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**The** *New*  
**Turkey**



03 SA 7650

**to those who  
read this booklet**

*"The New Turkey" is designed to meet the needs of those who want authentic and recent information about the Turkey of today. It is based on the results of questionnaires answered by and interviews with social studies teachers, supervisors, professors of history, and administrators. Staff members of professional educational organizations were also consulted. To insure its specific relationship to the curriculum, an examination and analysis of state, county, city, and local courses of study was made at the Curriculum Library of Teachers College, Columbia University.*

*Before publication this booklet and its accompanying poster were tested for usefulness at the junior high, high school, and college levels by classroom teachers and professors.*

*We would like to express gratitude to all educational authorities who were kind enough to cooperate with us and to extend invaluable aid in the preparation of this booklet.*

*Turkish Information Office*



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*The Rumelihissar Fortress on the Bosphorus was built in 1453 just before the capture of Istanbul (then Constantinople) by Mehmed II. This is on the European side of the Bosphorus and across is Asia.*

**T**HE TURKS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK, REVOLTED AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF THE SULTAN AND DEFEATED THE FOREIGN POWERS THAT HAD OVERRUN THEIR LAND. THEY PROCLAIMED TURKEY A REPUBLIC IN 1923.



## *history*

**T**URKEY — a member of the poultry family — is well known to every American. But how well do you know Turkey — a member of the family of nations? To many of us she is a strange, far off land; yet when you look at a map of the world you will find that Turkey is no farther away than, for example, southern Argentina. With the speedy transportation of today Turkey is a mere twenty-eight hours flying time from New York. A direct flight would take you over the Atlantic to Portugal and from there to Spain, and then over the Mediterranean — above Corsica, Italy, and Greece. You would land at Istanbul, well-known in history first as Byzantium and then as Constantinople.

If you will examine a map of the Mediterranean area you will note that Spain and Turkey are at opposite ends of that sea. What Gibraltar is to the Western Mediterranean, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles are to the Eastern Mediterranean. Gibraltar opens into the Atlantic Ocean, and the Straits — as the Bosphorus and Dardanelles are jointly known — join the Black Sea with the Mediterranean.

The Asiatic part of the modern Turkish Republic sticks out of the Continent of Asia like a great nose. Although the Turkish Peninsula has long been considered as belonging to the Asiatic land mass, if you examine its topography more closely you will find that its gates open

to Europe and turn their back to the East. For as you travel east on the plateau of Central Asia Minor the mountains reach increasingly higher, as if closing the gates of Asia. This has so influenced the history of the peninsula that since the dawn of civilization Asia Minor has historically been more a part of Europe than of Asia. The Turkish republic also includes a strip of Southeastern Europe within its boundaries. Here it is that Asia and Europe come within a few hundred yards of meeting each other.

Thus since earliest times control of this natural, and shortest route between the continents and the area around it has made this part of the world one of great importance in the constantly recurring crises of world history. It was over this natural bridge that Darius, the Persian, crossed from the East to avenge himself on the Greeks. From the West came Alexander the Great, and later the Romans, and in the Middle Ages the Crusaders in their attempt to reach the Holy Land. Finally, in 1453, the Turks under Mohammed the Conqueror established themselves permanently on both shores.

In ancient times the peninsula that juts out of Asia and almost reaches into Europe was already known as Asia Minor. Some three thousand years before the Greeks and the Romans, the Hittite civilization, one of the most advanced old cultures, flourished here.

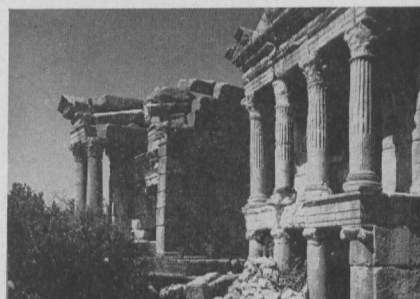
The wisdom and glory of classical Greece began in Western Asia Minor. After the destruction of Rome by the barbarians, the Eastern Roman Empire preserved the golden heritage of Greece and Rome in this old center of ancient cultures. When, under the Byzantine Empire, culture degenerated into corruption, the Ottoman Turks came, took over, and a new civilization, the Ottoman Turkish civilization, flourished here. The Turks gave their own name to the area. It is the name by which we know it today.

