington spearheaded funding of the project.

The leadership of the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) and the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) met with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner (R/OH) in his office in the U.S. Capitol on October 10.

2014 FBI raided multiple Fethullah Gülen-affiliated charter schools in June seeking information on insider contracts and misuse of state funds.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan took the oath of office as the 12th president of the Republic of Türkiye on August 28 after becoming the nation's first popularly elected president with 51.79% of the vote. The other presidential candidates were Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu with 38.44% and Selahattin Demirtaş with 9.76%.

ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) launched its siege of the canton of Kobani and its main city in northern Syria on the border of Türkiye on September 13. Some 400,000 Kurdish refugees fled into Türkiye. Türkiye was criticized by American and international press for not intervening. The battle for Kobani was the turning point in the war against ISIL. It was also the beginning of cooperation between the United States and YPG (Kurdish People's Defense Units), an offshoot of the PKK. American collaboration with the YPG further increased tension in the bilateral relationship between Türkiye and the U.S.

2015 Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX/17th) introduced H.Res.226 on April 28 in the 114th Congress (2015-2016). The resolution called on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations for the next 100 years based upon the two countries' common interests and the United States' significant security interests in the region. However, the resolution did not reach the House floor for a vote.

The Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) started in 2015 to grant fellowships to candidates from Türkiye. The Borlaug Program, initiated in 2004, was designed to promote

international cooperation on agricultural productivity, food security, trade, and economic growth.

2016 Reza Zarrab, an Iranian-born businessman with Iranian, Azerbaijani, Turkish and North Macedonian citizenship was arrested in Miami on March 19 for violating U.S. sanctions against Iran involving millions of dollars of transactions. He was transferred to New York for trial where he was indicted with two others by the U.S. Department of Justice on March 21. This case would eventually affect U.S.-Turkish relations.

- Reza Zarrab, an Iranian-born businessman with Iranian, Azerbaijani, Turkish, and North Macedonian citizenship, was arrested in Miami on March 19 for violating U.S. sanctions against Iran through millions of dollars in financial transactions. He was subsequently transferred to New York for trial, where he was indicted alongside two others by the U.S. Department of Justice on March 21. The case would eventually affect U.S.–Turkish relations and proved particularly controversial from the Turkish government’s perspective, as it implicated senior Turkish officials and a state-owned bank, while being widely perceived in Ankara as a politically motivated judicial process that infringed upon Türkiye’s sovereignty and posed potential economic risks. (The case was dismissed in 2026.)

A faction of the Turkish military attempted a coup d’etat against the Turkish government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on July 15. Among other groups, Fethullah Gülen and his followers were accused of attempting to overthrow the government. More than 250 people were killed, and more than 2,100 were wounded. Turkish Incirlik Base Commander General Bekir, who was involved in the coup attempt, sought asylum from the U.S., but his request was denied. President Barack Obama condemned the coup on the same day. After the coup attempt, Türkiye began direct military operations in Syria against the Islamic State and YPG (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel / People’s Protection Units, a PKK-linked Kurdish militia), further increasing tension with the United States.

Türkiye submitted a formal request to the U.S. in August for the extradition of Fethullah Gülen, who the Turkish government charged as the ringleader of the July 15 coup attempt. However, the U.S. government has not sent the case to court, maintaining that Türkiye has not provided sufficient evidence for the crimes that Gülen is accused of, as required by the bilateral extradition treaty.

General Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited his Turkish counterpart, General Hulusi Akar, chief of the Turkish General Staff, in Ankara to show support as “one friend making sure another was well after a traumatic experience” in the July 15th coup attempt. General Dunford was the first senior American official and international leader to visit Turkey after the attempted

coup. The general also met with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and İsmail Kahraman, the Grand National Assembly speaker. ¹¹”

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden visited Ankara on August 24 to ease U.S.-Türkiye ties, further strained after the attempted July 15 coup attempt. He met with President Erdoğan and Prime Minister Yıldırım.

President Erdoğan met with President Barack Obama at the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China on September 4. President Obama stated “This is the first opportunity that I’ve had to meet face to face with President Erdoğan since the terrible attempted coup that took place in July. By taking to the streets to resist the coup attempt, the Turkish people once again affirmed their commitment to democracy, and the strength and resilience of the democratic institutions inside of Turkey. . .”

Following the coup d’etat attempt in July, the Turkish government arrested tens of thousands of people suspected of being associated with the Gülenist Terror Group (FETO), including approximately 20 individuals with American citizenship. One of these was Andrew Craig Brunson, an American evangelical pastor of the small İzmir Resurrection (Protestant) Church. He was arrested in October on charges of being associated with the Gülenists and PKK. He was also accused of helping to plan the coup and involved with American espionage. His arrest and trial increased diplomatic tensions between the two governments and further damaged Türkiye’s reputation in the U.S. Congress.

The Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish American achieved its highest peak of 160 members at the end of the 114th Congress in December. The Türkiye Caucus was in the top three of the largest bilateral caucuses in Congress along India and Taiwan. At this point, the Türkiye Caucus was represented in 43 out of the 50 states, District of Columbia, and all five of the U.S. territories.

2017 The United States began directly arming PKK-linked Kurdish forces in Syria against Turkish wishes. ¹²

Mehmet Hakan Atilla, in an expansion of the Zarrab case, an employee of Turkish state bank Halkbank was arrested on March 27 in New York on allegations of conspiring to conceal transactions with sanctioned Iranian entities. An updated indictment alleges corruption by several Turkish officials.

A constitutional referendum was held in Türkiye on April 16 to amend the Turkish constitution by abolishing the office of prime minister and replacing the parliamentary system with an executive presidency and presidential system. The proposed amendments were approved by a little over 51% of the vote.

A melee among pro-Türkiye civilians, pro-PKK protestors, and Turkish security guards occurred outside of the Turkish Embassy residence in Washington, DC, on May 1 as President Erdoğan arrived for an event following meetings with the Trump administration at the White House.

A Washington, DC federal grand jury on August 30 indicted 19 people, including 15 Turkish guards over the melee outside of the Turkish Embassy residence. None of the pro-PKK protestors were indicted, despite having inflicted serious injuries on pro-Turkey civilians.

President Erdoğan suggested in a speech to a police academy on September 28 that the U.S. and Türkiye swap clerics. According to NPR's Peter Kenyon, President Erdoğan said, "You have a pastor too (Gülen). . . You give us that one and we'll work with our judiciary and give back yours (Brunson)." ¹³

Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH/15th) introduced H.Res.573 on October 12 in the 115th Congress (2017-2018). As in 2015, the resolution called on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the two countries' common interests and the United States' significant security interests in the region. However, it again did not reach the House floor for a vote.

Approximately one month before the start of the trial of Mehmet Hakan Atilla, Reza Zarrab pleaded guilty on October 26 to each of the six counts. Zarrab agreed to cooperate with the Government and would be one of the Government's principal witnesses against Atilla at Atilla's trial.

2018 In Syria's Afrin district, Türkiye and allied Syrian opposition militia intervened directly against PKK-linked Syrian Kurdish forces. ¹⁴

Mehmet Hakan Atilla is convicted on five of six counts against him by a New York federal jury on January 3.

Federal prosecutors on May 22 dropped charges against 11 of the Turkish guards involved in the melee outside of the Turkish Embassy residence.

Two lawsuits were filed in federal court in Washington, D.C. in May against the Government of Türkiye and others for alleged injuries that occurred during the melee outside of the Turkish Embassy residence.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan won reelection with 52.59 % of the vote on June 24 defeating Muharrem Ince (30.64%), Selahattin Demirtaş (8.40%), and Meral Akşener (7.29%).

During the summer of 2018, President Trump tweeted President Erdoğan about releasing American Pastor Andrew Brunson. The U.S. government enacted several measures against Türkiye due to Brunson's imprisonment, while President Trump unilaterally imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Türkiye. President Erdoğan's response was, "Just as America has its judiciary, Turkey does as well. . . Instead of respecting the decision of the (Turkish) judiciary, they are making this a matter of sanctions against Turkey. . . You cannot make Turkey step back with sanctions." ¹⁵

American Pastor Andrew Brunson was convicted on October 12 by a Turkish court in İzmir on the charge of supporting terrorism. However, he was sentenced to time served and released from custody. Brunson returned to the United States on the same day and met with President Trump in the Oval Office.

2019 Türkiye took delivery of the S-400 air defense system from Russia, The U.S. removed Türkiye from the F-35 development program; some Members of Congress reportedly placed informal holds on major arms sales to Türkiye. In northeastern Syria, Turkish-led forces attacked the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces, increasing the Syrian territory Türkiye administered along its border and triggering strong U.S. criticism. ¹⁶

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA/26th) introduced on April 4 H.Res.296 in the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with 141 sponsors. This resolution stated that it is U.S. policy to (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; (2) reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide or any genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding about the Armenian Genocide. The House passed the resolution on October 29, the same day of the founding of the Turkish Republic, with a vote of 405 Yeas, 11 Nays, and 3 Present.

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced on April 19 S.Res.150 in the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with 28 cosponsors. This resolution stated that it is U.S. policy to (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; (2) reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide or any genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding about the Armenian Genocide. The Senate passed the resolution in December with unanimous consent.

Türkiye strongly condemned both the House and Senate resolutions, summoning U.S. diplomats and issuing formal notes of protest. It emphasized that it firmly rejects the characterization of the 1915 events as genocide and views such

measures as politically motivated. Türkiye has long maintained that the issue should be addressed by historians rather than politicians.

Note: Since 1975, there have been some 25 Armenian genocide resolutions introduced in Congress. It should also be noted that there has not been an official U.S. recognition of the ethnic cleansing of Turks, Muslims, and Jews in Southeastern Europe from the late 1800s through the early 20th century.

On October 15, the United States, indicted Halkbank on charges of conspiring to evade Iran sanctions, based on evidence adduced during the trial of Halkbank employee Mehmet Hakan Atilla.

President Trump hosted a meeting for President Erdoğan at the White House in November to talk with five Republican senators about the mood in Congress regarding Türkiye's acquisition of the Russian S-400 air defense system and the U.S. Kurdish allies in Syria. The five senators were Chairman of the Foreign Relation Committee Jim Risch of Idaho, Ted Cruz of Texas, Rick Scott of Florida, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Joni Ernst of Iowa. The meeting between President Erdoğan and the five senators was contentious, with nothing resolved.

2020s

2020 Türkiye's successful use of drone aircraft against Russian-origin equipment in Syria and elsewhere gained it greater global notoriety linked to its arms exports. Eastern Mediterranean maritime border and energy disputes intensified between Türkiye and some NATO countries and other U.S. partners.

The Trump Administration imposed sanctions on Türkiye's arms procurement agency and some of its officials for the S-400 acquisition.¹⁷

The federal court in Washington D.C. denied Türkiye's motion on February 6 to dismiss the Kurd and Usonian civil suits stemming from the melee outside of the Turkish Embassy residence.

2021 In January, the United States and Türkiye signed a bilateral Cultural Property Agreement, which strengthens U.S.-Türkiye cooperation in stopping the illicit trade of antiquities. The agreement has successfully increased the repatriation of artifacts looted from Türkiye.

President Joe Biden became the first president on April 24 to recognize the massacre of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire officially as a genocide in the traditional presidential Armenian Remembrance Day proclamation.

- President Gerald Ford first issued the first presidential proclamation on April 24, 1975, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the 1915 events.
- Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump avoided using the word “genocide” in their annual April 24th proclamations.
- President Barack Obama used the Armenian word “Meds Yeghern” / “Great Calamity” in describing the 1915 events despite promising in his 2008 campaign to do so. In contrast, the other presidents used terms as horrible tragedy, massacres, deportations, horrific events, annihilation, mass killings, and atrocities.
- President Reagan did use “genocide” in his Presidential Proclamation 4838 on April 22, 1981, about the Holocaust Remembrance, “like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it...” However, he never used the word in an April 24 statement.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit affirmed on July 27 that the civil suits stemming from the melee outside of the Turkish Embassy residence can go to trial.

Turkish government began on December 27 the process to have the republic’s name officially changed to “Türkiye” through United Nations’ channels.

2022

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine leads to a multifaceted Turkish response: some military and political support for Ukraine, and increased economic and energy ties with Russia. Türkiye began mediating between the warring parties, especially the Black Sea grain deal. ¹⁸

Mississippi became the 50th and final state to recognize the Armenian genocide in March.

The United States completed the withdrawal of military forces and diplomatic corps on August 30 which marked the end of the U.S. 20-year involvement in the Afghanistan War from 2001 to 2021.

The United Nations formally established the spelling of the Turkish Republic as “Türkiye” on June 2.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with President Joe Biden during the NATO Summit in Madrid, Spain, on June 29.

President Erdoğan met with President Biden during G-20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on November 22.

- 2023 U.S. Department of State announced on January 5 that the American government would use the spelling of “Türkiye” in official communication.
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on April 19 that Halkbank was not immune from prosecution under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, but sent the case back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to determine whether the bank is immune under principles of common law and customary international law.
- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a run-off election on May 28 won a third term as president with 52.18 % of the vote defeating Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu (47.82%).
- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with President Joe Biden during the NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 1. President Erdoğan promised to lift Türkiye’s veto over Sweden’s entry into NATO whereas President Biden announced that his administration will proceed with the sale of F-16s to Türkiye and would give notification to Congress.
- The U.S. military shot down an armed Turkish drone after it came too close to American troops in northeastern Syria on October 5. It was a rare incident of force by one NATO member against another.
- Hamas militant groups staged a surprise attack on Israel from Gaza on October 7 igniting a new war in the Middle East with thousands of casualties. The war increased tensions between the United States and Türkiye.
- Türkiye assumed command of the NATO-led force in Kosovo in October as tensions flared again between ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Acknowledgements

I want to express my gratitude to Barış Ornarlı, Rich Outzen, and Michael Stoil for their assistance in compiling a list of significant political and military events in Turkish-American relations from 1923 to 2023. Additionally, Turkish Parliamentarian Bilal Bilici provided information about the Türkiye-USA Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Caucus (Türkiye-ABD Parlamentolar Arası Dostluk Grubu) within the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

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Chapter 2 | Leaders of United States and Türkiye

Presidents of the United States of America

Calvin Coolidge

August 2, 1923 - March 4, 1929

Herbert Hoover

March 4, 1929 - March 4, 1933

Franklin D. Roosevelt

March 4, 1933 - April 12, 1945

Harry S. Truman

April 12, 1945 - January 20, 1953

Dwight D. Eisenhower

January 20, 1953 - January 20, 1961

John F. Kennedy

January 20, 1961 - November 22, 1963

Lyndon B. Johnson

November 22, 1963 - January 20, 1968

Richard M. Nixon

January 20, 1969 - August 9, 1974

Gerald Ford

August 9, 1974 - January 20, 1977

Jimmy Carter

January 20, 1977 - January 20, 1981

Ronald Reagan

January 20, 1981 - January 20, 1989

George H.W. Bush

January 20, 1989 - January 20, 1993

William J. Clinton

January 20, 1993 - January 20, 2001

George W. Bush

January 20, 2001 - January 20, 2009

Barak Obama

January 20, 2009 - January 20, 2017

Donald Trump

January 20, 2017 - January 20, 2021

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

January 20, 2021 -

Presidents of Republic of Türkiye

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

October 29, 1923 - November 10, 1938

İsmet İnönü

November 10, 1938 - May 27, 1950

Celal Bayar

May 27, 1950 - May 27, 1960

General Cemal Gürsel -Chairman of
the National Unity Committee (Military Rule)
May 27, 1960 - October 10, 1961

Cemal Gürsel

October 10, 1961 - February 2, 1966

İbrahim Şevki Atasagun - Acting President
February 2, 1966 - March 28, 1966

Cevdet Sunay

March 28, 1966 - March 28, 1973

Tekin Arıburun - Acting President
March 28, 1973 - April 6, 1973

Fahri Korutürk

April 6, 1973 - April 6, 1980

İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil - Acting President

April 6, 1980 - September 12, 1980

General Kenan Evren - Chairman of
National Security Council (Military Rule)
September 12, 1980 - November 9, 1982

Kenan Evren

November 9, 1982 - November 9, 1989

Turgut Özal

November 9, 1989 - April 17, 1993

Hüsametdin Cindoruk - Acting President

April 17, 1993 - May 16, 1993

Süleyman Demirel

May 16, 1993 - May 16, 2000

Ahmet Necdet Sezer

May 16, 2000 - August 28, 2007

Abdullah Gül

August 28, 2007 - August 28, 2014

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

August 28, 2014 -

Prime Ministers of Republic of Türkiye

İsmet İnönü

October 30, 1923 - March 6, 1924

March 6, 1924 - November 22, 1924

Fethi Okyar

November 22, 1924 - March 6, 1925

İsmet İnönü

March 6, 1925 - November 1, 1927

November 1, 1927 - September 27, 1930

İsmet İnönü

November 1, 1927 - September 27, 1930

September 27, 1930 - May 4, 1931

May 4, 1931 - March 1, 1935

March 1, 1935 - November 1, 1937

Celal Bayar

November 1, 1937 - November 11, 1938

November 11, 1938 - January 25, 1939

Refik Saydam

January 25, 1939 - April 3, 1939

April 3, 1939 - July 8, 1942

Şükrü Saraçoğlu

July 8, 1942 - March 9, 1943

March 9, 1943 - August 7, 1946

Recep Peker

August 7, 1946 - September 9, 1947

Hasan Saka

September 9, 1947 - June 10, 1948

June 10, 1948 - January 16, 1949

Şemsettin Günaltay

January 16, 1949 - May 22, 1950

Adnan Menderes

May 22, 1950 - March 9, 1951

March 9, 1951 - May 17, 1954

May 17, 1954 - December 9, 1955

December 9, 1955 - November 25, 1957

November 25, 1957 - May 27, 1960

General Cemal Gürsel - Chairman of
the National Unity Committee (Military Rule)

May 27, 1960 - January 5, 1961

January 5, 1961 - October 27, 1961

İsmet İnönü

October 27, 1961 - June 25, 1962

June 25, 1962 - December 25, 1963

December 25, 1963 - February 20, 1965

Suat Hayri Ürgüplü

February 20, 1965 - October 27, 1965

Süleyman Demirel

October 27, 1965 - November 3, 1969

November 3, 1969 - March 6, 1970

March 6, 1970 - March 21, 1971

Nihat Erim

March 26, 1971 - December 11, 1971

December 11, 1971 - April 17, 1972

Ferit Melen

April 17, 1972 - April 15, 1973

Naim Talu

April 15, 1973 - January 25, 1974

Bülent Ecevit

January 25, 1974 - November 17, 1974

Sadi Irmak

November 17, 1974 - March 31, 1975

Süleyman Demirel

March 31, 1975 - June 21, 1977

Bülent Ecevit

June 21, 1977 - July 21, 1977

Süleyman Demirel

July 21, 1977 - January 5, 1978

Bülent Ecevit

January 5, 1978 - November 12, 1979

Süleyman Demirel

November 12, 1979 - September 12, 1980

Bülent Ulusu

September 20, 1980 - December 13, 1983

Turgut Özal

December 13, 1983 - December 21, 1987

December 21, 1987 - November 9, 1989

Yıldırım Akbulut

November 9, 1989 - June 23, 1991

Mesut Yılmaz

June 23, 1991 - November 20, 1991

Süleyman Demirel

November 20, 1991 - May 16, 1993

Tansu Çiller

June 25, 1993 - October 5, 1995

October 5, 1995 - October 30, 1995

October 30, 1995 - March 6, 1996

Mesut Yılmaz

March 6, 1996 - June 28, 1996

Necmettin Erbakan

June 28, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Mesut Yılmaz

June 30, 1997 - January 11, 1999

Bülent Ecevit

January 11, 1999 - May 28, 1999

May 28, 1999 - November 18, 2002

Abdullah Gül

November 18, 2002 - March 14, 2003

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

March 14, 2003 - August 29, 2007

August 29, 2007 - July 6, 2011

Ahmet Davutoğlu

August 29, 2014 - August 28, 2015

August 28, 2015 - November 17, 2015

November 17, 2015 - May 24, 2016

Binali Yıldırım

May 24, 2016 - July 9, 2018

Türkiye held a constitutional referendum on April 16, 2017. One of the proposed changes to the constitution called for abolishing the prime minister's office after the next presidential election. The Turkish electorate approved the proposed changes. Thus, after the presidential election on June 18, 2018, the prime ministry was abolished on July 9, 2018, and Binali Yıldırım was Türkiye's last prime minister.

Note: Turkish leaders with an American connection are:

President Süleyman Demirel was an Eisenhower Fellow in 1954 and received The Eisenhower Medal for Leadership Service in 1992.

Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit, graduate of the American school Robert College in İstanbul in 1944, who spent three months in the U.S. as a guest journalist for the Winston - Salem Journal in North Carolina in 1955 on a State Department Fellowship. He also received a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship Scholarship in 1957 to study at Harvard University for eight months.

President Turgut Özal was employed as a consultant to the World Bank in Washington, DC, from 1971 to 1973.

Prime Minister Tansu Çiller, a graduate of the American school Robert College in İstanbul in 1967, resided in the U.S. in the 1970s for her master's degree in economics from the University of New Hampshire, her doctorate in economics from the University of Connecticut, and postdoctoral studies at Yale University. She later taught economics at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The children of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Ministers Tansu Çiller and Mesut Yılmaz studied at American universities or worked in the U.S.

Chapter 3 | Bilateral State and Private Visits by Leaders

Note: The list of visits does not include meetings between the leaders of Türkiye and the United States during the UN General Assemblies.

Before 1923:

The first President of the United States to visit İstanbul was Ulysses S. Grant in March 1878, during his world tour after he left the presidency. President Grant visited Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II in İstanbul from Jerusalem, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. In İstanbul, Grant learned that Ottoman military officers studied his military campaigns during the American Civil War. He also visited Sultan Abdul Hamid II's stable of purebred Arabian stallions. The Sultan presented two of his Arabian horses as a gift to President Grant, who was an excellent equestrian. However, Grant was critical of how the Ottoman government treated its people and the class and gender divisions in society. ¹

As a teenager, the future 26th president of the United States, Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt, Jr., visited the Ottoman Middle East (Egypt, Beirut, and the Holy Land) in 1872. Later in life he expressed his disdain about the Ottomans. Some of his remarks are, “I have always regretted that the nations of Western Europe could not themselves put an end to the rule of the Turk, and supplant with some other nationality.” “Spain and Turkey are the two powers I would rather smash than any in the world.” He also wrote how annoyed he was that European powers had not intervened in the Ottoman Empire to protect the Armenians. The Boston-based American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions heavily influenced Teddy Roosevelt's attitude towards the Ottomans. ²

Date	Leader
January 27-29,1954	President Celal Bayar's official visit to Washington, DC. *He was the first leader of the Turkish Republic to visit the United States. **President Bayar stayed at Blair House. ***President Eisenhower hosted a State Dinner at the White House for President Bayar.
January 29,1954	President Bayar addressed the U.S. Congress. *He was the first and only Turkish leader to address a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress in the Turkish Republic's first 100 years.
January 30 – February 27,1954	President Bayar visited the following American cities after his official meetings in Washington, DC. New York, New York – Princeton, New

	Jersey – Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio – Chicago, Illinois – Whiting, Indiana – San Francisco and Los Angeles, California – Las Vegas, Nevada – Dallas, Texas – Raleigh, North Carolina.
May 31 – June 5, 1954	Prime Minister Adnan Menderes's official visit to Washington, DC, to discuss economic and financial matters. *Prime Minister Menderes stayed at Blair House.
October 7-9, 1959	Prime Minister Adnan Menderes attended CENTO Ministerial Meeting in Washington, DC.
December 6-7, 1959	President Dwight D. Eisenhower paid an informal visit to Ankara.
November 24-25, 1963	Prime Minister İsmet İnönü attended funeral of President John F. Kennedy in Washington, DC.
June 21-23, 1964	Prime Minister İnönü paid an informal visit to Washington, DC. Also visited Williamsburg, VA and New York, NY. *Prime Minister İnönü stayed at Blair House.
April 2-13, 1967	President Cevdet Sunay's state visit to Washington, DC. Afterwards visited Philadelphia, PA; Cape Kennedy, FL; Palm Springs, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, CA; Kansas City, KS; Chicago, IL; Detroit and Lansing, MI; and Niagara Falls, and New York, NY. *President Sunay stayed at Blair House. **President Johnson hosted a State Dinner at the White House for President Sunay.
March 31 – April 1, 1969	Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel attended President Eisenhower's funeral and met with President Richard Nixon in Washington, DC.
March 18-23, 1972	Prime Minister İsmail Nihat Erim's official visit to Washington, DC. Also visited New York, NY. *Prime Minister Erim stayed at Blair House. **President Nixon hosted a State Dinner at the White House for Prime Minister Erim.

May 30-31, 1978	Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit attended North Atlantic Alliance Summit conference in Washington, DC.
April 1-5, 1985	Prime Minister Turgut Özal's official working visit to Washington, DC.
February 2-8, 1987	Prime Minister Turgut Özal's private visit to Washington, DC. Met with President Reagan on February 5.
February 10, 1987	Prime Minister Özal had triple-bypass heart surgery in Houston, Texas.
December 5, 1987	Prime Minister Özal had eye surgery in Houston, Texas.
June 26 – July 3, 1988	President Kenan Evren's state visit to Washington DC. Also visited New York, NY. **President Reagan hosted a State Dinner at the White House for President Evren. President Evren did not stay in Blair House.
September 25, 1990	President Turgut Özal private visit to Washington, DC., during which he met with President George Herbert Walker Bush.
March 23-25, 1991	President Özal private visit to Washington, DC. during which he again met with President George Herbert Walker Bush. *President Özal stayed at Camp David, the country retreat of the U.S. President located in the Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland, as a special guest of President Bush.
July 20-22, 1991	President George Herbert Walker Bush's visit to Ankara and İstanbul, where he met with President Özal.
February 10-12, 1992	Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel official working visit to Washington, DC. *Prime Minister Demirel stayed at Blair House.

April 28-30, 1992	President Özal private visit to Washington, DC. during which he met with President George Herbert Walker Bush.
February 8, 1993	President Özal met with President William J. Clinton in Washington, DC, during a private visit. Also visited Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
October 14-18, 1993	Prime Minister Tansu Ciller met President Clinton during a private visit to Washington, DC. *Prime Minister Ciller stayed at Blair House.
April 14, 1994	Prime Minister Ciller met President Clinton during a private visit to Washington, DC.
April 17-20, 1995	Prime Minister Ciller private visit to Washington, DC, during which he met with President Clinton. Also visited New York, New York and Houston, Texas.
October 18, 1995	President Demirel working visit to Washington, DC.
March 27-30, 1996	President Demirel working visit to Washington, DC.
December 18-21, 1997	Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz working visit to Washington, DC.
April 23-25, 1999	President Demirel attended NATO's 50 th Anniversary Summit in Washington, DC.
September 26-29, 1999	Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit official working visit to Washington, DC. Also visited New York, NY. *Prime Minister Ecevit stayed at Blair House.
November 15-19, 1999	President William J. Clinton's state visit to Ankara and attended the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Summit meeting in İstanbul. Also visited Ephesus, and the areas impacted by the Izmit earthquake in August 1999.

November 15, 1999	President William J. Clinton was the first American president to address the Turkish Grand National Assembly.
September 7, 2000	President Ahmet Necdet Sezer met with President Clinton at the Millennium Summit in New York, NY.
January 14-18, 2002	Prime Minister Ecevit working visit to Washington, DC.
December 10, 2002	Following the AK Party's electoral victories in November, President George W. Bush welcomed Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Chairman of the AK Party to the White House. Bush affirmed standing "side by side" with Türkiye and highlighted supporting Türkiye's efforts of the time to join the EU.
January 27-28, 2004	Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC. Also visited New York, NY.
June 9-11, 2004	Prime Minister Erdoğan met with President George W. Bush during the G-8 Economic Summit at Sea Island, GA. Also attended the funeral of former President Reagan.
June 7-8, 2005	Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC.
June 26-29, 2004	President George W. Bush visited Türkiye. In Ankara, he met with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In Istanbul, he attended the NATO Summit.
June 29, 2004	President Bush delivered an outdoor speech in Istanbul at Galatasaray University in Ortaköy on the Bosphorus to approximately 230 attendees including Turkish government officials, diplomats, dignitaries, and university leaders. *The setting of President Bush's address was carefully staged. Behind him, the Ortaköy Mosque (Büyük Mecidiye Camii) and the

Bosphorus Bridge formed a highly symbolic backdrop.

**His address emphasized that the United States was not at war with Islam and recognized Türkiye as a secular democracy with a Muslim-majority population, serving as a bridge between East and West. He also underscored Türkiye's strategic and cultural importance as a key NATO ally and valued U.S. partner, as well as a regional economic and military power connecting the Western alliance with the broader Muslim world.

September 30 – October 2, 2006

Prime Minister Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC.

November 4-5, 2007

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC.

January 7-8, 2008

President Abdullah Gül working visit to Washington, DC.

November 14-15, 2008

Prime Minister Erdoğan attended the G-20 Economic Summit in Washington, DC.

April 5-7, 2009

President Barack Obama's first bilateral trip abroad was to Türkiye.

April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama addressed the Turkish Grand National Assembly highlighting both nations' struggle to democracy.

September 24-25, 2009

Prime Minister Erdoğan attended the G-20 Economic Summit in Pittsburgh, PA.

April 12-13, 2010

Prime Minister Erdoğan attended the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC.

December 7, 2010

Prime Minister Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC.

May 20-21, 2012

President Gül attended the NATO Summit in Chicago, IL.

May 14-17, 2013	Prime Minister Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC. *Prime Minister Erdoğan stayed at Blair House.
March 31 – April 1, 2016	President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC.
August 1, 2016	General Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited his Turkish counterpart, General Hulusi Akar, chief of the Turkish General Staff, in Ankara to show support as “one friend making sure another was well after a traumatic experience” in the July 15th coup attempt. General Dunford was the first senior American official and international leader to visit Turkey after the attempted coup. The general also met with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and Ismail Kahraman, the Grand National Assembly speaker. ³
August 25, 2016	Vice President Joe Biden visited Turkey to show U.S. support for the Turkish government after the attempted coup.
May 16, 2017	President Erdoğan official working visit to Washington, DC.
November 12-13, 2019	President Erdoğan working visit to Washington, DC. President Trump hosted a meeting for President Erdoğan at the White House to talk with five Republican senators about the mood in Congress regarding Türkiye’s acquisition of the Russian S-400 air defense system and U.S. Kurdish allies in Syria. The five senators were Chairman of the Foreign Relation Committee Jim Risch of Idaho, Ted Cruz of Texas, Rick Scott of Florida, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Joni Ernst of Iowa. The meeting between President Erdoğan and the five senators was contentious, with nothing resolved.

*Blair House is usually reserved for heads of state or government on official state or working visits.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Yılmaz Polat, a Turkish journalist based in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, for informing me about the Turkish leaders who stayed at Blair House and Camp David. I also extend my thanks to Burcu Keriman Erdoğan Tuncer of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for her assistance in researching President Celal Bayar's 1954 visit to the United States.

References

¹ For more information on Grant's visit to Istanbul, consult the following books: Ronald C. White, *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant* (New York: Random House, 2016); and Ron Chernow, *Grant* (New York: Penguin Press, 2017).

² David Grantham, "Righteous Foreign Policy: The American Missionary Network and Theodore Roosevelt's Middle East Policy," *American Diplomacy*, October 2013, <https://americandiplomacy.web.unc.edu/2013/10/righteous-foreign-policy/>.

³ Jim Garamone, "Dunford Visits Turkey to Reaffirm Importance of Strategic Partnership," *DOD News*, August 1, 2016, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/881729/dun>.

Chapter 4 | A List of Turkish and U.S. Ambassadors

Note: Normal diplomatic relations between Türkiye and the U.S. were not established until February 17, 1927. **Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol served as the U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul from 1919 to 1927 when İstanbul was under Allied military occupation and in the first years of the Turkish Republic before U.S. recognition.**

Turkish Ambassadors

Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu

November 28, 1927 to April 20, 1934

Mehmet Münir Erteğün

June 18, 1934 to November 1, 1944

Hüseyin Ragıp Baydur

March 16, 1945 to August 27, 1948

Feridun Cemal Erkin

August 11, 1948 to June 15, 1955

Ali Haydar Görk

May 31, 1955 to April 19, 1957

Suat Hayri Ürgüplü

August 27, 1957 to March 23, 1960

Melih Esenbel

March 24, 1960 to October 28, 1960

Bülent Uşaklıgil

November 1, 1960 to June 20, 1962

Turgut Menemencioğlu

April 24, 1962 to January 2, 1967

Melih Esenbel

January 9, 1967 to November 1, 1974

Aydın Yeğen

November 1, 1974 to April 1, 1975

Melih Esenbel

April 1, 1975 to July 14, 1979

Şükrü Elekdağ

July 23, 1979 to June 28, 1989

Nüzhet Kandemir

August 14, 1989 to April 15, 1998

Baki İlkin

April 17, 1998 to September 18, 2001

Faruk Loğoğlu

September 24, 2001 to December 26, 2005

Nabi Şensoy

January 1, 2006 to January 17, 2010

Namık Tan

February 17, 2010 to March 31, 2014

Serdar Kılıç

April 14, 2014 to March 14, 2021

Hasan Murat Mercan

March 15, 2021 to January 14, 2024

U.S. Ambassadors

Joseph C. Grew

October 12, 1927 to March 13, 1932

*Resided in İstanbul.

Charles Hitchcock Sherrill

May 20, 1932 to March 23, 1933

*Resided in İstanbul.

Robert Peet Skinner

October 16, 1933 to January 16, 1936

*Resided in İstanbul.

John Van Antwerp MacMurray

March 16, 1936 to November 28, 1941 *The last American ambassador to reside in İstanbul and the first American ambassador to reside in Ankara, moving there in 1937.

Laurence A. Steinhardt

March 10, 1942 to April 2, 1945

Edwin C. Wilson

June 11, 1945 to

August 20, 1948

George Wadsworth

October 1, 1948 to

January 2, 1952

George C. McGhee

January 15, 1952 to

June 19, 1953

Avra M. Warren

September 17, 1953 to

February 17, 1956

Fletcher Warren

June 13, 1956 to

November 15, 1960

Raymond A. Hare

April 5, 1961 to August 27, 1965

Parker T. Hart

October 11, 1965 to

October 3, 1968

Robert Komer

December 3, 1968 to

May 7, 1969

William J. Handley

July 1, 1969 to April 19, 1973

William B. Macomber

May 16, 1973 to

June 15, 1977

Ronald L. Spiers

July 12, 1977 to

January 11, 1980

James W. Spain

February 26, 1980 to

August 16, 1981

Robert Strausz-Hupe

September 7, 1981 to

May 18, 1989

Morton I. Abramowitz

August 1, 1989 to

July 25, 1991

Richard Clark Barkley

November 8, 1991 to

December 15, 1994

Marc Grossman

January 3, 1995 to

June 1, 1997

Mark Robert Parris

November 12, 1997 to

September 8, 2000

W. Robert Pearson

September 21, 2000 to
July 23, 2003

Eric S. Edelman

August 29, 2003 to
June 19, 2005

Ross Wilson

December 8, 2005 to
August 9, 2008

James Franklin Jeffrey

December 3, 2008 to
July 31, 2010

Francis J. Ricciardone

January 28, 2011 to
July 8, 2014

John R. Bass

October 20, 2014 to
October 15, 2017

David M. Satterfield

August 28, 2019 to
January 7, 2022

Jeffrey Lane Flake

January 26, 2022 to present

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Anıl Ertay, counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., for her assistance in compiling the list of Turkish ambassadors to the United States.

Chapter 5 | Turkish American Elected Officials

Note: Up to October 29, 2023, only fourteen Turkish Americans are known to have been elected to public office. Only one Turkish American has been elected to state-level office, whereas the other thirteen were elected in local jurisdictions. As of this date, no Turkish American has won an election to serve in Congress.

Sel Erder Yackley is believed to be the first Turkish American elected to public office. She was elected to the Elementary School Board in Ottawa, Illinois in 1976 and served until 1987. Later, she served on the elected Illinois Valley Community College Board of Directors from 1987 to 1997, a position covering seven counties.

Malik Tunador was elected to a seat on the Council of the Thornburg Borough of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, in November 1994 and served for four years.

Mehmet “Matt” Yar was elected to the Bloomfield County Education Board in New Jersey in 1998 and served until 2001.

Jay Karahan (Republican) was elected in November 2002 and was sworn in the following January as Judge of Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law No. 8. He was reelected to that office three times and served until December 31, 2018, when he retired from active judicial service.

Esin Busche (Republican) was elected as a Naperville Township Trustee in DuPage County, Illinois, in 2005 and was reelected several times.

Ali Paksoy (Republican) was the first Turkish American elected to a state-level position. He was elected District Court Judge for the 27B Judicial District of North Carolina, which presides over Cleveland and Lincoln counties, in 2006. He has been reelected to this position in 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022.

Dr. Erdem Ural was elected to the Stoughton School Committee in Stoughton, Massachusetts, in 2008. He served in that position until 2011. In 2012, Ural was again elected to the School Committee until 2015.

John Alpay (Republican) was an elected Trustee for the Capistrano Unified School District for Area 3, the ninth-largest school district in California, from 2010 until 2016.

Edward Kranick (Republican), the son of a Turkish mother, was elected as a supervisor of the Town Board of Delafield in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, in 2015 and was reelected in 2017, 2019, and 2021. He was elected Chairperson of Delafield’s Town Board in 2023. (Note: The Town of Delafield is a separate municipality from the City of Delafield, also in Waukesha County.)

Kemal Bozkurt was elected to the board of Lawrence Public Schools (Massachusetts) in 2015 and served until 2016.

Tayfun Selen (Republican) was elected to the Chatham Township Council in Morris County, New Jersey, in 2017. He was elected Mayor of Chatham Township in 2019, thereby becoming the first Turkish American to serve as a municipality mayor. In February 2020, he filled a vacancy on the Morris County Board of Commissioners and later, in November of the same year, won a three-term as a County Commissioner. He served as Director of the Morris County Board of Commissioners in 2022. He was reelected as a Morris County Commissioner in 2023

Hacıbey ‘Hacı’ Çatalbaşoğlu (Independent) was elected to the Board of Alders for Ward 1 in New Haven, Connecticut, in 2017. He was 19 years old and a junior at Yale University. He was the youngest Turkish American ever to run and be elected to public office and one of the youngest Alders to ever serve on the Board of Alders in New Haven.

Ayça (Şirvancı) Sawa (Democrat) was elected City Comptroller of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a nonpartisan position, in 2020. She is the first Turkish American to become a Chief Financial Officer for a major American city and the second woman elected as a city official in Milwaukee.

Onur Arugaslan was elected to serve a six-year term as a trustee (nonpartisan) on the Mattawan Consolidated School Board of Education in Michigan in 2022.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Sel Yackley, and Özlem Soran for their assistance in compiling the list of Turkish Americans elected to public office.

Chapter 6 | Highlights of Influential People and Stories of Interest

In Chapter 6, personal stories of numerous individuals from both the United States and Türkiye are presented, illustrating their outstanding contributions and achievements. The chapter also highlights significant cultural events and activities that have strengthened the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Compiling this information has been a challenging task, and what I have included is not comprehensive. I have only begun to scratch the surface in recognizing the accomplishments of many individuals and organizations. There are countless other fascinating stories and events that deserve to be shared.

Nevertheless, I hope the narrative in this chapter will serve as a source of inspiration and encourage pride among Turkish Americans in their heritage and history.

1920s

1923 Asa Kent Jennings (September 20, 1877 – January 27, 1933) was an American private citizen who played a role of historic significance during the Turkish War of Independence and the early years of the Republic of Türkiye. He was a trusted ally of Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) and was friends with Turkish cabinet ministers and parliamentarians. He also was a hero to the Greeks and Armenians. He was the best-known American in the eastern Mediterranean at the time. ¹

- Jennings, a Methodist minister from upstate New York, was the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) field representative in İzmir when the city was liberated by Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk) and the Turkish Nationalists in September 1922. He was a hunchback due to Pott's disease, barely 5 feet in height, who outlived the expectations of his doctors. As a humble but determined, pragmatic, and principled man, Jennings devoted the last ten years of his life to helping the Turkish people modernize their country and strengthen relations with the United States, States, in spite of strongly suspicious sentiments held by many Turkish people towards the West and Christianity. He undertook this mission without seeking financial gain during challenging times of substantial anti-Turkish prejudice in the U.S. and ultranationalism in Türkiye. Although very few Turks and Americans know of him today, his spirit has inspired generations of Americans following him who shared his vision and devotion for Türkiye.
- He worked diligently advocating for U.S. recognition of the new Turkish republic and the need for American missionary establishments in Türkiye to focus on providing social services rather than proselyting to

Muslims. He also helped in the efforts to turn around the American image of the "Terrible Turk."

- President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) had asked Jennings to form social organizations in Türkiye for boys based on the YMCA model, called the Turkish American clubs. Jennings successfully found funding for these clubs and other social services from the YMCA and American philanthropists interested in the success of Türkiye's modernization program.
- This informal group of philanthropists created by Jennings became known as the American Friends of Turkey (AFOT). AFOT would later be incorporated as a legal entity in 1930.
- Furthermore, Jennings' passion for Mustafa Kemal's (Atatürk) reform and modernization programs also engaged the interest of the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation. (The Rockefeller Foundation and the American Red Cross had initially supported the establishment of the American Hospital in İstanbul by Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol in 1920.)
- Within days of the arrival of Jennings and his family in İzmir to oversee YMCA operations, he played a pivotal humanitarian role in the Turkish War of Independence or "Greco-Turkish War." As Turkish forces advanced on the city in August 1922, İzmir was overwhelmed with non-Muslim refugees. In dealing with the refugee crisis, Jennings set up the American Relief Committee to provide food and medical services. The naval ships of France, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States off the Aegean coast, however, refused to take on board fleeing civilians who were not their citizens.
- As the refugee situation became more desperate and with the U.S. Consul General in İzmir George Horton ordered to evacuate the city, Jennings took matters into his own hands. Without the authority of the U.S. government or any other institution, Jennings and his translator bravely drove his YMCA Chevy to the headquarters of the Turkish Nationalist Commander Mustafa Kemal Pasha to discuss allowing the civilian refugees to leave İzmir.
- Mustafa Kemal Pasha, intrigued by Jennings's courage, granted the meeting and agreed to evacuate civilians under certain conditions. Ships involved in the evacuation could not fly the Greek flag; men of military age (17-45) could not be evacuated; rescue ships could not be tied up at the İzmir wharf; and Jennings only had seven days for the operation.
- Jennings's next task was to persuade the Greek government to provide ships for the evacuation. However, Greek officials did not share Jennings's sense of urgency. They did not trust Mustafa Kemal Pasha's word about safe passage. Frustrated, Jennings issued an ultimatum that if Greek ships were not available for rescue, he would tell the world that the Greek government was not concerned about the welfare of Greeks and others in İzmir. His blackmail worked. The Greek government

ordered all Greek merchant ships near the coast of Anatolia to be placed under Jennings's command. ²

- Jennings sailed on the first ship into İzmir Bay under the protection of the U.S. Navy. American and Greek sailors honored him with the title "Admiral and Commodore." Lt. Commander Halsey Powell, the senior U.S. naval officer in the area who broke regulations to support Jennings' efforts, said: "The ships were brought into the harbor under the command of Mr. Jennings of the Y.M.C.A. and were escorted and loaded by officers and men of American destroyers. It was only through the energy and zeal and stubborn insistence of Mr. Jennings that these ships were obtained." ³
- Due to Jennings' efforts, 350,000 non-Muslims who held Jennings in reverence departed from İzmir to the Greek Islands and the Greek mainland. The breakdown was 300,000 Greeks and 50,000 Armenians and Jews. The Turkish Nationalists extended the deadline and rescinded the condition that ships could not be tied at the pier. Once the evacuation of non-Muslims from İzmir was completed, Jennings, with the blessings of Turkish authorities, organized evacuations of non-Muslims from other Turkish ports on ships provided by the Greek government. In total, Asa Kent Jennings helped to evacuate 1,250,000 people.
- For his efforts in evacuating Greeks from Anatolia, Jennings was recognized by the King of Greece and was awarded with Greece's highest civilian honor, the Golden Cross of St. Xavier, and the highest military decoration, the Medal of Military Merit. ⁴ Jennings was also posthumously honored by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, and a memorial in his honor was erected in Volvos, Greece, in 2016.
- In another unique historical scene, Jennings, trusted by the Turks and Greeks, was the sole representative for both governments during the Lausanne Treaty negotiations about the prisoner-of-war exchange between the two countries. Subsequently, he successfully worked out a settlement accepted by the two countries. ⁵

Turkish immigrants living in Detroit had an Ottoman architectural-styled fountain for their water supply, and they also sent \$500,000 to Kızılay (The Red Crescent) for the welfare of orphans in Türkiye. (1923 circa)

Unity, the first newspaper for the Turkish community in the U.S., started, publishing three editions per month. The paper covered post-Independence War (Kurtuluş Savaşı) stories and news from Türkiye. ⁶

In Spring of 1923, the Grand National Assembly, in confronting the economic despair of Türkiye, revived an earlier American economic development concession known as the Chester Concession or Chester Project. The Ottoman

government initially granted a concession in 1909 to the Ottoman American Development Company (OADC) to construct and maintain a railroad in eastern Anatolia and had the rights to extract minerals within 12 miles of the route for 99 years. OADC, led by retired Admiral Colby M. Chester, was part of President William Howard Taft's Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox's "Dollar Diplomacy" policy to promote democracy and stability through trade and investment. OADC withdrew from the project in 1911 due to a lack of financing, European and domestic opposition, and bureaucratic red tape. Admiral Chester's son, Arthur Chester, was involved in the second initiative in 1923 but, like the first attempt, failed to find the necessary funding. Consequently, the Grand National Assembly invalidated the agreement at the end of the year. The failure of the project left a bitter taste in Turkish-American relations.⁷

Acclaimed American journalist and editor Isaac F. Marcossan (1876-1961), born in Louisville, Kentucky, wrote a series of articles for *The Saturday Evening Post* about the new Türkiye after traveling there in the summer of 1923. Marcossan's interview* with Gazi Mustafa Kemal was published as "KEMAL PASHA" on October 20. This is what Gazi Mustafa Kemal said about Americans and the United States in this article:

- "The ideal of the United States is our ideal. Our National Pact, promulgated by the Grand National Assembly in January, 1920, is precisely like your Declaration of Independence. It only demands freedom of our Turkish land from the invader and control of our own destiny."
- "Between Turkey and American as sister democracies there should be the closest relations."
- "In the field of economic relations Turkey and the United States can work together to the greatest mutual advantage. Our rich and varied national resources should prove attractive to American capital. We welcome American assistance in our development because, unlike the capital of any other country, American money is free from the political intrigue that animates the dealings of European nations with us."
- "All my life I have had inspiration in the lives and deeds of Washington and Lincoln. Between the original Thirteen States and the new Turkey is a curious kinship. Your early Americans threw off the British yoke, Turkey has thrown off the old yoke of empire with all the graft and corruption that it carried, and what was worse, the selfish meddling of other nations. American struggled through to independence and prosperity. We are now in the midst of travail which is witnessing the birth of a nation. With American help we achieve our aim."
- "Do you know why Washington and Lincoln have always appealed to me? I will tell why. They worked solely for the glory and emancipation of the United States, while most other Presidents seemed to have worked for their own deification. The highest form of public service is unselfish effort."

- When asked by Marcossion about specific aid that the United States can provide to the new Türkiye, one example that Gazi Mustafa Kemal gave was in agriculture. He said “Turkey is essentially a pastoral land. We must stand or fall by our agriculture. . . We must develop a whole new science of farming, first through the establishment of agricultural schools, in which America can help. . .”

Marcossion also spoke with Gazi Mustafa Kemal’s wife, Latife (Usaki) Hanim, who communicated in English and expressed her admiration for American poet and educator Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

* During the interview, Gazi Mustafa Kemal spoke Turkish while his prime minister, Rauf Orbay, who served in the position from July 12, 1922, to August 4, 1923, translated, despite both Kemal and Marcossion knowing French. A side note on Rauf Orbay (1881-1964): Orbay resigned as prime minister shortly after the interview. He was a distinguished Ottoman Navy officer who studied in England and Germany. In 1903, he visited the United States. He met with President Theodore Roosevelt to obtain permission to inspect the U.S. Navy’s submarine station in Newport, Rhode Island. Not only was he granted permission, but he left a very favorable impression on President Roosevelt.

