

Section 1: Early Life

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in 1881 in Thessaloniki, a city then part of the Ottoman Empire (now in Greece). His exact birth date is uncertain, but he later chose May 19 as his symbolic birthday. Raised in a modest family, his father, Ali Rıza Efendi, was a customs official and timber trader, while his mother, Zübeyde Hanım, was a homemaker. Atatürk showed an early interest in education and military life, enrolling in military school despite his mother's preference for a religious education.

Section 2: Military Career

Atatürk rose to prominence as a military officer during the decline of the Ottoman Empire. He gained fame for his leadership in the Gallipoli Campaign (1915) during World War I, where he successfully defended against Allied forces. His strategic brilliance and determination earned him respect and laid the foundation for his later political career.

Section 3: Founding of Modern Turkey

After the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I, Atatürk led the Turkish War of Independence (1919–1923) against occupying foreign powers. In 1923, he established the Republic of Turkey, becoming its first president. He abolished the Ottoman sultanate and caliphate, replacing them with a secular, modern state based on national sovereignty.

Section 4: Reforms and Legacy

As president until his death in 1938, Atatürk introduced sweeping reforms to modernize Turkey. These included adopting a new alphabet (Latin-based), promoting women's rights, secularizing education, and encouraging industrialization. Known as the "Father of the Turks" (Atatürk means "Father of the Turks"), his vision transformed Turkey into a progressive nation-state. He passed away on November 10, 1938, in Istanbul, but his principles, known as Kemalism, remain influential.