But the Turkey of old was not the Turkey of today. The Turkey of old was known as the Ottoman Empire. It took its name from the family that ruled over wide realms that even as late as the seventeenth century reached as far as Vienna into the heart of Europe, and in the south stretched all along the African coast to Tunis and Algeria. For a century or two it had the best government and organization in the world of its time. One of its most famous rulers was Suleiman, the Law-giver. When in the West disease and pestilence were still attributed to evil spirits, Turkish doctors had discovered the small-pox vaccine that was introduced into Western Europe from Turkey in the early eighteenth century, by Lady Wortley-Montagu, wife of the British Ambassador to the Ottoman Court.

The French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution that immediately followed it brought great and rapid changes. The Ottoman



*Greek statue of  
Aphrodite found  
in Izmar.*



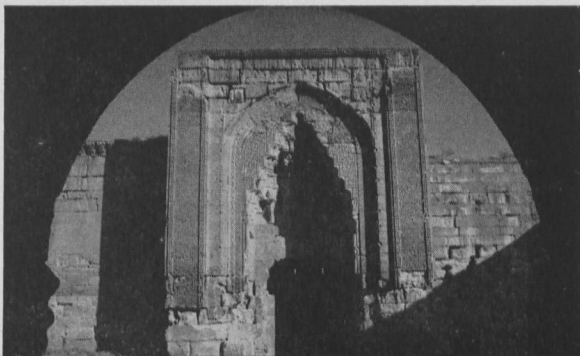
*Roman Temple at Silifke.*



*Hittite sculpture  
excavated in  
Bogazkoy.*

*Ottoman Turkish-Selimiye  
Mosque in Edirne.*

*Seljuk Turkish—gate  
of an inn — Kayseri.*



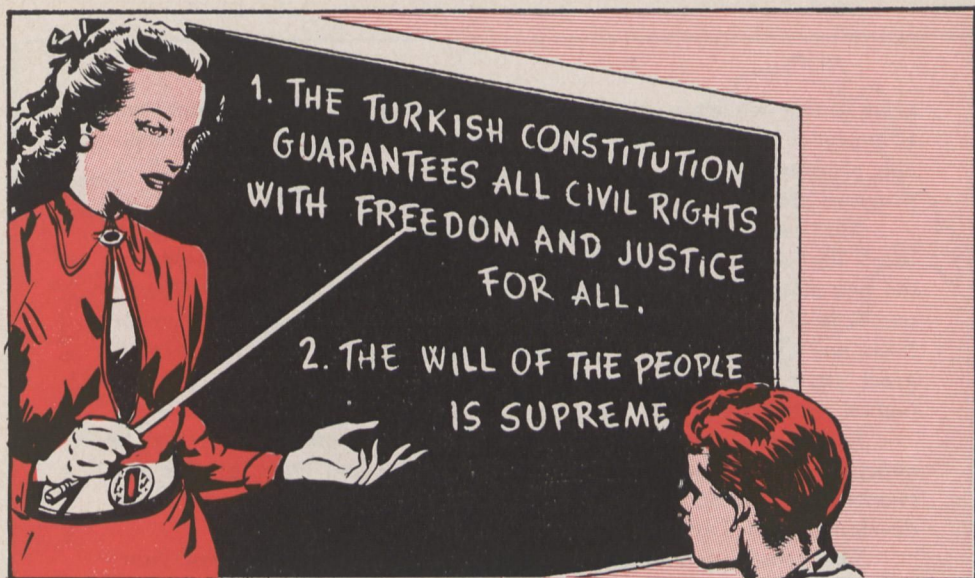
Empire, hampered by a weighty autocracy, could not keep pace with Western progress. The empire, built on many different nations, began to crumble as the subject peoples began to clamor for their independence. But empires founded on the great organizational and administrative genius of a people do not die easily. Like the Roman, it took the Turkish Empire more than a hundred and fifty years to come to an end.

Continuous wars of survival caused it to grow weaker and weaker. The people became more and more impoverished, and the government, engaged in a struggle for survival, more and more negligent of the welfare of its citizens. Then, the first World War dealt the death blow. Along with the Austro-Hungarian and the German Empires, the Ottoman Empire perished. The Turkish people, themselves, revolted against the tyranny and inefficiency of the old regime and in 1923 set up a republic.