Turkish nationalist, feminist, and novelist Halide Edib Adıvar (1884-1964) gave a message to the women of America in an interview with Isaac F. Marcossion published on November 10 in *The Saturday Evening Post*:

- “I hope that the bulk of American womanhood will not think that the Turkish woman is emerging from the veil and seclusion amid a cloud of cigarette smoke and nothing more. Our women have a serious realization both of the opportunity and the responsibility that are theirs, and they will render a good account of themselves.”
- The message was part of a larger article entitled “Turkey in Transition,” in which Halide Edib Adıvar also contributed perspectives on the political scene and the new Türkiye.
- During their exile from Türkiye, 1926-1939, Halide Edib, who spoke fluent English, and her husband Adnan Adıvar repeatedly lectured in the United States. Halide Hanim was also a guest professor at Columbia University, 1928-1929.

The Atlantic in its November 1923 issue printed the article “THE TURK COMES TO TOWN” (Recorded by John Bakeless), a story of Mark O. Prentiss’s experiences witnessing the reclaiming of İzmir by Mustafa Kemal Pasha and the Turkish Nationalists in the previous year. Prentiss was an American engineer, business man, and the representative of Near East Relief.

The Atlantic in its December 1923 issue printed the article “MUSTAPHA KEMAL IN THE SADDLE / THE STORY OF MARK O. PRENTISS IN A

NEW ILIAD OF GREEK HISTORY” (Recorded by John Bakeless). In the article, Prentiss claimed to have told Mustafa Kemal Pasha that he reminded him of President Teddy Roosevelt. Kemal Pasha. . . “replied that if he were to be compared to any American, he preferred George Washington! He felt that he was fighting for the freedom of the new Turkey as Washington had fought for American independence.”

Madame Bey / Hiranoush Iguanian / Hjrannoush Sidky Bey / Hranus Siki Hanim (circa 1881 - January 30, 1942) of Armenian and French heritage, attended Constantinople College for Girls (now Robert College), spoke seven languages, mezzo-soprano opera singer, and friend of President and Mrs. William McKinley. She was an acclaimed boxing trainer who established and ran the best-known boxing camp in the U.S. between 1923 and 1942.

More the 14 world heavyweight boxing champions and 80 hall-of-famers attended the camp, located in New Jersey’s Morris County (Chatham Township), including Lou Ambers, Primo Carnera, Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, Floyd Paterson, Max Schmeling, and Gene Tunney. Her husband Mehmet Sidky Bey, a Turkish Muslim, was an Ottoman diplomat assigned to Washington in the 1890s and later became the Ottoman Consul General in New York. Their son Rustem Bey became the first police chief of Chatham Township (Morris County, NJ). (It is also worth noting that Chatham Township elected the first Turkish American mayor in 2019.) Madame Bey and her husband were buried in Chatham's Fair Mount Cemetery without a grave marker. Decades later, the Chatham Township Historical Society and the Turkish Consulate General in New York raised funds for a tombstone and held a ceremony on September 20, 2020.⁸

1924 *The Atlantic* in its January 1924 issue printed the article “ACTUALITIES AT SMYRNA – MARK O. PRENTISS, AMERICAN EYEWITNESS, SPEAKS” (Recorded by John Bakeless). In the article, Prentiss further elaborated his observations and experiences after the Turkish army entered İzmir in September 1922.

On February 3, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson died. The Turkish government in Ankara did not lower the flags half-mast on government buildings to honor the death of President Wilson since the two countries had no diplomatic relations. However, Caliph Abdülmecid in İstanbul lowered Turkish flags on the palace, and his yacht, creating greater tension between the government and the caliph.⁹

American athletic trainer and coach Chester M. Tobin trained Türkiye’s first track and field team for the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris, July 5-27. Türkiye sent 31 athletes to the Olympics but did not win any medals. Tobin in 1944 published his book *TURKEY – KEY TO THE EAST* to dispel the “Terrible Turk” image in the U.S. and portray the “real Turks and their vibrant progressive nation.”

Selma Ekrem (1902-1986), granddaughter of the eminent Ottoman writer and poet Namık Kemal, was a feminist who came to the United States as a single woman for personal freedom. Although she was drawn to the American lifestyle, she was shocked to face the "Terrible Turk" image in the United States. She eventually adopted the role of Turkish cultural ambassador, lecturing across the United States on the reforms of the Turkish Republic, the emergence and empowerment of the modern Turkish woman, and international women's rights. She also defended the Ottomans against the Armenian allegations. She published her autobiography *Unveiled* in 1930 and two other books, *Turkey Old and New* (1947) and *Turkish Fairy Tales* (1964). Ekrem also contributed 280 essays to The Christian Science Monitor from 1942 to 1973, and she worked at the Turkish Information Office in New York to project a more positive image of Türkiye. She eventually became an American citizen and died at the age of 84 in Manomet Plymouth, Massachusetts.¹⁰

- 1925 American garment manufacturer Arthur Nash (June 26, 1870 – October 30, 1927) pledged \$120,000 to Hamdullah Suphi Tanrıöver (1885-June 10, 1966), president of Türk Ocakları (Turkish Hearths), towards building a new national headquarters in Ankara.¹² A successful businessman, Nash was noted for applying the Christian "Golden Rule" principle in business practices. He was an advocate for religious tolerance and interfaith¹² In addition to contributing to Türk Ocakları, Nash supported President Mustafa Kemal's (Atatürk) modernization policy for Türkiye through generous financial contributions to Asa K. Jennings's social services programs in the mid-1920s.

Türkiye established a consulate general in New York. Cedal Munif Bey was the appointed consul general.

- 1926 Former U.S. Consul General in İzmir George Horton published his book *The Blight of Asia* about the destruction of İzmir and the plight of the Christian population during the Turkish War of Independence/Greco-Turkish War.
- Horton, who had as the U.S. Consul General in İzmir during two periods (1911-1917 and 1919-1922, during the Greek administration of the city), was a fanatic panhellenist.
 - His account in the book of İzmir's destruction was controversial because of accusations against him of holding anti-Turkish and anti-Muslim sentiments.
 - In his book, he blamed Turkish troops for burning İzmir, criticized Western powers for not intervening to aid the Christian populations, and highlighted that losing İzmir to the Turks was the final act ending Christianity in Asia Minor which was not the case.

- Moreover, he proclaimed that Western Christians, particularly those in America, were mistaken in believing they were successfully promoting Christianity in the Muslim world.

The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago under the direction of Hans H. von der Osten began the excavation of a Hittite mound near the village of Alisar in the province of Yozgat. Other Hittite sites were excavated in later years.¹³

1927

On January 18, the U.S. Senate failed to approve the Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey, also known as the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty. Although 50 senators voted in favor of ratification; the vote was still six short of the required two-thirds of the Senate.

- The treaty had been signed on August 6, 1923, in Lausanne, Switzerland by the Turkish Nationalist representative İsmet İnönü and U.S. Department of State official Joseph C. Grew who would later become the first U.S. ambassador to Türkiye. However, the Coolidge Administration delayed in forwarding the treaty for Senate approval due to the strong “Terrible Turk” image in the U.S.
- Senator William H. King (D-Utah) led the fight against ratification in the Senate while the principal lobbying group was the American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty. This committee was previously the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA) and would later become the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).
- Other public figures opposing the treaty were
 - Former U.S. ambassadors to the Ottoman Empire: Abram I. Elkus (October 2, 1916 – February 20, 1917), Henry Morgenthau (December 11, 1913 – February 1, 1916), and Oscar S. Straus (October 15, 1898 – December 20, 1899 and July 1, 1887 – June 16, 1889)
 - Prominent New York lawyer and former U.S. ambassador to Germany James W. Gerard (October 29, 1913 – February 5, 1917)
 - Prominent New York Armenian American lawyer Vahan Cardashian who had previously provided legal services to Ottoman diplomatic missions in Washington and New York before WWI
- The objections of those opposing the treaty were
 - Abandoning the establishment of an Armenia in Anatolia
 - Insufficient protection of American schools and missions
 - Eliminating the Capitulations under the Ottoman Empire to ensure the protection of American citizens¹⁴¹⁵
- Public officials and organizations pressing for the ratification of the treaty were
 - U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American businesses
- Secretary Foreign Department of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM)* James L. Barton
- General Secretary of the International Committee of the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) John R. Mott
- YMCA's Administrative Secretary European Area Darius A. Davis
- YMCA's Executive Secretary İstanbul Elbert Crandall Stevens
- Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
- President of the Council on Turkish-American Relations, Inc. George Arthur Plimpton
- Vice President of the Council on Turkish-American Relations, Inc. Professor Philip Marshall Brown of Princeton University
- Council on Turkish-American Relations, Inc. representative in Türkiye Asa Kent Jennings
- 106 American residents in İstanbul working at Robert College, the Constantinople (İstanbul) College for Women, and ABCFM representatives and teachers at schools in Türkiye ¹⁵

* It needs to be pointed out that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) was a proponent in promoting the “Terrible Turk” image to the American public during the closing days of the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, after World War I, ABCFM continued the campaign of demonizing the “Turk” in addition to advocating for an American mandate in Anatolia for the creation of an Armenian state. However, after Mustafa Kemal Pasha's victory in the Turkish War of Independence, ABCFM had a complete turn-around of its earlier stance and began supporting the Turkish Nationalists and lobbying for U.S. recognition of the new Turkish Republic.

- Commenting on the conflict in the Senate over ratification in his book *The United States Response to Turkish Nationalism and Reform, 1914-1939*, ¹⁶ historian Roger R. Trask summarized seven reasons used by Joseph C. Grew, then Undersecretary of State, to justify ratification of the treaty with the Republic of Türkiye. Grew originally described these justifications in a contemporary letter to Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas:

1. “Old treaties with Turkey are out of date and could not be used to protect American interests;
2. All of the powers except the United States had recognized the abolition of the capitulations;
3. All Americans in Turkey favored ratification of the treaty;
4. Defeat of the treaty would harm rather than aid the Greek and Armenian minorities because the United States would not be in a position to give them even moral support;

5. Territory for an Armenian national home could be detached from Turkey only by war;
 6. The treaty would give Americans treatment equal to that accorded to nationals of the twenty-seven other governments which had concluded treaties with Turkey;
 7. The Turkey of Kemal Atatürk was no worse than the Turkey of Abdul Hamid. 'If there was no ethical impropriety in our having formal and diplomatic relations with the Governments of Abdul Hamid and the Young Turks, why should this impropriety be considered to exist now?'"
- Trask also wrote that "Grew reflected the State Department conclusion that a realistic attitude toward conditions in Turkey was necessary. The moralistic thinking of the opposition, based partly on inaccurate information, would result in little good and perhaps considerable harm to the very groups which it sought to protect." ¹⁷
 - Numerous American newspapers criticized the Senate's failure to ratify the Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey including *The Washington Post*, *Atlanta Constitution*, *Pittsburgh Sun*, *New York Herald Tribune*, and *Philadelphia Public Ledger*.
 - Some of the American papers approving the treaty's defeat were the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, *Tampa Tribune*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. ¹⁸

The Turkish Welfare Association in New York (Ottoman/Türk Teavün Cemiyeti) with branches in Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland countered anti-Turkish propaganda during the public debate on the treaty. This association adopted the role of the first Turkish American lobby in the U.S. ¹⁹

Despite the Senate's failure to ratify the Treaty of Amity and Commerce on January 18, the Coolidge Administration and the Turkish Republic exchanged notes to establish diplomatic relations on February 17. The Senate eventually ratified a similar version entitled Treaty of Commerce and Navigation Between the United States of American and the Turkish Republic on April 22, 1930, almost seven years after the signing of the initial treaty in 1923. The American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty also fought against Senate approval of Joseph C. Grew as the first U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye. Ambassador James W. Gerard representing the committee wrote "'it is difficult to understand why we should send an 'Ambassador' to Turkey—a primitive Asiatic country, with a population of 5,000,000, when we have reduced to a Legation our Embassy to Austria.'" ²⁰

Mustafa Kemal Pasha was featured on the front cover of *Time Magazine* (February 21, 1927). Mustafa Kemal Pasha was earlier featured on *Time*

Magazine's front cover on March 14, 1923.

The “Floating University” an idea conceived by New York University Professor James E. Lough that took 600 American students* on a cruise around the world on the steamship *Ryndam* stopped off in İstanbul in February 1927 to broaden students’ horizons, particularly in international affairs. Roger R. Trask in his book, *The United States Response to Turkish Nationalism and Reform, 1914-1939*, wrote: “The *Christian Science Monitor*, reporting their enthusiastic reception, noted that the students were ‘eager to remedy what they describe as erroneous opinions on present day Turkey, entertained by anti-Turkish circles in the United States.’ The impression gained by American visitors in Turkey contrasted greatly with the anti-Turkish propaganda circulated in the United States. Publication by these visitors of more up-to-date views helped to break down old notions.”²¹

- *Another source, however, reported that 500 students participated in the cruise.
- The *Ryndam* departed New York City on September 18, 1926, for Asia through the Panama Canal and returned to New York on May 2, 1927.

1928 American private citizens headed by Anson Phelps Stokes, Canon of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, raised tens of thousands of dollars from American private citizens to help Russian refugees in Türkiye who had fled the Russian Revolution. Their efforts continued until 1935. According to Stokes, American contributions to Russian refugees took “a heavy burden” off the Turkish government.²²

On March 26, 1928, 129 years after the U.S.S. George Washington became the first American naval ship to visit İstanbul, the U.S.S. Raleigh became the first American naval ship to visit the city after the founding of the Republic of Türkiye.²³

March 31st marked the beginning of a series of severe earthquakes in İzmir that continued for over two weeks. The American Red Cross contributed \$5,000 to the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) for the purchase of tents for earthquake victims, and five American tobacco companies also raised funds. President Calvin Coolidge sent a message of sympathy to President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk), which received wide publicity in the Turkish press.²⁴

Upon the request of Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, American banker, financier, and philanthropist J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr. (September 7, 1867 – March 13, 1943), while in İstanbul in April, donated \$6,000 to the American Hospital, which was having financial difficulties.²⁵

Frederick Bruce Thomas, the son of formerly enslaved African-Americans from

Mississippi, who established a high-class night club Maxim in the Şişli district of İstanbul in 1921, died penniless on June 12 and was buried in İstanbul's Pangaltı Catholic Cemetery. Thomas became known as the Sultan of Jazz and the Black Russian. Previously, he was a successful entrepreneur in Moscow but fled to İstanbul along with thousands of others from the Bolshevik Revolution. In addition to Maxim, Thomas established other night clubs in İstanbul and Ankara.

The first 4th of July Reception was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Türkiye at Ambassador Joseph C. Grew's summer residence in Yeniköy, İstanbul, with over 150 guests attending.²⁶

Morris Schinasi, an illiterate Sephardic Jewish immigrant from humble origins in Manisa (in present-day Türkiye) who was born on April 27, 1855, and made a fortune in the American tobacco business, died in New York City on September 10. Schinasi, who immigrated to the United States in 1890, invented the cigarette rolling machine. He exhibited his invention at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Later, he and his brother Solomon produced ready-made cigarettes in New York City, 120th Street and Broadway, under the brand name "Natural." They used both Turkish and Virginia tobacco for their cigarettes. Their factory employed 200 Turkish Jewish immigrants. In July 1908, Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II had honored Schinasi with the Medjidie Medal for his business success. In 1916, they sold their cigarette company to the American Tobacco Company.

- After Schinasi's death, his widow Laurette Schinasi, also a former Ottoman citizen from Salonica, used funds from the Schinasi inheritance to finance 80% of the construction of the Moris Şinasi Çocuk Hastanesi (Morris Schinasi Children's Hospital) in Manisa. The hospital opened on August 15, 1933, and is still operating. The Schinasi inheritance continues to provide funds for healthcare costs, and an international children's health association in Türkiye is named after him, Morris Şinasi Milletlerarası Çocuk Sağlığı Derneği.²⁷
- Schinasi built a 12,000-square-foot marble mansion at 351 Riverside Drive in 1907. It was designated a New York City Landmark in 1974 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The mansion is the last remaining detached single-family house in Manhattan and is still being used as a residence.²⁸

Four American doctors were licensed by the Turkish government in 1928. They were Dr. Lorrin Shepard, Dr. Albert W. Dewey, Dr. Wilson F. Dodd, and Dr. William L. Nute.²⁹

In August, Halide Edib Adivar was the first woman to speak at the Institute of Politics, a prestigious influential forum in the 1920s and 1930s on world politics and U.S. involvement in international affairs at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. In the *New York Times* article about the conference on August 4, Russell B. Porter wrote Halide Edib Adivar brought around the 200

foreign affairs experts in attendance that “Modern Turkey is a miracle of governmental rejuvenation, and stands for peace and progress rather than as a threat to the rest of the world, like the old Turkish Empire. . . .” Russell described Halide Edib Adivar as a “pioneer exponent of feminism and nationalism in the Near East. . . In addition, she has proved herself to be one of the most popular lecturers and conference leaders in the history of the Institute.”³⁰

- 1929 The Turkish Aviation League awarded its first medal to American aviator Charles A. Lindbergh, for being the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. The Aviation Medal was presented to his mother, Evangeline Lindbergh, who was teaching chemistry at the Constantinople Women’s College.³¹

1930s

- 1930 On June 11, an informal group supporting Türkiye known as the American Friends of Turkey held a dinner meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City to discuss incorporation of the group. The dinner was hosted by William H. Hoover (August 18, 1849 – February 25, 1932), Chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company, and attended by over 25 Americans.³²
- On July 12, the (first) American Friends of Turkey (AFOT)* was incorporated in New York with William H. Hoover (August 18, 1849 – February 25, 1932), Chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company, elected as president and Asa K. Jennings as Executive Vice President.
 - The newly elected AFOT president, William H. Hoover, also established a trust fund of \$100,000 for AFOT.
 - Among the 18 board members were individuals representing prestigious U.S. institutions: James E. West, Boy Scouts of America; Dr. John H. Finley, president of the National Child Association of America and associate editor of *The New York Times*; Martha Finley, president of the Foreign Committee of YWCA; and Cleveland E. Dodge, president of the Near East Foundation.
 - AFOT’s office was on 19 West 44th Street in Manhattan. An Ankara office was also established.
 - AFOT’s bylaws stated that its objective was ““to cooperate with the Turkish People, their institutions, organizations, and government in various ways acceptable to all concerned, to promote goodwill and understanding between the people of America and the people of Turkey.””
 - After its incorporation, the New York Herald Tribune printed an article praising the new organization for furthering ““ an entirely new movement in America and Turkey....””³³
 - U.S. Ambassador Joseph C. Grew said this about Asa Kent Jennings and AFOT: ““. . . These American friends of Turkey stressed the importance of combatting the ignorance prevailing in the States relative to the Turks and

their country. In fact, they pointed out that this was the main object of their organization in the States and that they hoped that these efforts would pave the way towards closer intellectual, commercial and economic relations. It was also pointed out that this object would be greatly furthered if more Turkish students went to the States. Later Jennings was received by the Gazi (Atatürk) who presented him with an autographed photograph in a silver frame and expressed his appreciation of Jennings's work towards Turco-American friendship.”³⁴

- Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol, who was the U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul before the U.S. recognized the Republic of Türkiye, became AFOT's president after William Hoover's death in 1932. *Note: A second American Friends of Turkey with the same acronym was founded by Col. Ralph E. Ropp in the 1970s, but there was no connection between the two organizations.
- In fulfilling its mission, AFOT collaborated with the Turkish Ministry of Education and Turkish Educational Society (Turk Maarif Cemiyeti) by providing American educational expertise and worked with the Children's Protection Society, National Sports Federation, and Society for Aid to Destitute Women (Yoksul Kadına Yardım Cemiyeti).
- AFOT provided funding for social services such as prison reform, juvenile delinquency, and women and youth programs for the Turkish people. AFOT also funded the construction of dental clinics, libraries, day centers, and playgrounds in Türkiye.
- In the United States, AFOT gave guidance and financial assistance to Turkish university students and launched a PR campaign to change the “Terrible Turk” image held by American society.³⁵
- Sadly, after a remarkable performance in its first years, AFOT couldn't maintain its activities because of the Great Depression. In the 1940s, AFOT became defunct, and a new organization, the Turkish American Society, was established in New York in 1949 as the premier Turkish American association.

The construction of the national headquarters in Ankara for Türk Ocakları (Turkish Hearths), made possible by the donation of \$120,000 from American businessman Arthur Nash, was opened to the public on April 23. The cornerstone was laid by Prime Minister İsmet İnönü on March 21, 1927.³⁶ Türk Ocakları was founded in 1912 and eventually became part of Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi/CHP (Republican Peoples Party).

The American Red Cross sent \$2,500 to the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) for victims of a major flood in İzmir in October.³⁷

Fox Films produced a Movietone film in Türkiye with American Ambassador Joseph C. Grew introducing the President of the Turkish Republic Gazi Mustafa Kemal to the American public in November.

The American Red Cross sent \$1,000 to the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) for victims of another major flood in Adana in December.³⁸

An article published in The New York Times on July 20, 1930, titled “156-Year-Old Turk Puts in a Busy Day; Zaro Aga, Up at Dawn, ‘Does’ City at Strenuous Pace, and Calls It a ‘Nice Place,’” chronicled the visit to New York City of Zaro Aga of Istanbul, who was widely billed as the oldest person in the world. During his stay, Zaro Aga became a popular public attraction, drawing crowds fascinated by his extraordinary age. His celebrity was such that he was even referenced in the 1930 Gershwin–Guy Bolton–Jack McGowan musical comedy *Girl Crazy*. Zaro Aga claimed to have been born during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid I (reign: 1774–1789) in the province of Bitlis. He asserted that he had fought in six wars, met Napoleon Bonaparte, and had been married eleven or twelve times. According to the Turkish newspaper, *Taraf*, he met with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on two occasions. Following his death in Istanbul on June 29, 1934, his body was sent to the United States for scientific research.³⁹

1931

American aviators John L. Polando and Russell N. Boardman set an aviation record at the time for the longest continuous flight distance without refueling. Flying a Bellanca Special J-300 high-wing monoplane powered by a Wright J-6 Whirlwind engine and named the *Cape Cod*, they departed from Floyd Bennett Field on July 28 and landed at Yeşilköy Airport on July 30. Their flight established a straight-line distance record of 5,011.8 miles (8,065.7 km) and lasted 49 hours and 20 minutes. Both President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) and Prime Minister İsmet İnönü received the aviators upon their arrival.

AFOT donated purebred cattle to the “Gazi Farm,” the model farm established in Ankara by President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) in 1925. An idea originated by Asa K. Jennings and four of AFOT’s founding members contributed to the donation—William H. Hoover, president of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company, J.C. Penny, founder of the department store under his name, Perley A. Dutton, managing partner of J.C. Penney’s agriculture interests, and W.W. Fry, president of the N.W. Ayer & Son, the first American advertising agency. President Kemal (Atatürk) sent his autographed photograph to the donors to show his deep appreciation for the donation.⁴⁰

The Turkish government granted permission to the Byzantine Institute of America to uncover and restore the mosaics in the Aya Sofya (Hagia Sophia). Thomas Whittemore was in charge of the project.⁴¹

1932 On the occasion of George Washington's 200th anniversary, February 22, President Mustafa Kemal sent a telegram to U.S. President Herbert Hoover acknowledging George Washington as a great American. He expressed his sincere friendship with President Hoover and the United States. President Mustafa Kemal also conveyed sincere wishes for prosperity and happiness. He signed the telegram as Gazi M. Kemal. Reported in the Hâkimiyeti Milliye Newspaper on February 23, 1932.

U.S. Ambassador Joseph C. Grew delivered remarks on the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington before the Constantinople Woman's College and Robert College on February 22. The ambassador also hosted a bicentennial reception for principal Turkish officials and the diplomatic corps at the embassy with a portrait of Washington provided by the Bicentennial Committee on display.⁴²

A debating tour by two Turkish students—Galip Rıfat and Suha Zeki—in the U.S. was organized by AFOT to combat the negative image of Türkiye. They visited over 40 colleges and universities and won the majority of their debates.⁴³

General Charles Hitchcock Sherrill, who served as the second U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Türkiye (May 20, 1932 – March 23, 1933) under President Herbert Hoover, wrote a laudatory biography on Atatürk after retiring from public office.

Washington Post Sunday Magazine's July 31st issue featured article “The Hanim Drops Her Veil” on its front page was an interview with Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu)* “on the social, economic, and political progress of Turkish women.”⁴⁴

*After Türkiye's Grand National Assembly adopted the “Surname Law” (“Soyadı Kanunu”) on June 21, 1934, Ambassador Muhtar took the surname of Mollaoğlu.

The University of Chicago started excavation work at legendary Troy in the province of Çanakkale Carl W. Blegen led the expedition which continued until 1938.⁴⁵

Princeton University conducted its first survey of cultural stereotypes with the participation of 100 students. The Turks were considered the worst of all ethnic groups. The most chosen traits for Turks were cruel, very religious, treacherous, sensual, physically dirty, deceitful, sly, quarrelsome, revengeful, and superstitious. The study was repeated in 1950 with 333 students producing the same results.⁴⁶

One of the iconic restaurants in the early years of the Turkish Republic was Rejans in İstanbul's Beyoğlu district. Rejans was founded in 1932 by three Russian women in exile from the Bolshevik revolution.⁴⁷ The site had previously been the site for Russian and French restaurants since the early 1920s. Rejans was a favorite of the republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. English novelist Agatha Christie also dined there. Some of the restaurant's specialties included Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Kievsky, and Duck A La Orange. It was also famous for its "lemon vodka." According to İstanbul legend, Rejans was where Turks learned ballroom dancing. Within walking distance from the U.S. Embassy and later the U.S. Consulate General in Tepebaşı, the restaurant was popular among American diplomats until the early 2000s when the U.S. government moved its diplomatic mission to Sarıköy-İstanbul. Rejans is now called 1924 İstanbul and is still located in the same building on Olivya Geçide (Passage) No: 7, off of İstiklal Caddesi.

General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of the Staff of the U.S. Army, visited Türkiye as part of his September 1932 East European trip. On September 26, Turkish Chief of the Army General Fevzi Cakmak hosted a lunch in his honor in Ankara. On September 27, he visited President Mustafa Kemal at Dolmabahçe Palace to discuss the state of world affairs and threats of rising conflicts.⁴⁸

In December, President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk), in contending with a contentious issue with the U.S., presided over a Council of Ministers meeting which decided that Türkiye "would adhere to the Hague Convention of 1912 and the Geneva Conventions of 1925 and 1931 for regulating the manufacture and sale of narcotics." U.S. Ambassador Charles H. Sherrill had encouraged President Kemal to take action in curtailing the illicit narcotics trade.⁴⁹

1933 Asa Kent Jennings, who unselfishly devoted more than ten years to helping Türkiye modernize and shake off its negative image, died unexpectedly on January 27. On his last day of life, he was still hard at work for Türkiye. Jennings was visiting Washington, DC, for meetings with the Turkish ambassador and the Departments of State and Labor. After arriving in Washington on January 27, he first visited Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu). Following the meeting with the ambassador, Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol hosted Jennings for lunch at his residence. In the afternoon, Jennings went to the Department of Labor on behalf of a Turkish student about extending his stay in the U.S. His next meetings were at the State Department and back to the Turkish Embassy for further discussions. While walking to the State Department, he collapsed on the street near the White House from a severe heart attack and died in a taxi on the way to the hospital.

The novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* by Franz Werfel was published in German. It is about a small community of Armenians in Hatay who resisted

deportation by Ottoman troops on Musa Dağı during WWI. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer secured the film rights and started pre-production work in 1934. A rising young movie star, Clark Gable, was to play the hero Gabriel Bagradian. Due to intense lobbying efforts by Turkish Ambassador Munir Ertegün, Louis B. Mayer of MGM scrapped the movie.

- *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* was finally produced in 1982, after MGM sold its movie rights to an Armenian group, as a low-quality and low-budget move that deviated from the source.
- Other producers were interested in making the movie, including Sylvester Stallone (2006) and Mel Gibson (2009), but the projects did not proceed because of Turkish American lobbying efforts.
- The movie *The Promise*, released in 2016 and starring Christian Bale, drew material from the novel.⁵⁰

Turkish Airlines established on May 20 by the Ministry of National Defense with a maiden fleet of four aircraft including two Kingbird aircraft purchased from the United States and two small Junkers aircraft from Germany.

Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu)* hosted a 10th anniversary celebration of the Turkish Republic as the first formal event at the new Turkish Embassy, 1606 23rd Street, NW, on Sheridan Circle. According to the *Washington Post*, it was “‘one of the biggest, most dazzling parties ever given in a city quite inured to parties—diplomatic or otherwise.’” (*Washington Post*’s April 8, 1934 edition, paying tribute to Ambassador Muhtar’s (Mollaoğlu)* tenure in Washington.).⁵¹

*After Türkiye’s Grand National Assembly adopted the “Surname Law” (“Soyadı Kanunu”) on June 21, 1934, Ambassador Muhtar took the surname of Mollaoğlu.

The American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on October 29. Over 300 people attended. Honored guests at the dinner included:

- Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu)*
- Greek Minister to the United States Charalambos Simpoloulos
- Turkish Consul General and Mrs. H. Basri
- Greek Consul General Panayiotis Paraskevopoulos
- U.S. Department of State’s Chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs Wallace Murray
- Chairman of the Foreign Policy Association James G. McDonald
- President of Yale University Dr. James R. Angell
- The New York Times Associate Editor Dr. John H. Finley
- Former U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire and Mrs. Abram I. Elkus
- Former U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye General Charles H. Sherrill
- Former U.S. High Commissioner to Türkiye Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol
- AFOT Executive Vice-President Asa W. Jennings

- AFOT Vice-President Rayford W. Alley.

At the dinner, Ms. Elkus, spouse of Ambassador Elkus, read a message from President Franklin D. Roosevelt who praised the reforms of President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk)*, and Dr. Finley, The New York Times Associate Editor, read a message from President Kemal who expressed the Turkish people's "affection and admiration for the United States." Wallace Murray, Chief of Near Eastern Affairs at State, read a message that President Roosevelt sent to President Kemal (Atatürk)*. Afterward, Murray gave an enthusiastic speech on Türkiye.⁵²

*Turkish citizens didn't have last names until after Türkiye's Grand National Assembly adopted the "Surname Law" ("Soyadı Kanunu") on June 21, 1934. It was at this time when Mustafa Kemal was bestowed with the surname of Atatürk (Father of Turks) by the Grand National Assembly, and Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar took the surname of Mollaoğlu.

Turkish feminist Selma Ekrem attended the International Congress of Women in Chicago, July 16-22, 1933.

1934

Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu) left his post in Washington on April 20. The *Washington Post* diplomatic correspondent had written that he "has succeeded in bringing the United States and Turkey closer together than they have been at any time in history." The ambassador was a "consummate diplomat" and had performed his duties without his wife who remained in Türkiye because of ill health. Although he spoke no English, his French was flawless.⁵³

Mehmet Munir (Erteğün)* served as the second ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the United States, from June 18, 1934, until his death on November 1, 1944. Ambassador Erteğün and his sons, Nesuhi and Ahmet, played a significant role in the fight against segregation in the American capital. As Turkish ambassador, he had an open-door policy, inviting African Americans to the embassy and residence. According to his son Ahmet, "I remember that my father would occasionally receive letters from outraged Southern senators saying something to the effect of 'It has been brought to my attention, Sir, that person of color was seen entering your house by the front door. I have to inform you that, in our country, this is not a practice to be encouraged.' My father would respond with a terse one-sentence reply such as: 'In my home, friends enter by the front door--however, we can arrange for you to enter from the back.'" ⁵⁴

- Interestingly, Ambassador Erteğün, like his predecessor, Ambassador Mollaoğlu, did not speak English but was fluent in French.

*After Türkiye's Grand National Assembly adopted the "Surname Law" ("Soyadı Kanunu") on June 21, 1934, Mehmet Munir took the surname of Erteğün.

American female archaeologist Hetty Goldman (December 19, 1881 - May 4, 1972), a member of the Goldman-Sachs banking family and one of the first

women in her field, started the excavations at the Neolithic site of Gözlükule located in the city of Tarsus of biblical fame in the province of Mersin. The excavations were sponsored by Bryn Mawr, in cooperation with the Archaeological Institute of America, Haverford College, and the Fogg Museum of Harvard University. Dr. Goldman also excavated the ruins of Colophon, the ancient Ionian city near Değirmendere in the province of İzmir, during the Turkish War of Independence when the area was under Greek occupation.⁵⁵

1935 In March, Senate Majority Leader Joseph F. Robinson of Arkansas commended Atatürk during a Senate speech saying “under the guidance of President Kemal the Republic of Türkiye has taken leadership in the world-wide warfare of humanity against the illicit narcotic-drug traffic.”⁵⁶

Asa Will Jennings, previously an aide to his father Asa Kent Jennings, became the lawyer for the Turkish government in the United States in 1935. In 1940, the younger Jennings obtained American arms to help Türkiye prepare for a possible invasion by Germany, a year before the Lend-Lease Act was passed by the U.S. Congress. After the U.S. entered World II, Asa Will Jennings also persuaded the Turkish government to allow the transit of military supplies for Russia on ships with neutral flags through the Bosphorus because of the American military assistance given to Türkiye earlier.⁵⁷ Asa Will Jennings had graduated from Robert College in İstanbul and attended the New York University Law School. Later he served as president of the American Turkish Society in New York. He died on June 17, 1972.

Legendary camel driver Hadji Ali (later Americanized to Hi Jolly), an Ottoman subject of Syrian and Greek parentage recruited in İzmir in the 1850s to join the U.S. Camel Corps, was honored by Arizona Governor Benjamin Moeur with a plaque highlighting his life on the monument marking his grave in Quartzsite, Arizona, near the California border. The National Register of Historic Places added Hi Jolly's Monument to its list in 2011.

- The United States Camel Corps, an idea conceived by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, received its first arrival of camels from the Ottoman Empire and other countries for use as pack animals by the U.S. Army in the southwestern U.S. The U.S. Camel Corps hired Turkish and Arab camel drivers.
- After the U.S. Army abandoned using camels as pack animals at the time of the Civil War, Hadji Ali/Hi Jolly settled in the Southwest. Residents built a pyramid monument over his grave because of his popularity.

A copyright case transpired between the Turkish government and the King Features Syndicate over the unauthorized printing of the comic strips “Mickey Mouse” and “Little Annie Rooney.” Although Türkiye did not honor U.S. copyright regulations, Roger R. Trask pointed out, “The popularity of typically

American comic strips such as those involved in the copyright case, though perhaps not the best examples of American literature, was evidence of westernization in Turkey.⁵⁸

1938 On May 21, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt described a visit from a Turkish visitor in her syndicated “My Day” column. Ms. Roosevelt wrote “. . . a young Turkish woman, Miss İsmet Şanlı, who is doing newspaper work in this country and who desires to deliver a series of lectures. So far, she has been urged by a few women's clubs to appear in Turkish costume, but refuses, because, as she says, she wants to interpret the new Turkey of today to American women. She has no interest in the Turkey of harem days or the ladies of the early 19th Century in the United States. Miss Şanlı was dressed in the latest modern style and gave the impression of a very efficient young businesswoman. I feel as though the changes in Turkey had come very rapidly, but she insists this change has been coming for a long time. There have always been highly educated women in Turkey, but never before have they been able to use their education and training outside the home. Now, instead of refusing to give women jobs, the men are anxious to put trained women in responsible positions.”⁵⁹

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s quote about Atatürk’s death (November 10): “My sorrow is that it is no longer possible to fulfill my strong wish to meet this great man.”

İsmet Şanlı, a young Turkish woman journalist in the United States from İzmir, wrote about her interviews with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, which were published in a Turkish national newspaper, Ulus, and a local İzmir newspaper, Halkın Sesi, owned by her father, Mehmet Sirri Şanlı. Rather than returning to Türkiye, İsmet Şanlı stayed in the United States and traveled across the country to lecture about Türkiye’s reforms and modernization and promote the image of the new Turkish women. She also worked closely with the Turkish government to inform the American public about Türkiye and the Turkish people. She later became an American citizen.⁶⁰

1939 Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol (April 17, 1868 – May 13, 1939) died in Washington, DC. Born in Glassboro, New Jersey, Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol was the U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul after World War I from 1919 until 1927, when the U.S. recognized the Republic of Türkiye. As the U.S. High Commissioner, he founded the American Hospital in 1920, the first non-profit private hospital in Türkiye, and the same year the first nursing school in the country. He worked assiduously in obtaining U.S. recognition of the Republic of Türkiye in the 1920s. Upon leaving his post of U.S. High Commissioner in Türkiye in May 1927, President Calvin Coolidge congratulated him for his contributions to American Turkish relations and congratulated him “on his new position as commander-in-chief of the United States Asiatic Fleet.”⁶¹

After retirement from the U.S. Navy, he remained involved in U.S.-Türkiye bilateral relations and serving as president of the American Friends of Turkey (AFOT).

With the signing of the treaty on June 23 with France ceding the province of Hatay to Türkiye, the Turkish government allowed for the continuation of the archaeological work undertaken in the province by Princeton University and the Oriental Institute.⁶²

The Republic of Türkiye on July 15 released a commemorative stamp featuring the founders of the two countries, Kemal Atatürk and George Washington.

Türkiye participated in New York World's Fair, showcasing Turkish customs, culture, and the history of the Turkish Republic.

Türkiye joined the international observance of the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution (1787–1937) and, as a symbol of friendship between the two republics, issued a set of commemorative postage stamps in 1939. One stamp featured the founders of the two nations—Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and U.S. President George Washington—while the other depicted the contemporary leaders of the respective countries, Presidents İsmet İnönü and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

- Although the stamps bore the inscription *Amerika Birleşik Devletleri İstiklalinin 150. Yıl Dönümü Hatırası* (“In Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States”), they were in fact issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution rather than American independence.

Nesuhi Ertegün, Ambassador Ertegün's oldest child who had been living in Paris where he studied at Sorbonne, moved to Washington due to the advent of World War II. After settling into the embassy residence, he and his younger brother Ahmet challenged Washington's social taboos of segregation by hosting jam sessions with African American and White musicians in their study on the third floor of the Turkish Embassy on Sheridan Circle. The Ertegüns also hosted their guests for dinners and other meals at the embassy, a rare event in segregated Washington. According to William P. Gottlieb in his *Washington Post* column were “Washington's most famous private jam session. . .” Another *Post* reporter Carolyn Bell wrote that the Rumanian legation across the street complained about the noise coming from the Turkish Embassy in early morning hours.⁶³

- “A partial list of those known to have jammed, one or more times, at the Turkish Ambassador's Residence comprises many jazz notable, including members of the Louis Armstrong and Count Basie bands, and: Henry “Red” Allen, trumpet / Barney Bigard, clarinet / Lawrence Brown, trombone / Harry Carney, baritone sax/ Duke Ellington, piano / Adele

Guard, harp / Jay Higginbotham, trombone / Art Hodes, piano / Johnny Hodges, alto sax / Max Kaminsky, trumpet / Huddie Ledbetter, a/k/a Leadbelly, guitar and vocals / John Malachi, piano / Joe Marsala, clarinet / Lou McGarity, trombone / Mezz Mezzrow, clarinet / Benny Morton, trombone / Tommy Myles, drums / Tommy Potter, bass / Zutty Singleton, drums / Rex Stewart, cornet / Teddy Wilson, piano / Lester Young, sax.”⁶⁴

In December, a severe earthquake struck the province of Erzincan killing thousands of people. The American Red Cross contributed \$10,000 to the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay).⁶⁵

1940s

1940 The American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) hosted a dinner in İstanbul honoring Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Munir Erteğün and the trustees of Robert College and the American College for Girls of İstanbul.⁶⁶

1941 Turhan Bey, Turhan Gilbert Selahattin Sahultavi (March 30, 1922 – September 30, 2012), known as “The Turkish Delight” and called a “Turkish Valentino” by gossip columnist Hedda Hopper, was one of the earliest actors in Hollywood with Turkish roots (Turkish and Czech-Jewish origins). Born in Vienna, Austria as the son of a Turkish diplomat, Turhan Bey had a short career as a leading actor in Hollywood from 1941 to 1953 and then, after a 40-year hiatus, returned to acting in the U.S. in the 1990s and early 2000s. After Türkiye entered World War II in 1945, he served in the U.S. Army. It appeared that Turhan Bey never gave up his Turkish citizenship. He died at the age of 90 in his city of birth, Vienna.⁶⁷

Nesuhi and Ahmet Erteğün organized the first integrated concert in the U.S. capital on April 19. Black and White musicians performed onstage to an integrated audience. They held the concert at the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC, 1529 16th Street, NW. Some celebrated performers were Sidney Bechet, Joe Turner, Pete Johnson, and Pee Wee Russell. According to Ahmet, people attending didn’t know it would be an integrated event. The Erteğün brothers had initially booked the National Press Club, 14th and F Streets, NW, for the concert. After Press Club officials learned they were selling tickets to African Americans, they canceled the contract. The brothers then booked the Jewish Community Center, the only place in Washington allowing a mixed crowd, and made history!

President İsmet İnönü was featured on the front cover of *Time Magazine* on May 19.

Rüstem Bey became the first official police chief for Chatham Township of Morris County, New Jersey. Chief Rüstem Bey was born in Washington, DC, in

1899, where his father, Sidky Bey, served as a diplomat at the Ottoman Embassy. His mother was Hranoush, known as Madame Bey. She was a multilingual opera singer and acclaimed boxing trainer.

1942 Nesuhi and Ahmet Erteğün staged the first integrated concert at the National Press Club, 14th and F Streets, NW, on May 25.

English American actor Cary Grant, one of Hollywood's leading men, and Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton, one of the wealthiest women in the world, were married in California and then spent ten days as guests of Ambassador and Mrs. Munir Erteğün in Washington, DC (July). The Erteğüns loaned their second car and chauffeur to the newlyweds.

During World War II, the U.S. government began its Voice of America (VOA) shortwave broadcasts in Turkish in February 1942. The Turkish broadcasts were discontinued in 1945 but restarted in 1948.

1943 Prime Minister Şükrü Saraçoğlu was featured on the front cover of *Time Magazine* (July 12).

1944 Ambassador Mehmet Münir Erteğün became the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, DC, in May, being the longest-serving ambassador to the United States. However, he died from a heart attack on November 1 and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. In April 1946, President Harry S. Truman had his body taken back to İstanbul aboard the *USS Missouri*. (The quarterdeck of the *USS Missouri* was the site of the official Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, ending World War II.⁶⁸

1945 MGM Studios produced a short film, *Strange Destiny*, on the life of Asa K. Jennings who helped to evacuate 350,000 non-Muslims during the evacuation of İzmir in 1922.

1946 President Harry S. Truman signed the Fulbright Act on August 1 creating the Fulbright Program which set up educational exchange programs between the United States and other countries for teachers, students, professors, and research scholars.

1947 Pan American World Airways (Pan Am), was the first commercial American airline to start flying to İstanbul as part of its first scheduled round-the-world airline flight.⁶⁹

Ahmet Erteğün, son of the late Turkish Ambassador Munir Erteğün, founded the Atlantic Recording Corporation better known as Atlantic Records in October in New York City with his partner Herb Abramson. He had persuaded his dentist

Vahdi Sabit to invest \$10,000 for the initial capital. Atlantic Records specialized in jazz, R&B, soul, and later expanded into rock and pop music, and the recording company was instrumental in popularizing Black music in mainstream American society. Some of the famed musicians who worked with Atlantic were Ruth Brown / Ray Charles, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young / Aretha Franklin / Mick Jagger and The Rolling Stones / Wilson Pickett / Otis Redding / Sam and Dave / Yes / Led Zeppelin. In 1955 Ahmet's older brother Nesuhi joined the company.

American archaeologist Theresa Bathsheba Goell (July 17, 1901 – December 18, 1985) first visited Nemrut Dağı (Mount Nemrut) in the province of Adiyaman in 1947 when she worked on the excavations at Tarsus. With the hope of finding the tomb of Antiochus I of Commagene, who lived in the first century BC, she started excavations in the early 1950s in collaboration with German archaeologist Friedrich Karl Dörner. In the 1960s, she excavated Samsat, also in Adiyaman Province, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Commagene. Although she never found the tomb, thanks to her extensive work at Nemrut Dağı and Samsat, the modern world learned about the history of ancient Commagene. In 1965, Goell narrated a film about Nemrut Dağı for the National Geographical Society.⁷⁰ A documentary film, "Queen of the Mountain," was produced in 2006, telling Goell's fascination with Nemrut Dağı and, as a middle-aged woman, left her husband and son to pursue her dream of finding Antiochus's tomb.⁷¹

1948 Hasan Hüseyin was recognized for 35 years (1913-1948) of exemplary service at the Ford Motor Company by its president Henry Ford II.⁷²

Cevat Eyüb Taşman, who in 1911 as an Ottoman student received a scholarship from Columbia University and earned B.S. and E.M. degrees in engineering from there, became head of Türkiye's petroleum exploration program and discovered Türkiye's first commercial oil field in Batman in 1948. Cevat Eyüb Taşman is related to Haldun Taşman, who immigrated to the U.S. later in the century and became a successful businessman and prominent philanthropist.

U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye George Wadsworth, 1948-1952, raised funds for Ankara's first golf course "which became a 'social center' for diplomatic circles."⁷³

In 1948, Thomas Whittemore and Paul A. Underwood, affiliated with the Byzantine Institute of America based in Massachusetts and the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D.C., began restoration of the mosaics in İstanbul's Kariye Mosque. These mosaics had been concealed after the building was converted into an Ottoman Mosque in the 16th century. The mosque, which was originally the Byzantine Church of St. Saviour in Chora, was opened to the public as a museum in 1958. However, in 2020, it was reverted back to a mosque.

1949 In the academic year of 1949-1950, there were over 700 Turkish students studying in the United States.⁷⁴

The Turkish Information Office (TIO) in the United States was founded in 1949 and was attached to the Turkish Consulate General in New York. TIO was the “governmentalization of Turkish propaganda in America,” and it fostered a network of Turkish journalists, writers, and diplomats. TIO’s first director was Ahmet Şükrü Esmer, followed by Nuri Eren. Under Eren’s directorship, “the TIO published more than a dozen booklets and brochures intended to inform the American public about the new Turkey and Turks. The subjects covered by these publications ranged from democracy to progress, trade, women’s rights, infrastructure, literature, cuisine, and health. They depicted Turkey as a country that progressed and modernized by taking the West as its model, while later publications in 1965 also took on contemporary issues like the Cyprus crisis as their subjects.”⁷⁵

1950s

1950s The Rockefeller and Ford Foundations promoted scientific philanthropy in education, public health nursing, scientific research, and culture, including music in Turkey. Through the Rockefeller Foundation, Turkish artists and musicians such as Ahmet Adnan Saygun, İlhan Mimaroglu, İlhan Usmanbaş, and Bülent Arel participated in educational trips to the U.S.⁷⁶

Turkish composer Ahmet Adnan Saygun participates at the third Conference of the International Folk Music Council held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, July 17 - 21, and the Midcentury International Folklore Conference at Indiana University, July 21 - August 4.⁷⁷

The highest single piece flagpole in Europe (33.5 meters / 109 feet) was installed at the Anıtkabir (Mausoleum of Atatürk) on November 9. The flag post was manufactured in the New York factory owned by Nazmi Cemal, an American citizen of Turkish origin from Macedonia. Nazmi Cemal presented the flagpole to the Turkish government as a gift in 1946.⁷⁸

1951 The first exchange of American and Turkish students and scholars under the Fulbright program began. Between 1951 and 2023, there were 3873 Turkish and 1837 American candidates.

1952 The AFS Intercultural Programs or AFS, originally the American Field Service, is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization with the motto “We Develop Active Global Citizens. AFS began its global youth exchange and cultural programs in 1947 and has worked with dozens of countries. Turkish

secondary school students started to participate in AFS global exchange programs in 1952. In 1974, the Türk Kültür Vakfı * was established by AFS Turkish alumni and supporters in İstanbul to implement AFS intercultural education programs in Türkiye. *Türk Kültür Vakfı is not to be confused with the Turkish Cultural Foundation founded in 2000 in Massachusetts.

The Turkish Information Office (TIO) in New York City launched a publication titled "Turkish Recipes" as part of its mission to promote the image of Turkey and its people in the United States. The publication highlighted that Turks are "noted gourmets." The cover featured Günseli Başar, who was crowned Miss Europe in 1952, depicted in modern attire while peeling an eggplant on a kitchen counter.⁷⁹

1953 Eartha Kitt, a popular African American singer also of Cherokee descent, internationally popularized *Üsküdar'a Giderken* (a Turkish folk song) with her cabaret version "Uska Dara," which was her first recorded song. Kitt earlier traveled to İstanbul with the Katherine Dunham Dance Troupe when she first heard the famous song in İstanbul nightclubs.⁸⁰

Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in her column, "My Day," wrote about the short stopover in İstanbul with her secretary, Maureen Corr, flying from New Delhi, India, on route to Athens, Greece. They arrived at 5:00 am on July 6, Monday, and were greeted by U.S. Consul General Macatree at the Yeşilköy Airport. Macatree took them on an early morning tour of the city's historical sites. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "We saw the old Byzantine Wall and three of the most beautiful mosques at 6:30 a.m. . . . Of course, we had to be content with just walking around outside. The early morning light made the minarets and the domes even more beautiful and at the Blue Mosque we got a glimpse of the color over a door and that gave us an idea of what it probably is like inside."⁸¹

1954 The American Turkish Society (ATS) hosted a dinner honoring Turkish President Celâl Bayar during his official visit to the U.S. on February 1 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Vice President Richard M. Nixon and former U.S. ambassadors Joseph C. Grew and George McGhee were among the VIPS attending the dinner.⁸²

1955 The İstanbul Hilton opened on June 10. The opening gala featured Hollywood stars Terry Moore and Olivia de Havilland. It was the first American hotel in Türkiye, the second Hilton in Europe, the first modern hotel built in Europe after World War II. The building was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in collaboration with award-winning Turkish architect Sedat Hakki. It was built in 21 months and became the tallest building in İstanbul at the time. Hilton Hotels International had signed an agreement with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 9, 1951. The Hilton İstanbul appeared in the 1963 James Bond movie *From Russia with Love* and the 1964 movie *Topkapı*.⁸³

- This Hilton, now known as the İstanbul Hilton Bosphorus, is currently the longest operating Hilton Hotel outside the U.S. Today, there are Hilton hotels throughout Türkiye.

The U.S. government, Pan American World Airways (Pan Am), and Turkish State Airlines signed a three-year aviation technical assistance agreement for twenty-four Pan American technicians to train Turkish aviation personnel to operate the state airline with the most modern air and ground techniques. The project was funded by the U.S. government's foreign technical assistance program in aviation to stimulate economic growth in underdeveloped regions.⁸⁴

1956 U.S. Department of State launched its first "Jazz Ambassadors" tours to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, central and southern Asia, and Africa as part of its cultural diplomacy program to enhance the public image of the United States. Jazz musicians included Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Benny Goodman. Türkiye was included in the Jazz Ambassadors' itinerary. The tours continued until 1958.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, the Turkish government issued a commemorative postage stamp in 1956. The stamp honored Franklin not only for his contributions as an American statesman, diplomat, and inventor, but also for his role as the founder of the American postal system and the first Postmaster General of the United States.

1957 Ahmed Kafadar founded Ordnance Engineering Associates (OEA) in 1957 in Colorado. He was noted for leading the development of the explosive triggers used in ejection seats for jet fighter planes and automobile air bags.

4-H, a U.S.-based network of youth organizations in over 50 countries, established its presence in Türkiye in 1957 through the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture. The organization, founded over 100 years ago, is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The mission of 4-H is "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development." Its name, "4-H," refers to the organization's motto, head, heart, hands, and health, represented by the four-leaf clover. In Türkiye, it's kafa/head, kol/hand, kalp/heart, and kuvvet/health. There are currently some 365 4-H Cubs in Türkiye.

1958 Leopold Stokowski, flamboyant conductor of several U.S. symphonic orchestras, conducted the oratorio Yunus Emre by Ahmet Adnan Saygun at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York City on November 25. Sources: Lesar Yurtsever, doctoral researcher at SCRIPTS – Cluster of excellence (Freie Universität Berlin), in his PH. D project highlighting the cultural exchange

and musical diplomacy between Türkiye and the U.S. from the 1930s to 1960. Emre Araci's dissertation, "Life and Works of Ahmed Adnan Saygun" (1999 University of Edinburgh).

Ahmet Adnan Saygun premiered his String Quartet op. 35 at the Library of Congress, performed by the Juilliard Quartet, and broadcast by Station WGMS of Washington, D.C. on November 28. The event also featured works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonín Dvořák. Sources: Lesar Yurtsever, doctoral researcher at SCRIPTS – Cluster of excellence (Freie Universität Berlin), in his PH. D project highlighting the cultural exchange and musical diplomacy between Türkiye and the U.S. from the 1930s to 1960. Emre Araci's dissertation, "Life and Works of Ahmed Adnan Saygun" (1999 University of Edinburgh).

1959 Dave Brubeck's jazz composition "Blue Rondo à la Turk," written in 9/8 time common in Turkish music, was featured on his album "Time Out." Brubeck was inspired to compose "Blue Rondo à la Turk" after visiting Türkiye.

The Rockefeller Foundation, in collaboration with the State Department, funded a trip for the avant-garde musician Henry Cowell and his wife, Sidney, to Türkiye during their Middle and Far East tour. The trip aimed to report on Turkish music in İstanbul and Ankara, collect folk songs, and deliver lectures about American classical music.⁸⁷

American renowned conductor Leonard Bernstein and the 106-piece New York Philharmonic gave two concerts at İstanbul's Open-Air Theater in August as part of a European-Middle Eastern tour. ". . . Bernstein faced an audience of music-hungry Turks that overflowed the bowl's 5,000 seats, crashed through wooden barriers and stampeded past police lines to jam every aisle and step." "Lenny gave them two programs to remember; Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven and on to the U.S. moderns, with Aaron Copland's high-stepping Billy the Kid and George Gershwin's swelling, Turkey-fresh Rhapsody in Blue. Both nights he yielded to thunderous ovations, played encores till way past midnight."⁸⁸

President Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first U.S. president in office* to visit Türkiye (an informal visit) on December 6 and 7. Arriving in Ankara from Italy with his wife Mamie, Türkiye was the second stop for Eisenhower's world tour of 12 countries. Eisenhower had visited Türkiye seven years earlier when he met with civil and military officials, March 3-5, 1952, as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) of NATO. The front page of The New York Times on December 7 featured the headline "EISENHOWER HAILED BY BIG CROWDS IN TURKEY AFTER TRIP FROM ROME. . ."

- The lead story started off with "Hundreds of thousands of dancing, cheering, flag-waving Turks give President Eisenhower an overwhelming welcome yesterday (December 6) that left him "misty-eyed." *The Times* story was

accompanied by a photo of Eisenhower standing in Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's car (a convertible) as it was being driven in downtown Ankara.

- During his visit, President Eisenhower held talks with President Celâl Bayar and Prime Minister Adnan Menderes on the world's problems according to *The New York Times* article.
- President Eisenhower made the following remarks at the December 6 dinner hosted by Turkish President Celâl Bayar in Ankara: "Under the outstanding and farsighted leadership of the founder of Modern Turkey, Kemal Atatürk, you of this country have wrought revolutionary changes. In government, customs, and traditions these changes were breathtaking in scope. They were remarkable for the swiftness of their achievement. They are an inspiration and a guiding light to all newly independent nations, determined on progress, prosperity, and peace. No nation of today encounters greater obstacles to progress than you faced when you made your great national decision. You had just emerged from the ruin and devastation of the First World War. On every side, you were plagued with problems that seemed beyond solution. But you were rich in your spirit and in the idealism and vitality of your leaders. In them you had wealth and strength beyond money and machines. You, the people of Turkey forged steadily ahead on the path to industrial development and social progress. You made your country a modern proving ground that democracy and stout hearts are a people's best instruments for the achievement of greatness." ⁸⁹
- When President Eisenhower departed Ankara for Pakistan on December 7, a large banner was placed on the airport terminal with the following wording: "TAKE OUR LOVE BACK HOME, IKE." ⁹⁰

*Note: Former U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant on part of his world tour after leaving the White House in 1877 made a courtesy visit to Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II in İstanbul in March 1878.

1960s

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| 1960 | American archaeologist George Fletcher Bass (December 9, 1932 - March 2, 2021), an early practitioner of underwater archaeology, co-directed the excavation of the ancient shipwreck at Cape Gelidonya on Türkiye's Mediterranean Coast. Bass also founded the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) at the University of Pennsylvania in 1972 which was later moved to Texas A&M University in 1976. ⁹¹ |
| 1961 | British American historian Bernard Lewis's classic book <i>The Emergence of Modern Turkey</i> was first published by Oxford University Press, London. Lewis (May 31, 1916 – May 19, 2018) taught at American universities, Princeton and Cornell, from 1974 to 1990. |

Famous American novelist, short-story writer, journalist, and Nobel Prize in Literature laureate Ernest Hemingway died on July 2 by suicide. Born on July 21, 1899, Hemingway, as a young journalist, arrived in İstanbul on September 30, 1922, to cover the last days of the Greco-Turkish War (Turkish War of Independence) and the refugee crisis resulting from the War for the *Toronto Star Daily*. He first stayed at the Grand Hotel de Londres in Tepebaşı and frequented the bar at the Pera Palas Hotel.

In the fall of 1961, the African American writer and activist James Baldwin, noted as one of the most influential American writers of the 20th century, traveled to Türkiye for the first time. Baldwin visited upon the invitation from his friend Turkish actor Engin Cezzar, who had studied at the Yale Drama School and had met Baldwin in New York City in the late 1950s.

- Living in Türkiye off and on for nearly ten years, Baldwin once proclaimed that "Turkey saved my life!" since his stay in Türkiye provided an escape from the racism and homophobia he faced in the United States.
- Baldwin had a group of devoted Turkish friends. In addition to Engin Cezzar and Engin's wife, Gülriz Sururi, his circle included Zeynep Oral, Cevat Capan, Oktay Balamir, and Ali Poyrazoğlu.
- In İstanbul, he hosted American celebrities such as actor Marlon Brando, author Alex Haley, jazz singer Bertice Reading, and trumpeter Don Cherry.
- Baldwin completed two of his well-known novels, *Another Country* and *Tell Me how Long the Train's Been Gone*, in Türkiye, in addition to short stories and essays and his play *Blues for Mister Charlie*.
- He was also active in the Turkish theatre scene, including involvement in Engin Cezzar and Gülriz Sururi's local production of *Hair*.
- As an activist, Baldwin was troubled by the crackdown on Kurdish rights, and he experienced racism and homophobia as well.
- One of Baldwin's favorite hangouts was Avni's Pub in Harbiye-İstanbul, owned by Avni Salbas, an Afro-Turk. In the 1980s, Avni's Pub was also popular with İstanbul's growing expatriate community, including Americans.⁹²

1962

President John F. Kennedy's statement about Atatürk. "I am honoured to join in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of Kemal Atatürk. The name of Atatürk brings to mind the historic accomplishments of one of the great man of this century, his inspired leadership of the Turkish People, his perceptive understanding of the modern world and his boldness as a military leader. It is to the credit of Atatürk and the Turkish People that a free Turkey grew out of a collapsing empire and that the new Turkey has proudly proclaimed and maintained its independence ever since. Certainly there is no more successful

example of national self reliance then the birth of the Turkish republic and the profound changes initiated since then by Turkey and Atatürk. Atatürk was deeply interested in the friendly relations that have traditionally existed between Turkey and the United States. He noted our democratic governments and once said, prophetically, ' We are friends now and we will be much closer friends in the future '. Our present close alliance can be traced to the firm base prepared by Atatürk for free government in an independent Turkey. I am proud that United States can be a partner in this alliance linking us to the country of Atatürk and to the ideals which Atatürk helped establish in Turkey and the World. I salute this great man on the anniversary of his death.”

The American excavation of Sardis, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia in what is now the Turkish province of Manisa, started around 1962 under the Harvard-Cornell Archaeological Expedition led by Professor George M.A. Hanfmann of Harvard University. The expedition uncovered what's considered the largest known ancient synagogue outside of Israel. The restoration of the synagogue was funded substantially by American Jewish philanthropy.

1963

The second James Bond movie and the first of three series with locations filmed in Türkiye was *From Russia with Love*. The movie had scenes filmed in İstanbul in 1963. Although it was a United Kingdom production, the American studio United Artists distributed the film. Director: Terence Young. James Bond: Sean Connery. Tatiana: Daniela Bianchi. The second James Bond movie to have scenes from Türkiye is *The World Is Not Enough* (1999), a U.K. and U.S. production with shots of the Bosphorus and Maiden's Tower. Director: Michael Apted. James Bond: Pierce Brosnan. Elektra King: Sophie Marceau. *Skyfall* (2012), a U.K., U.S., and Türkiye production, was the third Bond movie filmed in Türkiye with scenes in İstanbul. Director: Sam Mendes. James Bond: Daniel Craig. Eve: Naomie Harris

The Duke Ellington Orchestra participating in the U.S. Department of State's "Jazz Ambassadors" tour was to have played in Ankara but had to cancel due to the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Turkish American writer Erje Ayden (1937-2013), crowned as the "Crazy Turk of New York City" by Turkish academician Gonul Pultar, was a cult figure in New York's bohemian community after publishing *The Harbor of Whales and Other Short Stories* in 1963 and his debut novel *The Crazy Green of Second Avenue* in 1965. Some of his other cult bestsellers were *The Legend of Erje Ayden*, *From Hauptbahnhof I Took a Train*, *Sadness at Leaving: An Espionage Romance*, *Confessions of a Nowaday Child*, *Seven Years of Winter*, and *Lost Cloud*. In an article about Ayden, Pultar wrote, ". . . his ability to freely blend fact and fiction allowed him to do pioneering work in the non-fiction novel genre. A distinguishing trait of Ayden's work is that he succeeds, in the fashion of a social

historian or commentator, to reflect the predicament of the Turkish-American culturally positioned between two opposing worlds, socially inhabiting two different strata." Noted for his isodynamic and salacious writing, Ayden was born in İstanbul, and his original name was Erje Aydiner. He attended Robert College but was expelled after two years for failing to learn English. In the 1950s, he moved to New York's Greenwich Village in 1950s. His father, Hidayet Aydiner, had briefly served as the Turkish Minister of Justice from August 1 to November 3, 1969. The eminent poet and scholar Talat Halman wrote about Ayden in a series of six articles for the Turkish newspaper *Milliyet* in August 1970.⁹³

1964 The movie *Topkapı*, a comedy and crime thriller about breaking into Topkapı Palace to steal the emerald-encrusted dagger commissioned by Ottoman Sultan Mahmud I in 1746, was the first American movie filmed in Türkiye with scenes shot in İstanbul. It was based on the novel *The Light of Day*. The movie received one Oscar at the 1965 Academy Awards, with Peter Ustinov receiving Best Actor in a Supporting Role. Director: Jules Dassin. Writers: Monja Danischewsky and Eric Ambler. Cast: Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov, Maximilian Schell, Robert Morley, and Akim Tarniroff. The main Turkish actors were Senih Orkan, Ege Ernar, Ahmet Danyal Topatan, Faik Çoşkun, Selahattin İçsel, and Bedri Cavuşoğlu.

The legendary Bertha “Betty” Carp who worked for the U.S. government for 50 years, 1914 to 1964, at the U.S. embassies in İstanbul and Ankara and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and was called “The Best Known American in Turkey” received the U.S. State Department’s Superior Honor Award from Secretary of State Dean Rusk at her retirement in 1964. Carp was born in İstanbul on June 15, 1895, to European parents. She began her career at the U.S. Embassy in İstanbul when she was hired by Ambassador Henry Morgenthau in 1914 for administrative duties. From 1942 to 1947, Carp worked for the U.S.’s Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and was a close colleague to Allen Dulles who later became Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She was an invaluable aide to more than a dozen U.S. ambassadors and was a major fundraiser for the American Hospital in İstanbul. She became a naturalized American citizen in 1947. A book about her legend, “The Best Known American in Turkey: Betty Carp,” by Rıfat N. Bali, was published in Turkish in 2014.⁹⁴

1965 Five Turkish tailors arrived in Rochester, New York, to work for the Bond Clothing Stores, Inc. (no longer in business) under a unique program of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Commission allowing American clothing manufacturing industries to recruit foreign sewers and tailors for their factories. The program started in 1948 due to the shortage of skilled workers. Initially, recruitment was mainly from Italy, but in subsequent years, skilled sewers and tailors came from Greece, Lebanon, and Türkiye. Over 200

Turkish tailors and their families now reside in Rochester because of this program. Several are now employed by Rochester-based Hickey Freeman Company.⁹⁵

1967 Dr. Warren Winkler (April 1, 1928 – February 25, 2019) became the chief physician and general director of the American Hospital in İstanbul. He served as general director until 1990 and as chief physician until 1994. As general director, the American Hospital expanded from seven medical departments to 37, and the number of physicians increased from 42 to 143. Before his appointment to the American Hospital, Winkler, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, had worked at a rural health center in Talas, Kayseri, under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and oversaw a local health project in Mus for the Turkish Ministry of Health as a consultant from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland). Winkler was a well-known and engaged member of the American community in İstanbul until his death in 2019. He wrote a book, *İki Doktor Bir Yolculuk* (Two Doctors, One Journey), in 2014 about his years in Talas.⁹⁶

1968 The first Turkish Doctors' Ball was held in New York City in March 1968. It quickly became a popular annual event among the large number of Turkish doctors who immigrated to the United States after World War II. However, the Doctors' Ball lost its "initial popularity" in later years with the decline of Turkish doctors immigrating to the U.S.⁹⁷

1970s

1970 *You Can't Win 'Em All*, a U.S. and UK production, was the second American movie filmed in Türkiye with scenes shot in Cappadocia, İstanbul, İzmir and Ephesus. The setting was during the Turkish War of Independence in 1922. Director: Peter Collinson. Writer: Leo V. Gordon. Cast: Tony Curtis, Charles Bronson, Michele Mercier, and Patrick Magee as Mustafa Kemal Pasha. The main Turkish actors were Fikret Hakan, Gregoire Aslan, Salih Güney, Yüksel Gözen, Henia Halil, and Mümtaz Alpaslan.

In December, the Erteğün brothers (Ahmet and Nesuhi) and Steve Ross of Warner Communications founded the New York Cosmos professional soccer team, which competed in the North American Soccer League (NASL) until 1984. Journalist Gavin Newsham claimed that the Cosmos, in its early years, was "the most glamorous team in world football" due to the signing of famous international stars such as Pelé and Carlos Alberto Torres (Brazil), Giorgio Chinaglia (Italy), and Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany). Cosmos's initial success also helped to popularize soccer in the United States.⁹⁸

Prominent Turkish American leader Ata Erim, a medical doctor, became president of the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA), an all-inclusive umbrella organization in the Turkish American community, and served as its president for over a decade. He organized the first Turkish American parade, sponsored by FTAA, in New York and was associated with the Turkish American Medical Association. Ata Erim also established the Turkish American Community Center, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk School, and Atatürk Park in New Jersey.

1971 Renowned Turkish poet, translator, and cultural historian Talât Sait Halman (July 7, 1931 – December 5, 2014) served as Türkiye's first Minister of Culture from July 13 to December 1971. With extensive American connections, he was a distinguished translator into English and Turkish. Halman received multiple honors outside Türkiye throughout his academic career, including Columbia University's Thornton Wilder Prize for lifetime achievement as a translator and a Rockefeller Fellowship in the Humanities. He taught at Columbia University, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and New York University.

- Halman was the first Turkish translator of American Nobel laureate William Faulkner, considered to be the greatest writer of Southern literature in the United States. Other noted translations included the works of celebrated American writers and poets Langston Hughes, Eugene O'Neill, and Wallace Stevens.
- As Türkiye's Minister of Culture, he coordinated the whirling dervishes' landmark first tour of the U.S. in 1971.⁹⁹

1972 *Strolling Through İstanbul – A Guide to the City*, a classic for English readers, by Hilary Sumner-Boyd and John Freely, American professors at Bosphorus University, was first published by Redhouse Press.

The İstanbul Hilton started İstanbul's first "Happy Hour" at the hotel's Pilsen Pub and opened İstanbul's first discotheque, Cloud 9.¹⁰⁰

Haldun Taşman, who went to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar, joined the Tech Group in Scottsdale, Arizona. Tech Group was a small company specializing in contract manufacturing making molds and plastic parts for the medical industry in the U.S. and other industries globally. He and his partner grew the business with plants in North America, Asia, Europe, and Türkiye. As a successful businessman and entrepreneur, Taşman was active in community affairs in Phoenix, Arizona, as a supporter of nonprofit organizations. After selling his shares in Tech Group in 2005, he devoted his time to philanthropy. He was the inspirational force, founding member, and the first chairman of the Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF), established in New York in 2007. He supports through TPF mostly education-related projects in Türkiye and the U.S. In 2008, Taşman received the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

1973 Apollo astronaut James Irwin, the 8th person to walk on the moon during Apollo 15 in 1971, led the first of several expeditions to Mt. Ararat in the 1970s and 1980s in search of Noah's Ark. He reached the peak only once in 1984. Another American public figure, Mark Parris, the U.S. ambassador to Ankara from 1997 to 2000, also reached Mt. Ararat's peak in the early 2000s.

The first İstanbul Festival, an initiative by the Eczacıbaşı family later known as the İstanbul Music Festival, took place in June and July. Some renowned American artists and orchestras performing at the festival through the years were the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin, Kathleen Battle, Hillary Hahn, the Martha Graham Dance Company, and the American Ballet Theatre.

1974 RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company launched its “Meet The Turk” advertisement campaign for Camel cigarettes. The ad showed a white male with a mustache smoking a Camel in a mixed group. The ad read “He does more than survive. He lives. Because he knows. He smokes for pleasure. He gets it from the blend of Turkish and Domestic tobaccos in Camel Filters. Do you?” RJ Reynolds eventually stopped the “Meet The Turk” advertisement because of pressure from anti-Turkish groups.

On October 30, Muhammad Ali defeated world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman in Zaire in the legendary “Rumble in the Jungle.” Prior to the fight, Ali posed with the Turkish flag during an interview with the Turkish newspaper Hürriyet. After his victory, Ali remarked that the Turkish flag had brought him good luck and expressed his desire to visit Türkiye. Hürriyet also reported that Ali conveyed to his Turkish fans he “admired” Türkiye’s victories in Cyprus. According to Perin E. Gürel, Ali’s popularity in Türkiye symbolized a broader stand against U.S. imperialism. Turkish folk singers celebrated him “as powerful as a Turk” and “as brave as a Turk,” forging a connection between the Black American sports icon and the Turkish nation through what Gürel describes as “a vision of righteous violence.”¹⁰¹

1975 Stephen Joshua Solarz was sworn in as a Democrat congressman from New York’s 13th congressional district on January 3. He later proclaimed that in Congress he sought represent the interests of Turkish people as well as his New York constituents. Congressman Solarz served in Congress until January 3, 1993.

Thirteen members of TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association) met with President Gerald Ford at the White House on September 12 to discuss the Administration’s efforts to end the congressional embargo on U.S. military aid to Türkiye. The TUSIAD delegation was the first time a business group traveled to the United States for lobbying purposes.

1976 On May 30, Muhammad Ali, in talking with the Turkish Press, expressed support to Türkiye's position on Cyprus and criticized the U.S. Congress for being misled by "a handful of Greeks" and should listen to the voice of more than 40 million Black Americans who Ali believed to be the natural allies to a Muslim Türkiye. ¹⁰²

After defending his title against Ken Norton on September 28 at Yankee Stadium in New York, world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali visited Türkiye in October. During his visit, Ali met with Turkish leaders and once again publicly declared his support for Türkiye's position on Cyprus. ¹⁰³

Muhammad Ali announced his retirement from boxing at the Istanbul Hilton Hotel. ¹⁰⁴

Sel Erder Yackley is believed to be the first Turkish American elected to public office when she was elected to the Elementary School Board in Ottawa, Illinois, serving from 1976 until 1987. Later she was elected to the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Directors, in a seven-county race, serving from 1987-1997. She is also noted as a published author, businesswoman, and an award-winning journalist having worked for United Press International and the Chicago Tribune.

1977 On October 4, 1977, a group calling itself the "Armenian Group 28" claimed responsibility for bombing the home of Stanford Jay and Ezel Kural Shaw at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The group was protesting the Shaws' position on Ottoman history, which is reflected in their book *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey: Volume 2, Reform, Revolution, and Republic: The Rise of Modern Turkey 1808–1975*.

The 1977–1978 season marked an important phase in the evolution of the Turkish Basketball League, as clubs began more actively recruiting American players. Although a small number of Americans had played in Türkiye previously, this season saw the debut of Billy Lewis, who played for Efes Pilsen. Lewis became a mainstay for Efes Pilsen and later for Çukurova Sanayi. As a result of his success and that of other early imports, Turkish clubs increasingly turned to players from the United States—many of whom had narrowly missed making National Basketball Association (NBA) rosters. Unfortunately, detailed records for many of these early American players have not been preserved. The arrival of American players during this period helped introduce a more physical and fast-paced style of play to Turkish basketball, including the fast break and aggressive man-to-man defense, which were less common in the domestic game at the time. This American influence contributed to the modernization of the league and played a significant role in its steady rise in quality and international competitiveness in the decades that followed.

- 1978 The notorious Hollywood movie *Midnight Express* was released on October 6. The film was based on the memoir of Billy Hayes, who spent time in a Turkish prison attempting to smuggle hashish out of Türkiye. The script deviated a great deal from Hayes's book and portrayed Türkiye in an unflattering way. The film received favorable reviews from critics, but it took years for Türkiye to bounce back from the negative publicity created by the movie. The film won two academy awards and was nominated for Best Picture and Best Director at the 51st Academy Awards in 1979; six Golden Globes, including Best Motion Picture—Drama; and three BAFTA Awards (British Academy of Film and Television Arts). Director: Alan Parker. Writers: Oliver Stone, Billy Hayes, and William Hoffer. Cast: Brad Davis, Irene Miracle, and Bo Hopkins.
- 1979 The initiative to form a nationwide organization to speak on behalf of the Turkish American community was launched in November by a special steering committee composed of members of the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC (ATA-DC) and the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA). The organization became known as the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), headquartered in Washington, DC. ATAA's mandate was to coordinate corrections of distortions of history concerning Türkiye and to address harassment and discrimination against Turkish Americans. Members of the steering committee included ATA-DC President Yavuz Somen, who served as chairman, MATA President Alp Karahasan, Ülkü Ülgür, Yurdakul Göker, Taşkın Atıl, Cenap Kıratlı, and Sengun Nuri with advisory support from Erol Gürün, Aydın Çağınalp, Hasan Akdemir, Tuncer Kuzay, and Özcan Tuncel. ATAA has received financial support from business establishments and promotional funds in Türkiye.

1980s

- 1980 Ülkü Ülgür became the first president of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), a national umbrella organization that he co-founded in 1979, serving from 1980 to 1984. Previously, he had served as the president of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA). As a leading practitioner in child and adolescent psychiatry, Dr. Ülgür founded the Maryland Centers for Psychiatry and was a Distinguished Life Fellow with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). He also established the "Ülkü Ülgür, MD, International Scholar Award" with AACAP to honor international child and adolescent psychiatrists who have significantly enhanced mental health services for children and adolescents around the world.
- The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) held its first General Assembly in Washington, DC, May 17-18.

Erol Onaran (February 17, 1934 – October 25, 2005), the Video King, started Erol's Video Club 1980 to provide video rentals. By 1985, Erol's Video was a multi-million-dollar enterprise and the largest privately owned videocassette rental company in the United States. In 1990 he sold Erol's Video to Blockbuster Video. Onaran immigrated to the U.S. in 1960 with only \$16. He settled in Northern Virginia and set up an electronic sales and repair company in 1963. After selling Erol's Video to Blockbuster in 1990, he established Erol's Internet. He first sold and repaired computers and, by the mid-1990s, started offering internet services competing with industry giant AOL. He later sold his internet service.¹⁰⁵

Turkish superstar Ajda Pekkan resided in the United States after representing Türkiye at the 1980 Eurovision Song Contest. She returned to Türkiye to perform her successful "Superstar 83" show. In her youth, Pekkan, the daughter of a Turkish naval officer, lived at the Golcuk Naval Base in Türkiye with American families when the base was jointly used by the Turkish and U.S. navies.

In 1980, Bülent Başol launched his career in R&D (research and development), working on cutting-edge electronic technologies in Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. He first worked as the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) for Monosolar (a subsidiary of Monogram Industries). Afterward, he founded two high-tech companies. His first company was Solar Electric Technologies, which produced the first efficient and lightweight solar cells for space applications, resulting in receiving a NASA innovation award. He was also the founder of SoloPower, which invented a roll-to-roll manufacturing approach for thin film solar modules and tools for the most advanced node nano-devices. His activities through the years yielded over 170 issued patents. Başol has assumed leadership roles in Turkish-American organizations and has contributed generously to Turkish American causes.

Tunch Ali İlkin became the first Turkish-born player in the National Football League (NFL). He played offensive tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers, 1980-1992 and the Green Bay Packers in 1993. He was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and later became a television and radio for the Steelers.

General Kenan Evren on front cover of Time Magazine on September 29.

- 1981 The American writer and broadcaster Lowell Jackson Thomas, who covered and publicized T.E. Lawrence's (Lawrence of Arabia) exploits during World War I against the Ottomans, died on August 29. Thomas was born in Woodington, Ohio, on April 6, 1892. Thomas's admiration and promotion of T.E. Lawrence reinforced the "Terrible Turk" image spurred by American missionaries and the British in the United States.

In 1981, Robert Keith Gray (1921-2014), a Republican activist who was President Dwight D. Eisenhower's White House Secretary, deputy director of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in 1980, and co-chairman of Reagan's presidential inauguration, founded Gray and Company, a lobbying and public relations firm. Gray and Company popularized lobbying by disregarding tradition and notoriously being in the limelight. It became an influential and effective player on the Washington scene. The Turkish government retained Gray and Company to counter the powerful Greek lobby advocating a reduction in military assistance to Türkiye in Congress.¹⁰⁶

1982

The second American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) was incorporated in Virginia under Col. Ralph E. Ropp's leadership. The "second AFOT" was not associated with the "first AFOT" incorporated in New York in 1930.

- The two AFOTs, however, were supported by a group of Americans who had a similar mission—to help improve the image of Türkiye and the Turkish people in the United States. Further, both groups pursued programs to fulfill this mission and other goals before their incorporation.
- The "first AFOT," for example, focused on raising funds from American industrialists and philanthropists to support scholarships for Turkish students to study in the U.S. and educational and social welfare programs in Türkiye, such as the construction of dental clinics, libraries, day centers, playgrounds, prison reform, women and youth programs for the Turkish people.
- The "second AFOT" was founded in the aftermath of the U.S. arms embargo imposed on Türkiye because of Türkiye's Peace Operation in Cyprus in 1974. The idea for the "second AFOT" emerged at annual informal gatherings of Americans in the late 1970s in the Washington, DC metropolitan region who had experienced the February 1, 1974 earthquake in İzmir. Col. Ralph E. Ropp organized these "earthquake reunions," for those who had been stationed at NATO headquarters in İzmir at the time of the earthquake, to reminisce about their experiences and fond memories of Türkiye.
- In February 1980, Ambassador Şükrü Elekdağ invited the "second AFOT" to have their annual gathering at his residence.
- With the encouragement of Ambassador Elekdağ, AFOT organized a formal dinner in 1981 to honor an American who made a significant contribution to U.S.-Turkish relations. The 1981 banquet was with the participation of another group of Americans who had served in Türkiye, known as "Turkophiles." The "Turkophiles" met in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and were led by U.S. Navy Admiral Jack Williams. In 1982, AFOT expanded the program of its annual event to include a defense seminar, which later grew into a major conference on U.S.-Turkish relations. (The American Turkish Council later took over the conferences in the 1990s.)

- The AFOT banquets and conferences, which drew hundreds of guests, became a highlight in the Turkish American community. According to founder Colonel Ropp, “our efforts as Americans” were “to promote a better understanding in this country (U.S.) of Türkiye’s strategic importance to U.S. interests in the Middle East.” Source: AFOT Newsletter, Summer 1988 Edition. By the mid-1990s, these conferences had developed a premier role in conducting bilateral relations, drawing the participation of top government officials from both countries and business, academic, and non-governmental leaders.
- AFOT quickly became a role model for the small Turkish American community, providing a unique non-governmental platform to advocate for Türkiye's importance as a key American ally. AFOT also called for a balanced dialogue regarding foreign policy issues in the eastern Mediterranean region.
- Unlike the “first AFOT,” which received funding only from American sources, the “second AFOT” not only received funding from American companies, particularly the defense contractors initially as they sought contracts in Türkiye’s emerging defense industry, but also obtained seed money from Turkish companies such as the Koç Group, GAMA, and ESKA. Turkish American philanthropists also contributed when AFOT expanded its activities. The expansion of AFOT’s programs beyond its banquet and conference included lecture series and other educational programs about Türkiye’s rich culture and history, academic exchanges, travel to Türkiye with experts in Türkiye’s archeology, history, carpets, arts, and cuisine. Programs were sponsored in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Institute for Turkish Studies, The Atlantic Council, The American Research Institute of Turkey, and a wide number of American universities and colleges across the country.
- Succeeding Colonel Ralph E. Ropp as chairman/president of AFOT were Maj Gen Fred E. Haynes, Ambassador Mark Robert Parris, Ambassador W. Robert Pearson, Ambassador Alan W. Lukens, Ambassador Ross Wilson, and Nina Solarz (spouse of Congressman Stephen J. Solarz of New York). Daniel O. Newberry, Louis E. Kahn, G. Lincoln McCurdy and Elizabeth W. Shelton served as principal executive officers in various periods. All AFOT officers except for Nina Solarz had at one time served as American diplomats or US military stationed in Türkiye. Nina and Stephen Solarz, however, had a summer home on Türkiye’s Mediterranean Coast.
- Numerous Americans involved with Türkiye, either through diplomatic and military service or in the private sector, supported AFOT’s mission and activities. At first, only Americans served on the AFOT Board. As the organization grew and expanded, Turkish Americans and Turkish nationals joined the board.

- In the "first AFOT," Admiral Mark L. Bristol, after retiring, assumed the chairmanship of the organization. The "second AFOT" also attracted retired senior military and diplomatic officials. Some of the senior military and diplomatic officials serving on the AFOT Board after their retirement were
 - GEN William A. Knowlton (USA), former Commander, Allied Land Forces Southeast Europe.
 - ADM Jack Williams (USN), He spent two years in Türkiye working with the U.S. AID program to the Turkish Navy.
 - Lt Gen Howard M. Fish (USAF).
 - Maj Gen Elmer D. Pendleton (USA), former Chief of JUSMMAT.*
 - Maj Gen William E. Potts (USA), former Chief of JUSMMAT.*
 - Maj Gen Fred E. Haynes (USMC), the Assistant Naval Attache for Air at the American Embassy in Ankara during the 1960 coup, serving as the principal contact between the embassy and the Turkish military.
 - Ambassador Mark Robert Parris, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye (1997-2000).
 - Ambassador W. Robert Pearson, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye (2000-2003).
 - Ambassador Alan W. Lukens, He served in Türkiye as a young diplomat.
 - Ambassador Ross Wilson, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye (2005-2008)
 - Daniel O. Newberry, former U.S. Consul General in İstanbul.
 - William E. Rau, former U.S. Consul General in İstanbul.
 - Sharon A. Wiener, former U.S. Consul General in İstanbul.
 - Elizabeth W. Shelton, former U.S. Consul in Adana.
 - Philip H. Stoddard, former Deputy Assistant of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research.
- * JUSMMAT – Joint U.S. Military Mission for Aid to Turkey.

The Institute of Turkish Studies (ITS) was established with a \$3 million grant from the Turkish government to support Turkish studies in American higher education. The institute was housed at Georgetown University, and Heath W. Lowry was the first executive director before accepting the Atatürk Chair of Turkish Studies position at Princeton University in 1993. ITS ceased to operate in 2016 after the expiration of the trust which funded it.

In 1982, the American Turkish Society of New York (ATS), under the leadership of its president Tarhan A. Danışman (1937-2002), sponsored its first American Turkish Business Conference in İstanbul. The conference highlighted the new

interest American companies showed in trade and investment opportunities in Türkiye after political stability was restored from the chaotic 1970s.

The first English restaurant guide in İstanbul was published by the İstanbul chapter of the U.S. Propeller Club in 1982.

- 1983 Atlantic Records Founder and Chairman Ahmet Ertegun established the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation on April 20. The Hall of Fame's permanent home is the museum known as Rock Hall in Cleveland, Ohio. It was dedicated on September 1, 1995, and documents the artists, producers, engineers, and other notable figures who influenced the development of rock music. Ertegun was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987, and the main exhibition hall of the museum was named after him.¹⁰⁷

Turgut Özal, after resigning as the Deputy Prime Minister, agreed to speak at the U.S. Propeller Club in Istanbul in spring of 1983. Prior to his speaking engagement, Özal announced that he founded a new political party, Anavatan Partisi (ANAP) / Motherland Party, that would participate in the November 1983 parliamentary elections. He still honored his speaking engagement, and his first speech after declaring his candidacy was at the U.S. Propeller Club. The Propeller Club's attendance at the Istanbul Sheraton Hotel was the largest ever with over 300 attendees. (Özal's party won a majority in the November election, and he became prime minister.)

- 1984 The first Turkish American parade in New York, sponsored by the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) under the leadership of FTAA's president, Ata Erim, took place on April 21, on 5th Avenue from 60th Street to 47th Street and then proceeded to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza.

Supporters of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) formed the first Turkish American political action committee, the Political Action Committee of the Assembly (PAC-ATAA). Taskin Atil was its first treasurer. (The PAC, however, was a separate organization, adhering to federal regulations.)

- 1985 Yalçın Ayaslı founded the Massachusetts-based Hittite Microwave Corporation, an industry leader in designing and developing high-performance integrated circuits (ICs), modules, subsystems, and instrumentation products for wireless and telecommunication markets. Hittite's products were instrumental in the success of NASA's Mars exploration program and lunar projects. Analog Devices purchased Hittite in 2014. Ayaslı holds 15 patents and was co-recipient of the 1986 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Microwave Prize for his work on very wide-band monolithic traveling wave amplifiers. He and his spouse, Serpil, have been role models in the Turkish American community with their generous financial contributions to Turkish American causes and the promoting of U.S.-

Türkiye bilateral relations. The Ayaslıs co-founded the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) in 2000; in 2007, Yalçın Ayaslı founded the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). They also funded the establishment of the Ayaslı Research Center through the Turkish Cultural Foundation at their alma mater, the Middle East Technical University (METU) Engineering Department in Ankara.

Ergün Kırlikovalı founded Integrated Polymer Industries (IPI), Inc., a leading developer and manufacturer of advanced materials and engineered components for the U.S. military and the private sector. IPI, located in Irvine, CA, is the exclusive supplier for the U.S. Air Force of advanced material for the B-2 bomber and for radar absorbing material (RAM), enabling the F-35 jet fighter to be invisible from enemy radar. Kırlikovalı's company has also developed two advanced products for the U.S. Navy: material for underwater damage repairs on ships and repairing FOD (foreign object damage) screens that protect ship turbines from accidental damage by foreign objects. All four products are held as trade secrets by IPI. Kırlikovalı has been a prominent leader in the Turkish American community and a generous financial supporter.

Jeffrey Steiner (1937- 2008), born in Vienna, Austria, to a Jewish father and Turkish mother, became the chief executive officer of the Fairchild Corporation, then a major aerospace company. Steiner was raised in İstanbul after his family fled to Türkiye when Nazi Germany invaded Austria in 1938. As a corporate executive, he supported the activities of Turkish and Turkish American organizations and became a Turkish citizen in the 1980s upon the suggestion of Prime Minister Turgut Özal.

G. Lincoln McCurdy, author of this Chronicle, accomplished his goal of visiting all of Türkiye's 67 provinces when he entered the province of Tunceli at 8:50 am on June 20, 1985. He celebrated his achievement with a champagne toast alongside his fellow travelers Terry Grant of the U.S. Consulate in İstanbul, Nilgün Tuzluoğulları of the Bank of Boston İstanbul's Branch, and Ömer Tas, their driver from Erzurum.

- Note: After 1985, the Turkish government created 14 new provinces from larger provinces, bringing the total number of provinces in Türkiye to 81.

1986

In 1986, Frank Ahmed published *Turks in America: The Ottoman Turk's Immigrant Experience*, a history of early Turkish immigrants in the United States that documents his experiences growing up as a Turkish American in Massachusetts. He was a founding member of the American and Turkish Veterans Association.

On October 28, U.S. and French leaders commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, created by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. The centennial marked the statue's original dedication on October 28, 1886, when it

was formally presented by France to the United States and unveiled in New York Harbor. The origins of the Statue of Liberty can be traced to Bartholdi's unrealized proposal in the early 1860s for a monumental lighthouse at the Mediterranean entrance to the Suez Canal, which opened in 1869. The design featured a robed female figure holding a torch, intended to symbolize "Asia's light coming from Egypt."

- At the time, Egypt was legally part of the Ottoman Empire, governed by Khedive Ismail as an Ottoman viceroy under Sultan Abdülaziz (reign: 1861–1876). Bartholdi's Suez Canal proposal reflected broader Ottoman imperial ambitions to project modernity and global relevance. Ultimately, financial constraints—along with concerns that such a monumental statue might provoke controversy among Egypt's predominantly Muslim population—led to the project's abandonment.
- When Bartholdi later began working on a monumental statue as a gift from France to the United States celebrating American liberty, he reimagined the torch-bearing female peasant figure from the Suez project as a classical Greco-Roman female figure, better suited to an American republican context.

1987 *The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent*, a groundbreaking exhibition of Islamic art, opened at the National Gallery of Art (East Wing) in Washington, DC, on January 25. This exhibition, sponsored by the Philip Morris Companies Inc. and attracting attendance of 293,709 in attendance, was the first of several Ottoman exhibitions in cooperation with the Turkish government held in the United States. Following Washington, the exhibition traveled to Chicago and New York. The exhibition featured Ottoman decorative arts during the reign of Sultan Süleyman I (1520-1566), including 130 objects from the Topkapı Palace Museum. Turkish American Esin Atıl, curator of Near Eastern Art at the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art, was the guest curator. Atıl also wrote the exhibition's catalog and brochure. Zeki Fındıkloğlu, a Turkish American visual artist, created the cover design of the publication

International award-winning Turkish American composer and pianist Fahir Atakoğlu began his career in music in 1987, working for top worldwide advertising agencies. His work in creating music for commercials, news segments, and documentaries evolved into compositions in the fields of large symphonic works, film music, and jazz. He has also composed music for noted Turkish and international musicians. Atakoglu has recorded ten albums, with over two million copies sold in 20 countries.

A historic private train trip to eastern Anatolia, the first of its kind for touristic purposes in Türkiye, was conceived and organized by G. Lincoln McCurdy, author of this Chronicle, for the American Research Institute of Türkiye (ARIT) from May 28 to June 1, 1987. Dubbed the "The Malazgirt Express," the nostalgic

rail tour of eastern Anatolia consisted of a steam locomotive and six wagons leased from the Turkish Railroad Agency. Over 100 people participated in the tour, which Turkish Radio & Television (TRT) televised in a special program. The rail trip started from Kayseri and ended in Kars, partially following the ancient Roman-Byzantine military road along the upper Euphrates River. From Kars, the ARIT group traveled by bus to popular destinations in eastern Türkiye. One of the stops was Malazgirt, the site of a significant medieval battle in which the Selçuks defeated the Byzantines in 1071. This battle marked the beginning of the end of the Byzantine Empire and opened the gateway for the creation of Turkish states in Anatolia. The Turkish Third Army hosted a reception on the historic battlefield for the group. “The Malazgirt Express” was the forerunner of the Doğu Express (Eastern Express), a popular, luxurious train service from Ankara to Kars that was later initiated by the Turkish Railroad Agency.

The Turkish company Kiska established a subsidiary in New York City, becoming the first Turkish construction firm to set up a subsidiary in the U.S.

1988 Turkish Airlines started flying to New York, New York via Brussels, Belgium.

President Kenan Evren traveled to the United States on a state visit from June 26 to July 3. He was the third Turkish president to visit officially after Celâl Bayar (1954) and Cevdet Sunay (1967). President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan hosted a state dinner for him at the White House on June 27.

- President Evren was also hosted to luncheons by U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, and Chase Manhattan Corporation Chairman David Rockefeller.
- The president held private meetings with National Security Advisor Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, U.S. Secretary of Treasury James Baker, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.
- President Evren spoke at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), National Press Club, and Council on Foreign Relations.
- The president participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery and visited Mount Vernon, home of the first U.S. President George Washington.
- As a widower, he was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Şenay Gürvit.
- Evren had traveled previously to the U.S. in an official capacity when he was the Chief of the Turkish General Staff.

The American Friends of Turkey (AFOT), Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S.-Turkish Business Council hosted a dinner at the Washington Hilton on June 29 to honor President Kenan Evren during his state visit to the United States. In

New York City, the American Turkish Society cohosted an evening reception on June 30 for President Kenan Evren with the Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. and the Turkish Permanent Representative at the U.N.

Prominent Turkish statesman Kasım Gülek attended a gala welcoming dinner in Ankara in September for an American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) delegation led by Colonel Ralph E. Ropp, founder of the second AFOT. Gülek had attended a dinner organized by the first AFOT in 1933 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Turkish Republic when he was a PhD candidate in Economics at Columbia University. Gülek was born in Adana in 1905 and died in Washington, DC, on January 19, 1996. He returned to Türkiye after his post-doctorate studies at Cambridge and Berlin University as a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation upon the request of President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Throughout his tenure in parliament, he held various ministerial positions, including Minister of Public Works, Minister of Communications, Transport Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister. He also served as Secretary General of the Republican People's Party (CHP) from 1950 until 1959.¹⁰⁸

The American Academy of Achievement which recognizes high achievers in public service, business, science and exploration, sports, and the arts since 1961 presented its Golden Plate Award to Atlantic Records Founder and Chairman Ahmet Ertegun.¹⁰⁹

1989 Mehmet Ali Ağaçcıoğlu became the first Turkish Exchange Cadet to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Following Ağaçcıoğlu, the next four Turkish Exchange were Derya İdemem (1990), Uğur Ziya Yıldırım (1991), Cem Hacıoğlu (1992), and Metin Oktay (1993). The exchange program continued until the early 2000s.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 27th congressional district of Florida on January 3. She served in Congress until 2019. Representative Ros-Lehtinen's grandparents were born in Thrace during the Ottoman Empire. She still has relatives living in Türkiye. A member of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans, she served as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye George C. McGhee (1912-2005) and his wife Cecilia McGhee donated their Ottoman-era villa in the historic Alanya district, which they had named "Turkish Delight," to Georgetown University. McGhee served as the U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye from January 15, 1952, to June 19, 1953. The villa became the principal facility of the McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, including studies of Turkish history, culture, and

language. Although Georgetown University operated the center, it became affiliated with Koç University. The McGhee Center was closed in 2016.

The American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) and the Turkish American Business Association of İzmir (TABA) sponsored the first private formal dinner at the Celsius Library in the ancient ruins of Ephesus in late summer during an AFOT delegation visit to Türkiye. The event marked the beginning of the Turkish government's lease of historical sites for private functions, thereby creating an additional revenue base and providing other opportunities for people to enjoy the splendors of Türkiye's treasured monuments.

In 1989, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) launched its biweekly newspaper, *The Turkish Times*, to serve the Turkish American community. ATAA's Executive Director Harun Kazaz initiated the paper with Uğur Akıncı as Editor-in-Chief. *The Turkish Times*' circulation was an average of 2000, covering Turkish American activities, highlights of the U.S.-Türkiye bilateral relationship, and featured stories. ATAA ceased printing *The Turkish Times* in 1993, and another Turkish American group in New England then used the name for its publication. On the West Coast, an initiative was also taken in Long Beach in 2005 to establish a *California Turkish Times*.