Following the close of the first World War, in which the (Turkish) Ottoman Empire had been defeated, the Allied armies of occupation, in 1918, moved into Turkish territory to enforce the terms of the armistice. Subsequently, in the peace parleys at Paris, it became apparent that this occupation was intended to be permanent. The principle of self-determination by which majority populations were to determine their own government, enunciated by the great American idealist, President Woodrow Wilson, in his fourteen points, and for which many Americans had shed their blood, was apparently to be by-passed in the case of Turkey. In 1920 the Allied Powers, as victors, imposed on the Ottoman Empire the Treaty of Sevres. The Turks readily agreed to give up territories that they had possessed as an empire. But the Treaty of Sevres not only took away these lands but also lands that were purely Turkish in population. These areas were to be divided among Great Britain, France, Italy, and Greece. In a new world being built on the principle of self-determination the Turks naturally could not accept becoming slaves in their own country without protest. The same motives that inspired George Washington and his followers inspired Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. He unfolded the banner of independence, and, after a grim struggle, Turkey ousted the foreign invaders.

Like the people of the United States of America, the Turkish people call this struggle "The War of Independence". It began in 1920 and it officially ended on July 24, 1923, when the Treaty of Lausanne was signed and the world came to recognize the new Turkish State.

Kemal Ataturk is called the George Washington of Turkey because, like Washington, he was Commander-in-Chief of the armies that fought for independence. And when on October 29, 1923, Turkey became a republic, like Washington, he was elected the first President.



## *government*

**T**HE OLD TURKEY of the Ottoman Empire and the new Turkey of the Republic differ not only in territory but also in governmental viewpoint and social concept. The Ottoman Empire was a monarchy based on old, out-moded laws. The new Turkey is a republic based on the will of the people.

In the Ottoman Empire the head of the state was the Sultan who inherited his throne from his family. In the Republic of Turkey the head of the state, as in the United States, is the President who is elected by the people. Today every adult Turkish citizen over the age of twenty-two shares in the government, for he or she is entitled to vote. Elections for the Grand National Assembly are held every four years. Every forty thousand people are entitled to elect a deputy to represent them in the National Assembly. But, unlike the United States whose laws are made by a bicameral legislature composed of two bodies, the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Turkish laws are made by a unicameral or one-house legislature — the Grand National Assembly.

The Grand National Assembly is re-elected every four years. Immediately after the elections, the members of parliament meet to elect the President of the Republic from among their own number. Then the President appoints a Prime Minister who forms the cabinet. The pro-

gram of this cabinet is submitted to the National Assembly for approval. If approval is withheld, the cabinet must come forward with an acceptable program, or resign in order to be replaced by another cabinet whose program meets with the approval of the National Assembly.

Elections and political life in Turkey, today, are conducted in much the same way as in the United States. By a strange coincidence the two major parties in the national politics of Turkey have the same names as the major parties in the United States. They are the Republican and the Democratic Parties. Electioneering is carried on with great vigor and rival candidates for office pull no punches in their mutual criticisms.

In the elections of May 14, 1950, the Democratic Party won a sweeping victory, ousting the Republicans who had been in office for twenty-seven years, thus setting the stage for the further growth and development of Turkish Democracy.

The constitution of Turkey, like that of the United States, guarantees the fundamental rights of its citizens to freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition; the right to due process of law, protection in criminal trials and in suits in common law; as well as protection against excessive bail, fines, and cruel or unusual punishments. The constitution also guarantees equal educational opportunity. It guarantees equal rights to all, without distinction of race, religion or sex.

*President Bayar addressing a political meeting.*





### *the land and its people*

**T**HE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY is about 900 miles long and some 300 miles wide and covers an area of 296,503 square miles. If you would like to know how much that is, remember that it is approximately as large as the combined areas of seven of your southern states: Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

One part of Turkey is in Europe but the other, larger part, is in Asia. This is the geographic reason for Turkey's being a bridge connecting the East and the West. Between the European and Asiatic parts of Turkey lie the very important Straits of Dardanelles (33 miles long), the Sea of Marmora, and the beautiful Bosphorus (25 miles long).

There were 20,902,628 people living in Turkey when the last official count was taken in 1950. Since the establishment of the Republic, Turkey has had one of the highest birthrate percentages in the world. She ranks as the twelfth largest country in population among the fifty-nine members of the United Nations.

Turkey is primarily an agricultural country, and that is why four-fifths of the people live in rural areas and but one-fifth in towns and cities. Of the twelve Turkish cities with a population of more than 50,000 people, the largest and best-known are the old capital ISTANBUL (1,000,000), the important port city of IZMIR on the Aegean Sea

(321,905), and the new capital ANKARA (295,000). All these are historic cities thousands of years old.

## **GEOGRAPHY.**

In Turkey half the land is pasture. One-fourth is under constant cultivation, and the final quarter is divided between forests and lakes.

The climate of Turkey varies from the sub-tropical to the sub-arctic. That's why the ancients called her Asia Minor. They meant that the Turkish Peninsula contained in miniature all the characteristics of the Asiatic Continent.

Generally speaking, Turkey is a great plateau of dry sun-baked hills in summer, of cold snow-covered vastness in winter, and of turbulent rivers and brooks in the spring. Historians think that the sturdiness of the Turkish peasant is partly due to this rugged land and harsh climate.

For the inhabitants of this plateau, life is always a ceaseless struggle against the forces of nature. The land yields good hard grain and grazes the Ankara goats that produce the fine, soft Ankara wool (Angora mohair), which derives its universal name from Ankara, the capital of Turkey. But long and cold winters, with snow staying into May, and dry summers, with frequent droughts, are a constant menace to man and beast, as well as to the land and its yield.

This plateau is ringed by high mountains to the south, north, and east. When we remember that there are more than twenty peaks in Turkey topping over 10,000 feet, we can understand the rugged nature of Turkish mountain ranges. In the south are the Taurus Mountains which Alexander the Great crossed on his way to Syria and Egypt. To the east, towards the Caucasus, the plateau rises to majestic peaks like Mount Ararat, where Noah's Ark is said to have landed. Here, where the Soviet and Turkish frontiers meet, the climate is the sternest, with snow lying many feet deep months on end.

It is only near the coastline of the peninsula that the land and climate become more kindly. The mountains that fringe the central plateau are, in their turn, fringed by a narrow strip of green and fertile plains, producing a variety of climates and products that make Turkey a miniature continent. On the Black Sea coast there is rain and dense vegetation through all the four seasons. Istanbul, which sits astride the cross currents of the Black Sea in the north and the Mediterranean in the south, often becomes as cold and muggy as New York, but in the summer it is famed for its dry and breezy days.

To the south of Istanbul, on the Aegean coast, the winters are mild and the summers hot and dry. This is the fertile land of the



olive tree, of the grape and the fig, and the memories of ancient cities such as Pergamum and Ephesus. It is the part of Turkey that faces Greece, and the climate is much like that of Italy and Spain. It is one of the main export regions of the country, situated around the second largest city of Turkey — ancient Smyrna, modern Izmir — one of the important cities of both ancient and contemporary Mediterranean civilization.

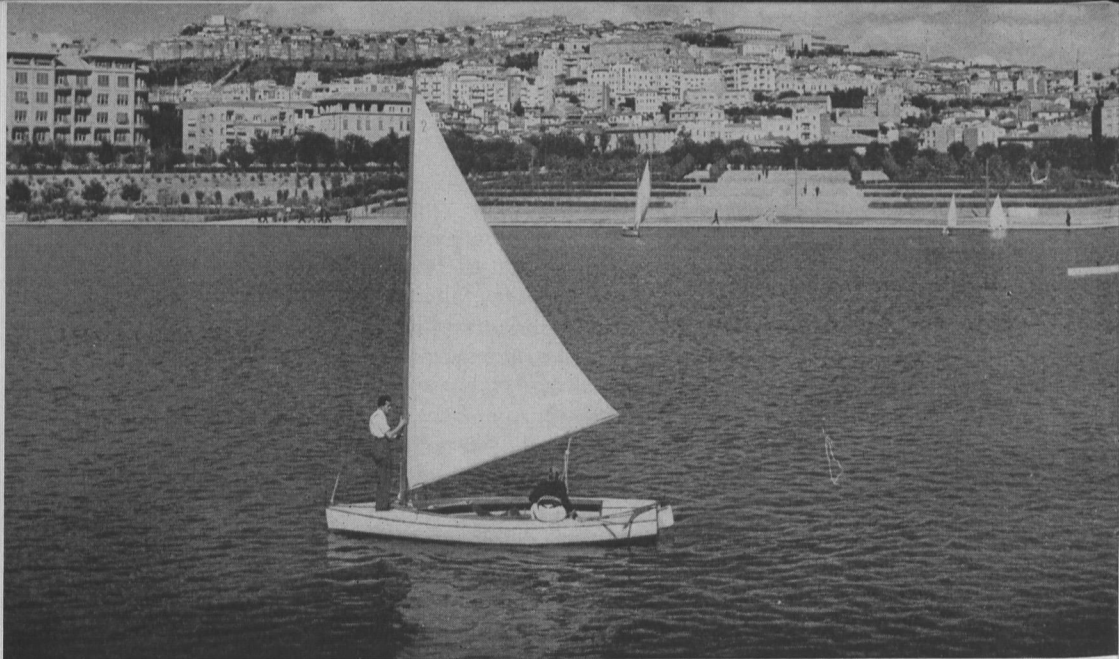
Farther south, in the region of Adana, around the ancient town of Tarsus where St. Paul was reared, the coastal strip broadens into the Plains of Cilicia. This is the land of cotton, sugar cane, orange trees, and bananas — the area of large scale agriculture — the rich, deep South of Turkey with its sub-tropical climate. Beyond this point are the Arab lands with the beginning of the endless deserts that stretch from the Turkish border to the tip of the Arabian peninsula.