1990s

1990

In the 1990s, Turkish restaurateur and hotelier Sahir Erozan owned one of the most popular restaurants, *Cities*, in Washington, DC's Adams Morgan neighborhood. *Cities* attracted politicians and congressional staff. Erozan later expanded the exquisite Maçakızı hotel, founded by his mother, in the fashionable Bodrum neighborhood of Türkbükü.

Turkish American music producer Arif Mardin was inducted into the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. He had worked with the Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegün at Atlantic Records and EMI Manhattan Records. In his illustrious career of more than 40 years, Mardin worked with many of the top stars in the music industry. He produced over 40 golden and platinum albums, received 15 Grammy nominations, and won 12 Grammy Awards. As a Turkish student in the U.S., he graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston in 1961. Mardin was the first recipient of the Quincy Jones Scholarship at Berklee.

Kaya Tuncer, a Turkish American entrepreneur, philanthropist, and engineer, opened the Aegean Free Trade Zone (AFZ) in İzmir, the first export-processing zone in Türkiye established and operated by a private company. He also founded Space Camp Turkey, which brought together young people from around the world. He would later go on to found the Global Friendship Through Space Education, which promotes friendship among international youth through the

study of space-related science and technology. Tuncer received in 2004 the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

The celebrated and brilliant African American jazz composer and bandleader Sun Ra (May 22, 1914 – May 30, 1993) and his band Arkestra of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, performed in the April 15 parade on İstiklal Caddesi in İstanbul. Sun Ra, born Herman Poole Blount in Alabama, was known both for his experimental music and as a pioneer of Afrofuturism. He took the name of Ra, the Egyptian god of the Sun and developed a mythical persona claiming to be on a peace mission from the planet of Saturn. His band Arkestra became the Sun Ra Arkestra after his death in 1993. The Sun Ra Arkestra, on its world tour celebrating Sun Ra's centennial in 2014, included a stop in İstanbul, performing at Babylon, a popular music venue in Beyoğlu.¹¹⁰

1991 U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle addressed the American Friends of Turkey Annual Conference, "The 1990's: U.S.-Turkish Relations in a Changing World," February 21-23, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. Türkiye's Foreign Minister Ahmet Alptemoçin also spoke at the conference.

Attila Karaosmanoğlu (1932-2013), an economist, served as the managing director (MDS/Multi-Donor Secretariat) at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., from 1991 to 1994. Previously at the World Bank, he held several positions, including vice president of the Asia region, vice president for the East Asia and Pacific region, and chief economist for the Europe, Middle East, and North Africa region. He served as Türkiye's Deputy Prime Minister under Prime Minister Nihat Erim from 1971 to 1972. Earlier in his career, he was a founder and manager of Türkiye's State Planning Organization.¹¹¹

Atlantic Records Co-Founder and Chairman Ahmet Ertegun received an honorary doctorate in music from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and in 1993 he received the Grammy Trustees Award for his significant contribution to the field of recording from The Recording Academy.

In 1991, American photographer Laurence Salzmann and his wife, Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmann, published a book titled *Anyos Munchos i Buenos* (Many Years and Good Years). The book features Salzmann's photographs of İstanbul's Sephardic Jewish community, which he documented during his time living in the city from 1981 to 1983. Additionally, the book includes texts in Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) and oral histories. It was released just before the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain and their subsequent welcome into the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Bayezid II.

1992 The American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC) and Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board/Dış Ekonomik İlişkiler Kurulu (DEİK) sponsored the

first U.S.-Turkish trade and investment mission to the Turkic States in Central Asia and the Caucasus after the collapse of the Soviet Union, May 27 to June 4.

- The joint mission visited the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus.
- Both the U.S. and Turkish governments endorsed the mission. Statements of endorsement came from Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, Turkish Minister of State Tansu Çiller, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Barbara Hackman Franklin, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger.
- U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (WY) addressed the mission participants at an event before departing İstanbul.
- The historic mission included some 50 Turkish and 30 American business representatives from leading firms in the United States and Türkiye.
- The mission was led by ATC President Fred Haynes and DEİK's Chairman of its Turkish-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States/the former Soviet Union) Business Council, Nihat Gökyiğit, and organized by DEİK's Deputy General Secretary, Cigdem Tüzün, and ATC's Executive Director, G. Lincoln McCurdy.
- Fred Haynes and Nihat Gökyiğit also met privately with the presidents of the countries visited.

1993

The U.S. delegation attending President Turgut Özal's funeral on April 20, who passed away on April 17, included:

- James Baker III, former U.S. Secretary of State, Chair of the Delegation, and Mrs. Baker
- Morton Abramowitz, President of the Carnegie Foundation and former U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye
- Clifton Wharton, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, and Mrs. Wharton
- Ahmet Ertegun, Atlantic Records Co-Founder
- Fred E. Haynes, President of the American Turkish (Friendship) Council

The American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC) and Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), following the success of their Central Asian and Caucasus mission in the previous year, organized a joint U.S.-Turkish Black Sea Trade Mission, July 3-10.

- The mission participants' unique journey, traveled by air from İstanbul to Kyiv and Odesa in Ukraine and then by ship from Odesa to Yalta in Crimea, Sochi in Russia, and finally to Trabzon in Türkiye. The mission was led by ATC President Fred Haynes and DEİK's Chairman of its Turkish-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States/the former Soviet Union) Business Council, Nihat Gökyiğit, and organized by DEİK's Deputy General Secretary, Çigdem Tüzün, and ATC's Executive Director, G. Lincoln McCurdy.

- Fred Haynes and Nihat Gökyiğit also met privately with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Kyiv.
- Turkish President Süleyman Demirel said, “I must compliment ATFC (ATC) and DEİK for organizing a second Turkish-U.S. trade mission this year to Ukraine and Russia. . .The Turkish Government is grateful for your efforts in the promotion of greater Turkish-U.S. cooperation in trade and investment.”
- U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown also praised the mission, “I am delighted to hear that 21 American firms participated in the recently concluded U.S.-Turkish trade mission. . .I am enthusiastic about the success of this mission. It provided a unique opportunity to explore with Turkish firms the largely untapped business potential of the Black Sea region.”

A Turkish American collaboration promoted the ancient treasures of Türkiye by hosting a dinner dubbed “Dinner Under the Stars” at the ruins of Gordion near Ankara on July 10. Gordion was the Phrygian capital of the fabled King Midas, where Alexander the Great cut the Gordion Knot. Organizations sponsoring the dinner were the American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC), Türkiye’s Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), the Turkish-American Association of Ankara, the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and Degere Enterprises.

Heath W. Lowry became the first Atatürk Professor of Ottoman & Modern Turkish Studies at Princeton University, partially endowed by the Turkish government. The endowment to Princeton was the first of several Turkish government grants to American universities for Turkish and Ottoman studies.

- Other universities receiving Turkish government endowments were the University of Chicago with the Süleyman Kanuni Chair, Harvard University, Indiana University, and Portland State University (Oregon).
- The University of Washington received an endowment from the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA) in the early 2000's to help fund the university's Turkish Studies. This endowment was the first-ever community-based cultural studies program at the University of Washington.
- Prominent Turkish and Turkish American families expressed their continued support for higher education. For example, the Koç and Sabancı families made significant contributions to Turkish studies at Harvard (Vehbi Koç Chair) and Columbia University (Sakıp Sabancı Chair and Center for Turkish Studies). Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Erteğün funded Turkish studies at Princeton and Georgetown Universities. Yalçın and Serpil Ayaslı funded an Ottoman and Turkish Studies professorship at the University of Chicago and a program at the University of Utah through the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

- UCLA was also to have received an endowment from the Turkish government, but the university declined the offer due to pressure from the Armenian American community.

American Pop super star Michael Jackson performed at the İstanbul İnönü Stadium on September 23.

American Queen of Pop Madonna (Madonna Louise Ciccone) held her first concert in İstanbul. She later performed in 2012 at the Turk Telecom Arena as part of her world tour.

1994

In 1994, the business couple Fatih and Eren Özmen acquired Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) in Sparks, Nevada, with Eren serving as Chairwoman and President and Fatih as CEO. They grew Sierra Nevada into a multi-billion-dollar aerospace company. SNC would later be involved in developing the Dream Chaser spaceplane for commuting to NASA's International Space Station. Fatih is a National Space Council Users Advisory Group member, established in 2018 under Vice President Mike Pence.¹¹²

- The Özmen's would be listed in *Turk of America Magazine's* "The 50 Most Influential Turkish Americans" in 2014. Fatih would also receive the Ellis Island Honors Society (EIHS) Award in 2014 Award. Eren would be listed in *Turk of America Magazine's* "The 30 Most Influential Turkish American Women" in 2016 and in *Forbes's* "American Self-Made Women 2020."

On June 1, the American Turkish Friendship Council (ATFC) and the U.S.-Turkish Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC, became one organization as the American Turkish Council (ATC), with the Business Council leaving the Chamber. Subsequently, ATC became the counterpart of the Türkiye -U.S. Business Council of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK-TAİK), based in İstanbul.

- ATC's leadership included Austin List of Golding Industries, Chairman; Fred Haynes, President; George H. Perlman of Martin Marietta International, Vice President; Ronald M. Singer of General Electric, Treasurer; Charles R. Johnston, Jr., Secretary & General Counsel; and G. Lincoln McCurdy, Executive Director. Daniel O. Newberry served as the Chairman of the Advisory Board.
- DEİK-TAİK leadership included Feyyaz Berker of Tekfen, DEİK's Chairman; Çelik Kurdoğlu, DEİK's General Secretary; Çiğdem Tüzün, DEİK's Deputy General Secretary; Mustafa Koç of Koç Holding, TAİK Chairman; and Erkut Yücaoğlu of General Electric Türkiye, TAİK Vice Chairman.
- After the merger, ATC was led by a distinguished group of individuals who had previously served in the U.S. government and industry. The leadership team included Austin List, Chairman of Golding Industries;

Major General Fred Haynes (USMC), a veteran of the Iwo Jima campaign in World War II; Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum from Kansas; National Security Council Advisor Lieutenant General (USAF) Brent Scowcroft; Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage; and General James L. Jones (USMC), who served as both SACEUR Commander and National Security Advisor.

- It is interesting to note that in 2013, a second U.S.-Türkiye Business Council was formed under the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC. In 2019, ATC merged with the Chamber's Council.

Cano Aret Özgener (1937-2018), an Armenian-Turk engineer and businessman from İstanbul, and his family founded the world-renowned company CAO Cigars in Nashville, Tennessee. The cigars were famous for their diversity of tastes and blends and were distributed in over 100 countries. Özgener had previously worked for Dupont. At 70, he became a prolific artist, producing nearly 500 paintings and dozens of sculptures. In 2012, he and his son, Murat (Tim), founded OZ Arts, Nashville's Nonprofit Contemporary Art & Performance Center.¹¹³

Turkish Airlines launched nonstop flights between İstanbul and New York in July.

1995 Mehmet Toner, a distinguished Turkish American biomedical engineer, co-founded the Center for Engineering in Medicine (CEM) at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and founded the Biomedical Engineering Research and Education Program at MGH in 1995. Through the years, he has received recognition for his work and research from numerous institutions, including awards from the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, the National Academy of Inventors, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Medicine. In addition to being on the faculty of MGH, Dr. Toner was appointed as a Professor of Health Sciences and Technology for the Harvard-MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Program in Health Sciences and Technology.¹¹⁴

Dan Morhaim assumed his responsibilities as a member of Maryland's House of Delegates on January 11 representing the state's 11th district (Baltimore County). He served until 2019. His grandfather was born in Lüleburgaz.

American medical student Aron Sobel was killed on May 3 in a bus accident on the Bodrum–İzmir highway while traveling in Türkiye. The crash involved multiple fatalities and later led his family to establish the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT) in his memory, promoting road safety for travelers worldwide.

The President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, H.E. Hüsamettin Cindoruk, hosted a reception honoring the Turkish American Council (ATC) at the Dolmabahçe Palace in İstanbul on September 23. Special guests include Congressman Alcee Hastings of Florida and the eminent retired television news anchor Walter Cronkite.

1996 On March 8, the Honorable Newt Gingrich became the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to address a Turkish American function. Speaker Gingrich was a keynote speaker at the Ralph E. Ropp's Founder Banquet of the Annual Conference of the American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC), American Friends of Turkey (AFOT), and the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK-TAİK) in Washington, DC.

Turkish President Süleyman Demirel, who was on a working visit to Washington, DC, on the occasion of the signing of the U.S.-Türkiye Bilateral Tax Treaty and the Customs Agreement, was honored at a luncheon on March 28 hosted by the American Turkish Council (ATC), the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK-TAİK), the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU).

Acclaimed Turkish American scientist Arsev Eraslan served as the Chief Scientist for NASA's National Technology Center from 1996 to 2001. The center transferred available NASA scientific/engineering research results, know-how, and software to U.S. companies for commercial purposes. Dr. Eraslan also directed a research program for the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, and Office of Science and Technology that developed a revolutionary three-dimensional Integrated Law Enforcement Face Identification System based on NASA technology.

John F. Kennedy, Jr. (son of President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier) and Carolyn Bessette, after their wedding on the secluded Cumberland Island off the coast of Georgia on September 21, honeymooned at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel in İstanbul.¹¹⁵

1997 Kadir Taşkın, an immigrant from Eskisehir, founded Taşkın Bakery, a family-owned and operated business, in Paterson, New Jersey. It is the first Turkish bakery in the United States, and it transformed "Turkish Pide" into a brand name.

In the spring of 1997, the American Turkish Council (ATC), with the co-sponsorship of the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council (TAİK/DEİK) of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), became the first American nonprofit organization to sponsor congressional staff delegation visits to Türkiye aimed at

strengthening U.S.-Türkiye relations. In subsequent years, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) expanded these efforts by organizing visits for congressional staff, Members of Congress, state elected officials, and cultural and educational delegations. Organizations affiliated with the Fethullah Gülen movement also sponsored congressional, state, and municipal delegations to Türkiye.

The Turkish-owned company Kiska Construction built and owned the first Turkish hotel in the U.S., the Marmara Manhattan (an apartment hotel) in New York City. Oğuz Gürsel was the CEO at the time.

Turkish American engineer Ayhan Hakimoğlu (1927-2007) retired from Aydın Corporation, a multimillion-dollar communications company he founded in 1967 in Horsham, Pennsylvania. Aydın Corporation manufactured radar and telecommunications equipment for the defense industry. Hakimoğlu and his first wife, Meral Cumaoğlu, immigrated to the United States in 1955 with only \$50.00. He was supportive of Turkish American organizations and their activities.¹¹⁵

In the spring of 1997, the American Turkish Council (ATC), with the co-sponsorship of the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council (TAİK/DEİK) of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), became the first American nonprofit organization to sponsor congressional staff delegation visits to Türkiye aimed at strengthening U.S.-Türkiye relations. In subsequent years, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) expanded these efforts by organizing visits for congressional staff, Members of Congress, state elected officials, and cultural and educational delegations. Organizations affiliated with the Fethullah Gülen movement also sponsored congressional, state, and municipal delegations to Türkiye.

1998 The Direct-From-Home Network (DFH), founded by Alinur Velidedeoğlu in Laguna Hills, California, in 1998, was the first platform in the United States featuring Turkish television and radio broadcasts.

- Velidedeoğlu also produced three American movies: *Black & White* (1999 / associate producer), *Harvard Man* (2001 / associate producer), and *The Ottoman Lieutenant* (2017 / producer).

The American Turkish Council (ATC) and the American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) launched a cultural initiative aimed at promoting the İstanbul International Music Festival in the United States. This initiative was facilitated through WETA, Washington, DC's classical public radio station. The program included sponsoring the broadcast of recordings from the festival to 200 National Public Radio stations across the country.

1999 The American Turkish Council (ATC) hosted a breakfast meeting with U.S. company CEOs honoring Turkish President Süleyman Demirel on April 27 in

Washington, DC. U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary William Daley also attended.

Mirsad Türkcan, born in Serbia, became the first Turkish citizen to play in the NBA. As a power forward, he debuted with the New York Knicks and later briefly played for the Milwaukee Bucks.

The World is Not Enough is the nineteenth in the James Bond movie series, starring Pierce Brosnan as James Bond. Produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the U.S. and Eon Productions in the U.K., the movie has two scenes filmed in İstanbul, including the Bosphorus and the famous Maiden's Tower. It was directed by Michael Apted, and one of the three screenwriters was Bruce Feirstein. The movie was distributed by the American companies MGM Distribution Co. and United International Pictures.

The Türkiye-U.S. Business Council of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK-TAİK) and the American Turkish Council (ATC) hosted a luncheon honoring U.S. President William J. Clinton and Turkish President Süleyman Demirel at the Yıldız Parkı Şale Köşk on November 16. TAIK Chairman Mustafa Koç and ATC Chairwoman, Hon. Nancy Kassebaum (former U.S. Senator from Kansas) hosted the event. Over 189 businesspeople attended.

After the devastating earthquake that struck Kocaeli Province in Türkiye on August 17, 1999, the Virginia Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, known as Virginia Task Force 1 (VATF-1) and based in Fairfax County, played a crucial role in the search and rescue efforts. The 72-member team, accompanied by four search canines, arrived in Türkiye on August 21 and engaged in 24-hour search and rescue operations in collaboration with teams from 20 other countries.

2000s

2000 – 2010 The number of Turkish students studying at American universities and colleges was 10,000 or more per year throughout this decade, higher than any other European country.

2000 Turkish Ambassador Baki İlkin hosted a dinner honoring the distinguished Maestro Leonard Slatkin, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra, with the support of the American Turkish Council prior to his departure to Türkiye to conduct the London-based Philharmonia Orchestra and Philharmonia Chorus at the 28th International İstanbul Music Festival in 2000.

Hidayet "Hedo" Türkoğlu debuted with the Sacramento Kings, becoming the first Turkish-born player in the NBA (National Basketball Association). He later played for the San Antonio Spurs, Orlando Magic, Toronto Raptors, Phoenix

Suns, and Los Angeles Clippers. He also played for the Turkish national team. After retiring from a 15-season NBA career, he became Chief Executive Officer of the Turkish Basketball Federation.

Famed record producer Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records, was honored by the United States Library of Congress as a “Living Legend.” The “Living Legend” honor was bestowed on artists, writers, activists, film makers, physicians, entertainers, sports figures, and public servants for their creative contributions to American life. The Library of Congress, however, retired the program in 2018. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences also honored Ertegun with the first “President’s Merit Award Salute to Industry Icons” in 2005. Ertegun was born in Istanbul on July 31, 1923, and died in New York City on December 14, 2006.¹¹⁶

Master goldsmith and jewelry designer Recep “Reggie” Akdoğan became the first Turkish American to operate a retail shop in the historic Merchants Square in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia—an 18th-century-style retail village conceived in 1927 by philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Reverend W.A.R. Goodwin, and widely regarded as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States. Akdoğan and his spouse, Lisa, own The Precious Gem, located at 423 W. Duke of Gloucester Street.

2001 TRT / Turkish Radio and Television Corporation / *Türkiye Radyo ve Televizyon Kurumu*, Türkiye’s national public broadcaster, opened its Washington, DC Office at The National Press Club in 2001.

Alaturka, established in 2001, was the first Turkish American online newspaper. Based in Los Angeles, California, Alaturka includes news on politics, culture, business, and community events. Ethan Kaplan has been Alaturka’s editor-in-chief since its founding.

After reading Ahmet Ertegun's book *What'd I Say / The Atlantic Story / 50 Years of Music*, G. Lincoln McCurdy, author of this Chronicle, recognized the opportunity for the Turkish American community and the Turkish Embassy in Washington to promote the Ertegun family's contributions to breaking down racial barriers in the nation's capital and popularizing Black music in mainstream America. His proposed initiative was realized in 2010 when Ambassador Namık Tan initiated "The Ertegun Jazz Series" at the Turkish Embassy's residence.

In 2001, the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) organized the inaugural Monterey Turkish Arts & Culture Festival in Monterey. That same year, the first TurkFest in Seattle was organized by the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington.

The world premiere of *Desperate Hours*, a documentary focusing on the little-known story of how Türkiye and Turkish diplomats helped rescue Jews during the Holocaust in World War II, took place on September 5, 2001, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.. The documentary project was initiated by Turkish Ambassador Baki İlkin. The film was directed and produced by Victoria Barrett and developed in association with Main Street Media, The Berenbaum Group, and Shenandoah Films. Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum served as executive producer, writer, and historian for the project. The documentary was presented to audiences by Turkish American organizations throughout the United States.

2002

On March 19, a tribute to Ahmet Erteğün with a jazz concert entitled “The Spirit Behind the Rhythms” was held at Washington, DC’s iconic Mayflower Hotel on the occasion of the 21st Annual Conference of the American Turkish Council (ATC), American Friends of Turkey (AFOT), and the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations (DEİK- TAİK).

- The concert highlighted the unique achievements of Ahmet Erteğün, co-founder and Chairman of Atlantic Records, for staging the first integrated concert in Washington, DC, for bringing African American music into mainstream America, for his leadership in the development of American Rock and Roll and pop culture and finally for his vision as a significant entertainment icon worldwide.
- ATC President G. Lincoln McCurdy initiated the event after consulting with Ahmet Erteğün in late 2001, and Ahmet Erteğün and George Wein produced it. Celebrated musicians performing at the concert were Nicholas Payton Quintet, James Carter, Evan Christopher and His New Orleans Jazz Kings, Bob Seely, Wilson Pickett, and Nona Hendryx. The Honorary Host Committee included Ed Bradley, Bob Daly, Sahir Erozan, Bob Johnson, Quincy Jones, Dr. Henry Kissinger, Bob Pittman, Hillary Rosen, Jack Valenti, the American Friends of Turkey, and the American Turkish Society.
- Turkish Ambassador Faruk Loğoğlu held a reception for the musicians and special guests after the concert at his residence.

Dani Rodrik, an eminent Turkish economist of Sephardic Jewish heritage, was awarded the by The Global Development and Environment Institute’s (GDAE) prestigious *Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought* in 2002. GDAE is a research center at Tufts University. Rodrik has served as the Albert O. Hirschman Professor of the Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and the Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Rodrik’s areas of focus are international economics, economic development, and political economy. He has published widely.

Turkish American Egemen Bağış, who founded Turkish Link, a New York-based Turkish and English translation agency, and served as president of the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA), was elected as one of the delegates from İstanbul to the Turkish Grand National Assembly in November 2002. He ran on the Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi/Justice and Development Party (AK Parti/AK Party) ticket. In parliament, he was a top advisor to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the chairman of the Türkiye-USA Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Caucus of the Turkish Parliament. Bağış became the Minister for EU Affairs and, since November 2019, the Turkish ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The Ellis Island Honors Society (EIHS) in 1986 began honoring immigrants and their progeny annually for their contributions made to the United States. EIHS was founded on the principles that “immigration works” and that “diversity of the American people is what makes this nation great.” Turkish Americans receiving the award up to 2023 have been

- 2002 – Mike (Mehmet) Mustafaoglu (California)
- 2004 - Kaya Tuncer (California)
- 2008 - Haldun Taşman (Arizona) and Mehmet C. Öz (New Jersey)
- 2010 - Kenan E. Şahin (Massachusetts), Ali Çayır (California), Matt H. Yıldızlar (Florida), and Andre C. Dimitriadis (California, born in İstanbul)
- 2011 - Mustafa Öz (Ohio)
- 2012 - Emrah Ahmet Kovaçoğlu (California) and Tamer A. Seçkin (New York)
- 2014 - Fatih Özmen (Nevada) and Ahmet Calik (İstanbul, Türkiye - Recipient of EIHS’s International Award)
- 2016 - Mustafa Abadan (New York)
- 2017 - Hamdi Ulukaya (New York), Murat Köprülü (New York), and Kurken Berksanlar (California, born in İstanbul and member of the Organization of İstanbul Armenians in Los Angeles)
- 2018 - Murat Güzel (Pennsylvania)
- 2019 - Muhtar Kent (Georgia), Ali Çınar (New York), and Sinan Kanatsız (California)
- 2022 - Adnan Şen (California)

The first Turkish American political commentator and media host, Cenk Kadir Uygur, as a co-creator, launched the popular The Young Turks (TYT), a left-wing, progressive talk show, on Sirius Satellite Radio network on February 14. TYT became one of the largest online news shows in the world. In 2020, Uygur ran unsuccessfully for Congress in California’s 25th congressional district. He also announced his candidacy in October 2023 to run in the 2024 Democratic presidential primaries even though he was not a natural-born citizen of the United States as required. He later withdrew from the race.

Cemil Özyurt and Ömer Güneş co-founded *Turk of America Magazine*, the first nationwide business and life magazine about the Turkish American business community, in New York City, with its first issue in August 2002. With Özyurt

as its editor-in-chief, *Turk of America* has become the longest-running Turkish American magazine published by Turkish Americans. Under the *Turk of America* umbrella, Özyurt and his partners established the first Turkish global business portal in October 2009.

Öz Bengür was the first Turkish American to run for a congressional seat (Maryland/2nd District) in September but lost to his opponent in the Democratic primary.

Jay Karahan was the first Turkish American elected to a judgeship in November. He took office in January 2003 as the Harris County Criminal Court Judge at Law No. 8 in Houston, Texas, and left office at the end of 2018.

2003

Gökhan S. Hotamışlıgil, a renowned pioneer physician-scientist noted in his pioneering research on the mechanistic basis of metabolic diseases at Harvard University, founded and served as the chair of the Department of Genetics & Complex Diseases at Harvard University in 2003. Dr. Hotamışlıgil is the founding Director of the Sabri Ülker Center for Nutrient, Genetic, and Metabolic Research at Harvard, established by the Ülker family in Türkiye in 2014. He has received many honors, including the Outstanding Scientific Accomplishment Award from the American Diabetes Association in 2007 and becoming an Elected Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science in 2009.

In 2003, Murat Gökçiğdem became the first Turkish American congressional chief of staff in the U.S. Congress, serving Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (1934-2023) of Texas from 2003 to 2023. Congresswoman Johnson was a Democrat and was a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations.

Ahmet and Nesuhi Erteğün, founders of the New York Cosmos Club in 1970, were inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

The Turkish food company Ülker introduced Cola Turka, also referred to as “Turk Cola,” in June 2003. Cola Turka’s high-profile advertising campaign featured American actor and comedian Chevy Chase in its commercials.

The Turkish Festival in Washington, D.C. began in 2003 at Cabin John Regional Park, founded by a group of alumni from Middle East Technical University (METU), including Fatih Culha, Ece Kılıç, Ahmet Kılıç, and Kemal Çakıcı, along with other Turkish friends such as Sıtkı Kazancı, Mert Öktem, Turan Tombul, and Burcu Vovchok. The Turkish American Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA-DC) later assumed management of the festival, which is primarily held along the iconic Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of the city. Drawing crowds of up to

25,000 people, the festival has grown into one of the most prominent cultural events in the nation's capital.

2004 Melih Abdülhayoğlu, founder and CEO of Comodo Security Solutions, a leading British internet security company, relocated to Clifton, New Jersey, in 2004. The company changed its name to Sectigo in 2018.

Rıdvan Sezer, a prominent businessman and entrepreneur based in Brooklyn, New York, founded TurkishNY.com in 2004. This leading news portal served both Turkish and English-speaking audiences, offering top stories on Turkish American news, community events, and exclusive interviews with U.S. and Turkish government officials. At its peak, TurkishNY.com attracted 20,000 daily visitors and built an extensive archive of over 7,000 photo galleries, becoming a trusted resource within the Turkish American community

Mehmet "Memo" Okur became the first Turkish player in NBA (National Basketball Association) history to win an NBA championship, doing so with the Detroit Pistons in 2004. In 2007, he became the first Turkish player to participate in an NBA All-Star Game while playing for the Utah Jazz. He also played for the New Jersey Nets.

Founded in 2004, Facebook's "first 'real employee outside of the founders'" was Turkish American Taner Halıcıoğlu, who "built out the entire initial hardware infrastructure," according to *Business Insider* (September 20, 2020). Halıcıoğlu was with Facebook from October 2004 to November 2009 and later joined the Computer Science and Engineering Department at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) as a lecturer. In 2018, he founded the Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute at UCSD to develop new methods and infrastructure and train students and partners to use data science to solve the world's most pressing problems.

The acclaimed Turkish dance group *Fire of Anatolia* first performed in the United States in Chicago on November 2 at The Chicago Theater and in New York on November 6 at Madison Square Garden.

The Turkish American Cultural Alliance (TACA) launched the Chicago Turkish Festival: 'Chicago Goes Turkish.'

Bob Dylan, the American cultural icon, singer-songwriter and poet, wrote in his autobiography, *Chronicles: Volume One* (released October 4, 2004) that his paternal grandmother's family originally hailed from Kağızman. Kağızman is a town in the Turkish northeastern province of Kars. His ancestors departed northeastern Anatolia from the port city of Trabzon on the Black Sea.

2005 Hamdi Ulukaya established Chobani which became the number one selling strained yogurt brand in the U.S. In 2017, Ulukaya received the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

Virginia Foxx was sworn in as a member the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 5th congressional district of North Carolina on January 3. Representative Foxx has two Turkish American grandchildren. A member of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans.

Kemal Derviş, a Turkish economist and politician married to an American, was unanimously confirmed in 2005 as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is the third-highest-ranking official in the United Nations, after the Secretary-General and his deputy. He served in that capacity until 2009, when he became vice president and director of the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Earlier in his career, Derviş was a faculty member in the Department of Economics at Princeton University. He then worked at the World Bank for 22 years, holding various senior positions. In 2001, he became Türkiye's minister of economic affairs under Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit. He was elected to parliament in 2002 as a member of the Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi (CHP) / Republican People's Party.

Zeynep Tüfekçi, a Turkish-American sociologist noted as one of the most prominent academic voices on social media, won an award from the International Communication Association in 2005 for her paper on the digital divide and social mobility. She writes regularly for *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times* and later became nationally well-known for her promotion of mask-wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also taught at various universities, including Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, Maryland and North Carolina. Source: Wikipedia: Zeynep Tüfekçi.

Turkish American Television (TATV), a volunteer-led group, was founded by Hürriyet Aydın Ok in 2005 in Fairfax, Virginia. Its mission is “delivering educational, engaging, and entertaining programs on art, culture, lifestyles, music, dance, health, wellbeing, science, and technology.”

2006 The release of the Turkish film “Valley of the Wolves: Iraq” on February 3. The movie was a Turkish action film set during the occupation of Iraq that highlighted the tensions between US and Türkiye following the “Hood Event” where Turkish military personnel operating in Northern Iraq were taken into custody at gunpoint and interrogated by US military personnel. After protests from Türkiye, the soldiers were released. During its creation, the movie was the most expensive Turkish film ever made and was succeeded by successful sequels.

On May 16, Congressman Cliff Stearns formally recognized the connection between ancient Patara in Lycia and American democracy in the Congressional Record, describing Patara as an early model for the U.S. system of government. As the capital of the Lycian League—a federation of city-states in what is now Türkiye—Patara exemplified principles later reflected in the U.S. Constitution, including proportional representation, representative popular government, and a strong federal authority whose laws applied directly to citizens. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton cited the Lycian League in the Federalist Papers as a successful confederated republic. Beyond constitutional theory, the semicircular seating of the Lycian Bouleuterion in Patara served as the architectural model for the chambers of the U.S. Congress, symbolically linking ancient Anatolia to modern American democracy.¹¹⁷

- The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) has regarded Patara and the Lycian Federation as integral to understanding the United States Constitution and American history, viewing Patara as an important historical bridge between Anatolia and the United States. In support of this perspective, TCA sponsored numerous visits to Patara, including delegations of members of Congress and state attorneys general.
- The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye funded the restoration of the Bouleuterion in Patara to preserve a site of exceptional historical and symbolic importance to both Turkish heritage and the history of democratic governance.

Funeral services for American historian Stanford Jay Shaw (May 5, 1930 – December 16, 2006), who wrote extensively about the Ottoman Empire, the early Turkish Republic, and Turkish Jews, were held at the Etz Ahayim Synagogue in Ortakoy, İstanbul, "where his family accepted condolences from friends and colleagues and from Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and numerous other dignitaries. . ." His burial was at Ashkenazi Cemetery in Ulus, İstanbul. Shaw served as Professor of Turkish History at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and later at Bilkent University in Ankara. Some historians criticized his publications for having a pro-Turkish bias.¹¹⁸

2007

Steve Cohen was sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 9th congressional district of Tennessee on January 3. Congressman Cohen's grandfather was born in the Adana region during the Ottoman Empire. A member of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans.

President George W. Bush nominated Halil Süleyman "Sul" Ozerden on the recommendation of U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott to be a United

States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi on January 8. He was the first Turkish American nominated for federal judicial service. Ozerden was confirmed by the Senate on April 24, 2007, by a 95-0 vote. He assumed office on May 1.

Mustafa Abadan, a design partner at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in New York, was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 2007. Abadan has been recognized by numerous organizations for his contribution to architecture. He is a Founding Partner at Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) and received in 2016 the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

United Navy Admiral William James Crowe, Jr., an immense admirer of Atatürk, passed away on October 18, 2007. Crowe, born in La Grange, Kentucky, on January 2, 1925, but raised in Oklahoma, was the 11th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and the U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom under President Bill Clinton. In a *Time* magazine interview (December 26, 1988) with Bruce Van Voorst, Crowe said, “I am a strong admirer of Kemal Atatürk, because he achieved so much with so little. It’s one thing for generals to win when they are backed by tremendous resources and production capability. But Atatürk with few resources wrested control of Turkey from the sultans and expelled the Greeks from his country. He’s my candidate as the greatest military man of the century.” Admiral Crowe received the Atatürk Society of America’s Peace & Democracy Award in 1998.

2008 Muhtar Kent became the Chief Executive Officer of the Coca-Cola Company in 2008 and Chairman of the Board in 2009. In 2019, he received the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

Serpil Ayaslı, a former technical staff member and Associate Group Leader at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Lincoln Laboratory, received the Warren D. White Award for Excellence in Radar Engineering, recognizing her contributions to ultra-wideband radar for ground and foliage penetration, awarded by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society. She was the first woman scientist worldwide to have received this award. She is a co-founding trustee of the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF), along with her husband, Yalçın. They also funded the establishment of the Ayaslı Research Center through the Turkish Cultural Foundation at their alma mater, the Middle East Technical University (METU) Engineering Department in Ankara.

Turkish American Bülent Atalay, a theoretical nuclear physicist, author, and artist, released his book, *Leonardo’s Universe: the Renaissance World of Leonardo da Vinci*, coauthored with Keith Wamsley and published by National Geographic Books. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* Blog listed the book as one of the

“Ten Must-Have Reference Books from 2008.” In 2004, he published his best-selling book, *Math and the Mona Lisa: the Art and Science of Leonardo da Vinci*. Atalay taught for four decades at the University of Mary Washington, was an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia, and was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.¹¹⁹

Fetullah Gülen granted permanent residency (Green Card) in the U.S.

2009 Dr. Mehmet Öz, a notable Turkish-American physician, established his own daily show, ‘The Dr. Öz Show’ which focuses on health and medical topics. He had made numerous appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show as a guest before getting his own show, which ran for 13 seasons.

Tamer Seçkin, an eminent Turkish American New York City-based gynecologist, co-founded with model and television host Padma Lakshmi the Endometriosis Foundation of America in 2009, an organization dedicated to correcting misdiagnoses and raising public awareness of endometriosis. In 2012, Dr. Seçkin received the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.¹²⁰

Television icon Oprah Winfrey, host of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, the highest-rated daytime talk show from 1986 to 2011, took her 1600 employees and their families to İstanbul as part of a Mediterranean cruise. On June 30, they stayed at the Çırağan Palace Hotel (Kempinski), where they were entertained by an Ottoman military band (Mehter Takımı) along with whirling dervishes and fire dancers.

In 2009, Lale Mamaux became the second Turkish American to serve as chief of staff for a Member of Congress, Hon. Alcee Hastings (1936-2021) of Florida. Congressman Hastings was a Democratic member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations.

Günay Evinç, a prominent Turkish American lawyer who is a Principal of Saltzman & Evinch and a public activist, was appointed as the Turkish-American Liaison to the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) under President Barack Obama in 2009. Later, he would serve as Commissioner on Middle Eastern Communities for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, 2016-2023. Evinch has also served as Chair of the Maryland-Koçaeli, Türkiye Sister State Committee for Governor Hogan and Hogan’s successor, Governor Wes Moore, in 2023. He led two Turkish American organizations, serving as president of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and co-chair of the Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC).

The German Marshall Fund (GMF), headquartered in Washington, DC, launched the Trilateral Strategy Group in partnership with the Turkish Industry and

Business Association (TÜSİAD), Koç Holding, and Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its purpose is to bring together twice a year a core group of around 40 government and business leaders and opinion shapers for a day and a half of informal, off-the-record dialogue to identify emerging issues and their possible policy implications. The meeting sites alternate between İstanbul, Stockholm, and Washington, DC.

The International is an action thriller inspired by the true story of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal in the 1980s. It stars Clive Owen and Naomi Watts, was written by Eric Warren Singer, and directed by Tom Tykwer. Columbia Pictures and Atlas Entertainment produced *the* film, which included scenes at Süleymaniye Mosque and the Basilica Cistern in İstanbul.

İstanbulive, an all-day extravaganza to promote the “Sounds and Colors of Türkiye” in the United States, was launched by Serdar İlhan and Mehmet Dede with the support of the Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry. Turkish and American companies and organizations were also sponsors. *İstanbulive*, sometimes called “the Turkish Woodstock,” had seven productions from 2009 to 2016 in New York and other major American cities. Some of the major Turkish artists performing were Eurovision contest winner Sertab Erener, pop-rock stars MFÖ, Türkiye’s most popular rock bands such as Mor ve Ötesi, maNga, and Gripin, and Turkish folk legend Zülfü Livaneli.

In 2009, Deniz Çelik of Lyndhurst, New Jersey, created AmerikaliTurk.com, an online news service in Turkish with special sections for company advertisements and public announcements. AmerikaliTurk.com receives some 10,000 hits daily, and its Instagram account is 18 million monthly.

Günay Evinç was the first individual of Turkish heritage born in the United States to lead a Turkish American umbrella organization. Evinç became president of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in 2009.

2010s

2010

The legendary U.S. Senator from West Virginia, Robert Byrd, passed away on June 28 while in office. During his years in the U.S. Senate, Senator Byrd was one of the most ardent supporters of Türkiye and a champion for U.S.-Türkiye relations. As a defender of the underdog and the disadvantaged, Senator Byrd sympathized with the Turkish people, comparing the image of Türkiye with his state of West Virginia of being looked down upon.

- Senator Byrd played an instrumental role in lifting the U.S. arms embargo on Türkiye in 1978.
- In a commemorative issue paper released on June 29, the Turkish Coalition of America stated, “In 1990, during an earlier push by Armenian Americans

to pass the so-called “Armenian genocide” resolution, Sen. Byrd worked exhaustively to block passage of the resolution, eventually leading a successful three-day filibuster which resulted in the defeat of the resolution in the Senate. A decade later, Sen. Byrd was the driving force behind the creation of the Appalachian-Turkish Trade Project, an initiative to promote

- mutually beneficial trade and investment programs, and to build a long lasting and mutually meaningful relationship between the 13 Appalachian states and Turkey.”
- Senator Byrd received the Atatürk Society of America’s Peace & Democracy Award in 1995.

Justin McCarthy, a professor of history at the University of Louisville, published his book, *the turk in America / The Creation of an Enduring Prejudice*.

The 2010 FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball / International Basketball Federation) World Basketball Championship was held in Türkiye from August 28 to September 12, with games played in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, and Kayseri. The championship game was played between the United States and Türkiye, with the United States winning 81–64.

Acting on G. Lincoln McCurdy’s proposal presented to the Turkish Embassy in 2001, Ambassador, Ambassador Namık Tan began “The Erteğün Jazz Series” at the Turkish Embassy’s residence to commemorate the contributions to jazz and racial justice by the Erteğün family during Ambassador Munir Erteğün’s tenure in Washington, 1934 – 1944. Ambassador Tan invited prominent Washingtonians, including Members of Congress, to these concerts. As Ambassador Tan told *The Washington Post*, “I thought it would be wise to rebuild the historical image of the Turkish Embassy residence as a center for jazz and jazz fans. . . People should be aware of the historical significance this house and Ahmet and Nesuhi Erteğün. They made a good place for Turkey in the hearts and minds of the black community here and in the music community around the United States and elsewhere.”¹²¹

- During Ambassador Tan’s tenure in Washington, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) initiated its African American-Turkish Connections Through the Arts program, highlighting the life of Ahmet Erteğün and the Turkish experiences of two celebrated African Americans, novelist and civil rights activist James Baldwin and singer Eartha Kitt who internationally popularized *Üsküdar’a Giderken* (a Turkish folk song) with her cabaret version “Uska Dara.”

On November 6, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) sponsored the first Native American Business Delegation to Türkiye, which went on a week-long trip to establish trade, business, and education cooperation between Türkiye and Indian Country. The delegation of 20 Native American tribal leaders flew to

Türkiye on Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight from Washington, DC, to İstanbul. The tribal leaders met with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoğlu, Turkish Economy Minister Zafer Çağlayan, and several Turkish trade associations. TCA also organized a side trip to the battlefield of Gelibolu/Gallipoli, where one of the tribal leaders performed a ceremony honoring those who fought there.

2011 A Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives met, for the first time, exclusively with leaders of the Turkish American community, including representatives of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in Washington, DC, on April 12. The Speaker was John Boehner (R-Ohio).

American professional basketball player Kobe Bryant visited Istanbul on September 25 and, during his trip, attended a training session of Galatasaray S.K. at Türk Telekom Arena (now known as Rams Park). Wearing the club's red-and-yellow jersey, Bryant spoke with Fatih Terim, the celebrated Galatasaray football coach, and the players, playfully remarking, "I am now a Galatasaray fan."

- Following this visit, Bryant became a global brand ambassador for Turkish Airlines as part of its international advertising campaign.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on front cover of *Time Magazine* on November 28.

The Cold War spy thriller *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, based on John le Carré's novel of the same title, was a European production with several scenes filmed in İstanbul, including the top of the Grand Bazaar. The American company Focus Features was a major distributor. The movie was directed by Tomas Alfredson and starred Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, and Colin Firth.

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance, a superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character Ghost Rider, is a sequel to the 2007 film *Ghost Rider*. It features Nicholas Cage as the main character, and the supporting cast includes Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido, Johnny Whitworth, Christopher Lambert, and Idris Elba. The movie was directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor and written by Scott M. Gimple, Seth Hoffman, and David S. Goyer. Marvel Entertainment, Crystal Sky Pictures, Hyde Park Entertainment, and Image Nation Abu Dhabi were the production companies, and Columbia Pictures distributed it through Sony Pictures Releasing. Filming occurred in Romania and Türkiye. The scenes in Türkiye were in Cappadocia and Pamukkale.

The Turkic-American Alliance, associated with Fethullah Gulen, reported that at its Annual Turkic American Conventions in 2011 and 2014, over 40 Members of Congress attended.

Enes Kanter became the third Turkish basketball player to play in the NBA (National Basketball Association) after being drafted by the Utah Jazz. He also played for the Oklahoma City Thunder, New York Knicks, Portland Trail Blazers, and Boston Celtics.

2012 Murat Güzel was the first Turkish American to attend a national party convention as a delegate. In 2012, he attended the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, which renominated Barack Obama as its presidential nominee. Güzel is the founder and CEO of Nimeks Organic/Natural Food Source based in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. In 2018, he received the prestigious Ellis Island Honors Society Medal of Honor.

In 2012, Turkish American adventurer Erden Eruç of Redmond, Oregon, completed the first solo circumnavigation of the Earth by human power in 5 years and 11 days between 2007 and 2012, starting from Bodega Bay, California. According to Wikipedia (Erden Eruç), “The modes of transport included a rowboat to cross the oceans, a sea kayak for shorelines, a bicycle on the roads and hiking on trails, along with canoes for a few river crossings. The route he followed was 66,299 km (41,196 mi) long, crossed the equator twice and all lines of longitude, and passed over twelve pairs of antipodal points, meeting all the requirements for a true circumnavigation of the globe.” In his many adventurous activities, Eruç holds 18 Guinness World Records and the 2013 Citation of Merit from the prestigious Explorers Club. He has also been recognized as one of the 2013 Adventurers of the Year by *Outside Magazine* and one of the “50 Most Adventurous Men” by *Men’s Journal*. Eruç is a leading ocean rower in the world and was the first person to cross the Pacific Ocean by human power from North America to Asia. Due to his rowing, he has raised awareness about plastic pollution in the oceans.

Skyfall, the 23rd film in the James Bond series, had scenes filmed in İstanbul, Adana, and Muğla. The movie's thrilling train scene showed the Varda Viaduct outside of Adana. In İstanbul, scenes were filmed at the Spice Bazaar, Yeni Cami, the Grand Post Office, Sultanahmet Square, and the Grand Bazaar. Daniel Craig played James Bond, and Sham Mendes was the director. Bond's female sidekick was Naomie Harris. One of the co-writers of the film was American John Logan. Sony Pictures Entertainment, a prominent American film distributor in the United States, distributed the film. Sony and another American film studio, MGM, were behind the co-financing of the movie.

Taken 2, an American-British-French-Turkish action-thriller film, is a sequel to the 2008 film *Taken* and the second in the trilogy. It was released by 20th Century Fox in the United States, directed by Olivier Megaton, and starred Liam Neeson,

Famke Janssen, and Maggie Grace. The majority of the scenes were filmed in İstanbul in November 2011.

Argo is a historical drama film based loosely on the true story of the CIA's rescue of six American diplomats being held hostage in Iran during 1979-81. It starred Bryan Cranston, John Goodman, Alan Arkin, and Ben Affleck, the director. It was produced by Grant Heslov, Ben Affleck, and George Clooney. American studio Warner Bros. Pictures was one of the production and distribution companies. Filming occurred in Los Angeles, California; Mclean, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and İstanbul. Scenes filmed in İstanbul included Balat, Eminönü, Bakırköy, Etiler, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and Yeni Cami. *Argo* won three Oscars at the 85th Academy Awards—Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Film Editing. The film won three Golden Globe Awards—Best Motion Picture-Drama, Best Director (Ben Affleck), and Best Supporting Actor-Motion Picture (Alan Arkin).

Türkiye took its place on the world golf stage in September when it hosted the Turkish Airlines World Golf Finals. Held at the Antalya Golf Club in Belek on the Turkish Riviera, the invitational tournament featured seven of the top 20 ranked golfers in the world as a dress rehearsal for the country to host a full-fledged European Tour event. Many of the nation's business and cultural leaders were in attendance, but without a doubt, the biggest star of the show was the famous American golfer Tiger Woods. The presence of Woods, considered by many to be the greatest golfer of all time, solidified the event's significance and assured a permanent place for Türkiye as a world-class destination for both professional golf and destination travel golf.

Turkish educator Enver Yücel, founder and chairman of Bahçeşehir Uğur Educational Institutions and Bahçeşehir University, received the “Perfection in Education Award” in 2012 by the International American Educators Association for his contributions to international education. In 2004, Bahçeşehir Uğur Educational Institutions (BUEI) established its first school in the United States (Washington, D.C.), offering high school students SAT/ACT preparation services. In 2008, BUEI expanded its educational services in the U.S. by purchasing a language school in Arlington, Virginia, to offer English language training to international students.

- The global educational network created and chaired by Yücel gained an American affiliate in 2014 with the founding of Bay Atlantic University in Washington, D.C.

Before his run for the U.S. presidency in 2016, real estate mogul and media celebrity Donald Trump was a Dinner Committee Co-Chair with the renowned journalist and television host Christiane Amanpour for the Annual Gala of the American Turkish Society (ATS) at the Plaza Hotel in New York city on October 18, 2012. At the Gala, ATS commemorated the joint venture of Time Warner and

Doğan Holding in CNN Türk, the first television channel in Türkiye co-founded with a foreign media company. Trump and Amanpour presented ATS's "Corporate Partnership Award" to the honorees, Mr. Philip I. Kent, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., and Ms. Arzuhan Doğan Yalçındağ, Chairwoman, Doğan TV Holding A.Ş.

2013

The peak year in the number of Turkish students studying at universities and colleges in the U.S. The number was 13,262. After 2013, the number declined significantly.

Anadolu Agency/Anatolia Jains, the state-run news agency headquartered in Ankara, opened its Washington, D.C. office in 2013 and a New York office in 2014. Previously, the Anadolu Agency had reporters working from home in these two cities.

Ersal Özdemir, Chairman & CEO of the Keystone Group, founded Indy Eleven, an American professional soccer team based in Indianapolis, Indiana, on January 16.

Feryal Ozel received the Maria Goeppert Mayer Award from the American Physical Society for her outstanding contributions to neutron star astrophysics. She has worked as a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Physics in Atlanta, Georgia, and at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, in the Astronomy Department and Steward Observatory.

The Second Annual International Jazz Day, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz was held in İstanbul on April 30, 2013, in collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and İstanbul Jazz Festival. The International Jazz Day Gala Concert was held in İstanbul's Hagia Irene Museum with opening speeches by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, American jazz musician, bandleader, and composer Herbie Hancock, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, and Türkiye's Minister of Culture and Tourism Omer Celik. The concert featured star-studded jazz performers from the United States. Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. Namık Tan hosted a U.S. congressional delegation with the support of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided a \$200,000 grant to Oregon's Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring (CTWS) to cover the cost of two water tanks that serve an elementary school. The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and the Turkish Embassy in Washington spearheaded funding of the project.

The legendary *Hiawatha*, an important symbol in American Turkish relations and friendship, entered a new era when the Rahmi M. Koç Museum became a co-custodian of the boat with the U.S. Consuls General serving in İstanbul.

Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., and Consul General Scott F. Kilner at the time initiated the long-term lease with the museum to ensure continuous service and maintenance of the historic 50-foot motor launch. The protocol was signed on July 18 by Consul General Kilner and Rahmi M. Koç, the museum's chairman and former chairman of Koç Holding.

- After an extensive restoration by the museum, completed in 2014, the *Hiawatha* is now docked in the Golden Horn and is the longest-running vessel of its kind sailing in the waters of İstanbul. Since 1932, the *Hiawatha* not only ferried American diplomats between the European and Asian parts of İstanbul before the Bosphorus bridges but also brought together Americans and Turks on social occasions.
- The *Hiawatha* was built by American Car & Foundry in Wilmington, Delaware, and arrived in İstanbul by a freighter from New York in late 1932 under the ambassadorship of Charles Hitchcock Sherrill (May 20, 1932 to March 23, 1933). However, it was Sherrill's predecessor, Ambassador Joseph C. Grew (October 12, 1927, to March 13, 1932, the first U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Türkiye), who had requested the State Department to purchase a boat to replace a launch provided by the U.S. Navy to shuttle American diplomats between the European and Asian parts of İstanbul and to meet U.S. ships as they anchored offshore. Before purchasing the *Hiawatha*, the U.S. Mission to Türkiye had a chain of boats, including a barge, for official use. Unfortunately, the barge and the last boat *Heather* sunk in quick succession, with *Heather* sinking off of Sarayburnu.
- In later years, the *Hiawatha* faced turbulent times. It was firebombed by a terrorist group on December 6, 1989. She also faced the risk of being auctioned off due to U.S. government budget cuts in the 1980s. This U.S. diplomatic treasure was preserved, thanks to the efforts of former Consuls General Bill Rau and Tom Carolan and the support received from the U.S. Consulate General's employee association and American and Turkish private companies.¹²²

The famed American singer Eydie Gorme, who had hits on the pop and Latin charts, died on August 10, 1928. She was born in the Bronx, New York City, on August 16. Her parents were Sephardic Jews--her mother from Türkiye and her father from Sicily. She spoke Ladino, learning it at home. Gorme sang solo and in a duo with her husband, Steve Lawrence. Source: *New York Times* obituary on August 11, 2013.

The leadership of the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) and the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) met with the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner (R/OH) in the U.S. Capitol on October 10.

In 2013, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Cease-Fire, William (Bill) Edward Alli, a Turkish American Korean veteran, published the second edition of his book *Too Young for a Forgettable War* about his war experiences in Korea as a young 18-year-old who had lived a sheltered life in Michigan. His first edition was published in 2010. In the second edition, he expands on his recollections and reflections of the war. It is interesting to note that Alli's father was 18 when he immigrated from the Ottoman Empire to the United States.

The first public monument honoring Atatürk in the United States was unveiled with a ceremony on November 10 by the Atatürk Society of America commemorating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye and the 75th anniversary of Atatürk's death. The bronze statue by the sculptor Jeffrey Hall was placed in a public space next to the Turkish ambassador's residence on Sheridan Circle.

- The Atatürk Society of America (ATS) was founded in 1995 in Washington, DC, by Hüdai Yavalar (August 3, 1938 – August 14, 2020), a successful real estate developer in the nation's capital.

The 2nd International Jazz Day, designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to foster world peace and intercultural dialogue, was celebrated on April 30, 2013, in İstanbul. American jazz legend Herbie Hancock, who was serving as the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador at that time, proposed the idea. For the celebration in İstanbul, an All-Star Global Concert was held at the Aya Irini (Hagia Irene) featuring Herbie Hancock and other American musicians, including Wayne Shorter, Esperanza Spalding, and Dianne Reeves.

- The event was produced by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in the United States with the İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) acting as the Host City partner and receiving support from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- Additionally, several members of the U.S. House of Representatives attended the concert. Türkiye Caucus Co-Chair Ed Whitefield (KY/1st) and Representatives Adam Kinzinger (IL/16th), Lee Terry (NE/2nd), and Sheila Jackson Lee (TX/18th) were in Türkiye as part of a congressional visit arranged by the Turkish Embassy in Washington.
- To honor the occasion, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) hosted a reception for the congressional delegation and other American participants in the İstanbul celebration.

2014

On February 27, 2014, the Ahiska Turkish American Community Center (ATACC) in Dayton, Ohio, opened a photo exhibit in the U.S. Congress to raise awareness of the Ahiska Turkish community's history and the ongoing discrimination faced by Ahiska Turks living in Russia. The exhibition was sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

- The exhibit showcased photos depicting the expulsion and ethnic cleansing of Ahiska Turks from their ancestral lands in the Ahiska (Meskheta) region of (then) Soviet Georgia by Joseph Stalin. They were forcibly relocated to other Soviet-controlled areas in Central Asia. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Ahiska Turks once again found themselves unwanted in the former Soviet republics, where they were denied full citizenship rights and faced discrimination and persecution.
- The Ahiska Turks are an ancient Turkish ethnic group, predominantly Muslim, who speak a dialect of Turkish similar to Anatolian Turkish.
- Due to these severe humanitarian concerns, in 2003, the U.S. State Department granted thousands of Ahiska Turks refugee status and the opportunity to become American citizens. Nearly 15,000 have since settled in the United States and have become productive members of their communities.
- In 2008, the TCA established the Ahiska Turks Assistance Grant to support the Ahiska Turkish community in their efforts to settle and integrate into the Turkish American community and American society as a whole.

On April 23, *TurkofAmerica Magazine* (Vol. 13, Issue 40), which reports news about Turkish businesses and the community in the United States, announced its first-ever list of “The 50 Most Influential Turkish Americans.” According to the magazine’s Editor-in-Chief, Cemil Özyurt, the list includes successful Turkish Americans across the country in their fields as entrepreneurs, corporate executives, social entrepreneurs, and political/civil leaders.

1. Dr. Mehmet Öz, Host of the Dr Oz Show (New Jersey)
2. Muhtar Kent, Chairman of the Board and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company (Georgia)
3. Hikmet Ersek, President and CEO of The Western Union Company (Colorado)
4. Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani (New York)
5. Yalçın Ayaslı, Founder of Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and Co-founder of Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) (Massachusetts)
6. Melih Abdulhayoglu, Founder and CEO of Comodo Internet Security (New Jersey)
7. Aydın Şenkut, Founder of Felicis Ventures (Pennsylvania)
8. Eren Özmen, Co-owner and President of Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) and Fatih Özmen, Co-owner and CEO of Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) (Nevada)
9. Serpil Ayaslı, Co-founder and Trustee of Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) (Massachusetts)

10. Dr. Kenan Sahin, President of TIAX LLC (Massachusetts)
11. Cenk Uygur, Host of The Young Turks (California)
12. Kemal Derviş, VP and Director of The Brookings Institution (Washington, DC)
13. Tunç Doluca, President and CEO of Maxim (California)
14. Ersal Özdemir, Founder and President and Keystone Group and Indy Eleven Soccer Team (Indiana)
15. Dr. Mehmet Toner, Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School (Massachusetts)
16. Murat Güzel, First Turkish American to attend a national party convention as a delegate (Attended the 2012 Democratic National Convention that renominated Barak Obama as its presidential nominee) (Pennsylvania)
17. Dr. Vamık Volkan, Four time-nominee for Nobel Peace Prize (Virginia)
18. Dr. Bayram Karasu, Dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine (New York)
19. Haldun Taşman, Chairman of Turkish Philanthropy Funds (Arizona)
20. Dr. Hasan Pirkul, Dean of Naveen Jindal School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas (Texas)
21. Oğuz Gürsel, Owner of first Turkish hotel in Manhattan, The Marmara Manhattan (New York)
22. Mehmet Çelebi, President of Assembly of American Turkish Associations (Illinois)
23. Muammer A. Öztekin, Founder of Kent Corp (Alabama)
24. İzak Şenbahar, President of Alexico Group (New York)
25. Ekmel Anda, President of Unique Settings (New York)
26. Ercüment Tokat, Partner of Centerview Partners (New Jersey)
27. Aslı Demirgüç Kunt, Director of Research at the World Bank (Washington, DC)
28. Mustafa Abadan, Partner, SOM (New York)
29. Alinur Velidedeoğlu, Founder of DFH Network, first platform in the U.S. that broadcasts Turkish television series (California)
30. Daron Acemoğlu, Economist at MIT (Massachusetts)
31. Judge Jay Karahan, Presiding Judge of County Criminal Court No. 8 of Harris County (Houston) (Texas)
32. Mustafa Merç, General Manager of Turkon Line (New Jersey)
33. Merin Negrin, Founder and President of Lexin Capital (New York)
34. Cano Özgener, Founder of CAO Cigars and OZ Art Gallery (Tennessee)
35. Mustafa Yılmaz, President of United Muslims Associations (New York)
36. Varol Ablak, Founder and President of Vocelli Pizza, owner of Rock & Joe Bistro chain (Pennsylvania)
37. Ali Çayır, Founder and President of Transtech (California)
38. Dr. Şükrü Emre, Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine (Connecticut)
39. Ayşegül İldeniz, VP of Intel (California)

40. Mehmet Okur, First Turkish basketball player to win an NBA championship (Detroit Pistons)
41. Dr. Gökhan Hotamışlıgil, Founder and Chair of the Department of Genetics & Complex Diseases at Harvard University (Massachusetts)
42. Erol Devli, President of Sasha Bag (New Jersey)
43. Fahir Atakoğlu, Pianist and composer (Maryland)
44. Ali Çınar, Former President of Federation of Turkish American Associations, community Leader (New York)
45. Murad Demir, Actor in Hollywood (California)
46. Osman Bengür, First Turkish American candidate for U.S. Congress (Maryland)
47. Rahmi Soyüngenç, Owner of International Steel Company, oldest evolving door company (Indiana)
48. Nevin Şanlı, Founder and Partner of Şanlı, Pastore & Hill / Managing Director of Astrum Investment Management (AIM) (California)
49. Hidayet Türkoğlu, The Turkish basketball player with the longest career in the NBA (California)
50. Hakan Özmen, CEO of Prysmian America (South Carolina)

Özlem Soran, an eminent cardiologist at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), became the clinical director of the International EECPP (Enhanced External Counterpulsation) Society in 2014, a post that she continues to hold. The mission of Society is to educate physicians and other healthcare professionals, promote patient awareness about Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP) and External Counterpulsation (ECP) as a primary therapy to prevent occurrence and slow progression of ischemic diseases in cerebrovascular, endovascular and peripheral vascular systems. Soran pioneered Enhanced External Counter Pulsation (EECP) heart treatment research, resulting in the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) approval. She has also undertaken research in late cardiotoxic effects of cancer drugs, cardio-oncology, and primary and secondary prevention of coronary artery disease. Soran holds more than ten prestigious awards and was named one of the top researchers in the United States by the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca in 2002.

Sezen Uysal co-founded Roqos, Inc., a leading cyber security company in Reston, Virginia, providing internet security solutions for homes and small businesses. Before Roqos's founding in 2014, Uysal founded Simena, LLC, a network equipment manufacturer producing network emulators, traffic generators, and packet flow switches. Simena was acquired by NetScout Systems, Inc., in 2011.

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, award-winning singer, actress, and songwriter known professionally as Lady Gaga, performed for the first time at the ITU (İstanbul Technical University) Stadium in İstanbul on September 16. The

concert was the first stop of the Europe leg of Gaga's Artave: the Artpop Ball tour.

The American political drama television series *Tyrant*, which aired on the American cable network FX from 2014 to 2016, had two episodes filmed in İstanbul. Episode 9 of Season 1, "Gaslight," aired on August 19, and Episode 10, "Gone Fishing," on August 24.

2015 Aziz Sancar became the first Turkish American to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry along with two of his colleagues on mechanistic studies of DNA repair. Dr. Sancar is currently the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) of Medicine at Chapel Hill. He is also a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He and his wife founded the Aziz & Gwen Sancar Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting Turkish culture and supporting Turkish students in the United States.¹²³

Research Papers in Economics named Kemer Daron Acemoğlu, a Turkish-American of Armenian descent at the Massachusetts Institute (MIT), as the most cited economist of the past ten years. Before that, in a 2011 survey among American economists, he "ranked third, behind Paul Krugman and Greg Mankiw, in the list of 'Favorite Living Economists Under Age 60.'" In 2012, Acemoğlu co-authored and published 'Why Nations Fail,' a landmark book in the political science field exploring institutions' role in nations' economies.¹²⁴

The Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) started in 2015 to grant fellowships to candidates from Türkiye. The Borlaug Program, initiated in 2004, was designed to promote international cooperation on agricultural productivity, food security, trade, and economic growth.

The Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC), before it was incorporated in the following year, organized a Turkish Armenian Solidarity and Reconciliation March on April 24 in Washington, DC, from the White House to the Turkish Embassy with the participation of approximately 10,000 people.

American pop-rock band OneRepublic held a legendary concert at the Volkswagen Arena in İstanbul on May 30.

2016 The peak year of number of Americans coming to Türkiye: 798,787. Source: Türkiye's border statistics, 2006-2022.

On March 30, the Turkish American Business Council of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK-TAİK) hosted a dinner for President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium during his visit to Washington, DC, to participate in the Nuclear Security Summit.

Forbes Magazine featured entrepreneur and inventor Osman Kibar on its May 10, 2016, cover with the headline “Can This Man Reverse Aging?” as one of the “Global Game Changers 2016.” The Turkish American billionaire who started numerous successful startups founded the biopharmaceutical firm Samumed in San Diego, California, in 2008, which researches regenerative medicine and degenerative diseases. The company was renamed Biosplice in 2021.

- Kibar is also known as a first-class poker player. In 2006, he won second place with over 2800 players in the 37th Annual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, Nevada, winning \$\$420,870.¹²⁵

Ceylan Rowe served as a commissioner on the Massachusetts MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women (MWCSW) from 2016 to 2021. MWCSW is a regional branch of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, an independent state agency that reviews the status of women regarding opportunities and equity. Rowe has been a strong supporter of international women's issues and is the Founder and CEO of FIHRI, Inc., a humanitarian organization providing sustainable period packs to women and girls in need throughout the world. Rowe also ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 12th Worcester District.

In 2016, Deniz Akdeniz, a Turkish Australian actor born in Melbourne, Australia, began his acting in the United States in Season Six of the ABC television series *Once Upon a Time*. He later had roles in the television series *Siren* (Freeform) and *The Flight Attendant* (HBO Max) and starred in the 2023 movie *You Hurt My Feelings*.

TurkofAmerica Magazine, which reports news about Turkish businesses and the Turkish community in the United States, held an awards ceremony on March 17 in New York City honoring the 30 most influential Turkish American women. The awardees included extraordinary entrepreneurs, visionary CEOs, celebrity role models, and pioneer philanthropists.

1. Huma Alpaytaç, Founder, President and CEO, Alpaytaç Public Relations / Marketing Communications (Illinois)
2. Serpil Ayaslı, Co-founder and Trustee of Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) (Massachusetts)
3. Sara Bengür, Founder, Sara Bengur Interiors (New York)
4. Yıldız Blackstone, President, BEluxury (New York)

5. Lydia Borland, President, LB International Solutions (Washington, DC)
6. Çiğdem Bostan, President, Halach Gold Inc. (New York)
7. Mesude Cingilli, Assistant VP of the Financial Management Group, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Minnesota)
8. Evren Doğan Kopelman, Corporate VP, Investor Relations, Ralph Lauren (New York)
9. Nilüfer Durak, Chief Operating Officer, Solvoyo (Massachusetts)
10. Nur Ercan, General Manager, The Marmara Park Avenue / The Marmara Manhattan (New York)
11. Seyhan Erden, Professor in the Economics Department, Columbia University (New York)
12. Hafize Gaye Erkan, Senior VP, CIO and Co-Chief Risk Officer, First Republic Bank (New York)
13. Çiğdem Balım Harding, Senior lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University (Indiana)
14. Ayşegül İldeniz, VP and General Manager for Business Development and Strategy, New Devices Group at Intel Corporation (California)
15. Gülru Necipoğlu Kafadar, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art, Department of Art and Architecture, Harvard University (Massachusetts)
16. Sumru Belger Krody, Senior Curator of the Eastern Hemisphere Collections at The Textile Museum (Washington, DC)
17. Pelin Demirel Muharremoglu, Senior Finance Manager, Capital One (Texas)
18. Banu Onaral, H. H. Sun Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering at Drexel University (Pennsylvania)
19. Daphne Nur Öz, Natural foods chef, author, and co-host of ABC's hit lifestyle series 'The Chew' (New York)
20. Seval Öz, CEO, Continental Intelligent Transportation Systems, LLC (California)
21. Hande Özdinler, Assistant Professor in Neurology, Ken & Ruth Davee Department, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (Illinois)
22. Feryal Özel, Associate Professor of Astronomy and Physics, University of Arizona (Arizona)
23. Esra Özer, President, Alcoa Foundation (New York)
24. Füsun Özgüner, Professor Electrical and Computer Engineering, The Ohio State University (Ohio)
25. Eren Özmen, Chairman and President, Sierra Nevada Corp (Nevada)
26. Baglan Nurhan Rymes, Chief Digital Officer & SVP Revenue, AnchorFree (California)

27. Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) (New York)
28. Aylin Uysal, Senior Design Director and Strategist, Oracle – California
29. Nurgül Yavuzer, President, NT Recycling (Maryland)
30. Aslıhan Yener, Associate Professor of Anatolian Archaeology, The Division of the Humanities, The University of Chicago (Illinois)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the Islamic prayer service for African American boxing legend Muhammad Ali in Louisville, Kentucky, on June 9, the night before his funeral on June 10. Muhammad Ali was considered the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time and had been named the “Sportsman of the Century” (20th century) by *Sports Illustrated*. He had announced his retirement from boxing at the İstanbul Hilton in 1976. Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., in Louisville on January 17, 1942, converted to Islam in 1964, at which time he denounced his birth name as a “slave name” and formally changed it to Muhammad Ali.¹²⁶

Sniper: Ghost Shooter is an action-war film, the sixth of the *Sniper* series. Don Michael Paul directed the movie with the script by Michael Frost Beckner, Crash Leyland, and Chris Hauty. It stars Chad Michael Collins, Billy Zane, Nick Gomez, Ravil Isyanov, Stephanie Vogt, and Dennis Haysbert. Destination Films and UFO International Productions produced the movie, and Sony Pictures Home Entertainment distributed it. Scenes in İstanbul included the Grand Bazaar, Galata Bridge, and Eminönü.

Filmmaker Ceylan Carhoglu of Los Angeles, California, won the Emmys: College Television Award in 2016 for her documentary *Gardeners of the Forest*.

TRT / Turkish Radio and Television Corporation / *Türkiye Radyo ve Televizyon Kurumu* opened an office for its subsidiary, TRT World, in Washington, DC, in 2016. TRT broadcasts in English 24 hours a day.

The popular left-wing online political commentator Hasan Dogan Piker, also known as Hasan Abi, started his career in 2016 with his first show, The Breakdown, on The Young Turks (TYT) Network video series on Facebook. In 2018, he started streaming on Twitch. Piker was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1991 but grew up in İstanbul. He later returned to the U.S. for his higher education. His uncle is Cenk Uygur, a political commentator and co-founder of The Young Turks news network.¹²⁷

In 2016, Barbaros Tapan was the first Turkish journalist to become a Golden

Globe voter. Since 1944, the Golden Globe Awards have honored artists and professionals in international film and television by foreign journalists who cover the American entertainment industry. The Golden Globe Awards Ceremony is usually held every January in Los Angeles, California, and is televised nationally. Tapan, born in İstanbul, moved to Los Angeles in 1996. He is a renowned sports and entertainment journalist reporting to various Turkish media outlets. He has interviewed over 300 celebrities, including many of Hollywood's top stars. Tapan has also actively promoted Turkish films in Hollywood.

2017 On January 6, Bayezid Osman (Osman Bayezid Osmanoğlu), the 44th Head of the Imperial House of Osman, passed away in New York City at 92. Prince Bayezid Osman, born in Paris on June 23, 1924, was a direct descendant of Osman I, the founder of the Ottoman Empire. He was the Head of the Dynasty since September 23, 2009, after the death of Prince Ertuğrul Osman. Prince Bayezid Osman became a U.S. citizen after serving in the U.S. Army. He spent some 45 years doing translations for New York libraries. He was buried in the Muslim section of Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Mt. Sinai, New York. (Dündar Ali Osman Osmanoğlu, who lived in Syria, succeeded Bayezid Osman as the 45th Head of the Imperial House of Osman (2017-2021). The current head is Harun Osman Osmanoğlu, born in 1932 and lives in İstanbul.)¹²⁸

Iconic Turkish megastar Tarkan held concerts in the Hammerstein Ballroom at the Manhattan Center Studios in New York on March 2 and 3 and The Novo by Microsoft in Los Angeles on March 5. Ahmet Erteğün, the co-founder of Atlantic Records, had mentored Tarkan.

The 2016 world-beloved Turkish documentary Kedi (Cat) received two Critics' Choice Awards from the American Canadian Critics Choice Association (CCA) at its annual show in Santa Monica, California, 2017. Kedi, directed by Ceyda Torun, showcased how street cats are part of İstanbul's soul and their impact on the city's residents. The film won "Best First Documentary" and the "Most Compelling Living Subject of a Documentary" awards.

Endless Love, a Turkish drama series launched in 2015 as Kara Sevda (Dark Love), became the first Turkish series to receive the International Emmy Award for Best Telenovela by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS) at the 45th International Emmy Awards on November 20. It became the most-watched foreign soap opera in the United States and one of the most-watched Turkish series in the world. Produced by Ay Yapım and directed by Hilal Saral, it's a sad love story of drama and mystery that stars Neslihan Atagül, Burak Özçivit and Kaan Urgancıoğlu.¹²⁹

Turkish American activist Gizem Şalcıgil White established Turkish Coffee Lady, the first and only authentic Turkish coffee chain in the United States, with "a

mission of bridging cultures one coffee at a time.” She started promoting Turkish coffee in 2009 through her non-profit “Turkish Coffee Truck” project, which traveled to major metropolitan areas in the U.S., introducing Turkish coffee and culture to Americans. Gizem Şalcıgil White also promoted Turkish coffee in Europe and Canada in 2013 and 2016, respectively. Through her Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation, she has actively worked to empower women.

2018 Netflix, an American subscription streaming service that is the world’s leading entertainment network, released its first original series from Türkiye, *The Protector* (Turkish: *Hakan Muhafız*), on December 14. The Protector is a Turkish drama fantasy series created by Binnur Karaevili and starring Çağatay Ulusoy.

American pop-rock band Imagine Dragons performed at Küçükçiftlik Park in Beşiktaş, İstanbul on September 2 as part of their world tour.

The Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC) hosted a dinner honoring President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel on September 22 on the occasion of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2019 The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) held the first Turkish American Women Leadership Forum on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., from March 11 to 12. Thirty-four Turkish American female community leaders from all regions of the United States participated in the forum to discuss enhancing women’s political engagement. In addition to working sessions with leading experts, the participants met with 12 Members of the 116th Congress and senior staff. The Forum highlighted the leadership role that Turkish American women can play in their communities, reaching out to their elected representatives and raising the Turkish American voice on the local, state, and federal levels.

A former Wall Street and international investment banker who worked in Türkiye, Henry P. Williams III published his book, *Turkey and America: East & West – Where the Twain Meet*, drawing on his personal and professional experiences to explore the historical narrative of Türkiye and the United States, as well as the “American experience, the Mediterranean world, and U.S.–Turkish relations.”

The George Mason University’s prestigious Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution (formerly known as the School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution) appointed Alpaslan Özerdem as dean in August 2019. Before his appointment, Özerdem was Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at Coventry University in the United Kingdom.

The Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC) hosted a dinner honoring President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel on

September 22 on the occasion of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

TASC also hosted a dinner honoring President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during his working visit to Washington, DC, at the Willard InterContinental Hotel on November 12.

Before their bilateral meeting at the White House on November 13, Presidents Donald Trump and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan publicly announced that the United States and Türkiye have agreed to work toward increasing trade between the two countries from nearly \$22 billion to \$100 billion, a target earlier established by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Turkish Minister of Trade.

Haluk Bilginer accepted the Emmy for Best Performance by an Actor for his role as Agah in *Şahsiyet (Persona)* at the 47th International Emmy Awards on November 25 in New York City. The International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS) sponsors the ceremony.

Turkish-American equine sculptor Göksin Carey led a team in creating the iconic fox sculpture located in front of the community center in Middleburg, Virginia. The statue was unveiled on December 7, 2019. Middleburg, situated west of Washington, D.C., in Virginia's horse country, is known as "The Nation's Horse and Hunt Capital." The town is famous for its foxhunting, steeplechases, and elite equestrian races.

2020s

2020 İbrahim "Mike" Baycora, who immigrated to the U.S. as an infant from Türkiye, was sworn in as the first Turkish American police chief in Paterson, New Jersey, on February 4, 2020.

Eren Özmen, co-owner (alongside her husband Fatih Özmen) and president of Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), a major aerospace and defense company, was listed number 15 in *Forbes*'s "American Self-Made Women 2020." SNC is involved in developing the Dream Chaser spaceplane for commuting to NASA's International Space Station.

A ceremony was held at Fair Mount Cemetery in Chatham Township, Morris County, NJ, on September 20, honoring Madame Bey (circa 1881 - January 30, 1942), wife of an Ottoman diplomat and acclaimed boxing trainer, with the placement of a tombstone on her and husband's gravesite. The Mayor of Chatham Township, Tayfun Selen (the first Turkish American-elected mayor in the U.S.),

other local elected officials, and Turkish and local historians attended the ceremony. The New York Turkish Consul General also participated in the ceremony. See “1923” for more details.

Roberta Wright McCain (February 7, 1912 – October 12, 2020), the spouse of Admiral John S. McCain, who was during the Vietnam War the Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Command (CINCPAC) from 1968 to 1972, and mother of John S. McCain III, a U.S. senator and presidential candidate, was an admirer of Türkiye. Senator McCain had told Haldun Taşman of Arizona in a conversation that his mother had traveled there on numerous occasions. Donna Shor, a writer of “Around Town” in the *Washington Life Magazine*, also confirmed her love for Türkiye in the September 2005 issue of the magazine saying that “Roberta McCain. has driven throughout Turkey nine times.”

In the 2020 election, Ajlan (AJ) Kurdoglu, a Democrat running for the Arizona State Senate, 17th Legislative District, was the first Turkish American to receive endorsements from the national Democratic leadership, including former President Barack Obama, and the party’s candidates for president and vice president, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. (Despite the endorsements, Kurdoglu was unsuccessful in unseating the Republican incumbent.)

Derya Taşkın of Paterson, New Jersey, was the first Turkish American elector of the Electoral College. The 538 electors of the Electoral College from the 50 states and the District of Columbia cast their official votes for president and vice president on December 14. Taşkın is a businesswoman who is active in the Democratic Party and has served as an appointed Deputy Mayor of Paterson, New Jersey.

The Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC) launched TASC TV on November 25, 2020. It ceased operations on January 30, 2023.

2021 Three Turkish American women were appointed positions in President Biden’s administration:

- (1) Didem Nişancı, chief of staff at the Department of Treasury
- (2) Özge Güzelsu, deputy general counsel at Department of Defense
- (3) Naz Durakoğlu, assistant secretary for the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at Department of State.

Noted Turkish British novelist, political scientist, and activist Elif Şafak was recognized as one of BBC’s (British Broadcasting Corporation) “100 most inspiring and influential women” in 2021. Şafak writes in both English and Turkish and has had international bestsellers. Her books have been nominated for several literary awards and have been translated into 57 languages. Her themes focus on Eastern and Western culture related to freedom of expression, human

rights, and women's societal role. Some of her best-known novels include *The Bastard of İstanbul*, *The Forty Rules of Love*, and *Three Daughters of Eve*. In the United States, she taught at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, the University of Michigan, and the University of Arizona. She now resides in London, United Kingdom.

Jon Ossof, a Democrat, won a special U.S. Senate election in Georgia on January 5, 2021. Previously, Ossof worked as a congressional staff professional on Capitol Hill and participated in a visit to Türkiye sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA).

The Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC) hosted a dinner honoring President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the Manhattan Center in New York on September 19 on the occasion of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Lydia Borland has been a registered lobbyist for the Turkish Embassy as a subcontractor since 1989. In 2021, she became the Embassy's chief lobbyist under Ambassador Murat Mercan. Born in İstanbul to an American father and an Italian mother, Borland is fluent in Turkish and was the first Turkish-speaking lobbyist for the Embassy.

Alperen Şengün became the fourth Turkish basketball player to play in the NBA (National Basketball Association) when he joined the Houston Rockets.

2022

Turkish Airlines collaborated with internationally acclaimed American actor Morgan Freeman for a “Pangea”-themed commercial symbolizing the unification of continents. The advertisement aired during the Super Bowl LVI broadcast in Los Angeles on February 13, reaching audiences in 136 countries. Freeman had also worked with Turkish Airlines in a previous campaign in 2017.

Turkish German scientists Uğur Şahin and Özlem Türeci were two of the five scientists who were awarded the 2022 Warren Alpert Foundation Prize from Harvard Medical School “for transformational discoveries into the biology of mRNA, for its modification for medicinal use, and for the design of mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines.”¹³⁰

- In 2020, Sahin and Türeci's company BioNTech that they co-founded, and the American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer developed one of the major COVID-19 vaccines.

The iconic Waldorf Astoria Hotel chain took over the lease of the old Post Office, an exquisite 1899 Romanesque Revival building in the heart of Washington, DC, from the Trump International Hotel, which had occupied the building since 2016. The Waldorf Astoria Washington, DC hired Turkish American Senih Geray as its

first general manager. During the Trump presidency, the Trump International Hotel was a favorite meeting place for Republicans, lawmakers, lobbyists, business CEOs, and foreign dignitaries.

Mehmet Öz was the first Turkish American to win a congressional primary on May 17 in his bid for a U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania but lost to his Democratic opponent in the November 8th general election. (In 2025, Öz joined the second Trump Administration as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

The second Turkish American Women in Leadership Event following the Washington, DC, inaugural forum organized by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) in 2019 was a rural retreat held in Berea, Kentucky, June 17-19, 2022. The sponsors were the National Coalition of Turkish American Women Political Action Committee (NC -TAW PAC) and ETAC (Empowering the Turkish American Community). Public officials attending the retreat were Berea's City Mayor Bruce Farley, the city's congressional representative, Hon. Andy Barr (R-KY/6th), and other local office holders. The retreat was also the first Turkish American event featuring community members nationwide running for elected office.

Atilla Soran, a renowned breast surgical oncologist at Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), received the Metastatic Breast Cancer Hero Award from the CURE Foundation for his research on the role of surgery in treating patients with metastatic breast cancer. Since 1996, Soran has received 31 awards and honors, including recognition from the American College of Surgeons and the Pfizer Academic Global Surgeon Award. Soran founded the Breast Health Working Group International in 2007 and has served as its chair. Soran has also chaired scientific research committees such as the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMP) for Breast Cancer and Lymphedema and the American Society of Clinical Oncology Breast Cancer Symposium Program Committee.

Refik Anadol, a Turkish American media artist specializing in machine intelligence, created a sensational exhibit entitled *Unsupervised*, in which he uses artificial intelligence to interpret and transform more than 200 years of art at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City. The exhibit was displayed from November 19, 2022, to October 29, 2023. In 2019, Anadol received the Lorenzo il Magnifico Lifetime Achievement Award for New Media and Installation Art. Anadol is considered the first artist to use artificial intelligence in a public artwork. He owns Refik Anadol Studio and lectures at UCLA's Department of Design Media Arts.

Kim Fortuny, an assistant professor of English at *Bogazici Üniversitesi* (*Bosphorus University*) in İstanbul, published her book titled *American Writers in İstanbul: Melville, Twain, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Bowles, Algren, Baldwin, and Settle*, through Syracuse University Press in September 2022.

- In her review of the book, Mareen Freely writes, “For centuries the western gaze has distorted İstanbul, revealing more about the beholder than the city beheld. In this important and long overdue study about eight canonical American writers writing from or about İstanbul, Fortuny offers a brilliant analysis of the varied but quintessentially North American preoccupations they bring to bear as they struggle to make sense of a culture and a history that remains, for the most part, beyond their ken.”
- The full names and the birth and death dates of the authors discussed are as follows: Herman Melville (August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891), Mark Twain (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), Ernest Hemmingway (July 21, 1899 – July 2, 1961), John Dos Passos (January 14, 1896 – September 28, 1970), Paul Bowles (December 30, 1910 – November 18, 1999), Nelson Algren (March 28, 1909 – May 9, 1981), James Baldwin (August 2, 1924 – December 1, 1987), and Mary Lee Settle (July 29, 1918 – September 27, 2005).

2023

Alev Cosmetics, founded by Alev Göçgenci Wieland, was the first Turkish American company to receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) BIOPREFERRED® CERTIFICATION for cosmetic products with certified organic ingredients. (The BioPreferred Program is a USDA-led initiative to increase the use of renewable resources while decreasing the use of non-renewable resources, such as petroleum.) After moving to the U.S., Alev Wieland, a “stay-at-home” mother raising two children, earned her degree in electrical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Before establishing Alev Cosmetics, she worked in the international operations of PepsiCo as an executive and later started Manufacturing Excellence Technical Services, LLC.

Filming for *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* in Antalya, Türkiye, began on February 13, 2023, and was completed in April. The movie was co-produced by the United Kingdom, United States, and Türkiye, and it premiered in New York City on April 13, 2024. Based on Damien Lewis’s 2014 book *Churchill’s Secret Warriors: The Explosive True Story of the Special Forces Desperadoes of WWII*, it was directed, co-written, and co-produced by Guy Ritchie and starred Henry Cavill, Eiza Gonzalez, Alan Ritchson, Henry Golding, and Alex Pettyfer. Production companies were Black Bear Pictures, Jerry Bruckheimer Films, and Lionsgate Films.

İsa Seyran, an innovative Turkish immigrant from a “gecekondu” in İstanbul, added a touch of Türkiye in Ballston, a technology and education hub of Arlington County, Virginia, and neighboring Washington, DC. In 2023, he

started operating a mobile coffee cart called the Ballstonian, serving Turkish coffee and pastries to residents and workers in a courtyard that he made into an “urban oasis” with the placement of Turkish carpets and pillows. For 23 years, he had waited tables at Washington’s top restaurants, interacting with many celebrities. He became a Washington Celebrity himself with his 2022 publication, *Waiter: Reflections & Memories: A Brief History of Washington DC’s World-Class Dining Scene*.

Zafer Kızılkaya, president and founder of the Mediterranean Conservation Society, was one of the six 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize recipients for his work in expanding Türkiye’s network of marine protected areas along 310 miles of the Mediterranean coast. The Goldman Environmental Prize, founded in 1989, is the world’s foremost award for grassroots environmental activists. The winners were celebrated at live ceremonies at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco (April 24) and the Eisenhower Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC (April 26).

Turkish American economist and Wall Street banker Hafize Gaye Erkan, becomes the first female governor of the Central Bank of Türkiye on June 9.

Robert College in İstanbul, founded by American philanthropist Christopher Robert and missionary Cyrus Hamlin, celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2023. The school opened its doors on September 16, 1863, with 31 students, and is the oldest continuously operating American school outside the United States.

- Notable alums include artists, entrepreneurs, journalists, politicians, and scientists. Three Turkish prime ministers, multiple members of the Turkish cabinet, and four Bulgarian prime ministers were Robert College graduates. Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk is also a graduate of Robert College.¹³¹

The Turkish television series *Yargı* (The Judgment), known in the U.S. as *Family Secrets*, was named the Best Telenovel on September 26 by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS). The award was presented at the 51st International Emmy Awards ceremony on November 20 in New York City. The original release of the series was in September 2021. *Family Secrets / Yargı* a story about love stories and intense courtroom drama starring Kaan Urgancıoğlu and Pınar Deniz, was developed by Ay Yapım, written by Sema Ergenekon, and directed by Ali Bilgin.¹³²

TRT World's documentary "Off The Grid," featuring the episode "Ukraine Wartime Diaries," produced in 2022, won the 44th International Emmy Award in the "News and Current Affairs" category. The award was presented in September

2023 by The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences [NATAS] at the Palladium Times Square in New York City. TRT World, representing Türkiye in the finals, was up against competitors from UK, Brazil, and Israel. The episode on Ukraine, *Ukraine Wartime Diaries*, was prepared by Mouhssine Ennaimi and Alexandre Pauliat, with cinematography by Hakan Hocaoglu, showcasing the devastating impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. Edited by Fatih Kibar, with designs by Mahmut Sami Çavuş, the news-documentary examined the transformation in the lives of Ukrainian civilians following the withdrawal of the Russian army from some areas liberated by Ukrainian forces.

On September 27, U.S. Ambassador Jeffry Flake and U.S. Consul General in İstanbul Julie Eadah attended a reception at the Rahmi M. Koç Museum to mark 90 years of diplomatic service of the U.S. Department of State's legendary 50-foot motor launch *Hiawatha*. The *Hiawatha* not only served American diplomats in İstanbul since 1932 but became a symbol of American Turkish friendship. The U.S. envoys also thanked Turkish industrialist Rahmi Koç for the restoration of the *Hiawatha* between 2013-2014. (See July 18, 2013 for more information.)

- The *Hiawatha*, the U.S. Department of State's legendary motor launch, was one of the 100 vessels along with the Turkish Navy that paraded up the Bosphorus on October 29th to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

On the occasion of the Turkish Republic's centennial, Sıtkı Kazancı, as founder, publisher, and editor-in-chief, launched the first issue of TURKNETWORK Magazine in the fall to connect the estimated Turkish American community in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The number of illegal immigrants from worldwide entering the U.S. Southwest land border surged between 2021 and 2023. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the number of Turkish illegal immigrants during this period was 32,396.

Atatürk 1891-1919, was set to be a multi-part series released on the streaming platform Disney+. The original release date was going to be October 29, 2023, on the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. However, that plan was dropped and the series was re-edited into a two-part movie and released in Turkish theaters. Disney issued a statement that it was part of a "revised content distribution strategy," yet there were reports of pressure from Armenian American advocacy groups. The first part was on November 3, 2023, and the second part was released on January 5, 2024. It starred Aras Bulut İynemli as *Atatürk*, Alican Barlas, and Lidija Kordic. The series was directed by Mehmet Ada Öztekin and written by Necati Şahin.

A final note. As the Turkish Republic celebrated its centennial, the estimated number of Turkish Americans was approximately 500,000, including many dual citizens. It's challenging to have an exact number due to the large number of mixed marriages and the reluctance of many Turkish Americans who have maintained their Turkish citizenship and to have registered at the Turkish diplomatic missions in the United States. However, one fact is crystal clear. People of Turkish heritage in all walks of life have fulfilled their dreams of economic success in most fields of employment except politics. One career category, for example, that attracts hundreds of young, ambitious Turkish Americans is the field of law.

Virginia Task Force 1 was once again deployed to Türkiye to assist with search and rescue efforts following the massive earthquake that occurred in southeastern Türkiye on February 6, 2023. This deployment marked a continued commitment, as the task force had previously been sent to Türkiye for the Kocaeli Province earthquake in 1999.

Turkish American composer Mehmet Ali Şanlıköl was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2023. Şanlıköl, who is also a jazz pianist and singer, is a full-time faculty member at the New England Conservatory (NEC).

General James L. Jones (USMC, Ret.), the former chairman of the American Turkish Council, formed the American Turkish Business Roundtable in Washington, DC, as a 501©4.

- General Jones's distinguished career included serving as: Commandant of the Marine Corps (2003-2006), Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) (2003-2006), Commander, U.S. European Command (2003-2006), Special Envoy for Middle East Security (2007-2008), and National Security Advisor under President Barack Obama (2009-2010).

Turkish American Population Figures: In 2023, the American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census recorded 252,256 Americans of Turkish descent. However, unofficial estimates within the Turkish American community suggest that the number of Turkish Americans is between 350,000 and 500,000, as the official figure may be lower due to underreporting and the diversity within the community.

- The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey reported that the following ten states have the highest concentrations of Turkish Americans: New York, California, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, Illinois, and Massachusetts.
- Among municipalities, Paterson, New Jersey, is often referred to as "Little İstanbul" because of its large Turkish American population.

Turkish and American Consulates: By the time of the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic, the Turkish government had increased the number of consulates in the United States from one, located in New York City in 1927, to six by 2023. This expansion aimed to provide services to the growing population of Turkish Americans. The six consulates are situated in Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), New York (NY), Houston (TX), Los Angeles (CA), and Miami (FL).

As for the U.S. diplomatic presence in Türkiye, after establishing bilateral relations in 1927, the U.S. government moved its embassy from İstanbul to Ankara in the 1930s. The former embassy premises in İstanbul then became the U.S. Consulate General. Additionally, the U.S. Consulate in Izmir, which had been established in 1838 during the Ottoman Empire, continued its operations and played a significant role during the Cold War. Later, the U.S. government opened a consulate in Adana to serve the Incirlik Air Base. In 1993, due to budgetary constraints and security concerns, the consulate in Izmir was closed, but a “Consular Agency” was established in Izmir in 2012 to provide limited citizen services.

Air Connections Between the Two Countries: Several American carriers, including TWA, Delta, Pan Am, and United, previously operated flights to İstanbul. However, by 2023, no American airline was flying to İstanbul. Turkish Airlines, which began service from Brussels to New York in 1988, significantly expanded its air service between the two countries in the 2000s.

- By 2023, Turkish Airlines was servicing 14 American cities, including Atlanta (GA), Boston (MA), Chicago – O’Hare (IL), Dallas/Fort Worth (TX), Denver (CO), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), Los Angeles (CA), Miami (FL), New York (NY), Newark (NJ), San Francisco (CA), Seattle/Tacoma (WA), and Washington, D.C.

An appropriate ending to this chapter is an extraordinary tale of two lawyers of Turkish heritage, living in different centuries, who began their legal careers in the Commonwealth (State) of Kentucky--a grandson of an Ottoman Janissary and a Turkish farmer's daughter. These two successful individuals are the only two lawyers of Turkish heritage, both with Greek grandmothers, who have practiced law in Kentucky.

- In 2011, Helen Gülgün Bükülmez became the second individual of Turkish heritage to become a lawyer in Kentucky. Her journey began in Urla, an Aegean village near İzmir; Bükülmez came to Kentucky to learn English as a single mother with her son after graduating from Uludağ University in 2001
- After mastering English, she attended Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, graduating at the top of her class in 2009. She established her thriving law firm, which focused on personal injury cases and immigration.

- As a proud daughter of a Turkish farmer, she bought mountain property in rural Kentucky (Paint Lick/Garrard County) that she calls The Shire for her home and to hold retreats on social and political issues.
- Bükülmez was the second Turkish American to win a primary for a state office when she ran for the Kentucky State Senate in 2021 but lost the general election.
- However, the first lawyer in Kentucky of Turkish heritage was James Ben Ali Haggin, grandson of an Ottoman Janissary born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, on December 9, 1822.
- Haggin became a lawyer after graduating from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. His father was Terah Temple Haggin, and his family was of pioneer stock, settling in Kentucky in 1775.
- His mother, Adeline, was the sole child of İbrahim Ben Ali, born in 1756 outside of İstanbul.
 - As an officer and doctor in the Ottoman army, İbrahim Ben Ali was captured by the Russians in Wallachia during one of the many conflicts between the Russian and Ottoman Empires.
 - After his release, he journeyed to Great Britain and Ireland rather than going home to face accusations of treason.
 - From Great Britain, where he was baptized as a Christian, Ben İbrahim Ali immigrated to the United States in the late 1700s. He worked as a physician in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.
 - In the U.S., he married an English woman, and their only child was a daughter, Adeline.
- Bitten by the California Gold Rush fever, James Ben Ali Haggin moved to Sacramento in 1850, where he opened a law practice with a partner, then moved to San Francisco in 1853.
- In addition to practicing law, he invested in the mining business in the western part of the United States and became a multi-millionaire by 1880.
- James Ben Ali Haggin was a passionate collector of art, and his collection is now at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, CA.
- He also invested in thoroughbred horse racing by acquiring horse farms Rancho Del Paso in Sacramento, CA, and the Elmendorf Farm in Lexington, KY.
- James Ben Ali Haggin developed Elmendorf Farm into the country's largest horse breeding facility, which still exists today.
- The Ben Ali Stakes at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington was named after him for his contribution to thoroughbred horse racing.
- James Ben Ali Haggin was further honored with a peak in the Anaconda Range of southwestern Montana named Mount Haggin.

- He died at 91 in Newport, RI, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York, a burial site for prominent Americans.¹³³

Acknowledgements

In researching the many fascinating stories of individuals and events for Chapter 6, I am grateful for the assistance of Crystal Staebell, who dedicated her time after work hours to help me. I was also fortunate to receive support from two exceptional young Turkish Americans, Sibel Mehmed and Albert Aslan Yelken, who have participated in the Young Cultural Ambassadors Program (YCAP) of the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C.

Crystal, Sibel, and Aslan are proud of their Turkish heritage, and I am confident that they will become future leaders in the Turkish American community.

I also want to express my appreciation for my friends and colleagues who have provided invaluable advice, guidance, and input in identifying events, individuals, and captivating tales-- Işıl Acehan, Erju Ackman, Uğur Akıncı, Sevil Altınsoy, Oya Bain, Bülent Basol, Lydia Borland, Helen Gülgün Bükülmez, Demet Cabbar, Deniz Çelik, Ülfet Çokmez, Nick Danforth, Mert Deniz, Emre Ergüder, Ata Erim, Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin, Günay Evinç, Tuba Fırıncıoğlu-Apaydın, John Hasse, Scott Kilner, Ergün Kırlikovalı, Sylvia Önder, Cemil Özyurt, Peter Poullada, Scott Qudkirk, Atilla and Özlem Soran, Rıdvan Sezer, Tülay Spicker, Melda Tanrısal, Haldun Taşman, Derya Taşkın, Ülkü Ülgür, Gizem Şalcıgil White, Alev Wieland, Michael Williams and Lesar Yurtsever. A special thank you to my editor, Michael Stoil, and to Barış Ornarlı, Tuna Şanlı and Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı, who took the time to review the drafts. Working with all these wonderful people has been an enjoyable and inspiring experience.

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⁴⁶ Justin McCarthy, *The Turk in America: The Creation of an Enduring Prejudice* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2010), 288.

⁴⁷ Hilary Sumner-Boyd and John Freely, *Strolling Through İstanbul: A Guide to the City* (Istanbul: Redhouse Press, 1972), 445.

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⁶⁵ Roger R. Trask, *The United States Response to Turkish Nationalism and Reform, 1914–1939*, 184.