### **THE PEOPLE.**

People who have been to foreign lands, when they talk and write of their experience, naturally tend to concentrate on what they think is quaint and different. This is very natural, for people are always more interested in the extraordinary and unusual than in the usual and ordinary. But sometimes the ordinary is of interest too — especially so in the case of Turkey. Foreigners who have not been

*Rush hour in Istanbul.*





*Ankara, the modern capital of Turkey.*

within Turkish boundaries generally think of Turks as wearing baggy trousers and red fezzes. Turkish women, to them, are supposedly hidden under an impenetrable and mysterious veil. But the minute they step on Turkish soil they learn that the picturesque spectacle they expected disappeared with the Empire. The fez of the men and the veil of the women are no more.

How does the Turk look? Look at the people in a bus in any American town. A crowd in Istanbul, Ankara, or Izmir would look almost exactly the same, only the brim of men's hats would be slightly narrower in Turkey, as is the fashion in Europe, and the proportion of men wearing caps would be larger.

Wherever you go in Turkey you will find blondes and brunettes along with people with black hair — even freckled redheads are not too uncommon. Turkey has not been the bridge between East and West for thousands of years for nothing. People of all cultures, creeds, and races have intermingled. But the dark-haired, swarthy Mediterranean type is predominant.

Most of the people living in rural areas make their living by farming, fruit-growing, sheep and cattle-raising, making dairy products, etc.; but some of them also work in the mines. People in the towns and cities work in commercial, transportation, and industrial fields as people do the world over.



## THE NEIGHBORS.

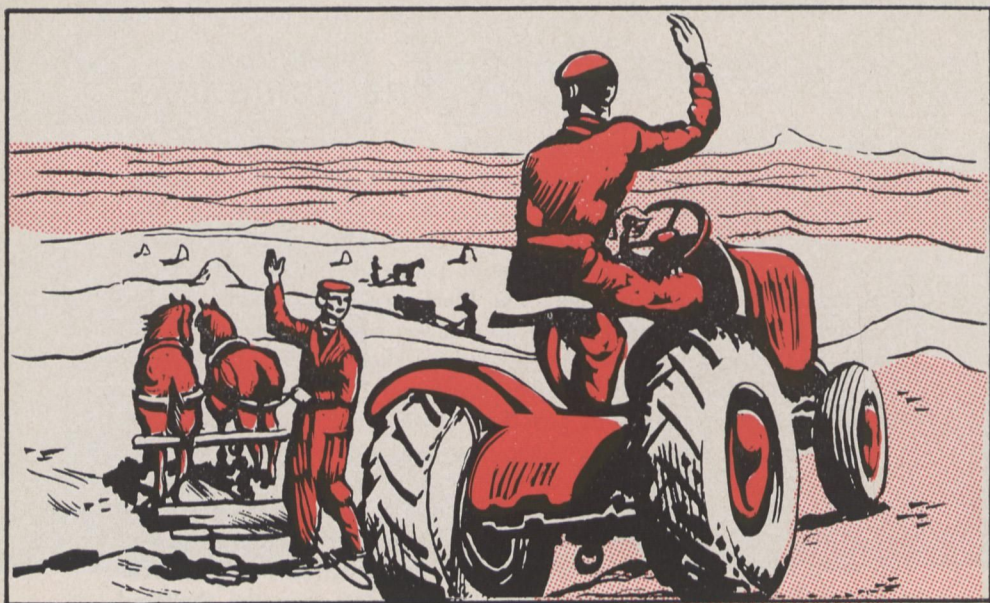
Merely to look over the list of the countries adjoining Turkey would, in itself, suffice to give an idea of the variety of its climate, the variety of its land, and the variety of its history and civilization. Greece and Bulgaria border it in the northwest, Soviet Russia in the northeast, Iran in the east, and Iraq and Syria in the south. Three important seas border her: The Black Sea in the north — called Black because of the treachery of its sudden squalls and storms, the Aegean in the west, and finally the Mediterranean itself in the south. When one remembers that Turkey's coastline (4,454 miles) is nearly three times as long as its land frontiers (1,633 miles), he is not likely to forget the peninsular nature of the country.