⁶⁶ Rıfat N. Bali, *The Saga of a Friendship: Asa Kent Jennings and The American Friends of Turkey*, 397.

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⁸³ Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel History.

⁸⁴ *Pan American World Airways* press release.

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¹⁰³ Perin E. Gürel, *Türkiye, Iran, and the Politics of Comparison: America's Wife, American Concubine*, 154.

¹⁰⁴ Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel History.

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¹⁰⁸ “Kasım Gülek,” Wikipedia.

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¹¹² “Fatih Özmen and Eren Özmen,” Wikipedia.

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Chapter 7 | Establishment of Key Organizations (Non-Governmental and Private Enterprises)

To present a perspective on the activities of Turkish Americans and American Turkophiles, I have listed the key non-governmental organizations established between 1923 and 2023, particularly highlighting the accelerated dynamism in the second half of the period. Due to the lack of documentation, identifying all the entities associated with the Turkish American community and the bilateral relationship proved to be daunting and exhausting.

Therefore, I used the following criteria to determine what organizations to include in Chapter 7:

- Major and successful Turkish American organizations involved in academics, advocacy, business, culture, education, legal defense, politics, professional fields, religion, social activities, and sports.
- The first and most significant Turkish American media outlets.
- American organizations promoting commerce, culture, defense, and political relations between the two countries.
- The first American private investments in Türkiye after 1923.
- The first Turkish private investments in the United States beginning at the end of the 20th century.

For the Turkish American cultural, educational, and religious charitable nonprofits, I listed only the national and prominent organizations. I did, however, include the local and regional organizations that are component associations of the umbrella institution, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA).

Concerning the commercial and economic ties between the U.S. and Türkiye, I have included the first commercial investments in Türkiye by the American private sector, which were contributing factors to Türkiye's extraordinary economic growth, thereby enabling Türkiye to join the Group of 20 as one of the world's largest 20 economies in the early 21st century. Additionally, I listed the first Turkish companies' investments in the United States, reflecting the Turkish private sector's increasingly growing role in international business.

Finally, I did not attempt to list the organizations associated with the Fethullah Gülen Movement, (Hizmet Movement) which the Turkish government outlawed. However, I have included a summary of entities belonging to the movement.

1923 (circa) Turkish American charitable organizations already established by 1923 were the Ottoman/Turk Teavun Cemiyet (Turkish Welfare Association) in New York with branches in Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland and the Red Crescent in Detroit. The first Turkish newspaper "Unity" was started in the United States publishing three editions per month. The paper covered post-Independence War (Kurtulus Savasi) stories and news from Türkiye.¹

- 1926 The Koç Group obtained a dealership for Türkiye from the American automobile manufacturer, the Ford Motor Company.
- 1928 The Koç Group set up the first Ford dealership in Ankara.
- 1929 Ford Motor started to manufacture automobiles in Türkiye but closed the operation in the 1930s.
- 1930 The first American Friends of Turkey (AFOT), although active since the mid-1920s, was incorporated on July 12, 1930, in New York, New York, under the leadership of Rev. Asa Kent Jennings, with the encouragement of Turkish President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk).
- The AFOT established a branch office in Ankara.
 - Barent Burhans and later Ted Gannaway managed the Ankara office.
 - The Ankara office was closed on February 28, 1934. ²
- 1931 The Turkish Cypriot Aid Society (TCASNY) was established in Bronx, New York. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1933 The Cultural Alliance of New York and the Turkish Orphans' Association were established in New York, New York, to raise money for orphans in Türkiye.
- 1946 The Koç Group signed an agreement with General Electric to establish Türkiye's first light bulb factory. This investment was the first joint venture of American capital in Türkiye.
- 1947 The American Board of Trustees for Robert College in İstanbul was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in New York, New York, with a revised name as the Trustees of Robert College of İstanbul.
- The American Board of Trustees for Robert College in İstanbul was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in New York, New York, with a revised name as the Trustees of Robert College of İstanbul.
- 1949 The American Turkish Society (ATS) was founded in New York, New York, on June 29. The founding members were Selim Sarper, the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations who later became the Turkish Foreign Minister; Ernest Jackh; Asa Jennings (son of Rev. Asa Kent Jennings); Lewis Owen; Charles Wylie; and three other Turkish representatives. Selim Sarper also served as ATS's first president.
- The Turkish American Association in Ankara (TAA) was established in Ankara, Türkiye.

- 1951 The U.S. Propeller Club was established in İstanbul, Türkiye.
- 1953 The Turkish American Club was formed in southern California. It was incorporated in 1985 and changed its name to the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California.
- The Turkish American University Association (TAUA) was established in Türkiye.
- 1954 The first Rotary and Lion Clubs in Türkiye were established in Ankara in March.
- 1955 The American Society of Ephesus, also known as the George B. Quatman Foundation, was established in Ohio. (The foundation restores and maintains ancient Christian sites in and around Ephesus, including the House of the Virgin Mary).
- The İstanbul Hilton opened on June 10. The opening gala featured Hollywood stars Terry Moore and Olivia de Havilland. It was the first American hotel in Türkiye, the second Hilton in Europe, the first modern hotel built in Europe after World War II. The building was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in collaboration with award-winning Turkish architect Sedat Hakki. It was built in 21 months and became the tallest building in İstanbul at the time. Hilton Hotels International had signed an agreement with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 9, 1951. The Hilton İstanbul appeared in the 1963 James Bond movie *From Russia with Love* and the 1964 movie *Topkapi*.³
- This Hilton, now known as the İstanbul Hilton Bosphorus, is currently the longest operating Hilton Hotel outside the U.S. Today, there are Hilton hotels throughout Türkiye.
- 1956 The Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) was established in New York, New York. Ata Erim, one of the prominent FTAA presidents, was instrumental in organizing FTAA's first Turkish American Day Parade, a significant cultural event in New York City, in 1984.
- 1957 The Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA) was established in Clifton, New Jersey. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Islamic Center of Washington, D.C., a mosque located at 2551 Massachusetts Avenue NW, was officially dedicated on June 28, 1957, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower in attendance. The mosque features blue and white ceramic tiles donated by Turkey, which were installed by Turkish experts. The initiative to build the mosque followed the death of Turkish Ambassador Münir Ertegün in 1944, at a time when there was no mosque in the U.S. capital.

- 1958 The Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) was established in New York, New York. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkistanian American Association was established in Dover, New Jersey. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1959 The Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) was founded in New York, New York.
- Koc Otosan started producing Ford buses in Türkiye.
- 1961 The American Association of Crimean Turks was established in Brooklyn, New York. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The American tire manufacturer, Goodyear, established its Turkish subsidiary, Goodyear Lastikleri T.A.S. with the partnership of the Turkish firm, Tatko, on September 1, 1961. The factory, located in Izmit, started production on January 2, 1963.
- 1962 Pepsi started to be produced in Türkiye.
- The American automaker, Chrysler, entered into a licensing and joint-venture agreement with the Turkish firm, Tatko, to establish the Türkiye's first truck manufacturing, Chrysler Sanayi A.S. Actual truck manufacturing began in 1964 under the Chrysler, Fargo, DeSoto, and Dodge brands.
- 1964 Coca-Cola started to be produced in Türkiye.
- The Turkish American Cultural Society of New England (TACS-NE) was established in Boston, Massachusetts. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The American Research Institute of Turkey (ARIT) was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 1965 The American Turkish Association of Washington, DC, (ATA-DC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Washington Turkish Women Association (WTWA) established, serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia). *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1966 The Turkish American Friendship Society of the United States (TAFSUS) was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *An ATAA Component Association.

- 1967 The Florida Turkish American Association (FTAA) was formed in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and was incorporated in 1983. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA) was established in Columbia, Maryland. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1968 The Turkish American Cultural Alliance of Chicago (TACA Chicago) was established in Chicago, Illinois. *ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish American Physicians Association (TAPA) was established in Bronx, New York. *It was an ATAA Component Association until it merged with the Turkish American Medical Association in 1992.
- The Turkish American Medical Association was established in East Meadow, New York.
- 1969 The Turkish Society of Rochester (TSOR) was established in Rochester, New York. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Contemporary Education Foundation (COEDFO) was established in McKinney, Texas. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish American Association of Central Ohio (TAACO) was established in Dublin, Ohio. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish Educational Foundation (TEF) was founded in Berkeley, California, as a nonprofit organization "dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational support to needy children in Turkey." It became a 501(c)3 organization in 1970.
- The Turkish Educational Foundation (TEF) was founded in Berkeley, California, as a nonprofit organization "dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational support to needy children in Turkey." It became a 501(c)3 organization in 1970.
- 1970 The Society of Turkish American Architects, Engineers and Scientists (MIM) was founded in Plainsboro, New Jersey. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish American Cultural Alliance of St. Louis (TACA-St. Louis) was established in St. Louis, Missouri.

- The Turkish American Association of Wisconsin (TAA-Wisconsin) was established in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1971 The Atatürk School was established in New York, New York.
- 1972 The Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) was established in Wixom. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish Cultural Center was established in Wixom, Michigan, by TACAM.
- 1973 The Pittsburgh Turkish American Association (PTAA) was established in Pennsylvania. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1975 The Turkish American Association of California (TAACA) was established in Palo Alto, California. *An ATAA Component Association. Chapters were established in Monterey, 1996; Sacramento, 1998; San Francisco, 2010; and San Jose (Silicon Valley), 2019.
- The Turkish American Association of Northern Texas (TURANT) was established in Frisco. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1976 The Turkish American Cultural Association (TACA) in Seattle, Washington, was established as a 501(c)7, not-for-profit social association. In 2006, it became a 501(c)3 cultural charitable organization under the name of the Turkish Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA), located in Bellevue, Washington. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish Children Foster Care was established in Herndon, Virginia. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Turkish American Friendship Association of Hawaii (TAFAH) was established in Honolulu, Hawaii. *An ATAA Component Association.
- **TAFAH was dissolved in 2016.
- 1977 The Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio (TASNO) was established in Parma, Ohio. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1978 The second American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) was formed under the leadership of Colonel Ralph E. Ropp (ret.) who had earlier served in the NATO command in İzmir. AFOT later incorporated into a 501(c)3 charitable organization in Virginia in 1982. For further details, see Chapter 6.
- 1979 The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) was established in Washington, DC, as the first Turkish American national organization. According to its mission statement, “The Assembly’s main goal is to be a link between all

communities, large or small, and pursue their interests in Washington and beyond.” Founding members were Ülkü Ülgür, Yavuz Somen, Taşkın Atıl, Engin Holmstrom, Tunca Iskır, and Alp Karahasan. The private sector in Türkiye made significant contributions to ATAA’s start-up. By 2023, ATAA had over 50 component associations.

The American Turkish Association of Houston (ATA-Houston) was established in Houston, Texas. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish-American Association of Greater Kansas City (TAA-KC) was established in Kansas City, MO. *An ATAA Component Association.

1981 Türk Ocağı was established in Lydhurst, New Jersey.

Citibank was the first American bank to open a full-service branch in Türkiye (İstanbul).

1982 The American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) was incorporated in Virginia although AFOT had sponsored events since the late 1970s. For further details, see Chapter 6.

1982 The Institute of Turkish Studies was established in Washington, DC, and dissolved in 2020.

1983 The Turkish American Cultural Society of Colorado (TACSCO) was established in Englewood, Colorado. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Association of Arizona (TAA-AZ) was established in Tempe, Arizona. *An ATAA Component Association.

Ziraat Bank was the first Turkish bank to open a full-service branch in the United States (New York, New York), but the branch was closed in 2017.

1984 The first Turkish American political action committee was formed by board members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA). It was called PAC-ATAA.

The Koç Group established the first Turkish trading company, Ramerica International, in the United States. Based in New York City, Ramerica continues to market Turkish textile and ready-made clothing products and other exports in the American market. The company also imported raw materials from the U.S. to Türkiye.

1985 On April 3, a protocol for the establishment of a Türkiye U.S. Business Council

was signed in Washington, D.C., in the presence of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Özal and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, Jr. The signatories were Ali Coşkun, Vice President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), and Richard Leshner, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The business council was expected to identify areas of joint investment between the two countries and present recommendations to their respective governments.

- The Turkish Section of the business council, called the Türkiye U.S. Business Council, was created shortly after the signing of the protocol under the auspices of Türkiye's Foreign Economic Relations Board/ Dış Ekonomik İlişkiler Kurulu (DEİK).
 - DEİK was created after Turgut Özal became prime minister. It's first Executive Board included Feyyaz Berker as chairman, Ömer Dinçkök, Cem Boyner, Rona Yırcalı, İsmet Bakırlı, Evren Artam, and Hilmi Sönmez.
- The Türkiye U.S. Business Council with the acronym of TUSBC later changed its name to Türkiye American Business Council (TAIK). TUSBC/TAIK was the first bilateral business council created in Türkiye. Its first chairman was Ersin Faralyalı, President of the Aegean Region Chamber of Industry.
- The American counterpart, U.S. Türkiye Business Council, was formed a year later in 1986 under the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was chaired by U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary, Malcolm Baldrige, Jr.

Özal’s 1985 Visit: A Turning Point in U.S.- Türkiye Economic Relations

Prime Minister Turgut Özal paid his first official visit to the United States at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan from March 27 to April 6, 1985. This was more than a diplomatic visit; it marked the introduction of a “New Türkiye” to the global stage.

A natural and friendly rapport quickly developed between Özal and Reagan. Both leaders championed economic liberalization and free-market principles in their respective countries. This ideological alignment was so strong that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt famously described Özal as a “Reaganite,” underscoring that the two leaders spoke the same language of reform and private-sector-led growth.

During his meetings at the White House and with American business leaders—facilitated in part by a high-profile breakfast organized by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger—Özal advocated a decisive break from the past. He sought to move beyond the “aid-dependent” model of the Cold War. In a historic appeal to President Reagan, Özal encapsulated his vision with the iconic phrase: “I don’t want more aid, I want more trade.”

Central to this vision was the establishment of a dedicated platform to connect the two business communities. Özal personally took the initiative to draft a protocol for the Turkish-American Business Council. Although Reagan faced domestic constraints, including import quotas on Turkish textiles and steel, he supported the creation of a council that could bypass bureaucratic inertia and promote direct private-sector engagement.

President Ronald Reagan's Congratulatory Letter Marking the formation of the DEIK-TUSBC Bilateral Business Council

*The White House
Washington*

March 21, 1986

I am happy to send greetings to everyone at the first meeting of the Turkey-U.S. Business Council. This meeting presents a valuable opportunity to further the understanding that already joins our nations. In fact, the interest in the council expressed in both countries by business and government leaders alike is evidence of the strong ties between us.

Your Council has been established at a time when Turkey-U.S. economic relations are taking a new and encouraging term. The Council can help by informing its members and the public about the exciting potential for new businesses and investment and for increased scientific and cultural cooperation.

I applaud your efforts to enhance the friendship between the United States and our close ally, Turkey. You have my best wishes for success. God bless you.

Ronald Reagan

1985 The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC, established the U.S.-Türkiye Business Council.

- The Chamber's U.S. Türkiye Business Council became the counterpart of DEIK's TUSBC Council (later TAIK).

The Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEIK) established the Türkiye-U.S. Business Council (TC-USBC/TAİK).

- TC-USBC/TAİK was the first business council in Türkiye.

The Turkish-American Club in southern California was incorporated in Ventura (CA) and changed its name to the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC). *An ATAA Component Association. Chapters were established in San Diego, 2001; Los Angeles, 2004; Orange County, 2005; and Ventura County, 2007. ATASC's Philanthropic Chapter, Turkish Americans Ladies League (TALL) was established in 2003. Two Special Project Chapters later became associated with ATASC—(1) Turkish Women Initiative (TWI), 2009; and (2) Atatürk Memorials, 2016.

White & Case LLP, headquartered in New York City, was the first major international law firm to open office in Türkiye, in both Ankara and İstanbul.

The İstanbul International Community School (IICS), commonly known as the American school, officially adopted its current name in 1985. However, the school's origins date back to 1911 when it was established as the Robert College Community School to serve the children of Robert College faculty.

- In 1919, the school expanded its enrollment to include children from American and other foreign families in the international business community.
- Following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Turkey in 1927, the school began admitting children of American diplomats.
- In 1945, the school received official approval from the Turkish Ministry of Education to provide primary education for children of foreign nationals.
- IICS became independent from Robert College in 1979, guided by its principal, Carol Fonger, who held the position from 1958 to 1991.

1986

The Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia (TACAGA) was established in Atlanta. *An ATAA Component Association.
The American Turkish Association of San Antonio (ATA-San Antonio) was established in San Antonio, Texas. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Community Center (TACC) was established in Manalapan, New Jersey.

Turkish American Business Association/AmCham (TABA) was established in İstanbul, Türkiye. *An ATAA Component Association.

The American fast food chain McDonalds opened its first restaurant in Türkiye in Taksim-İstanbul on October 24.

The Friends of the American Board Schools in Turkey (FABSIT) was established in Delaware in November as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to foster excellence in secondary education in Türkiye through support of the American Board schools and hospital. FABSIT is the contemporary, secular heir of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, whose Congregational missionaries started these American Board schools in the 19th century during the Ottoman Empire. In 1996, FABSIT began supporting health care services and public health education at the Gaziantep American Hospital which was also founded by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1879.

- FABSIT's Partners in Türkiye:
 - American Collegiate Institute, Izmir
 - Tarsus American College, Tarsus
 - Üsküdar American Academy

- SEV Gaziantep American Hospital
- Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı (Health and Education Foundation)

1987 The American Turkish Association of North Carolina (ATA-NC) was established in Cary, North Carolina. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Cultural Association of Florida, Inc. (TACAF) was established in Tampa, Florida. *An ATAA Component Association.

The first Turkish construction firm subsidiary to be established in the United States was Kiska Construction, Inc., in New York, New York, by the Turkish conglomerate Kiska Group of Companies.

1988 The American Studies Association of Türkiye established in Ankara, Türkiye.

1989 The Turkish American Women's Fund (TAWSF) was established in Chicago, Illinois, as a "not-for-profit organization dedicated to college education of Financially-needy and academically qualified women in Turkey." Hundreds of scholarships were given out.

1991 American Turkish (Friendship) Council formed in Washington, DC. For further details, see Chapter 6.

The Turkish American Muslim Cultural Association (TAMCA) was established in Levittown, Pennsylvania, as a 501(c)3 nonprofit religious organization, in 1991. TAMCA operates a mosque and serves as a religious and cultural center for the Turkish American and Muslim communities.

Anatolian Artisans, a 501©3 charitable organization, was founded by Yıldız Yağcı in North Bethesda, Maryland, to empower low-income artisans in Türkiye and raise awareness about Turkish arts and culture in the U.S.

The Turkish American Association for Cultural Exchange (TAACE) was established in Morton Grove, Illinois. *An ATAA Component Association.

1992 The Southern New England Turkish American Association (SNE-TACA) was established in West Hartford, Connecticut. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Young Turks Cultural Aid Society, Inc. (YTCA) was established in Paterson, New Jersey. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Physicians Association (TAPA) joined the Turkish American Medical Association (TAMA).

The Darüşşafaka Society / Darüşşafaka Cemiyeti, is one of Turkey's oldest and most respected charitable and educational institutions. Founded in 1863 during the Ottoman Empire, it offers free boarding and education to orphans in need of financial support.

- The first gathering of Darüşşafaka alumni residing in the United States took place in Hoboken, New Jersey, on July 4, 1992. This dinner event was hosted by Davut Okutcu, president of Ramerica International in New York City. Following this get-together, Okutçu, with the support of Ülkü Ülgür, founder of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and Hüdai Yavalar, founder of the Atatürk Society of America, established an informal Darüşşafaka USA Chapter. This chapter has since met annually in various cities across the U.S.
- In subsequent years, Darüşşafaka alumni living in Canada joined the annual gatherings, and the group began to refer to themselves as the Darüşşafaka Society North America.

1993 The Turkish American (Friendship) Council (ATC) in Washington, DC, became incorporated as a 503©6 trade association. For further details, see Chapter 6.

The Turkish American Islamic Foundation (TAIF) was established in Lanham, Maryland. In 2003, it was renamed as the Turkish American Community Center (TACC).

The Turkish American Association of Oklahoma (TAAOK) was established in Tulsa, Oklahoma. *An ATAA Component Association.

The İstanbul Technical University / İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi (ITU) Alumni Association International was established in East Hartford, Connecticut. *An ATAA Component Association.

1994 The U.S. - Türkiye Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce merged with the American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC). ATC then became the counterpart of DEİK's Türkiye -U.S. Business Council (TUSBC/TAIK).

- After the merger, ATC was led by a distinguished group of individuals who had previously served in the U.S. government and industry. The leadership team included Austin List, Chairman of Golding Industries; Major General Fred Haynes (USMC), a veteran of the Iwo Jima campaign in World War II; Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum from Kansas; National Security Council Advisor Lieutenant General (USAF) Brent Scowcroft; Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage; and General James L. Jones (USMC), who served as both SACEUR Commander and National Security Advisor.

The Anadolu Club, Inc. (AC) was established in Chatham, New Jersey. *An ATAA Component Association.

- 1995 The Atatürk Society of America was established in Washington, DC, under the leadership of Hüdayi Yavalar.
- A Middle East Technical University / Orta Dogu Teknik Universitesi (METU/ODTU) alumni group was formed in Washington, DC, by Turgay Dabak, Alkan Dönmez, Yavuz, and Nuray Anahtar. Around 2020, other alums formed a national association called METU/ODTU USA Alumni Association on social media (Instagram/LinkedIn/WhatsApp).
- 1996 The Monterey Chapter of the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1997 The Turkish American Business Forum was established in New York, New York.
- 1998 TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association) established a representative office in Washington, DC.
- The first Turkish hotel in the U.S., the Marmara Manhattan (an apartment hotel) was opened in New York, New York, by the Turkish-owned company KISKA-USA.
- HasNa Inc. was established in Washington, DC, by Nevzer Stacey as a 502©3 charitable organization with a mission of global peace and conflict resolution in Türkiye and the region.
- The Sacramento Chapter of the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.
- 1999 The Turkish American Society of Augusta & Aiken (TASAA) was established in Martinez, Georgia. *An ATAA Component Member.
- The Daughters of Atatürk was founded by Sema Karaoğlu in San Clemente, California.
- The worldwide Gülen Movement (Hizmet Movement) emerged as a significant phenomenon in the United States around 1999, with hundreds of Gülen organizations, including nonprofits, charter schools, and private schools, established in nearly every state and the District of Columbia. The movement became a dominant force within the Turkish American community and was influential in its outreach to local, state, and federal governments from 1999 to 2016.
- This rapid expansion of the movement followed the arrival of its leader, Fethullah Gülen, an Islamic scholar and preacher, who came to the U.S. in

March 1999 for surgery. He never returned to Türkiye, obtaining his permanent residency (Green Card) in 2008 and living in self-imposed exile near Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, until his death in October 2024.

- Initially, Gülen and his followers were supporters of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, promoting Türkiye in Washington, D.C. while Erdoğan-led governments were in power in Türkiye. However, a falling out occurred between the two leaders beginning as early as December 2013 when a corruption scandal erupted. The rupture became complete in 2016, when the Turkish government accused Gülen of orchestrating a coup attempt on July 15. Following these accusations, his movement was designated as FETO (Fethullahçı Terör Örgütü / Fethullahist Terrorist Organization). Türkiye subsequently submitted a formal request for Gülen's extradition from the U.S., which was never fulfilled, and the movement faced significant decline after the coup attempt.
- According to the Citizens Against Special Interest Lobbying in Public Schools (C.A.S.I.L.I.P.S.), in its online report “A Guide to the Gülen Movement: Activities in the U.S.,” the Gülen Movement in the U.S. had established around 180 nonprofit organizations (and possibly more, as the exact number is unknown), six federations, and one national umbrella organization based in Washington, D.C., by 2013. This umbrella entity, called the Turkic American Alliance (formerly the Assembly of Turkic American Federations), was founded in 2010. The six federations identified were: (1) Council of Turkic American Associations, (2) Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA), (3) Turkish American Federation of the Midwest (TAFS), (4) Turkish American Federation of the Southeast, (5) Turkish Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE), and (6) West American Turkic Council.
- C.A.S.I.L.I.P.S. also reported that by 2017 it had identified approximately 170 charter schools established by the Gülen Movement that received public funding in over 25 states and the District of Columbia. The states with the highest number of these schools included Texas with 52, Ohio with 19, and California with 11. Additionally, findings from C.A.S.I.L.I.P.S. in 2012 indicated that there were 24 Gülen private schools across 11 states, covering preschool, K-12, and higher education institutions.

2000

The Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF) established by Yalçın and Serpil Ayaslı in Concord, Massachusetts. TCF's focus is to promote and preserve “Turkish culture and heritage worldwide, through original programs and cooperation with like minded organizations.”

Turkcell was the first Turkish company ever to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange on July 11.

The Turkish American Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Maritime Trade (TACCIM) was established in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Turkish American Cultural Society of Rhode Island (TACS- RI) was Established in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Tristate Turkish American Association (TTAA) was established in Mason, Ohio and was dissolved in 2010. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Robert College Foundation was established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in New York, New York, to support Robert College in İstanbul with fundraising, scholarships, and development efforts.

2001 The San Diego Chapter of the American Turkish Association of Southern California (ATASC/SD) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

The North Florida Turkish American Cultural Association (NFTACA) was established in Jacksonville, Florida, but later it was dissolved. *An ATAA Component Association.

The American Turkish Association of Indiana (ATA-IN) was established in Indianapolis, Indiana, but later it was dissolved. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Zakat Foundation of America, a religious-oriented charitable organization, was founded by Halil Demir in Bridgeview, Illinois, dedicated to humanitarian aid and development worldwide.

2002 The Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TACCI) was established in New York, New York.

The first issue of TURKOFAMERICA (August), the first nationwide business and life magazine about the Turkish American business community, was published in August.

The American & Turkish Veterans Association was established in Washington, DC.

2003 The Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) was established in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to collect contributions from Turkish Americans and friends of Türkiye for the “welfare of less fortunate children and youth in Türkiye.”

The Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California’s Philanthropic Chapter, Turkish American Ladies League (ATASC/TALL) was established in Irvine, California. *An ATAA Component Association.

The American Turkish Friendship Council (ATFC) was established by Mona Diamond in Atlanta, Georgia.

2004 The House of Türkiye became a member of the House of Pacific Relations in the world-renowned San Diego, California's Balboa Park.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Turkish Association of Southern California (ATASC/LATAA) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Association of Minnesota (TAAM) was established in St. Paul. An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) was established in Washington, DC.

The Turkish American Business Connection (TABC) was established in Santa Clara, California.

The American Business Forum in Türkiye (ABFT)/AmCham was established in İstanbul, Türkiye.

2005 The Turkish company KORDSA, a subsidiary of Sabanci Holding, took full ownership of a manufacturing facility producing tire cords and other industrial fabrics in Chattanooga, Tennessee, from its American joint-venture partner DuPont de Nemours & Company. The transaction is believed to be the first significant investment of a Turkish company in manufacturing in the United States.

The Orange County Chapter of the American Turkish Association of Southern California (ATASC/OCTAA) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

The İstanbul University Alumni Association of USA (IUMEZUSA) was established in New York, New York. *An ATAA Component Association.

The German Marshall Fund, headquartered in Washington, DC, established a branch in Ankara, Türkiye.

The Turkish American publication, *Bonbon*, was launched from McLean, Virginia. It is the first bilingual magazine aimed at Turkish children between the ages of 6-14.

2006 The Turkish American Heritage Political Action Committee (Turkish PAC) was established in Houston, Texas, by Demir Karsan, who served as its president, and Özgür İnal and Tekin Kunt, who alternated as treasurer. Tülay Spicker later became the treasurer in 2022.

The Mediterranean Executives Dinner Group (The MED Group) was founded in Southern California by Nevin Şanlı, Engin Arık, Vacit Arat, and Vatche Artinian. The MED Group is composed of successful business owners, C-level executives (CEO, CFO, CIO, COO), and other professionals.

2007 The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) was established by Yalçın and Serpil Ayaslı as a 501©3 organization advocating a strong U.S.- Türkiye relationship. Headquartered in Concord, Massachusetts, TCA's center of operations was in Washington, DC, from 2007 to 2020 with Yalçın Ayaslı serving as chairman, G. Lincoln McCurdy as president, and Guler Koknar as vice president.

The Ventura County Chapter of the American Turkish Association of Southern California (ATASC/VATAN-SC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) was established in New York, New York, by Haldun Tashman, Mustafa Abadan, Ozlenen Kalav, Erinch Ozada, and Murat Agirnasli. Inspired by private philanthropy in the United States, TPF encourages Turkish Americans to be more philanthropic by providing a mechanism to support the needs of local communities in Türkiye in the areas of education, gender equality, and economic development.

The Turkish Heritage Anti-Defamation Society was established in Houston under the leadership of Demir Karsan.

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) established a representative e office in Washington, DC.

The Turkish Coalition USA Political Action Committee (TC-USA PAC) was established in Washington, DC, by Yalçın Ayaslı, serving as its chairman, and G. Lincoln McCurdy as treasurer. In 2023, Hülya Erol Garvett of Michigan became treasurer and the only officer of the PAC.

The Aziz and Gwen Sancar Foundation (AGSF) was established by Aziz and Gwen Sancar in Chapel Hill, North Carolina to foster “a deeper appreciation and understanding of Türkiye through a diverse range of educational programs, social services, and engaging events.

Radyo Turkum started broadcasting in New York, New York.

2008 The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) established the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (TALDF).

The Aziz & Gwen Sancar Foundation's (AGSF) Carolina Turk Evi opened on the campus of University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) to provide graduate housing to visiting Turkish scholars. UNC-CH is the only university in the U.S. with a Türk Evi.

Turkish American Association of Alabama was established in Birmingham, Alabama. *An ATAA Component Association.

The building for the Florida Turkish Center in Ft. Lauderdale was purchased in December 2008

The first Turkish "community foundation," based on an American concept, was established in Bolu, Türkiye, in June by Turkish American philanthropist Haldun Tashman, a native son of Bolu, and local business and civil society leaders. The Bolu Community Foundation was formed to address the community's social and economic development needs.

2009 The Turkish Women's Initiative (TWI) was established in Manhattan Beach, California, and became a Special Project Chapter of the Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATAA). An ATAA Component Association.

The Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) set up an office in Washington, DC.

The Ahiska Turkish American Community Center (ATACC) established in Dayton, Ohio. *An ATAA Component Association.

2010 The San Francisco Chapter of the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

TurkishWIN (Turkish Women's International Network) was established in New York, New York.

The Turkish Coalition New Jersey Political Action Committee (TC-NJ PAC) was established by Yalçın Ayaslı and G. Lincoln McCurdy in New Jersey. Later the name was changed to the Turkish Coalition Northeast PAC (TC-NE PAC) and based in New York. Individuals serving as treasurers were Ali Çınar followed by John Driscoe. In 2020, the PAC became the National Coalition of Turkish American Women Political Action Committee (NC-TAW PAC) based in Washington, DC.

The Turkish Coalition California Political Action Committee (TC-CAL PAC) was established in Long Beach, California, by Yalçın Ayaslı and G. Lincoln McCurdy. Treasurers have been Ergün Kırlikovalı and Maria Çakırağa.

The Turkish American Association of Louisiana (TAAL) was established in Kenner, Louisiana.

Galatasaray DC (GSDC), a fan club of Galatasaray's professional soccer team in İstanbul, Türkiye, was established in Vienna, Virginia. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF), located in Concord, Massachusetts, was the first Turkish American organization to establish a branch in Turkey in 2010. This was made possible by a recent government decree allowing foreign branches of international foundations and nonprofits in Turkey. Since the late 1930s, Turkey had prohibited foreign branches.

2012 The Turkish Resource Center of North America (TRCNA) and the Turkish Business Center were established by Nurten Ural and Steven Webster in Lansing, Michigan.

The Turkish Nationality Room was created at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The West Coast Turkish American Chamber of Commerce (WECTAC) was established in Los Angeles, California

The Turkish Coalition Midwest Political Action Committee (TC-Midwest PAC) was established by Yalçın Ayaslı and G. Lincoln McCurdy in Indianapolis, Indiana, with Ersal Özdemir as treasurer. The PAC later moved to Chicago with Cem Karsan becoming treasurer. It later became the National Coalition of Turkish American Lawyers PAC (NC-TAL PAC) based in Washington, DC, in 2021, and in 2023 it was announced that the PAC will become the Turkish American Coalition Political Action (TAC-PAC) and based in Rhode Island

2013 MÜSİAD (Müstakil Sanayici ve İşadamları Derneği / Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association), founded in Türkiye in 1990 by conservative Anatolian businessmen as an alternative to TUSİAD, established an office in Washington, DC. MÜSİAD, at the time of its founding, was initially called the Muslim Industrialists and Businessmen Association.

The second U.S.-Türkiye Business Council formed under U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

- The first U.S.- Türkiye Business Council under the Chamber was established in 1985, but it later merged with the American Turkish (Friendship) Council (ATC).

The American Turkish Academy of Washington (ATA-WA) was established in Bellevue, Washington. It received its 501(c)3 charitable status in 2014.

2014 The U.S. Chamber of Commerce established an office in İstanbul.

The Turkish company Borusan built a steel pipe factory in Baytown, Texas, to serve the North American energy market.

2015 The Ottoman-style mosque in Lanham, Maryland, outside of Washington, DC, opened in June 2015 and became officially known as the Diyanet Center of America. The Turkish government funded the construction of the mosque and its complex. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the grand opening on April 2, 2016.

- In addition to operating the mosque in Lanham, Maryland, the Diyanet Center of America has established a network of affiliated mosques nationwide, including those founded by the Turkish American Religious Foundation (TARF), the Turkish American Muslim Cultural Association (TAMCA), and independent Turkish American community mosques. (Note: Not all of the Turkish American mosques in the United States are affiliated with the Diyanet Center of America.)
- The Diyanet Center of America receives funding from Türkiye's Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı) for its operations. It operates through the Turkish American Community Center, providing religious, social, and educational services to Turkish Americans and other Muslims in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, as well as to the affiliated mosques. Additionally, the Diyanet Center of America appoints the imams at these mosques and covers their salaries.
- By 2023, there were over 30 mosques in the 17 states affiliated with the Diyanet Center of America. The two earliest affiliated mosques are the Kirim Turkleri Cemiyeti (Mosque of Crimean Turks) in Brooklyn, New York, founded in 1969, and the Ulu Cami (Ulu Mosque) in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1978. (Note: The first Turkish mosques in the United States date back to the mid-20th century and were founded by members of the local Turkish American communities. ⁴

The Cincinnati Turkish American Association (CTAA) was established in Cincinnati, Ohio. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Turkish Heritage Organization (THO) was established in Washington, DC.

- 2016 The Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California's Special Chapter Atatürk Memorials (ATAS/ATAMLA) was established in Ventura, California.
*An ATAA Component Association.
- The Friends of Turkey in Arkansas changed its name to the American Turkish Association of Arkansas. (The year that the Friends of Turkey in Arkansas was established is unknown.) *An ATAA Component Association.
- The American Turkish Business Development Council (ATBD) was established in İstanbul, Türkiye.
- The Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) was established in Washington, DC, to serve the Turkish American interests nationwide. Gunay Evinch and Ibrahim Uyar were the first co-presidents.
- 2017 The Yunus Emre Institute established an office in Washington, DC.
- Ziraat Bank closed its branch in New York, New York.
- 2018 ETAC / Empowering the Turkish American Community was established in Oakland, California. *An ATAA Component Association.
- The Atatürk Park in Wixom, Michigan, was established by the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM) that combines Turkish heritage and nature on 6 and ½ acres.
- The Turkish Anti-Defamation Alliance (TADA) was founded by Sevgin Oktay in New York. He was succeeded by Ugur Kara of Levittown, New York, as TADA's chairman.
- The Indiana American Turkish Association – Together Universal Responsible Kind, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit on August 30, 2018. It later changed its name to IN-Atatürk, Inc.
- 2019 The Turkish American Community Center (TACC) in Manalapan, New Jersey, (229 Route 33) officially opened its Atatürk Park on May 19, on the 100th anniversary when Mustafa Kemal Pasha landed in Samsun which is considered as the start of the national resistance movement against the occupation of Allied forces following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War. The public park was created from approximately 3.6 acres of unused wooded area belonging to TACC.
- The Atatürk Cultural Center was established in Los Angeles, California, the Special Project Chapter, Atatürk Memorials Chapter, of the American Turkish

Association of Southern California (ATASC).

The American Turkish Council (ATC) merged with the second U.S- Türkiye Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

The San Jose (Silicon Valley) Chapter of the Turkish American Association of California (TAAC) was established. *An ATAA Component Association.

The Oregon Turkish American Association (ORTA) was established in Portland, Oregon.

2020 ETAC's Türk Evi (Turkish American Community Center) opened in Santa Clara, California.

Turkish American Professionals Initiative was formed by Lawrence Cenk Laws in Washington, DC.

The Turkish Coalition Northeast PAC became the National Coalition of Turkish American Women Political Action Committee (NC -TAW PAC) on October 29 and was based in Washington, DC. The new officers were Tuba Apaydın-Fırıncıoğlu, president and treasurer; Hülya Erol Garvett, vice president; and Tülay Spicker, vice president.

The Institute of Turkish Studies dissolved was dissolved in September.

On November 25, 2020, the Turkish American Steering Committee (TASC) launched its television broadcast with an address by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the Turkish American community. TASC TV ceased its television operation on January 20, 2023.

2021 The Turkish Business Center in Chicago, Illinois, established by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) opened January 8.

The Aziz and Gwen Sancar Turkish Cultural & Community Center opened in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The House of Türkiye as a member of the House of Pacific Relations in the world-renowned San Diego's Balboa Park opened its cottage in the park's International Cottages section.

The Turkish Coalition Midwest Political Action Committee (TC-Midwest PAC) became the National Coalition of Turkish American Lawyers Political Action Committee (NC-TAL PAC) based in Washington, DC, with Doreen Edelman as president and Levent Hergüner as treasurer.

2022 The Turkish American Chamber of Commerce of the South was established in

Miami, Florida.

ASKON (Anatolian Lions Businessmen Association) in İstanbul established a Branch, ASKON USA, in Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

2023 TurkNetwork Magazine, based in Northern Virginia, created by Sıtkı Kazancı, started its online publication.

The American Turkish Business Roundtable was established in Washington, DC, as a 501©4 by General James L. Jones (USMC, Ret.), the former chairman of the American Turkish Council. General Jones's distinguished career included serving as: Commandant of the Marine Corps (2003-2006), Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) (2003-2006), Commander, U.S. European Command (2003-2006), Special Envoy for Middle East Security (2007-2008), and National Security Advisor under President Barack Obama (2009-2010). Turks in Tech was established in San Francisco, California.

The Turkish Coalition USA PAC (TC-USA PAC) operations moved to Michigan with Hülya Erol Garvett becoming the treasurer and its only officer of.

At the end of 2023, it was announced that the National Coalition of Turkish American Lawyers Political Action Committee would become the Turkish American Coalition Political Action Committee (TAC PAC) based in Rhode Island, with Melih Bektaş as chairman and treasurer.

Acknowledgements

I want to give a special thanks to the following people who helped me compile the information for Chapter 7: İsmail Arslan, Ahmet Atahan, Ali Utku Atalay, Oya Bain, Lydia Borland, Demet Cabbar, Ali Çınar, Nihat Çubukçu, Hakan Dakın, Ata Erım, Günay Evıınch, Ahmet & Ece Kılıç, Ali Kıran, Sibel Mehmed, Davut Okutçu, David Saltzman, Nil Sarıtepe, Vega Sankur, Sevtap Schreffler, Crystal Staebell, Burcu Tansu, Meldan Tanrısal, Derya Taşkın, Ülkü Ülgür, Nurten Ural, Sezen Uysal, Sinem Vatanartian, Alev Wieland, Mirat Yavalar, and John and Evelyn Zimmerman.

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¹ For more information about the history of the first Turks in the United States, see *TurkofAmerica* Magazine, no. 10 (2004).

² For further details about the first American Friends of Turkey, see Chapter 6.

³ “Hotel History,” Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus, Hilton Hotels & Resorts
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/isthitw-hilton-İstanbul-bosphorus/hotel-history/>.

⁴ For the list of mosques affiliated with the Diyanet Center of America,
<https://www.diyametamerica.org>.

Chapter 8 | Diplomatic Buildings in Ankara, İstanbul, Washington, DC, and New York

Ankara - U.S. Embassy and Ambassador's Residence

Following the signing of the Mudros Armistice on October 30, 1918, the Ottoman Sultan in İstanbul capitulated to Allied forces. However, the Turkish Nationalist Movement in Anatolia opposed this decision. Turkish Nationalists established a new government in Ankara and inaugurated the Grand National Assembly on April 23, 1920. Mustafa Kemal became its first president.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly abolished the Ottoman sultanate on November 1, 1922. U.S. High Commissioner Mark Lambert Bristol reached out to the new regime, using a railroad car at the Ankara train station for the U.S. representative office when traveling to Ankara from İstanbul. The U.S. liaison officer residing in Ankara at this time was Howland Shaw. After the Grand National Assembly declared the Republic of Türkiye on October 29, 1923, the railway car continued to serve as the U.S. office in Ankara until 1924.

The United States did not recognize the newly-formed Republic of Türkiye until 1927. During these early years, the U.S. government leased premises for an Ankara office in a development called the Evkaf Houses in Ulus, near Gençlik Park. The property belonged to the Evkaf, a religious foundation the Turkish government had recently taken over.

In 1927, diplomatic relations were established between the two countries, and the US representative office in Ulus became the U.S. Embassy, which remained in the same location until 1939. However, the first U.S. ambassadors to the Republic of Türkiye continued to reside in İstanbul. John Van Antwerp MacMurray (1936-1941) in 1937 became the first U.S. ambassador to live in Ankara.

The U.S. Embassy relocated to 243 Atatürk Bulvarı in Kavaklıdere in February 1939. In the 1950s, the embassy and the ambassador's residence were moved to Çankaya. The ambassador's residence at İran Caddesi 59 was occupied in 1952 when George C. McGhee served as ambassador (1952-1953), and Avra M. Warren was the ambassador (1953-1956) during the relocation to the new embassy at 100 Atatürk Bulvarı. The new embassy opened in January 1954 and was designed by the prestigious firm Eggers & Higgins.¹

During Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone's tenure (2011-2014), the U.S. government bought land, over three and a half hectares (nine acres), in Çankaya for a new embassy facility. It was the most expensive real estate acquisition by the U.S. government at that time. The U.S. Embassy began its operations at the new facility, 1480 Sokak No. 1, Çukurambar Mahallesi (Çankaya), on August 29, 2022. Jeffrey Lane Flake, a former congressman and U.S. senator, was the ambassador during the move. The complex was designed by Ennead Architects and the general contractor was B.L. Harbert International with a project budget of \$514 million.

İstanbul – U.S. Embassy and Consulate General

The history of the U.S. diplomatic mission in İstanbul during the Ottoman Empire. The United States and the Ottoman Empire established diplomatic relations in 1831 when David Porter (a former naval officer) presented his credentials as U.S. Chargé d'Affaires at İstanbul on September 13. Porter served as head of the American Legation until May 23, 1840. (It is interesting to note that the Ottomans did not send its first minister, Edouard Blak Bey, to Washington, DC, until 1867.)

It wasn't until the 1880s that the U.S. government obtained a permanent building in İstanbul for the American Legation to the Ottoman Empire, which is still in its possession today. In 1882, the U.S. government obtained the renowned Palazzo Corpi through a lease, an architectural gem in the European quarter of İstanbul's Tepebaşı. Italian architect Giacomo Leon built the palazzo for Genoese merchant Ignazio Corpi. Lew Wallace was the U.S. Minister Resident at İstanbul, serving from September 6, 1881, until September 4, 1882, when his diplomatic status was elevated to U.S. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. He served in that capacity until May 15, 1885. (A note of interest. Wallace was a Union general during the Civil War and author of the bestselling novel "Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ" published in 1880.) The Palazzo Corpi's acquisition occurred during Sultan Abdul Hamid II's reign and the presidency of Chester A. Arthur.

The American Legation to the Ottoman Empire was finally elevated to embassy status under the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt. John G.A. Leishman, who was serving as the U.S. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at İstanbul since March 29, 1901, became the first U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire when he presented his credentials as the Ambassador on October 5, 1906. Thus, the Palazzo Corpi became the U.S. Embassy and residence for the U.S. Ambassador.

In 1907, Ambassador Leishman, a businessman who had worked with steel magnate Andrew Carnegie before becoming a diplomat, believed that the U.S. government should own the Palazzo Corpi as the U.S. Embassy. He purchased the Palazzo Corpi with his funds for 28,000 Ottoman gold liras, about \$2.5 million today. After learning that Congress would not reimburse him for the purchase, Leishman, on a visit to Washington, invited the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and key committee members of both the Senate and the House for a night of poker. During the evening, Leishman proposed to his congressional guests that they play for the Palazzo Corpi. The stakes were that the government would reimburse him for the purchase if he won. Leishman won, and the U.S. government reimbursed him for the purchase. Incredibly, through a poker game, the U.S. government acquired the Palazzo Corpi, the first U.S. government-owned diplomatic building in Europe and the second worldwide.

After the acquisition of the Palazzo Corpi, the U.S. government employed the services of the prolific architect George Oakley Totten, a New York City native who graduated from Columbia University's School of Architecture in 1892 and afterward studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in

Paris, to design an annex next to the palazzo as a chancery 1908. (While in İstanbul, Totten also designed the residence of İzzet Holo Pasha, a confidant of Sultan Abud Hamid II who had served as the sultan's vizier, head of the intelligence agency (Yıldız İstihbarat Teşkilatı), and chief secretary. Totten was also offered a position as the "Private Architect to the Sultan". In Washington, DC, Totten designed the Everett House, which later became the Turkish Embassy's Chancery and Ambassador's Residence.)

During World War I, neither the United States nor the Ottoman Empire declared war against each other. However, in response to pressure from its ally Germany, the Ottomans severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. on April 20, 1917, and the U.S. abandoned the Palazzo Corpi. The Swedish Legation in İstanbul then handled diplomatic affairs for the United States. Abram I. Elkus was the last U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, serving from October 2, 1916, until the break in diplomatic relations. Despite the severance in diplomatic relations, it should be noted that the prestigious American school Robert College and its sister school, the Constantinople (İstanbul) College for Women, and the schools and hospital facilities under the American Board Mission remained in operation in the empire throughout World War I.

After the war, the U.S. government sent Department of State diplomat Lewis Heck as the United States Commissioner to Allied-occupied İstanbul on December 27, 1918. Heck, who had previously served in İstanbul before the severance of diplomatic relations, reopened the Palazzo Corpi as a U.S. representative office. The Palazzo Corpi once again became the residence the senior U.S. official when Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol on January 28, 1919, arrived in İstanbul as U.S. High Commissioner to look after American interests. Bristol became a legend in Türkiye and remained in İstanbul until after diplomatic relations were established between the U.S. and the Republic of Türkiye on February 17, 1927. Replacing Admiral Bristol was Joseph Grew, who served as the first U.S. ambassador from October 12, 1927 to March 13, 1932.

With the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1927, the U.S. Embassy gradually moved from İstanbul to Ankara. The Palazzo Corpi, however, remained the U.S. ambassador's residence until 1937, when Ambassador John Van Antwerp MacMurray (1936-1941) moved to Ankara--thereby becoming the last U.S. ambassador to reside in İstanbul and the first to live in Ankara. (Note: A villa on the Bosphorus in Yeniköy was leased as a summer residence during this period.)

The Palazzo Corpi became the U.S. Consulate General in İstanbul after the U.S. Ambassador's residence was relocated to Ankara in 1937. It functioned as the consulate until 2003 when the consulate moved to new quarters in İstanbul's İstinye district.

The U.S. government still owns the Palazzo Corpi, and since 2014, it has leased the property to Soho House, a global hotel chain which has converted the building into a hotel and private club. The Hollings Center for International Dialogue also has an office on the premises.²

Turkish Embassy and Ambassador's Residence - Washington, DC

The Ottoman Empire's official presence in Washington ended on April 20, 1917, after the Ottomans severed diplomatic relations with the United States under pressure from its ally Germany in World War I. Five years after the war, the Ottoman sultanate was replaced with the Republic of Türkiye on October 29, 1923. However, it wasn't until February 17, 1927, that the United States and the new government in Türkiye established diplomatic relations.

Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu was the first ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the United States, serving in this role from November 28, 1927, until April 20, 1934. One of his first tasks in carrying out President Mustafa Kemal's instructions was to find a prestigious site for the Turkish embassy. President Mustafa Kemal predicted that the United States would become the world leader after the next world conflict and wanted the embassy in Washington to represent the Republic of Türkiye as a modern nation state and to cultivate American public opinion.

Before securing a permanent site, Ambassador Mollaoğlu first leased a wing of the Wardman Park Hotel on Connecticut Ave, NW, in Washington's Woodley Park neighborhood (now a Marriott Hotel) for the embassy's operations. Later, he leased a townhouse at 1708 Massachusetts Ave, NW, now the Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago. While the Turkish embassy was at 1708 Massachusetts, Ambassador Mollaoğlu also leased the country estate Airlie overlooking Rock Creek at 27th Street, NW, and Military Road for social functions and as a summer residence. (Airlie was razed in 1957 for constructing the Saint John's College High School campus.)

For the permanent embassy site, there were two main areas in Washington for diplomatic missions that Ambassador Mollaoğlu considered—the traditional 16th Street, NW, corridor north of the White House and once known as the Avenue of Presidents, and the Sheridan Circle and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, vicinity which was becoming a popular location for the diplomatic corps.

In 1931, Ambassador Mollaoğlu considered leasing the Shahan Mansion at 1633 16th St, NW, on the corner of R Street but later decided to lease the Beaux-Arts Everett House on Sheridan Circle in Washington's upscale Kalorama neighborhood. Thus, the Everett House became the embassy's chancery and residence in late fall 1932.

The exquisite Everett House, also known as "The Little White House," was built by Edward Hamlin Everett, known as the "Bottle King", the owner of the American Bottle Company. Construction of the stately home took over five years and was completed in late 1916. The mansion's architect was the highly respected George Oakley Totten, Jr, who had designed the chancery for the U.S. embassy in İstanbul in 1908 and the residence for the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II's confidant İzzet Holo Pasha. (Totten was also offered a position as the "Private Architect to the Sultan.") In April 1936, under its second ambassador to the United States, Mehmet Munir Ertegün (June 18, 1934 to November 1, 1944), the Turkish government purchased the Everett House and all its furnishings for less than a million dollars.

Ambassador Erteğün and his sons, Nesuhi and Ahmet, played a significant role in the fight against segregation in the American capital. As Turkish ambassador, he had an open-door policy, inviting African Americans to the embassy and residence. His sons, Nesuhi and Ahmet, would also have jazz jam sessions with African American musicians. Thus, outside the White House, the Turkish embassy was one of the few institutions in segregated Washington where Whites and Blacks could socialize in the 1930s and 1940s.

It wasn't until 1989 that the Turkish government moved the chancery from the ambassador's residence to a four-story building at 1714 Massachusetts, NW. The chancery remained there for more than ten years. Construction for a new chancery was started in July 1997 at the site of the former Economic-Commercial Building, 2525 Massachusetts Ave, NW, which was owned by the Turkish government and demolished for the construction of the new chancery.

The opening ceremony of the new embassy building was held on Friday, April 23, 1999, which coincided with the 79th anniversary of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and with the participation of President Süleyman Demirel during his visit to Washington on the occasion of the annual NATO summit. However, the chancery's move from 1714 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, to 2525 Massachusetts was not completed until June 1999. The impressive new chancery was designed by Shalom Baranes Associates, ensuring it had a Turkish vernacular style.

The next major project for the Turkish government was the three-year restoration of the ambassador's residence (Everett House) on Sheridan Circle, completed in 2007 at \$20 million. A distinguished team of specialists undertook the restoration, and in 2007, it received a District of Columbia Award for Excellence for Historic Preservation.³

Turkish Consulate General - New York

The Turkish Consulate General in New York was the first consular representation of the Republic of Türkiye in the United States, starting operations in 1925 before the United States and Türkiye established diplomatic relations in 1927. Celal Münif Bey was the first consul general from January 1, 1925, to July 9, 1927.

In 1977, the Turkish government purchased the building on 821 First Avenue in New York City at \$3 million for its UN Mission and Consulate General, which became known as the Türk Evi (Turkish House). Sabri Çağlayangil was the foreign minister at the time. After razing the old premises, construction started in September 2017 for a new Türk Evi with 35 stories costing \$300 million. Mevlut Çavuşoğlu was the foreign minister during the construction period. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening on September 20, 2021.

The new Türk Evi houses the offices of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations and the Consulate General of New York. It also provides space for the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) office, meeting rooms, a library, an auditorium, a prayer room, residences for staff, and underground parking.

Acknowledgements

In researching the history of U.S. diplomatic missions, I received valuable assistance from several American diplomats who had earlier served in Türkiye: Frank Ricciardone, who served as ambassador; Jess Bailey, as deputy chief of mission in Ankara; Scott Kilner, as consul general in İstanbul; and John Zimmerman, as an officer at the U.S. Consulate General in İstanbul.

Additionally, I would like to thank Gülgün Terzioğlu, Ayşegül Taşkın, and Gamze Kızıltan, who generously volunteered their time to assist me in researching the history of the U.S. Embassy premises in Ankara. Gamze also devoted time to translating documents from Turkish.

For information regarding the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Turkish Consulate General in New York, I would like to extend my gratitude to John Hasse and Turkish Embassy officials, Anıl Ertay, Fatih Öztürk, and Orhun Demirel, for their contributions.

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²For more detailed information about the Palazzo Corpi, consult the following sources:

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Thomas J. Carolan Jr., "Palazzo Corpi: A National Treasure," *Foreign Service Journal*, November 2002, 26, <https://afsa.org/sites/default/files/fsj-2002-11-november.pdf>.

³ Skip Moskey, Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, and John Edward Hasse, *The Turkish Ambassador's Residence and The Cultural History of Washington, D.C.*

Chapter 9 | American Schools, Hospitals and Other Institutions Established During the Ottoman Era and Continued to Operate Under the Turkish Republic

*In his book *The Diary of Ambassador Joseph Grew and the Groundwork for the US- Türkiye Relationship*, Barış Ornarlı wrote that during the Lausanne negotiations in 1923, “İsmet İnönü communicated to Ambassador Grew that the Turkish government would recognize the existence of religious, educational, and medical institutions established in Türkiye prior to October 30, 1914. . .”¹

Schools and Hospitals Established by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM)

- 1810 The **American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM)*** was Established by recent graduates of Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It was the first major American Protestant missionary organization with the Objective “to spread Christianity, particularly Protestantism, to foreign lands and to American Indian populations.”
- In the 19th century, it became the “largest and most important of American missionary organizations and consisted of participants from Protestant Reformed traditions such as Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and German Reformed churches.”
 - In the Ottoman Empire, ABCFM’s activities, in addition to proselytizing, included printing religious and educational material and establishing churches, schools, and hospitals.²
- 1820 In January 1820, ABCFM's first missionaries to the Ottoman Empire, Pliny Fisk, and Levi Parsons, also the first American missionaries, landed in Izmir. *See "Notes" at the end of Chapter 9 for a general summary of ABCFM’s activities and the impact of American attitudes towards the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish people.
- Fisk and Parsons departed from Boston, Massachusetts on November 3, 1819.
 - Fisk and Parsons’ arrival in Izmir coincided with the reign of Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II (July 28, 1808 - July 1, 1839) and the administration of U.S. President James Monroe (March 4, 1817 – March 4, 1825).
- 1830s The ABCFM started to establish its substantial network of schools, colleges, seminaries, and hospitals in İstanbul and throughout Anatolia in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

- 1868 The ABCFM formed an auxiliary employed women to raise funds for programs to support children and women in ABCFM's worldwide operations. It was named the "Woman's Board of Missions" (WBM).
- One of the first projects undertaken by the WBM in collaboration with its parent organization, ABCFM, was establishing **The Constantinople Home**, a school for girls in İstanbul's old city, in 1871. The Constantinople Home became an independent institution known as the American College for Girls, affiliated with Robert College.

- 1923 After the founding of the Turkish Republic, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) faced restrictions on its missionary activities imposed by the Turkish government. Nonetheless, the ABCFM chose to stay in Türkiye to support the government's reform and modernization programs by continuing to operate the few remaining institutions that had survived the devastation of World War I and the Turkish War of Independence.
- ABCFM shifted its mission to focus more on serving Turkish Muslims. ABCFM's administrative agency in Türkiye was the American Board Secretariat better known as the American Board in Türkiye. In Turkish it was known as the Amerikan Bord Heyeti.

The ABCFM institutions that continued to operate after the founding of the Turkish Republic were

- The **American College for Girls in Bursa**, established in 1854 and closed in 1928.
- The **Talas American College for Boys** (Province of Kayseri), established in 1871 and closed in 1967.
- The **American College for Girls in Bahcecik** (Province of Kocaeli), established in 1873. The school moved to Adapazari in 1885 and was located there until 1921. In 1921, it temporarily moved to Izmit before moving to its present location in Baglarbasi/Üsküdar, İstanbul. It later changed its name to the **Üsküdar American Academy** and became co-educational in 1990. The Üsküdar American Academy is now governed by the Health and Education Foundation (SEV), a Turkish non-profit foundation, and supported by the Friends of the American Board Schools in Türkiye (FABSIT).
- The **American Collegiate Institute in Izmir**, also known as the American College for Girls, established in 1878. The school became coeducational in 1986. The American Collegiate Institute in Izmir is now governed by the Health and Education Foundation (SEV), a Turkish non-profit foundation, and supported by the Friends of the American Board Schools in Türkiye (FABSIT).
- The **American Hospital in Gaziantep**, established in 1879.
- The American College in Tarsus (Province of Mersin), established in 1888. It changed its name to the **Tarsus American School** in 1974 and became

coeducational in 1979. The Tarsus American School is now governed by the Health and Education Foundation (SEV), a Turkish non-profit foundation, and supported by the Friends of the American Board Schools in Türkiye (FABSIT).

- The **American Hospital in Talas** (Province of Kayseri), established circa 1900 and closed in the late 1960s.

1927 ABCFM's Secretary Foreign Department, James L. Barton, worked towards the U.S. recognition of the Republic of Türkiye and lobbied for the ratification of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey, also known as the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty.

- However, the treaty failed to pass the U.S. Senate even though 50 senators voted in favor of ratification. The vote was six short of the required two-thirds of the Senate.³

1961 The ABCFM was absorbed into the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM) after the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church forming the United Church of Christ. The UCBWM continued the legacy of the ABCFM.

- Note: UCBWM became a member of the Common Global Ministries Board (Global Ministries) in 1996, and in 2000 the UCBWM was restructured and renamed Wider Church Ministries (WCM).

1968 An amended Turkish law regarding charitable foundations required the transfer of properties of foreign owners be transferred to a Turkish organization. The Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı (SEV), Health and Education Foundation, was formed by personnel of the American Board in Türkiye (American Board Secretariat) / Amerikan Bord Heyeti and graduates of the Board Schools to take ownership of the institutions established by the American Board Commission for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), now part of the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM).

- After its formation, SEV started to manage these institutions—the American Hospital in Gaziantep, Üsküdar American Academy, American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, and Tarsus American School with the continued support of UCBWM/ABCFM.
- SEV also began managing the American Board in Türkiye (American Board Secretariat)

1986 “In the 1980s, as a result of economic constraints and a changed focus of mission, the church discontinued its work in Türkiye and established FABSIT as the secular organization to assume these U.S. based support function and to be the U.S. strategic partner for SEV.”

- The Friends of the American Board Schools in Türkiye (FABSIT) became the “contemporary, secular heir of the American Board of Commissioners for

Foreign Missions (ABCFM)” which had been absorbed by the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM) in 1961.

- FABSIT was established in the state of Delaware as a 501c3 charitable organization in November 1986. Its mission is “to foster excellence in secondary education in Türkiye through support of the American Board schools and hospital.”
- In 1996, FABSIT began supporting health care services and public health education at the Gaziantep American Hospital which was also founded by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1879.
- As the strategic partner in the United States for SEV (Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı / Health and Education Foundation), FABSIT supports the following institutions in Türkiye managed by SEV:
 - Üsküdar American Academy (ÜAA)*, İstanbul, established 1876
 - American Collegiate Institute (ACI),* İzmir, established 1878
 - Tarsus American College (TAC)*, Tarsus, established 1888
 - SEV American College, İstanbul, established 2014
 - SEV Gaziantep American Hospital, Gaziantep, established 1879
 - *ACI, TAC, and ÜAA are accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS), the European Council of International Schools (ECIS), and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. ⁴

The Publication Department of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and Redhouse Press

- 1822 The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) appointed Reverend Daniel Temple to set up a publishing operation in Malta “to print literature for circulation in Italy, Greece, and the Ottoman Empire . . . to impart the teachings of the Protestant faith to the Christian inhabitants of these lands, as well as present Western ideas of education for the benefit of all.” ⁵
- 1833 The ABCFM moved its publishing operations from Malta to İzmir and Beirut. The Beirut branch printed ABCFM material into Arabic and Syriac, while the İzmir branch published primarily in Greek, Armenian, and Ottoman Turkish.
- 1853 The ABCFM’s Publication Department moved from İzmir to İstanbul.
- 1861 The ABCFM’s Publication Department published James W. Redhouse’s *A Lexicon: English and Turkish* in İstanbul for its missionaries.
- James W. Redhouse (December 30, 1811 – January 4, 1892) was a noted British lexicographer who mastered Ottoman Turkish and had served the Ottoman state as an interpreter and translator. In the late 1850s, he published the first English-Turkish dictionary.

- 1872 The American Board Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and its Publication Department found their permanent home in İstanbul's Eminönü district on Fincancılar Yokuşu.
- 1890 The ABCFM published James W. Redhouse's Turkish-English lexicon, a companion to the 1861 English-Turkish lexicon. The English-Turkish (1861) and Turkish-English (1890) lexicons became known as the renowned Redhouse Dictionaries and were reprinted several times by the ABCFM's Publication Department before the Turkish Republic in 1928 decreed that Turkish would be written in Latin letters rather than Arabic script. Consequently, the two dictionaries became obsolete for general use except for Ottoman scholars.
- 1928 - 1950 The Publication Department of the ABCFM, now better known as the American Board under the Turkish Republic, set out to revise the Turkish-English lexicon of 1861 in Latin letters by establishing an editorial committee headed by John Kingsley Birge in 1938.
- The American Board's Publication Department also began publishing children's books and young adult literature in Turkish in the mid-twentieth century. Dorothy Blatter was the children's program editor from 1945 to 1967. The first publication was *Müzmüz Tavşan (Fussbunny)*, aimed at pre-and primary-school children.
- The Publication Department had printed children's books during the Ottoman era, primarily for the Christian communities.
- 1950 The American Board Publication Department, after 12 years of work by its editorial committee published the Revised Redhouse English-Turkish Dictionary.
- After the printing of the revised English-Turkish dictionary, the American Board Publication Department turned its attention to revising the 1890 Turkish-English lexicon, which was not published until 1968.
- 1960s The American Board's Publication Department began to diversify its publishing programs in the 1960s. Starting with *An American Cook in Turkey* for English speakers in 1961, it expanded its scope of books "on family life, nature and ecology, travel, and Turkish culture."
- Books on Türkiye's natural environment included *Göçmen Kuşlar (Migratory Birds)*, *Kuşlarımız (Our Birds)*, *Yabani Bitkilerimiz (Our Wild Plants)*, *Akarsularımız (Our Rivers)*, *Göllerimiz (Our Lakes)*, *Dağlarımız (Our Mountains)*, and *Ormanlarımız (Our Forests)*.
 - After being renamed Redhouse Press in 1966, the Publications Department began publishing travel guides to Türkiye. Two outstanding guidebooks are *Strolling Through İstanbul* by Hilary Sumner-Boyd and John Freely and *Biblical Sites in Turkey* by Everett Blake and Anna Edmond.

- 1966 The American Board's Publication Department was renamed the "Redhouse Press," in honor of Sir James W. Redhouse.
- William Edmonds served as the Redhouse Press first director, 1966-1991.
- 1968 Redhouse Press, after years of work by its editorial committee chaired by Robert Avery, published the Revised Redhouse Turkish-English Dictionary.
- 1996 Redhouse Press became an independent, Turkish-owned company under Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı (SEV) and was subsequently known as SEV-YAY. SEV-YAY became the heir to the legacy of the Redhouse dictionaries. It continues to publish children's books and travel guides inherited from Redhouse Press and has expanded its operations to include the publication of English-language teaching materials. ⁶

Robert College and the American College for Girls

- 1863 **Robert College (RC)**** was founded in the Bebek district of İstanbul by the American philanthropist Christopher Robert and missionary Cyrus Hamlin during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz (June 25, 1861-May 30, 1876) and the administration of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (March 4, 1861-April 15, 1865). The school opened its doors to educate boys on September 16, 1863, with 31 students, and is the oldest continuously operating American school outside the United States.
- Although closely affiliated with the American Board Commission for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), RC was owned and governed by an American Board of Trustees until 1947 when a 501c3 nonprofit organization was incorporated in New York called The Trustees of Robert College of İstanbul.
 - In 1971, the college division of Robert College became Bosphorus University under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Türkiye. In the same year, the boys' lycee, Robert Academy, merged with the American College for Girls (ACG) to become a co-educational high school under the name of Robert College, which occupies the former campus of ACG in Arnavutköy. The high school is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools.
 - Robert College is still owned and governed by an American nonprofit organization, The Trustees of Robert College of İstanbul, based in New York.
- 1871 The **American College for Girls (ACG)**, which has a close affiliation with Robert College, has its origins in October 1871 when the Woman's Board of Missions (WBM), an auxiliary of the American Board Commission Foreign Missions (ABCFM) based in the state of Massachusetts, founded a school for girls in Gedikpaşa in the Fatih district of İstanbul during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz (June 25, 1861-May 30, 1876) and the administration of U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (March 4, 1864 - March 4, 1877).

- At the time of its founding, it was named the Constantinople Home. It was later renamed the American College for Girls (ACG) at Constantinople, but the school was often referred to as the Constantinople Women's College until the 1930s when a Turkish decree banned the use of the name Constantinople.
- In the early years of the school, two American women, Mary Mills Patrick and Clara Hamlin (daughter of Cyrus Hamlin, founder of Robert College), played a pivotal role in transforming the school's focus from Protestant evangelism to a more secular education modeled on American high schools and liberal arts colleges.
- In 1876, ACG moved to a new campus on the Asian side of İstanbul, Bağlarbaşı/Üsküdar.
- In 1908, under the leadership of its president, Mary Mills Patrick, ACG became an independent institution with its own board of trustees in the United States.
- In 1913/1914, the school moved to the European side of İstanbul in the district of Arnavutköy.

1932 The American College for Girls (ACG) and Robert College (RC) came under the administration of a single president in 1932.

1959 The ACG and RC came under a single board of trustees in 1959.

1971 The ACG merged with the boys' lycee, Robert Academy on the Bebek campus to become a co-educational high school under the name of Robert College occupying the former ACG campus in Arnavutköy.

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

1844 The **Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)** was founded by Sir George Williams, an English businessman and philanthropist, in London, England, in 1844.

- By promoting Christian values, with emphasis on Protestantism, humanitarian work, and community service, the YMCA, from its inception, focused on helping young men develop a healthy body, mind, and spirit by providing athletic facilities and education courses.
- The YMCA became a worldwide movement and is the oldest and largest youth charity in the world.

1851 The first YMCA in the United States was established in Boston, Massachusetts, in by Captain Thomas Valentine Sullivan, an American seaman and missionary.

- Sharing the same mission as its British counterpart, the U.S. YMCA grew rapidly throughout the nation by focusing on social, recreational, and educational programs for young men moving to urban centers from rural areas.

- 1881 The YMCA's International Committee in New York, recently established, began collaborating with Robert College in İstanbul and the schools of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) in the Ottoman Empire to promote YMCA's mission on the development of the mind, body, and spirit in young men.
- 1908 The YMCA's International Committee appointed its first representative to İstanbul with the title of secretary during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II (August 31, 1876 – April 27, 1909) and the administration of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt (September 15, 1901 – March 4, 1909).
- The position of secretary in İstanbul became a paid position until 1910.
- 1913 The YMCA on October 13, 1913, established a branch in İstanbul known as the Pera Branch in the district of Tepebaşı/Beyoğlu (Pera), near the U.S. Embassy during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Mehmet V (April 27, 1909 – July 3, 1918) and the administration of President Woodrow Wilson (March 4, 1913 – March 4, 1921).
- This period was also during the rule of the Committee of Union and Progress Triumvirate of Mehmet Talaat Pasha, Ismail Enver Pasha, and Ahmet Cemal Pasha (January 23, 1913 – November 2, 1918).
 - Following the establishment of the Pera Branch, the YMCA established a branch in the Çarşıkapı district of İstanbul named Stamboul. Outside of İstanbul, the YMCA also formed associations in Izmir, Konya, and Adana.
- 1920 During the Allied occupation of İstanbul after World War I, the YMCA offered programs and activities to American sailors, French, Algerian, and Senegalese troops stationed in the city, and Russian refugees fleeing from the Bolshevik Revolution.
- 1922 The new YMCA field representative for Izmir, Rev. Asa Kent Jennings, arriving in August, shortly before the city was liberated by Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk) and the Turkish Nationalists in September 1922, played a monumental role in the final days of the Turkish War of Independence.
- With Mustafa Kemal Pasha's (Atatürk) blessing and collaboration, Jennings organized the safe removal of 350,000 non-Muslim refugees from Izmir's harbor—thereby eliminating a significant burden for the Turkish Army and preventing a greater humanitarian tragedy.
 - Jennings, who became a trusted ally of Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) and friends with Turkish cabinet ministers and parliamentarians, was instrumental in founding the first American Friends of Turkey.
 - See "1923" and "1930" in Chapter 6 for more information on Rev. Asa Kent Jennings.

- 1923 The two YMCA branches in İstanbul, the Pera Branch in Tepebaşı/Beyoğlu district and the Stamboul Branch in the district of Carsikapi, continued to operate after the founding of the Turkish Republic. The Izmir, Konya, and Adana branches were closed.
- 1927 The General Secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA, John R. Mott, YMCA's Administrative Secretary European Area, Darius A. Davis, and YMCA's Executive Secretary İstanbul Elbert Crandall Stevens worked towards the U.S. recognition of the Republic of Türkiye, and lobbied for the ratification of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey, also known as the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty.
- However, the treaty failed to pass the U.S. Senate even though 50 senators voted in favor of ratification. The vote was six short of the required two-thirds of the Senate.⁷
- 1933 In July 1933, the YMCA branch in Tepebaşı/Beyoğlu (Pera) was closed due to funding issues.
- 1939 The YMCA's Stamboul branch in the district of Carsikapi ceased its operations in late December 1939 because of the new Turkish Law on Associations forbidding associations with their headquarters in a foreign country to operate in Türkiye. (The law went into effect on July 14, 1938.)
- 1940 The YMCA's Stamboul branch was restructured as a private independent institution under Turkish regulations by Americans and renamed The American School of Language and Commerce / *Amerikan Lisan ve Ticaret Dershanesi*.
- The school continued to receive American funding and hire American teachers.
 - Additionally, the school embraced the YMCA legacy, which reflected American educational models, youth camps, and physical fitness programs, including the promotion of basketball and volleyball.
 - **Note:** The name of the Young Men Christian Association was controversial in Türkiye because of the inclusion of Christianity in its name. American funding was also decreasing year by year.
- 1950s The American School of Language and Commerce came under greater Turkish administrative control.
- 1969 The American School of Language and Commerce evolved into the Yücel Cultural Foundation / Yücel Kültür Vakfı (YKV), a secular Turkish legal foundation, and inherited the YMCA mantle.

2010s YKV re-established formal ties with the global YMCA network and gained Associate status within YMCA Europe.⁸

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

- 1855 The **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)**, independent of the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), was founded by Lady Mary Jane Kinnaird, a philanthropist, and Emma Roberts, a Christian activist, in London, England.
- Like the YMCA, the YWCA became an international movement and is one of the oldest women's organizations in the world.
- 1858 The first YWCA in the United States was founded in New York, New York, by a group of Christian women in 1858, and by 1870, it became a national organization.
- 1911 circa The YWCA started supporting educational, missionary, and welfare work in İstanbul and other parts of the Ottoman Empire in collaboration with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and individuals associated with Robert College, American College for Girls, and other American institutions.
- The YWCA's association with Türkiye began during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Mehmet V (April 27, 1909 – July 3, 1918) and the administration of U.S. President Howard H. Taft (March 4, 1909 – March 4, 1913).
- 1919 During the Allied occupation of İstanbul, when Ottoman Sultan Mehmet VI (July 4, 1918 – November 1, 1922) was reigning, the YWCA established a Near East mission in the city. Woodrow Wilson was the U.S. President (March 4, 1913 – March 4, 1921).
- 1921 The YWCA established two branches in İstanbul, one in the Tarlabaşı/Beyoğlu (Pera) district of İstanbul and a second branch in İstanbul's Cağaloğlu district during the Allied occupation.
- The Ottoman sultan was Mehmet VI (July 4, 1918 – November 1, 1922) and the U.S. president was Warren G. Harding (March 4, 1921 – August 2, 1923).
 - Like the YMCA, the YWCA, for a short period, operated branches in İzmir and Adana.
 - The YWCA, however, was permitted to continue its operations in İstanbul in the early years of the Turkish Republic but not under its formal name.
- 1929 The American foundations of the Dodge and Clark families purchased a mansion and 20 acres of land on the Asian side of İstanbul in Caddebostan for the YWCA to operate a boarding camp for girls.

- The camp offered swimming, tennis, other sports, and social activities. It was Türkiye's first girls' boarding camp.
 - The YWCA branches in İstanbul's Tarlabası/Beyoğlu (Pera) and Cağaloğlu districts had closed.
- 1930 The President of the Foreign Committee of the YWCA, Martha Finley, served on the first Board of Directors of the American Friends of Turkey, which was incorporated in New York, New York, on July 12, 1930.
- 1952 The Dodge Foundation purchased a building in the Cihangir district of İstanbul for use by the YWCA.
- 1968 The Caddebostan camp and Cihangir building were transferred to a newly established Turkish entity, the Gençlik Kültür ve Hizmet Vakfı (GKHV) / the Youth Culture and Service Foundation, due to an amended Turkish law regarding charitable foundations required the transfer of properties of foreign owners be transferred to a Turkish organization.
- Although the formal "YWCA" name and structure ceased to exist in Türkiye, GKHV continued YWCA-inspired programs under Turkish law. ⁹

The American Hospital in İstanbul

- 1920 The U.S. High Commissioner in the Ottoman Empire, Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol (1868-1939), founded the **American Hospital** in İstanbul's Nişantaşı neighborhood and the first nursing school for the Turkish people, which was part of the hospital. In 1945, the hospital and the nursing school were renamed **Admiral Bristol American Hospital and the Admiral Bristol Nursing School**. In 1995, the Vehbi Koç Foundation (VKF) acquired ownership of the hospital, and its name changed to "**Amerikan Hastanesi**." The nursing school, also acquired by VKF in 1995, became the **Koç University School of Nursing** in 1999.
- The founding of the American Hospital was during the reign of the last Ottoman sultan, Sultan Mehmed VI (July 4, 1918 – November 1, 1922), and the administration of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson (March 4, 1913 – March 4, 1921).
 - A history of the American Hospital from 1920 to 2007 was written by Warren Winkler, M.D., Medical Director and CEO of the American Hospital, 1966-1994, and George D. Rountree, CEO of the American Hospital, 1990-2007.

Notes:

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM)

The arrival of the first ABCFM missionaries in the Ottoman Empire in 1820 was the part of a zealous worldwide campaign by certain Protestant denominations in the United States to convert non-Christians to Christianity.

- Their efforts of converting Muslims and Jews to Christianity in the Ottoman Empire failed, so they focused their efforts of proselytizing the Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian Christian minorities to Protestantism.
- For the rest of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century, public opinion in the United States about the Turk was shaped by the negative attitudes and perspectives of these American Protestant missionaries towards the Turkish people. They were responsible in promulgating the image of the “Terrible Turk!” (Their success in demonizing the Turk still influences many Americans in the 21st century.)
- The missionaries sided with the side of the Armenians in the uprisings against Ottoman authority since they wanted to see a Christian state established in Anatolia. Their reports and stories back to the United States rallied American sympathy and support for the Armenian cause.
- American missionaries, however, provided humanitarian, educational, and community services for all religious groups by establishing hospitals, schools, and printing presses, but the primary targets were the Christian minorities. It wasn’t until after the establishment of the Turkish Republic did Turkish Muslims become the primary benefactors.¹⁰

Robert College

Robert College in İstanbul, founded by American philanthropist Christopher Robert and missionary Cyrus Hamlin, celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2023. The school opened its doors on September 16, 1863, with 31 students, and is the oldest continuously operating American school outside the United States. The current-day Robert College, located on the former campus of American College for Girls (formerly the Constantinople College for Girls) in Arnavutköy, has functioned as a lycee since 1971. It is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools. In 1971, the university campus in Bebek became Bosphorus University under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Türkiye. Notable alums include artists, entrepreneurs, journalists, politicians, and scientists. Three Turkish prime ministers, multiple members of the Turkish cabinet, and four Bulgarian prime ministers were Robert College graduates. Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk is also a graduate of Robert College.¹¹

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to my colleague Elizabeth Shelton for the help she has given me. Liz shares my passion for Türkiye and enthusiastically advocates for the Turkish people, culture, and history. She has served on two tours as a U.S. diplomat to Türkiye and headed the American

Friends of Turkey for many years. She graciously loaned her books and publications to me on the bilateral relationship and the activities of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Mert Deniz of Hacettepe University greatly assisted me in my research on the YMCA and YWCA's history with the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic. Finally, I want to thank Sibel Mehmed and Albert Aslan Yelken for the time they volunteered to help me with the research. Sibel and Aslan participate in the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC's Young Cultural Ambassadors Program.

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Chapter 10 | Türkiye – U.S. Bilateral Trade Relations, 1969 to 2023

1) Turkish Imports of Goods from the U.S. and Turkish Exports of Goods to U.S.

*Based on the Special Trade System for the Selected Years of 1969, 1980, 1990, 2000 & 2010 and on the General Trade System for the Years of 2020 & 2023

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK)

*U.S. Dollar Amounts Rounded-Off / B-Billions, M-Millions

Year	1969	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023
Imports	\$154.5 M	\$442.4 M	\$2.3 B	\$3.9 B	\$12.3 B	\$11.5 B	\$15.8 B
Exports	\$59.9 M	\$127.M	\$967.6 M	\$3.1 B	\$3.8 B	\$10.2 B	\$14.9 B
Total Trade Volume in Goods	\$214.4 M	\$569.8 M	\$3.3 B	\$7.0 B	\$16.1 B	\$21.7 B	\$30.7 B
% US source of total Turkish Imports	19.2 %	5.6 %	10.2%	7.2%	6.6%	5.3%	4.4%
U.S. Ranking of Total Turkish Imports	1 st	5 th	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
% US-destined of Total Turkish Exports	11.2%	4.4%	7.5%	11.3%	3.3%	6.0%	5.8%
U.S. Ranking of Total Turkish Exports	2 nd	6 th	3 rd	2 nd	7 th	3 rd	2 nd

Notes:

- U.S. statistics for trade of goods between Türkiye and the United States differ from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK) numbers but are generally in the same range.
- Turkish imports of goods from the U.S. include: aircraft and spacecraft components and parts, metal scrap, liquefied natural gas, cotton, coal, butane, propane, petroleum coke, plastic products, nuts, organic chemicals, electrical and non-electrical machines, pharmaceutical products, jewelry, and automotive parts.
*Source: Commercial Office / Turkish Embassy / Washington, DC.
- Turkish exports of goods to the US include: carpets, cement, automotive and automotive parts, tractors, jewelry, iron and steel products, aluminum foil, bars and sheets, natural stones, ceramic tiles, ready-to-wear clothing, home textiles, confectionery, vegetable oils, electrical and non-electrical machines, fruit juices, mineral fuels and oils, furniture, solar panels, and hunting rifles.
*Source: Commercial Office / Turkish Embassy / Washington, DC.
- In 2023, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic, Türkiye was one of the top 25 export markets (goods only) for the U.S. and one of the top 30 countries for U.S. imports (goods only). Source: United Nations Comtrade database.
- The top 10 states for receiving Turkish exports in 2023 on the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.
(1) New Jersey

- (2) New York
- (3) Texas
- (4) Georgia
- (5) California
- (6) Florida
- (7) Pennsylvania
- (8) Illinois
- (9) North Carolina
- (10) Maryland

*Source: U.S. Census

2) Turkish Imports of Services from the U.S. and Turkish Exports of Services to the U.S., 2016 to 2023

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK)

*U.S. Dollar Amounts Rounded-Off / B-Billions

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Imports	\$2.0 B	\$2.2 B	\$2.2 B	\$2.2 B	\$1.9 B	\$2.5 B	\$2.8 B	\$3.4 B
Exports	\$2.2 B	\$2.5 B	\$2.7 B	\$2.5 B	\$2.4 B	\$3.9 B	\$4.9 B	\$5.7 B
Total Trade Volume in Services	\$4.2 B	\$4.7 B	\$4.9 B	\$4.7 B	\$4.3 B	\$6.4 B	\$7.7 B	\$9.1 B
% U.S. Total Turkish Service Imports	9.5%	9.7%	9.2%	8.8%	8.2%	8.8%	7.8%	8.2%
U.S. Ranking Total Turkish Service Imports	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	1 st	3 rd	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd
% U.S. Total Turkish Service Exports	8.1%	8.2%	8.0%	7.5%	9.6%	11.3%	10.3%	10.1%
U.S. Ranking Total Turkish Service Exports	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd

Notes:

- The Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK) only started compiling service imports and exports numbers in 2016.
- U.S. statistics for trade of services between Türkiye and the United States differ from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK) numbers but are generally in the same range.
- The imports and exports of services apply to transactions in a diverse array of fields, including:
 - Advertising
 - Accounting
 - Communication
 - Construction
 - Consulting

- Education
- Engineering
- Finance
- Insurance
- Leasing
- Legal
- Licensing
- Medical
- Tourism
- Transportation

3) Total Trade Volume between Türkiye and the United States in 2023 ***The 100th Anniversary of the Turkish Republic**

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT/TUIK)

*U.S. Dollar Amounts Rounded-Off / B-Billions

Year	2023
Total: Goods	\$30.7 B
Total: Services	\$9.1 B
Total: Trade Volume	\$39.8 B

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Elif Gürsoy and Çağrı Arıcı of the Turkish Embassy's Commercial Office and economists Sibel Kulaksız and Hande Akmehmet for their guidance and review in compiling the trade data for this chapter. I also want to thank interns Sibel Mehmed and Miray Sertta for their assistance in the research. Finally, Cherie Weible, formerly of the U.S. Department of Commerce, gave me helpful advice on U.S. statistics.

Chapter 11 | Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows

U.S. FDI inflows into Türkiye and Turkish FDI inflows into the United States in the closing years of the Turkish Republic's first century, 2001 - 2023

Source: Central Bank of Türkiye / *Dollar amounts rounded-off / B-Billions, M-Millions

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
U.S. FDI → Türkiye*	\$2.2 B 8	\$1.7 B 8	\$3.4 B 8	\$3.3 B 9	\$4.8 B 9	\$4.6 B 9	\$11.6 B 10	\$4.5 B 4	\$9.0 B 5	\$16.0 B 4
Turkish FDI → U.S.**	\$139 M 4	\$143 M 5	\$127 M 3	\$128 M 5	\$135 M 6	\$141 M 10	\$145 M 4	\$735 M 7	\$857 M 6	\$1.0 B 3

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
U.S. FDI → Türkiye*	\$8.0 B 4	\$9.1 B 4	\$6.4 B 3	\$9.0 B 3	\$5.1 B 5	\$4.6 B 5	\$7.1 B 4	\$4.3 B 4	\$2.9 B 3	\$5.4 B 6
Turkish FDI → U.S.**	\$1.6 B 6	\$1.3 B 7	\$1.5 B 8	\$1.8 B 9	\$1.2 B 11	\$1.6 B 12	\$1.8 B 10	\$1.8 B 10	\$3.2 B 13	\$1.6 B 13

Year	2021	2022	2023
U.S. FDI → Türkiye*	\$4.5 B 4	\$9.3 B 4	\$4.6 B 4
Turkish FDI → U.S.**	\$2.3 B 12	\$2.7 B 10	\$3.3 B 9

*U.S. Ranking: FDI Inflows into Türkiye for All Countries

**U.S. Ranking: Turkish FDI Inflows to All Countries

Notes:

Türkiye's Central Bank statistics for FDI inflows into Türkiye from 2001 to 2023 show that the United States ranked anywhere from third to thirteenth among all countries investing in Türkiye. For Turkish direct investment abroad, the ranking of the United States among all countries ranged from third to tenth during the same period.

U.S. statistics for FDI inflows between Türkiye and the United States differ from Türkiye's Central Bank numbers but are generally in the same range. Regarding country rankings, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) for FDI inflows into the

United States, for example, has never included Türkiye in the top 25 countries investing in the United States.

BEA's list of top industries in the United States that attracted Turkish direct investment include:

- Metals
- Consumer Products
- Transportation
- Business Services
- Chemicals
- Food & Beverages

As for the primary Turkish sectors attracting U.S. direct investment, the Office of the United States Trade Representative lists these sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Finance and Insurance

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to Elif Gürsoy and Çağrı Arıcı of the Turkish Embassy's Commercial Office and economists Sibel Kulaksız and Hande Akmehmet for their guidance and review in compiling the investment statistics for this chapter.

Chapter 12 | American Movies and Television Episodes/Series Filmed in Türkiye

Movies

- 1963 The second James Bond movie and the first of three series with locations filmed in Türkiye was *From Russia with Love*. The movie had scenes filmed in İstanbul in 1963. Although it was a United Kingdom production, the American studio United Artists distributed the film. Director: Terence Young. James Bond: Sean Connery. Bond's female sidekick: Daniela Bianchi.
- 1964 The movie *Topkapı*, a comedy and crime thriller about breaking into *Topkapı* Palace to steal the emerald-encrusted dagger commissioned by Ottoman Sultan Mahmud I in 1746, was the first American movie filmed in Türkiye with scenes shot in İstanbul. It was based on the novel *The Light of Day*. The movie received one Oscar at the 1965 Academy Awards, with Peter Ustinov receiving Best Actor in a Supporting Role. Director: Jules Dassin. Writers: Monja Danischewsky and Eric Ambler. Cast: Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov, Maximilian Schell, Robert Morley, and Akim Tarniroff. The main Turkish actors were Senih Orkan, Ege Ernar, Ahmet Danyal Topatan, Faik Coşkun, Selahattin İçsel, and Bedri Çavuşoğlu.
- 1970 *You Can't Win 'Em All*, a U.S. and UK production, was the second American movie filmed in Türkiye with scenes shot in Cappadocia, İstanbul, Izmir and Ephesus. The setting was during the Turkish War of Independence in 1922. Director: Peter Collinson. Writer: Leo V. Gordon. Cast: Tony Curtis, Charles Bronson, Michele Mercier, and Patrick Magee as Mustafa Kemal Pasha. The main Turkish actors were Fikret Hakan, Gregoire Aslan, Salih Güney, Yüksel Gözen, Henia Halil, and Mümtaz Alpaslan.
- 1999 *The World is Not Enough* is the nineteenth in the James Bond movie series, starring Pierce Brosnan as James Bond. Produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the U.S. and Eon Productions in the U.K., the movie has two scenes filmed in İstanbul, including the Bosphorus and the famous Maiden's Tower. It was directed by Michael Apted, and one of the three screenwriters was Bruce Feirstein. Bond's female sidekick: Sophie Marceau. The movie was distributed by the American companies MGM Distribution Co. and United International Pictures.
- 2009 *The International* is an action thriller inspired by the true story of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal in the 1980s. It stars Clive Owen and Naomi Watts, was written by Eric Warren Singer, and directed by Tom Tykwer.

Columbia Pictures and Atlas Entertainment produced *the* film, which included scenes at Süleymaniye Mosque and the Basilica Cistern in İstanbul.

- 2011 The Cold War spy thriller *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, based on John le Carré's novel of the same title, was a European production with several scenes filmed in İstanbul, including the top of the Grand Bazaar. The American company Focus Features was a major distributor. The movie was directed by Tomas Alfredson and starred Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, and Colin Firth.
- 2011 *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance*, a superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character Ghost Rider, is a sequel to the 2007 film *Ghost Rider*. It features Nicholas Cage as the main character, and the supporting cast includes Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido, Johnny Whitworth, Christopher Lambert, and Idris Elba. The movie was directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor and written by Scott M. Gimple, Seth Hoffman, and David S. Goyer. Marvel Entertainment, Crystal Sky Pictures, Hyde Park Entertainment, and Imagenation Abu Dhabi were the production companies, and Columbia Pictures distributed it through Sony Pictures Releasing. Filming occurred in Romania and Türkiye. The scenes in Türkiye were in Cappadocia and Pamukkale.
- 2012 *Skyfall*, the 23rd film in the James Bond series, had scenes filmed in İstanbul, Adana, and Muğla. The movie's thrilling train scene showed the Varda Viaduct outside of Adana. In İstanbul, scenes were filmed at the Spice Bazaar, Yeni Cami, the Grand Post Office, Sultanahmet Square, and the Grand Bazaar. Daniel Craig played James Bond, and Sham Mendes was the director. Bond's female sidekick was Naomie Harris. One of the co-writers of the film was American John Logan. Sony Pictures Entertainment, a prominent American film distributor in the United States, distributed the film. Sony and another American film studio, MGM, were behind the co-financing of the movie.
- 2012 *Taken 2*, an American-British-French-Turkish action-thriller film, is a sequel to the 2008 film *Taken* and the second in the trilogy. It was released by 20th Century Fox in the United States, directed by Olivier Megaton, and starred Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen, and Maggie Grace. The majority of the scenes were filmed in İstanbul in November 2011.
- 2012 *Argo* is a historical drama film based loosely on the true story of the CIA's rescue of six American diplomats being held hostage in Iran during 1979-81. It starred Bryan Cranston, John Goodman, Alan Arkin, and Ben Affleck, the director. It was produced by Grant Heslov, Ben Affleck, and George Clooney. American studio Warner Bros. Pictures was one of the production and distribution companies. Filming occurred in Los Angeles, California; Mclean, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and İstanbul. Scenes filmed in İstanbul included Balat, Eminönü, Bakırköy, Etiler, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and Yeni Cami. *Argo* won three Oscars at the

85th Academy Awards—Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Film Editing. The film won three Golden Globe Awards—Best Motion Picture-Drama, Best Director (Ben Affleck), and Best Supporting Actor-Motion Picture (Alan Arkin).

- 2016 *Inferno* is an American action thriller mystery film. It is the third and final film in the Robert Langdon's series following *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels & Demons*. The movie, directed by Ron Howard and written by David Koepp, loosely follows Dan Brown's 2013 novel of the same name. It stars Tom Hanks as Robert Langdon and Felicity Jones as Dr. Sienna Brooks. Columbia Pictures, Imagine Entertainment, LSG Productions, LStar Capital Film Corporation, and Mid Atlantic Films produced it. Sony Pictures Releasing distributed the movie. Scenes filmed in İstanbul's Sultanahmet district included the Hagia Sophia and the Basilica Cistern.
- 2016 *Sniper: Ghost Shooter* is an action-war film, the sixth of the *Sniper* series. Don Michael Paul directed the movie with the script by Michael Frost Beckner, Crash Leyland, and Chris Hauty. It stars Chad Michael Collins, Billy Zane, Nick Gomez, Ravil Isyanov, Stephanie Vogt, and Dennis Haysbert. Destination Films and UFO International Productions produced the movie, and Sony Pictures Home Entertainment distributed it. Scenes in İstanbul included the Grand Bazaar, Galata Bridge, and Eminönü.
- 2019 *Charlie's Angels* is an American action-comedy film produced by Columbia Pictures, and the third in the *Charlie's Angels* film series has scenes filmed in İstanbul, including the Spice Bazaar, Veliefendi Race Course, and the historic district of Sultanahmet. The movie was a continuation of the Charlie's Angel's television series in the 1970s. It was directed by American Elizabeth Banks and starred Kristin Stuart, Naomi Scott, and Ella Balinska.
- 2023 *Operation Fortune* is a spy action-comedy film directed, produced, and written by Guy Ritchie. Starring were Jason Statham, Aubrey Plaza, Josh Hartnett, Cary Elwes, Buzzy Malone, and Hugh Grant. *Operation Fortune* was co-produced by the United States, Türkiye, and other countries. The American companies involved in the production were Miramax and STX Entertainment. Scenes filmed in Antalya, Türkiye, include the ruins of Aspendos, the Amara Premier Palace Hotel, and the Antalya EXPO Exhibition area.
- 2023 Filming for *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* in Antalya, Türkiye, began on February 13, 2023, and was completed in April. The movie was co-produced by the United Kingdom, United States, and Türkiye, and it premiered in New York City on April 13, 2024. Based on Damien Lewis's 2014 book *Churchill's Secret Warriors: The Explosive True Story of the Special Forces Desperadoes of WWII*, it was directed, co-written, and co-produced by Guy Ritchie and starred

Henry Cavill, Eiza Gonzalez, Alan Ritchson, Henry Golding, and Alex Pettyfer. Production companies were Black Bear Pictures, Jerry Bruckheimer Films, and Lionsgate Films.

Television Episodes/Series

- 1982 The popular American romantic comedy-drama television series *Love Boat* on the ABC network, September 24, 1977, to May 24, 1986, included two episodes of Season 6 filmed in Türkiye. The two episodes were Part 1 and 2 of "The Spoonmaker Diamond/Papa Doc/The Role Model/Julie's Tycoon." Part 1/Episode 7 aired on November 13 and was filmed in Kuşadası. Part 2/Episode 8 was on November 27 and took place in Ephesus and İstanbul.
- 2014 The American political drama television series *Tyrant*, which aired on the American cable network FX from 2014 to 2016, had two episodes filmed in İstanbul. Episode 9 of Season 1, "Gaslight," aired on August 19, and Episode 10, "Gone Fishing," on August 24.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank Crystal Staebell and Sibel Mehmed for their assistance in identifying American films and television series that were filmed in Türkiye.

Chapter 13 | Armenian American Hostility Towards Türkiye and Turkish Americans

The leaders of the Nationalist Movement who established the Republic of Türkiye recognized the importance of fostering good relations with the United States, largely due to their suspicions and deep distrust of European powers. However, they faced the challenge of overcoming the negative "Terrible Turk" image in the U.S., which had been shaped by unfavorable reports from American missionaries in the Ottoman provinces, British war propaganda during World War I, and narratives from Armenian refugees.

Many Turkish immigrants who successfully assimilated into American society were unaware of the anti-Turkish campaigns led by some Armenian Americans. As a result, they found themselves on the defensive and unprepared to respond to the harassment and prejudice directed at them. For instance, due to intense lobbying by Armenians and their American supporters, the United States delayed recognizing the newly established Turkish Republic for over three years. After diplomatic relations were finally established, the first two ambassadors from both nations received assassination threats from Armenian extremists.

These threats against Türkiye's diplomatic corps resurfaced five decades later, resulting in the assassination of four Turkish diplomats on American soil. Beginning in 1975, numerous resolutions were introduced in the U.S. Congress to recognize the Armenian massacres during World War I as genocide. During a downturn in the U.S.-Türkiye relationship largely caused by differing goals in Syria and Türkiye purchasing Russian weapon systems, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate ultimately passed these resolutions in 2019, and President Joe Biden acknowledged the Armenian massacres as genocide in 2021. It is noteworthy that American politicians largely ignored the killings of Turks during this period. Additionally, some Armenian Americans took legal action against the Turkish government and American companies operating in Türkiye, albeit unsuccessfully. In local communities, particularly in California, Turkish Americans, including children, faced threats and harassment from extremist groups within the Armenian American community.

Chapter 13 details the activities of Armenian Americans against the Turkish government, the Turkish people, and, broadly speaking, anything associated with Türkiye.