The Aegean coast is blessed with several harbors that helped to make Asia Minor the center of the classical world. Among these the port of Izmir is best known. But the Black Sea coast is mostly straight, with steep banks and cliffs, from the Russian border to the Bosphorus at Istanbul. There are a few natural harbors, but even the sheltered places such as Zonguldak and Sinop are not much protection against the sudden, heavy storms that descend from the Russian steppes in the north.

Where Nature has failed, the Turkey of today is trying to make good. With the ever-increasing importance of the port of Zonguldak — the coal center of Turkey — it has become necessary to build an artificial harbor there. At the same time, another port is under construction at Trabzon, an important shipping center on the Black Sea Coast.

There are about thirty rivers more than 100 miles in length in Turkey, but this is a misleading figure as to the availability of water for agricultural purposes. The Firat (Euphrates) and Dicle (Tigris) of Biblical fame originate in the highlands of Eastern Turkey and cut through deep gorges into the fertile Mesopotamian basin of Iraq. The Seyhan and the Ceyhan in the South originate in the Taurus Mountains and give fertility to the Cilician Valley. The Yesilirmak and the Kizilirmak in the North descend into the Black Sea. Finally the Gediz and the Menderes wind through wide, green valleys into the Aegean. It is around these rivers that the center of Turkish agriculture is located. The rivers that criss-cross the central plateau of Anatolia (the modern name for Asia Minor) rise into torrents in winter and spring, but run dry during the summer when they are most needed. Here again Nature seems to have erred and left it to the Turk to seek out some artificial way to make them useful. So, as the economic and financial potential of the country has increased in the last thirty years, many irrigation projects have come into being.





## *the turks at work*

### *AGRICULTURE.*

**O**F every one hundred Turks, approximately seventy-two make their living from the land. They are producers of food and other agricultural products. According to Turkish law and custom, on the death of the father the land is divided among the children, and this is how most of the peasants have come to own their own land, making Turkey a country of small farm holders — the average farm is about 14 acres.

The agricultural resources of Turkey are varied and rich in quality rather than quantity.

Despite its rough climate, the central plateau throughout the course of history has been renowned for its wheat. Some botanists go so far as to claim that wheat originated in Asia Minor. Today there is a wheat seed that came originally from Turkey and is very popular in the wheat-growing areas of the United States where it is known as "Red Turkish".

Nine out of ten cultivated acres in Turkey are devoted to cereals, and wheat is the principal crop, being about half of the total grain production. It is also an important item in Turkish economy because wheat bread is the most important staple food of both the village and town folk. Barley, rye, and oats are other important cereals grown in

the central plateau. All of these play an important part in the domestic economy of the country, but in foreign trade other products are more important.

Variety in Turkish agricultural products is found in the valleys and lowlands of the coastline that fringe the central Anatolian plateau. In the regions around Izmir on the Aegean coast and in the Samsun and Trabzon areas on the Black Sea one finds the crops that, from the point of view of quality, enjoy the highest reputation in world markets and on man's palate.

Among these choice products tobacco ranks first. Oddly enough it is a plant alien to the country. A native of South America, it was introduced into Europe in the 16th century. But the climate and soil of Turkey have proved so congenial to it that today Turkish tobacco is considered essential in the manufacture of better cigarettes. That's why, although the United States is the largest cigarette producer in the world, she is also the greatest purchaser of Turkish tobacco (annual production: 100,000 tons). This tobacco is used for blending purposes to lighten the color, to add flavor and aroma, and to increase the combustibility of cigarettes. Almost all cigarettes made in the United States of America contains from four to eight percent of Turkish tobacco.

From her sale of tobacco to the United States Turkey annually earns some thirty million dollars. Tobacco ranks first among Turkish exports.