1927, January 18	U.S. Senate voted on the General Treaty Between the United States and Türkiye, known as the Turkish American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty. The treaty had been signed on August 6, 1923, in addition to an extradition treaty. Anti-Turkish sentiment, mainly of missionary interests and Armenians, opposed ratification. Senator William H. King (D) of Utah led floor opposition to the treaty, aided by lobbyists of the American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty. This group evolved
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- from the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA), which later became the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Fifty senators voted in favor of the treaty, six short of the two-thirds of the Senate necessary for ratification. ¹
- 1927, February 17 The U.S. and Türkiye established diplomatic relations. After it was proclaimed on October 29, 1923, it took three years and nearly four months for the United States to recognize the Turkish Republic. The delay was primarily due to the lobbying efforts of the Armenian American community.
- 1927 The first American Ambassador to Türkiye, Joseph C. Grew, on route to İstanbul from New York, and the first ambassador from the Republic of Türkiye to the United States, Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu, upon his arrival in the U.S., received Armenian assassination threats in protest of diplomatic relations established between the two countries. ²
- 1972, January 27 Gourgen Yanikian, a U.S. citizen of Armenian origin, murdered Los Angeles Turkish Consul General, Mehmet Baydar, and his Vice Consul, Bahadır Demir at a hotel in Santa Barbara, California.
- 1973, July 2 Gourgen Yanikian sentenced to life in prison by a California jury.
- 1974 RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company launched its “Meet The Turk” advertisement campaign for Camel cigarettes. The ad showed a white male with a mustache smoking a Camel in a mixed group. The ad read “He does more than survive. He lives. Because he knows. He smokes for pleasure. He gets it from the blend of Turkish and Domestic tobaccos in Camel Filters. Do you?” RJ Reynolds eventually stopped the “Meet The Turk” advertisement because of pressure from anti-Turkish groups, including Armenian Americans.
- 1975, January 28 H.J. Res. 148 / 94th Congress (1975-1976)
 - Introduced by Rep. Henry Heinstoski (D-NJ/9th)
 - 1 Cosponsor.
 - A joint resolution authorizing the President to designate April 24, 1975, as “National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man” for remembrance of all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in 1915.

- The joint resolution passed in the House with a vote of 332-55 on April 8, 1975, but did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.

1977, October 4	A group calling itself the "Armenian Group 28" claimed responsibility for bombing the home of Stanford Jay and Ezel Kural Shaw at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The group was protesting the Shaws' position on Ottoman history, which is reflected in their book <i>History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey: Volume 2, Reform, Revolution, and Republic: The Rise of Modern Turkey 1808–1975</i> .
1980, October 6	Fire-bombing of the home of Turkish Consul General, Kemal Arıkan in Los Angeles. Harout Sassounian, brother of Hampig Sassounian would later be convicted of this crime.
1980, October 12	Car bombing of the Turkish Mission to the United Nation in New York. Bombing would later be linked by federal prosecutors to ANCA (Armenian National Committee of America) Chairman Mourad Topalian.
1981, June 3	Bombing of the Orange County Convention Center in Anaheim, California site of a Turkish folkdance and music show.
1981, November 20	Bombing of the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles. JCAG (Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide) claimed responsibility.
1982, January 28	Assassination of the Turkish Consul General, Kemal Arıkan, in Los Angeles, California, by JCAG (Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide) members, Hampig Sassounian and Krikor Saliba.
1982, March 22	Attempted assassination of Honorary Turkish Consul, Orhan Gündüz in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
1982, May 4	Assassination of Turkish Honorary Consul Orhan Gündüz in Cambridge Massachusetts.
1982, May 18	Attempted assassination of Turkish Honorary Consul, Nash Karahan in Tampa, Florida.
1982, October 22	Attempted bombing of the offices of Philadelphia Honorary Turkish Consul General, Kanat Arbay, by five JCAG (Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide) members. Originating from Los Angeles, they became known as the “L.A. Five.”

- 1983, April 2 H.Res.171 / 98th Congress (1983-1984)
- Introduced by Rep. Pashayan, Jr. (R-CA/17th).
 - 142 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution to affirm the Armenian genocide.
 - Did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 1983, April 21 H. J.Res.247 / 98th Congress (1983-1984)
- Introduced by Rep. Anthony Coelho (D-CA/15th).
 - 234 Cosponsors.
 - A joint resolution to designate April 24, 1984, as “National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man”. Measure passed House, amended: Designates April 24, 1985, as National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man.
 - The joint resolution passed in the House with a vote of 332-55 on September 10, 1984, but did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.
- 1983, April 27 S.Res.124 / 98th Congress (1983-1984)
- Introduced by Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI).
 - 1 Cosponsor.
 - A resolution to affirm the Armenian genocide.
 - Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.
- 1983, October 7 S. Res.241 / 98th Congress (1983-1984)
- Introduced by Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI).
 - 31 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution expressing the sense the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes.
 - Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.
- 1984, January 5 Hampig Sassounian was convicted of the 1982 murder of Turkish Consul Kemal Arıkan in Los Angeles. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- 1984, January 31 Gourgen Yanikian, after less than 11 years in prison, was ordered released on a “medical furlough” by California Governor, George Deukmejian, an Armenian American.
- 1984, June 2 ASALA (Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of

Armenia) issued threats to attack Turkish athletes and anyone who supported them at the Los Angeles Olympics.

1984, September 20

H.Res.587 / 98th Congress (1983-1984)

- Introduced by Rep Charles Pashayan, Jr. (R-CA/17th).
- 5 Cosponsors.
- A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people with the objective of preventing any future genocide anywhere in the world, and for other purposes.
- Did not reach the House floor for a vote.

1985, April 24

H.Res.142 / 99th Congress (1985-1986)

- Introduced by Rep Charles Pashayan, Jr. (R-CA/17th).
- 14 Cosponsors.
- A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people with the objective of preventing any future genocide anywhere in the world, and for other purposes.
- Did not reach the House floor for a vote.

1989, September 29

S.J.Res.212 / 101st Congress (1989-1990)

- Introduced by Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS).
- 43 Cosponsors.
- A joint resolution designating April 24, 1990, as “National Day of Remembrance of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.” There have been 2 roll call votes on the legislation.
- Senator Robert C. Byrd (WV-D) filibustered during the debate and Senator Dole failed to acquire the necessary votes to end the filibuster.

1996, June 5

H.Amdt.1130 offered to H.R.3540, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 that was introduced on May 29, 1996 — 104th Congress (1995-1996)

- Sponsor: Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA/19th).
- The amendment limits the appropriation of economic support funds to Türkiye until the Turkish government acknowledges the Armenian genocide and takes steps to honor the memory of its victims.
- Passed the House: 268-15.

- The Joint “Senate and House” Committee in resolving the differences between the two chambers on the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 dropped the amendment before the bill was sent to President William Clinton.
- 1999, April 28 H.Res.155 – 106th Congress (1999-2000)
- Introduced by Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA/19th).
 - 82 Cosponsors.
 - Calling upon the President to provide in a collection all U.S. records related to the Armenian genocide and the consequences of the failure to enforce the judgments of the Turkish courts against the responsible officials to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia.
 - Did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 1999, September 27 H.Res.596 – 106th Congress (1999-2000)
- Introduced by Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA/19th).
 - 1 Cosponsor.
 - Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.
 - Did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 1999, November Utilizing a California state law that allowed long-dormant insurance claims to be revived, Martin Marootian and others filed a federal lawsuit in California against New York Life Insurance Company for alleged unpaid insurance proceeds from the late Ottoman Empire.
- 1999, November 18 H.Res.398 – 106th Congress (1999-2000)
- Introduced by Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA/19th).
 - 143 Cosponsors.
 - Calling upon the President to provide for appropriate training and materials to all Foreign Service officers, officials of the Department of State, and other executive branch officials by familiarizing them with U.S. records related to the Armenian genocide.
 - Did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 2000, October 11 H.Res.625 – 106th Congress (1999-2000)
- Introduced by Rep. Thomas Reynolds (R-NY/27th)
 - 0 Cosponsors

- Providing for consideration of the resolution (H.Res.596) calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.
 - Did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 2002 Ofik Kyurkjian and other filed federal lawsuit in California against French insurance conglomerate AXA for alleged unpaid life insurance proceeds from the late Ottoman Empire.
- 2002, July 26 S.Res.307 – 107th Congress (2001-2002)
 - Introduced by Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ).
 - 30 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and anticipating the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003.
 - Did not reach the Senate floor for debate.
- 2003 Vazgen Movsesian and others filed federal lawsuit in California against German insurer Victoria Versicherung for alleged unpaid life insurance proceeds from the late Ottoman Empire.
- 2003, June 23 U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *American Insurance Ass’n v. Garamendi* that laws that allow the revival of long-dormant insurance claims for particular groups were likely unconstitutional.
- 2004, January 29 New York Life elected to settle the Marootian case for \$20 million.
- 2005 AXA elected to settle the Kyurkjian case for \$17.5 million.
- 2006 Varoujan Deirmenjian and others sued Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank in federal court in California. This case alleged a new type of claim – money laundering by the German banks on behalf of the Ottoman and then Turkish governments by virtue of their receipt and liquidation of abandoned Armenian property.
- 2007, October 10 H.Res.106 – 110th Congress (2007-2008)
 - Introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA/29th).
 - 212 Cosponsors.

- Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.
 - Resolution passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee by a vote of 27-21.
 - Due to pressure from the Bush Administration, the resolution did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 2008 Raffi Bagtchedjian and others sued British insurer Aviva for alleged unpaid life insurance proceed from the late Ottoman Empire.
- 2009, March 17 H.Res.252 – 111th Congress (2009-2010)
 - Introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA/29th).
 - 148 Cosponsors.
 - Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.
 - The legislation was put on the House Calendar but did not reach the floor for a vote
- 2009, October 21 S.Res.316 – 111th Congress (2009-2010)
 - Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
 - 16 Cosponsors.
 - Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.
 - Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.
- 2010 Varoujan Deirmenjian case dismissed on a number of grounds, including expiration of the California statute of limitations and Turkish statute of repose. Critical to reaching this decision, the court referred to the December 24, 1923 “Ankara Agreement,” through which the Republic of Türkiye paid the United States a lump sum of \$1.3 million, “in full settlement of claims of American citizens” based on acts occurring during World War I.
- 2010, July & December Alex Bakalian, Garbis Davoyan and others sued the Turkish Central Bank and state bank T.C. Ziraat Bankası in nearly identical lawsuits alleging financial losses due to alleged human rights abuses during the late Ottoman Empire.
- 2011, June 14 H.Res.304 – 112th Congress (2011-2012)
 - Introduced by Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL/40th).
 - 92 Cosponsors.

- Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. Did not reach the House floor for debate.
- 2012, March 19 S.Res.399 – 112th Congress (2011-2012)
- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
 - 16 Cosponsors
 - Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.
 - Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.
- 2013, February 23 The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit *en banc* ruled in favor of the German insurance companies in the Movsesian case, holding that California’s law that permitted the revival of long-dormant insurance claims for Armenian residents of the state was unconstitutional. The Government of Türkiye filed a brief on the side of the German insurance companies.
- 2013, May 20 H.Res.227 – 113th Congress (2013-2014)
- Introduced by Rep. David G. Valadeo (R-CA/21st).
 - 51 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Türkiye’s full acknowledgement of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity.
 - Did not reach House floor for a vote.
- 2014, April 3 S.Res.410 – 113th Congress (2013-2014)
- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
 - 11 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.
 - With a 12-5 vote, this resolution was passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- 2015, March 18 H.Res.154 – 114th Congress (2015-2016)
- Introduced by Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL/10th).
 - 70 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Türkiye’s full

acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity.

- Did not reach the House Floor for a vote.

2015, April 20

S.Res.140 – 114th Congress (2015-2016)

- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
- 21 Cosponsors.
- A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.
- The resolution was not passed.
- Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.

2017, March 22

H.Res.220 – 115th Congress (2017-2018)

- Introduced by Rep. Dave Trott (R-MI/11th)
- 124 Cosponsors.
- A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding past genocides, and for other purposes.
- Did not reach House floor for a vote.

2017, April 24

S.Res.136 – 115th Congress (2017-2018)

- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
- 16 Cosponsors.
- A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.
- Did not reach the Senate floor for a vote.

2019, April 4

H.Res.296 / 116th Congress (2019-2020)

- Introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA/26th).
- 141 Cosponsors.
- Affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide.
- This resolution states that it is U.S. policy to (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; (2) reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide or any genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding about the Armenian Genocide.
- The House passed the resolution on October 29, 2019, the same day of the founding of the Turkish Republic, with a vote of 405 Yeas, 11 Nays, and 3 Present.

- 2019, April 9 S.Res.150 / 116th Congress (2019-2020)
- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-ND)
 - 28 Cosponsors
 - A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.
 - This resolution states that it is U.S. policy to (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; (2) reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide or any genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding about the Armenian Genocide.
 - The Senate passed the resolution on December 12, 2019 with unanimous consent.
- 2019, May 5 The body of Gourgen Yanikian was disinterred from its burial place in California and re-interred in Yerablur, the cemetery for Armenian military heroes in Yerevan, Armenia.
- 2019, August 8 The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued its decision in the Bakalian and Davoyan cases, dismissing all claims against the Central Bank of the Republic Türkiye and T.C. Ziraat Bankası on the ground that they “are plainly time-barred.”
- 2019, December 30 California Board of Parole Hearings granted parole to Hampig Sassounian beginning a lengthy appeals process.
- 2020, November 4 At least 8 individuals who had protested Azerbaijani gains in the Second Karabakh War ransack İstanbul Cafe, a restaurant owned by Turkish immigrants in Beverly Hills, California. Patrons, employees and the owners had to flee out the back of the restaurant and hide from their pursuers.
- Two individuals, William Stepanyan and Harutyan Harry Chalikian, were arrested and later pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and hate crimes charges. Federal prosecutors presented evidence that Stepanyan had sent a text message earlier that day saying he planned to go “hunting for Turks.”
- 2021, March 11 After appeals by the state are denied, Sassounian’s parole became final and he became eligible for release. The State Department expressed its “deep disappointment.”³

- 2021, April 24 President Joe Biden became the first president to recognize the massacre of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire officially as a genocide in the traditional presidential Armenian Remembrance Day proclamation. Türkiye strongly rejected the characterization, maintaining that the events should not be labeled as genocide and criticizing the decision as a politicization of history.
- 2021, October 22 At a business dinner in a Los Angeles restaurant with Turkish citizens, Turkish Americans, and American colleagues, an Armenian American at a nearby table requested to a server that Turkish not be spoken in the restaurant. When the server disagreed, the Armenian American diner approached the other table and, without warning, attacked one of the diners, a Turkish citizen, and then fled.
- Hakob Navasardyan was later arrested and prosecuted by state authorities. He pleaded guilty to hate crime and assault charges.
- 2021, October 29 Hampig Sassounian arrives in Yerevan, Armenia and immediately became an advocate against peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- 2022, April 21 H.R.7555 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- Introduced by Carolyn Maloney (D-NY/12th).
 - 76 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution to require the Library of Congress to maintain a public website and otherwise support educational initiatives to promote understanding about the Armenian Genocide.
 - It did not reach the House floor for a vote.
- 2023, April 24 H.Res.2803 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)
- Introduced by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA/16th).
 - 67 Cosponsors.
 - A resolution to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes. It has been referred to the House Committee on House Administration. It did not reach the House floor for debate.
- 2023, April 27 S.Res.1329 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)
- Introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).
 - 11 Cosponsors.

- A resolution to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.
- It did not reach the Senate floor for debate.

2023, July

Atatürk 1891-1919, was set to be a multi-part series released on the streaming platform Disney+. The original release date was going to be October 29, 2023, on the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. However, that plan was dropped and the series was re-edited into a two-part movie and released in Turkish theaters. Disney issued a statement that it was part of a “revised content distribution strategy”, yet there were reports of pressure from Armenian American advocacy groups. The first part was on November 3, 2023, and the second part was released on January 5, 2024. It starred Aras Bulut Iynemli as *Atatürk*, Alican Barlas, and Lidija Kordic. The series was directed by Mehmet Ada Öztekin and written by Necati Şahin.

Acknowledgments

I want to express my gratitude to Anjali Pellegin, who served as a summer intern in Washington during her summer break before her senior year at Notre Dame. Her research on legislation concerning the Armenian genocide resolutions was outstanding. Lydia Borland and Cem Gürsoy also contributed to this research. Additionally, I would like to thank my dear friend, David Saltzman, for providing a detailed historical account of Armenian American lawsuits, acts of violence, and legislation related to Türkiye and Turkish Americans, as well as for his valuable editorial assistance.

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Chapter 14 | Honoring Three Brave Turkish Women Who Shaped U.S. Perception of Türkiye

PIONEERS OF CHANGE HOW HALIDE EDİB ADIVAR, SELMA EKREM, AND İSMET ŞANLI REDEFINED TÜRKİYE’S IMAGE IN AMERICA

By rejecting stereotypes and sharing their stories, they helped Americans see a Türkiye built on equality, progress, and reform.

by G. Lincoln McCurdy and Mert Deniz

*This article was published in the March 2025 Issue of *TurkNetwork Magazine*.
<https://turknetwork.us/honoring-three-brave-turkish-women-who-shaped-us-perceptions-of-turkiye/>

The leadership of the Turkish Republic, established in 1923, understood from the beginning the necessity of cultivating strong relations with the United States to ensure Türkiye’s long-term security and its success in modernization and social reform. They also recognized that the new republic faced a significant image problem in American society, rooted in the late Ottoman era. The republic’s first two ambassadors to the United States, Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu and Mehmet Münir Ertegün, were instrumental in presenting a reform-minded and Western-oriented image to the American political establishment.

On the American side, key figures such as Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol, the U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul after World War I; Joseph Clark Grew, the first U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye; and Rev. Asa Kent Jennings, the founder of the first American Friends of Turkey, played essential roles in introducing the merits of the Turkish Republic to the American public.

However, promoting the new Turkish Republic was not limited to these distinguished men. Three independent and courageous Turkish women—Halide Edib Adivar, Selma Ekrem, and İsmet Şanlı—played a pivotal role in shaping American public opinion toward the Turkish people and nation through their lectures and writings.

Rebelling against traditional roles for women, they were pioneers in advocating for women’s rights in Türkiye, the United States, and globally. Each of them traveled to the U.S. independently as young, highly educated, and determined individuals, driven by a belief in the moral principles represented by the new republic. Acting on their own initiatives, they became unofficial ambassadors for the Republic of Türkiye. They spoke to audiences at universities and social clubs across the United States about the new status of Turkish women, the social reforms undertaken by the new republic, and the importance of fostering bilateral relations between the two countries.

Selma Ekrem and İsmet Şanlı chose to remain in the United States, while Halide Edib Adivar returned to Europe before returning to Türkiye in 1939.

Understanding the context of their time is essential to fully appreciating their contributions. This summary of the lives of these remarkable women is based on the research conducted by G. Lincoln McCurdy and material from Mert Deniz's Ph.D. dissertation, "The (Re)Construction of the Image of 'The Turk' in America, 1863-1963," from the Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences, Department of American Culture and Literature, 2024.

HALİDE EDİB ADIVAR

Halide Edib Adıvar (1884–1964) was born to an established family in İstanbul. After losing her mother at a very young age, her father, Edib Bey, enrolled her in the American College for Girls. She graduated in 1901, becoming the school's second Muslim graduate.¹

Edib's early career unfolded against a backdrop of political turbulence. During these years, she wrote for newspapers and magazines aligned with the modernist movements of the reforming Ottoman Empire. By the time the Republic of Türkiye was founded in 1923, Edib had become a prominent writer and a leading political figure—a symbol of the new principles shaping the young republic. She envisioned a country where modern values like egalitarianism, secularism, and progressivism could thrive, with women playing an active role as equal citizens. Reflecting on this vision, she articulated her hopes in an interview with American journalist Isaac F. Marcossan:

I hope that the bulk of American womanhood will not think that the Turkish woman is emerging from the veil and seclusion amid a cloud of cigarette smoke and nothing more. Our women have a serious realization both of the opportunity and the responsibility that are theirs, and they will render a good account of themselves.²

Nevertheless, Edib's aspirations gradually diverged from the direction of the political authority following 1923. As a result, she and her spouse, Dr. Adnan Adıvar, chose to leave Türkiye. After residing in London and Paris, Edib crossed the Atlantic alone, while Dr. Adıvar remained in Europe.³ From 1928 to 1929, she was a guest professor at Columbia University. In 1928, she became the first woman to speak at the prestigious Institute of Politics at Williams College, Massachusetts, addressing an audience of approximately 200 foreign affairs experts.

Writing about the Institute of Politics conference, Russell B. Porter of *The New York Times* introduced Edib as a "pioneer exponent of feminism and nationalism in the Near East," noting that she "has proved herself to be one of the most popular lecturers and conference leaders in the history of the Institute."⁴ Edib's influence extended beyond advocating for Turkish modernization in America; she came to embody the very spirit of these reforms as an educated and independent woman leader. Her presence challenged the prevailing Western stereotypes of Ottoman women, often portrayed as veiled and secluded within the harem. This striking contrast highlighted the progress of Turkish modernization, reflecting the republic's efforts to redefine its image on the international stage.

Edib compiled her lectures in the U.S. in a book titled *Turkey Faces West* in 1930. This book was the third of her works published in English, following *Memoirs of Halide Edib* (1923) and *The*

Turkish Ordeal (1928). Memoirs of Halide Edib focuses on her formative years, beginning with her childhood, offering insights into the final decades of the Ottoman Empire by intertwining her personal narrative with the history of İstanbul and the empire. *The Turkish Ordeal*, on the other hand, draws from Edib's experiences as a journalist, activist, and soldier during the Turkish War of Independence (1919–1923). *The Turkish Ordeal* and *Turkey Faces West* reflect Edib's broader efforts to present the Republic of Türkiye and modern Turks to America. Paralleling her memoir, while Edib recounts her own story—enduring life in an era of political strife and war—she simultaneously narrates the history of a nation undergoing its trial by ordeal in the pursuit of independence and modernization.

Edib represents the first generation of Turkish women who traveled to the United States. She took the initiative to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between her American audience and Turkish compatriots. In this capacity, she served as a civilian ambassador of goodwill, contributing to the foundation of a relationship between Türkiye and the United States

SELMA EKREM

Selma Ekrem (1902–1986) shared many similarities with Halide Edib Adıvar. Born in İstanbul to Ali Ekrem Bey and Zeynep Celile Hanım, she belonged to one of the most distinguished families of the Ottoman Empire. Her father, Ali Ekrem Bey, was the son of Namık Kemal, a prominent author, journalist, bureaucrat, and, most notably, a leading figure among the Young Ottomans. Following in his father's footsteps, Ali Ekrem Bey served at the sultan's court and later served as the governor of Jerusalem before the outbreak of the First World War. After the war, he joined the faculty of İstanbul University. He wrote for *Servet-i Fünun*, a periodical promoting modern science and the arts in the Ottoman Empire and the newly founded Republic of Türkiye.⁵

Ekrem's mother, Celile Hanım, was the daughter of Kavalalı Ahmed Celal Pasha. The privileges of her family afforded Celile Hanım an exceptional education; she spoke multiple languages, played the piano, and assisted her husband in administrative matters.⁶ However, as was customary among Ottoman aristocrats of her time, Celile Hanım received her education from private tutors at home. Ottoman laws of the era limited her ability to apply her knowledge independently in public life. Determined to offer her daughter a different path, Celile Hanım enrolled Selma in the American College for Girls at a young age, reminiscent of Edib Bey's decision for young Halide.

In 1924, Ekrem moved to the United States at the age of twenty-two.⁷ Shocked, upon her arrival, to learn about the "Terrible Turk" image, she countered disinformation about Türkiye in her speeches to American audiences. She published her first book, *Unveiled*, in 1930, followed by *Turkey Old and New* (1947) and *Turkish Fairy Tales* (1964). Beyond her books, she contributed to *The Christian Science Monitor*, writing stories over the course of three decades from 1942 until 1973, with her total number of published pieces reaching 280. Ekrem worked with Türkiye's diplomatic mission in New York and the Turkish Information Office, a diplomatic initiative to provide correct and high-quality information about Türkiye to the American public.⁸ She was also a member of the editorial board of the Turkish Commission for the New York World's Fair in 1939.⁹

In *Unveiled*, her autobiographical account covering her life from youth through her early years in America, Ekrem recounts how people she encountered upon her arrival could scarcely believe she was a Turkish woman, due to her modern appearance in clothing and manners.¹⁰ Consequently, Ekrem wrote to educate American society about modern Türkiye. Her memoir, *Unveiled*, and her stories in *The Christian Science Monitor* also portray Turkish culture and customs in the final decades of the Ottoman Empire. Most importantly, Ekrem's life mirrors that of her American readers, demonstrating that Turks and Americans share more similarities than differences. For example, the interactions within her family and broader society are governed by mutual respect and affection. Consequently, these stories claim that in both spheres, the values of liberty, equality, and coexistence began to permeate Ottoman society as the twentieth century approached.

Selma Ekrem shared many parallels with Halide Edib. Like Edib, Ekrem conveyed that Turks and Americans had much in common as individuals. By shifting the focus from the public to the domestic sphere, Ekrem highlighted these universal aspects of human experience, transcending borders and emphasizing shared humanity.

İSMET ŞANLI

İsmet Şanlı (1911-2001) was born in İzmir. Her father, Mehmet Sırrı Bey, was the publisher of *Halkın Sesi*, a well-known İzmir-based newspaper. After graduating from the American Girls' College, she traveled to the United States in 1931 to pursue higher education in politics and journalism.¹¹ While working as a reporter for a major Turkish daily, *Ulus*, she also contributed to American newspapers after 1934.¹²

The following year, she began lecturing to educate Americans about modern Türkiye. As part of these public relations efforts, she spoke with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. President was impressed by Şanlı's demeanor and her command of English. İsmet Şanlı was probably the first Turkish journalist to interview an American president. Eleanor Roosevelt later recorded her impressions of this young Turkish woman in her diary, stating: a young Turkish woman, Miss İsmet Şanlı, who is doing newspaper work in this country and who desires to deliver a series of lectures. So far, she has been urged by a few women's clubs to appear in Turkish costume, but refuses, because, as she says, she wants to interpret the new Turkey of today to American women. She has no interest in the Turkey of harem days or the ladies of the early 19th Century in the United States. Miss Şanlı was dressed in the latest modern style and gave the impression of a very efficient young business woman. I feel as though the changes in Turkey had come very rapidly, but she insists this change has been coming for a long time. There have always been highly educated women in Turkey, but never before have they been able to use their education and training outside the home. Now, instead of refusing to give women jobs, the men are anxious to put trained women in responsible positions.¹³

As indicated in the First Lady's diary, Şanlı embodied the ideals of modernization and the Turkish Republic, much like Edib and Ekrem. Her appearance and manners were akin to those of her American counterparts, symbolizing a country that had fundamentally distanced itself from its

past. The new Turkish women now had a chance to “use their education and training outside the home.”

Thus, Şanlı fulfilled what the Roosevelts had observed in her. She embarked on lecture tours across the United States to promote modern Türkiye to Americans. She was selected as the sole female delegate to the Turkish Commission to the United Nations Conference on International Organization, commonly known as the San Francisco Conference, in 1945.¹⁴ During these lectures, she shared the stage even with notable personalities, including Archduke Otto, heir to the throne of Austria, in 1951. Through her lectures and journalism, she played a pivotal role in advancing Türkiye’s commitment to NATO, solidifying the alliance between Türkiye and the United States, and establishing herself as a strong advocate of liberalism and democracy during the Cold War Era.

Note: G. Lincoln McCurdy is the former president of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). Mert Deniz received his PhD from Hacettepe University, and he is affiliated as a faculty with TED University in Ankara.

A Chronological Listing of Key Events in the Lives of Halide Edip (Adıvar), Selma Ekrem, and İsmet Şanlı

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1884 | Halide Edib was born in İstanbul. She was the daughter of Mehmet Edib, an important bureaucrat in the sultan’s court. |
| 1901 | Halide Edib graduated from Constantinople Women’s College (American College for Girls/Robert College). After graduation, she married Salih Zeki Bey. They had two sons. |
| 1902 | Selma Ekrem was born to Ali Ekrem Bolayır, son of eminent Turkish poet Namık Kemal and Celile Hanım, daughter of a notable Ottoman pasha. |
| 1908 | Halide Edib began a career in journalism, covering political activities during the Second Constitutional Era of the Ottoman Empire. |
| 1910 | Halide Edib divorced Salih Zeki. |
| 1911 | İsmet Şanlı born in İzmir, daughter of Mehmet Sırrı, a famous local publisher, author, and journalist. |
| 1916–1917 | Halide Edib served as Ottoman for schools in the provinces that are now Syria and Lebanon. |
| 1917 | Halide Edib married Adnan Adıvar. |
| 1918 | Selma Ekrem started at the American Preparatory School of the |

Constantinople Women's College to learn English.

- 1919 Halide Edib (Adıvar) gave speeches at mass rallies protesting the Allied presence in İstanbul and Anatolia and the Greek occupation of Izmir.
- 1920 Halide Edib (Adıvar) and fellow journalist Yunus Nadi Abalıoğlu founded the news agency Anadolu Ajansı to cover the Turkish War of Independence. She also joined the Nationalist Army and had the ranks of first corporal and then sergeant.
- 1923 Halide Edib (Adıvar) published her first autobiographical work. The English version was entitled *Memoirs of Halide Edib*.
- 1924 Selma Ekrem, after graduating from the Constantinople Women's College, moved to the United States. Shocked, upon her arrival, to learn about the "Terrible Turk" image, she started lecturing in the U.S. to counter disinformation about Türkiye. She envisioned herself as a "Cultural Ambassador for Türkiye."
- 1926 Halide Edib (Adıvar) and her husband left Türkiye due to their disputed opinions with the new republican government. During their years of exile, they lived in London and Paris.
- 1928 Halide Edib (Adıvar) traveled without her husband to the United States to be a guest professor at Columbia University in the academic year of 1928–1929. In August of the same year, she was the first woman to speak at the prestigious Institute of Politics at Williams College and was one of the Institute's most popular speakers. In 1928, she published *The Turkish Ordeal*, her second autobiographical work covering her experiences during the Turkish War of Independence.
- 1929 İsmet Şanlı had a role in one of the first Turkish movies in the modern era, *Ankara Postası*, directed by Muhsin Ertuğrul.
- 1930 Halide Edib (Adıvar) published her book of lectures, *Turkey Faces West*.
- Selma Ekrem published her first book, *Unveiled*.
- İsmet Şanlı graduated from the American Girls College in İzmir.
- 1931 İsmet Şanlı moved to the United States to study journalism and public affairs at a college in Florida. Later, she studied at Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. She taught French to sustain herself and began lecturing about Turks in the U.S.

- 1933 Selma Ekrem attend the International Congress of Women in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1934 Halide Edib (Adıvar) traveled to India to contribute to the independence movement and the foundation of higher education institutions.
- İsmet Şanlı started working for American newspapers as a reporter in addition to continue her role as a foreign correspondent for the major Turkish daily, the *Ulus*, and her father's, Mehmet Sırrı Şanlı, newspaper in İzmir, the *Halkın Sesi*.
- 1935 Selma Ekrem attended the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs.
- İsmet Şanlı countered the anti-Turkish book *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* (published in English in 1933), by Austrian novelist Franz Werfel.
- 1938 İsmet Şanlı contributed articles on her conversations with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the Turkish national newspaper, *Ulus*, and a local Izmir newspaper, *Halkın Sesi*, owned by her father, Mehmet Sırrı Şanlı.
- 1939 Halide Edib (Adıvar) returned to Türkiye from exile.
- Selma Ekrem and İsmet Şanlı joined the editorial staff of the Turkish Commission for the New York World's Fair.
- 1940 Halide Edib (Adıvar) founded the Department of English Language and Literature at İstanbul University.
- 1941 İsmet Şanlı joined Hayrünnisa Ertegün, spouse of Ambassador Münir Ertegün, on a trip to California.
- 1942 Selma Ekrem began writing for *The Christian Science Monitor*.
- 1945 İsmet Şanlı became the only female member of the Turkish delegation to The United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, California.
- 1947 Selma Ekrem published her second book, *Turkey, Old and New*.
- 1949 Selma Ekrem and İsmet Şanlı worked with the Turkish Information Office in New York after the Turkish government established it in 1949 to enhance Türkiye's image in the United States.

- 1950 Halide Edib (Adıvar) was elected to Türkiye's Grand National Assembly, representing Izmir. She served until 1954, when she resigned. After she served as an elected official, she stopped participating in contemporary politics and focused on her career as an author and scholar.
- 1952 İsmet Şanlı gave her widely publicized speech, "Turkey Best Friend U.S. Ever Had. . ." on November 25, citing six points supporting her claim after Türkiye joined NATO on February 18, 1952.
- İsmet Şanlı was referred to as Mrs. Harry Lynch for the first time by the media.
- 1960 Selma Ekrem became an American citizen.
- 1964 Halide Edib (Adıvar) passed away at the age of 79 and was buried in İstanbul's Merkezefendi Cemetery.
- Selma Ekrem published her third and last book, *Turkish Fairy Tales*.
- 1973 Selma Ekrem's final story for *The Christian Science Monitor* was published. After two decades, she had written 280 stories for this newspaper.
- 1984-1986 İsmet Şanlı served as the president of the Turkish Women's League of America in New York.
- 1986 Selma Ekrem passed away in Manomet Plymouth, Massachusetts, at 84. It appeared that she had never married.
- 2001 İsmet Şanlı passed away around 90 in Manhasset, New York.

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Chapter 15 | The Republic of Türkiye's First American Friend

This chapter is devoted to the Turkish Republic's first American friend, Rev. Asa Kent Jennings, who played an essential role as a private citizen in helping Mustafa Kemal Pasa (Atatürk) to resolve a humanitarian crisis during the Turkish War of Independence and after the creation of the Turkish Republic, building friendship between the American and Turkish people. He undertook this mission without seeking financial gain during challenging times of substantial anti-Turkish prejudice in the U.S. and strong suspicious sentiments held by many Turkish people towards the West and Christianity. MGM Studios even produced a short film, *Strange Destiny*, about his life in 1945. His passion and devotion in supporting the young Turkish Republic inspired generations of Americans to follow in his footsteps.

Sadly, the accomplishments of this humble but determined and principled man are unknown to most Turks and Americans today. Thanks to Rıfat N Bali's extensive research for his book, *The Saga of a Friendship – Asa Kent Jennings and The American Friends of Turkey*, Jennings' legacy is not lost to history.¹

Why is it important to remember this humble man of the past? In today's political chaos, we need more role models who seek peace and collaboration in resolving conflicts as an alternative to divisiveness and violence. Paying tribute to Rev. Jennings could inspire a common cause among the younger generation to collaborate in finding solutions to the current challenges facing humanity. Highlighting Rev. Jennings' legacy, for example, could inspire the Turkish and Greek people, who have mutual regard for his contributions, to embrace his spirit in working together to build a better world.

Below, I have summarized the life and contributions of Rev. Jennings that are referenced in Chapter 6 of this Chronicle.

It is my sincere hope that the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), which graciously posted this Chronicle on its website, will take the lead in honoring this humble yet great man. As an unknown person once proclaimed, "To honor those who came before us is not to dwell in the past, but to carry their light into the future."

Who is Asa Kent Jennings?

Asa Kent Jennings was a Methodist minister from upstate New York, born on September 20, 1877, and died in Washington, D.C., on January 27, 1933. He was a hunchback due to Pott's disease, barely 5 feet in height, who outlived the expectations of his doctors.

As a pragmatic man, Jennings played a role of historic significance in the Turkish War of Independence. He further made a profound impact during the Lausanne Treaty negotiations, undertaking a rare diplomatic mission by solely representing two opposing governments on a particular issue. This extraordinary act showcased his trustworthiness and commitment to achieving peace and common ground.

After the establishment of the Turkish Republic, he devoted the last ten years of his life to helping the Turkish people modernize their country and strengthen relations with the United States. He was the best-known American in the eastern Mediterranean at the time. He was a trusted ally of Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) and was friends with Turkish cabinet ministers and parliamentarians. He was a hero to the Greeks and Armenians and honored by the King of Greece.

Jennings worked diligently to advocate for U.S. recognition of the new Turkish Republic and the U.S. Senate's approval of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and Turkey, also known as the Turkish-American Treaty of Lausanne or the other Lausanne Treaty. He encouraged the American missionary establishments in Türkiye to focus on providing social services rather than proselytizing. He also contributed to efforts to improve the American image of the "Terrible Turk."

President Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) had asked Jennings to form social organizations in Türkiye for boys based on the YMCA model, called the Turkish American clubs. Jennings successfully found funding for these clubs and other social services from the YMCA and American philanthropists interested in the success of Türkiye's modernization program. This informal group of philanthropists created by Jennings became known as the American Friends of Turkey (AFOT). AFOT would later be incorporated as a legal entity in 1930.

Furthermore, Jennings's passion for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's (Atatürk) reform and modernization programs also engaged the interest of the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation in supporting the new Turkish Republic.

Jennings' Role in the Turkish War of Independence

Jennings was the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) field representative in Izmir when the city was liberated by Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk) and the Turkish Nationalists in September 1922.

Within days of Jennings and his family's arrival in Izmir to oversee YMCA operations, he played a pivotal humanitarian role in the Turkish War of Independence, also known as the "Greco-Turkish War." As Turkish forces advanced on the city in August 1922, Izmir was overwhelmed with non-Muslim refugees. In response to the refugee crisis, Jennings established the American Relief Committee to provide food and medical assistance. The naval ships of France, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States off the Aegean coast, however, refused to take on board fleeing civilians who were not their citizens.

As the refugee situation became more desperate, and George Horton, U.S. Consul General in Izmir, ordering evacuation of the city, Jennings took matters into his own hands. Without the authority of the U.S. government or any other institution, Jennings and his translator bravely drove his YMCA Chevy to the headquarters of the Turkish Nationalist Commander, Mustafa Kemal Pasha, to discuss allowing the civilian refugees to leave Izmir.

Mustafa Kemal Pasha, intrigued by Jennings's courage, granted the meeting and agreed to evacuate civilians under certain conditions. Ships involved in the evacuation could not fly the Greek flag; men of military age (17-45) could not be evacuated; rescue ships could not be tied up at the Izmir wharf; and Jennings only had seven days for the operation.

Jennings's next task was to persuade the Greek government to provide ships for the evacuation. However, Greek officials did not share Jennings's sense of urgency. They did not trust Mustafa Kemal Pasha's word about safe passage. Frustrated, Jennings issued an ultimatum: if Greek ships were not available for rescue, he would inform the world that the Greek government was not concerned about the welfare of Greeks and others in Izmir. His blackmail worked. The Greek government ordered all Greek merchant ships near the coast of Anatolia to be placed under Jennings's command.²

Jennings sailed on the first ship into Izmir Bay under the protection of the U.S. Navy. American and Greek sailors honored him with the title "Admiral and Commodore." Lt. Commander Halsey Powell, the senior U.S. naval officer in the area who broke regulations to support Jennings' efforts, said: "The ships were brought into the harbor under the command of Mr. Jennings of the YMCA and were escorted and loaded by officers and men of American destroyers. It was only through the energy and zeal and stubborn insistence of Mr. Jennings that these ships were obtained."³

Due to Jennings' efforts, 350,000 non-Muslims departed from İzmir for the Greek Islands and the Greek mainland. The breakdown was 300,000 Greeks, 50,000 Armenians, and Jews. The Turkish Nationalists extended the deadline and rescinded the condition that ships could not be tied at the pier. Once the evacuation of non-Muslims from Izmir was completed, Jennings, with the approval of Turkish authorities, organized evacuations of non-Muslims from other Turkish ports on ships provided by the Greek government. In total, Asa Kent Jennings helped to evacuate 1,250,000 people.

Jennings' Role in the Lausanne Treaty Negotiations

In another unique historical scene, Jennings, trusted by the Turks and Greeks, served as the sole representative for both governments during the Lausanne Treaty negotiations regarding the prisoner-of-war exchange between the two countries. Subsequently, he successfully negotiated a settlement that was accepted by both countries.⁴

International Recognition

For his efforts in evacuating Greeks from Anatolia, Jennings was recognized by the King of Greece and awarded Greece's highest civilian honor, the Golden Cross of St. Xavier, as well as the highest military decoration, the Medal of Military Merit. A memorial was erected in his honor in Volvos, Greece, in 2016. Jennings was also posthumously honored by The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

The Incorporation of the First American Friends of Turkey Asa Kent Jennings was the force behind an informal group, known as the American Friends of Turkey, which raised funds in the

United States for educational and social projects in Türkiye in the 1920s. Additionally, the group worked to combat the negative image of Türkiye in the U.S. On July 12, 1930, the American Friends of Turkey was incorporated in New York, New York, with William H. Hoover, Chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company, elected as president and Asa K. Jennings as Executive Vice President. (Note: The first American Friends of Turkey (AFOT) is not to be confused with the second AFOT formed by Colonel Ralph E. Ropp (USA, Ret.) in the 1970s.)

He Worked Until the End—For What He Believed In

Asa Kent Jennings, who unselfishly devoted more than ten years to helping Türkiye modernize and shake off its negative image, died unexpectedly on January 27, 1933. On his last day of life, he was still hard at work for Türkiye. Jennings was visiting Washington, DC, for meetings with the Turkish ambassador and the Departments of State and Labor. After arriving in Washington on January 27, he first visited Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar (Mollaoğlu). Following the meeting with the ambassador, Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol hosted Jennings for lunch at his residence. In the afternoon, Jennings visited the Department of Labor on behalf of a Turkish student to discuss extending his stay in the U.S. His subsequent meetings were held at the State Department and then returned to the Turkish Embassy for further discussions. While walking to the State Department, he collapsed on the street near the White House from a severe heart attack and died in a taxi on the way to the hospital.

Carrying Forward the Jennings Legacy

Asa Kent Jennings lived a short life, but one deeply driven by purpose. I hope—as I noted earlier—younger generations can be inspired from his achievements, compassion, and profound respect for people of all backgrounds to work for peace and harmony in a world too often marked by disillusionment, violence, and hate. As former U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland once said, “Never underestimate the difference one person can make.” Asa Kent Jennings proved just how true that is.

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Afterword

Upon completing the Chronicle, it became evident that the contributions of certain individuals—both American and Turkish—who helped lay the foundation for the relations between the United States and the newly established Republic of Türkiye have not received the recognition they deserve. Their efforts merit proper acknowledgement.

Among the Americans, three figures played especially vital roles in shaping U.S. perceptions of the new political realities that emerged from the former Ottoman Empire and in garnering American understanding and support for the young Republic. Two were distinguished public servants: Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol, who served as U.S. High Commissioner in İstanbul during the Allied occupation following World War I, and Joseph C. Grew, the Undersecretary of State who signed the Turkish–American Treaty of Lausanne and later became the first U.S. ambassador to Türkiye. Both men worked tirelessly behind the scenes to promote ratification of the treaty and to secure official recognition of the Republic.

The third key figure was Reverend Asa Kent Jennings, a private citizen whose tireless efforts to relieve the humanitarian crisis at the end of the Turkish War of Independence and foster a bond of goodwill between the American and Turkish peoples, in close cooperation with Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk).

Other Americans also deserve recognition for their roles in strengthening bilateral goodwill. General Charles Hitchcock Sherrill, the second U.S. ambassador to Türkiye, became an outspoken advocate for the Republic’s modernization, expressing deep admiration for Atatürk in his writings and public addresses. In the private sector, Arthur Nash, a prominent garment manufacturer, and William H. Hoover, Chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company and the first president of the American Friends of Turkey, made notable contributions in support of Türkiye’s social reform and public welfare initiatives.

On the Turkish side, the Republic’s first two ambassadors to the United States—Ahmet Muhtar Mollaoğlu (1927–1934) and Mehmet Münir Ertegün (1934–1944)—distinguished themselves in Washington, cultivating close ties with American policymakers and projecting a reform-minded, Western-oriented image of the new Türkiye. Equally important were the efforts of private citizens, particularly three remarkable Turkish women—Halide Edip Adivar, Selma Ekrem, and İsmet Şanlı—who influenced American public opinion through their impassioned lectures and writings in the 1920s and 1930s.

When Türkiye and the United States mark the centennial of their diplomatic relations in February 2027, it is my hope that these individuals—whose vision, courage, and humanity bridged two nations—will be duly honored and remembered.

In the decades following World War II, the spirit of public service remained strong in the United States. I would like to highlight the important contributions of American diplomats and military officers who, after leaving government service, continued to strengthen the bilateral relationship

through their active participation in Turkish American organizations and their sustained engagement in policy discussions. The second American Friends of Turkey, for example, was founded by Colonel Ralph E. Ropp (USA).

Several distinguished Americans went on to serve as the Chairperson of the American Turkish Council (ATC), including Maj. General Fred E. Haynes (USMC), renowned for his service in the Battle of Iwo Jima; Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas; Lt. General Brent Scowcroft (USAF), National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; Richard L. Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State under Secretary Colin Powell and President George W. Bush; and General James Jones L. Jones, Jr., the 32nd Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and National Security Advisor to President Barak Obama.

Prominent private-sector executives who served as ATC chairmen included were Austin List, Chairman of Strahl & Pitsch, and Thomas G. Pownall, Chairman and CEO of Martin Marietta Corporation.

A number of former U.S. ambassadors to Türkiye continued, after their retirement, to play meaningful roles in American Turkish relations and in Turkish American organizations. These include Richard C. Barkley, Marc Grossman, Parker T. Hart, James F. Jeffrey, George C. McGhee, Mark R. Parris, W. Robert Pearson, Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., and Ross Wilson. In addition, although W. James Holmes and Alan W. Lukens did not serve as ambassadors to Türkiye, both held significant assignments in the country earlier in their careers and remained actively engaged in the bilateral relationship.

Several senior U.S. military leaders who had served in Türkiye later became involved in AFOT and the ATC. Among them were Maj. Gen. Elmer D. Pendleton (USA), Maj. Gen. William E. Potts (USA), and Rear Adm. Jack E. Williams (USN).

Other U.S. Foreign Service and military officers who served in Türkiye and later remained active in fostering goodwill in Turkish American relations include Thomas F. Carolan, George S. Harris, Preston Hughes, Louis E. Kahn, Scott F. Kilner, Joseph M. Lukitsch, G. Lincoln McCurdy, Clay Nettles, Daniel O. Newberry, Richard D. Outzen, William E. Rau, Elizabeth R. Shelton, and Sharon A. Wiener.

Public duty has likewise been a defining characteristic of the many distinguished Turkish ambassadors who have served in the United States. One ambassador who stands out is Şükrü Elekdağ. Arriving in Washington, D.C., in the aftermath of the U.S. arms embargo on Türkiye, Ambassador Elekdağ broke with traditional diplomatic practice and launched a concerted campaign to encourage and motivate Turkish Americans to undertake advocacy work—particularly in Congress—to counter Armenian and Greek American propaganda directed against Türkiye. His legacy continues to resonate, inspiring Turkish Americans decades later.

G. Lincoln McCurdy Bio Summary

G. Lincoln McCurdy is an international affairs professional with more than 40 years of leadership and management experience spanning the U.S. government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community service.

He currently serves as a consultant on U.S.–Türkiye relations and grassroots organizing. Previously, he was President of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) in Washington, D.C., and earlier served as President of the American-Turkish Council. His career also includes service with the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Consulate General in İstanbul, and the Bank of Boston. In addition, he has advised and served on the boards of several organizations, including the Turkish Philanthropy Funds.

Throughout his career, Mr. McCurdy has received numerous honors and awards. In 2023, he was recognized at the 10th Turkish World Business Council (DTIK) Congress in İstanbul with the Friend of Türkiye Award presented by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In 2018, he was a laureate of the Gusi International Peace Prize in Manila, Philippines, recognizing contributions to peace and respect for human life. He has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of State and the İstanbul Chamber of Commerce for advancing commercial relations between the United States and Türkiye, and received the Turk of America Outstanding Achievement Award in Leadership and Management.

He holds a B.A. in History from Hanover College in Indiana and an M.A. in International Management as a Wolcott Fellow from George Washington University. He and his wife have two daughters and two grandchildren.