Raisins, figs, and filberts are the next three most important agricultural products of Turkey. These are well known in international markets for their fine quality.

The ancient Romans called Asia Minor "The Fruit Paradise of the World". Indeed, a combination of climate and soil, of long periods of blue skies and bright sunshine interspersed with short, sudden showers, cool breezes and fleeting clouds all help to add extra color and flavor to the peaches, melons, strawberries, quinces, and oranges that are abundantly produced near the Aegean coastline. Turks are great fruit eaters but, unlike many Americans, they prefer their fruit fresh, uncanned, and uncooked.

Raisins also are of great importance in Turkey's foreign trade. Although the United States is the world's leading producer of raisins, Turkey ranks second (annual production — 60,000-80,000 tons), and Australia ranks third. The United States and Australia are new producers, and they compete with Turkey in world markets. Turkish producers, however, are proud of having given to the world the Sultanina type of raisins — the sweet stoneless raisins which are now, also, grown in the San Joaquin Valley in California. The chief center of Sultanina



grapes in Turkey is the area around Izmir and Manisa on the Aegean coast. Turkish Sultanina's are widely sought because of their softer skin and greater fruit-sugar content.

Figs — dried figs particularly — are the third most important item in Turkish export economy. The fig is an ancient friend of the human race, and the Greeks and Romans sang its praises because it was one of their staple foods. It is a tree common to the whole of the Mediterranean region. France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Portugal are great producers. It is also commercially raised in Texas and California. But Turkish figs (annual production: 26,000 tons) grown in Aydin, south of Izmir, are a choice product. The fine quality of the Aydin fig comes not only from climate and soil but also from a succession of breezes during the growing season, particularly a warm moist wind that develops and swells the fruit, and is followed by a dry wind from the north which dries and ripens it.

Now we shift our scene to the Black Sea area. Here we have the greatest concentration in the world of filbert or hazelnut trees, as they are sometimes called. Turkey ranks first in the production (annual production: 60,000 tons) and export of filberts. She produces and exports nearly two and a half times as much as Spain, the second largest producer. Filberts, which are eaten like the American peanut as well as used in making cakes, are very popular in Europe, but in the United States they are comparatively unknown. Almonds, walnuts, and pistachio nuts are also raised in large quantities. Of these nuts, the United States is an important consumer of pistachios. Turkey is the largest producer and exports around two thousand tons of pistachio nuts annually.

While considering fruit products, mention must be made of the olive tree. As one travels around the Aegean coast between the Greek and Turkish shores, he realizes why the ancients accepted the olive branch as a symbol of peace. Among the green foliage of the other trees the olive in its greyness stands out in serenity. In the heat of the summer there is a restful coolness about it that suggests repose. And then, its fruit, an important item in the diet of all the Mediterranean peoples, is suggestive of prosperity, a product of peace among nations.

Black olives with bread and onions is the lunch menu of the peasant working in the field. But olives are not consumed as such only. When they are crushed they yield oil. Olive oil is a fine kind of edible fat. In the United States it is used mostly in the better class restaurants for salad dressing. But in Turkey and Greece and in the whole Mediterranean region it is used in cooking. Turks use it especially for frying fish and cooking vegetables such as eggplants, green beans, and arti-



**Turkey's Agricultural  
Products Are Varied  
And Rich in Quality**

*The Aegean is a fruit paradise.*



*Hand made pottery  
in beautiful patterns.*

*Sultana raisins  
are the best in  
the world.*



chokes. A vegetable cooked in olive oil is usually served as a second course in the middle class homes, especially in the Aegean district. Olive oil, aside from cooking purposes, is also used in the manufacture of best-quality toilet soaps.

The Mediterranean countries like Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Tunisia, and Algeria are the greatest producers of olives. Spain ranks first with Turkey fifth. Although important in Turkish diet, olives and olive oil are not of prime importance in Turkey's foreign trade.

From the point of view of domestic economy, mention must also be made of cotton. In Southern Turkey in the fertile valley of Cilicia, cotton is becoming the main crop, but since the country increasingly manufactures her own textile requirements, the cotton produced is consumed mostly by local mills.

Rice is another food item of importance to the domestic economy, but from the viewpoint of foreign trade, it is not of any importance. The country barely produces enough to meet its own requirements. But rice is a favorite dish with the Turks. When cooked in a special way with butter it is called "pilav". There is an old saying in Turkish, "You can tell a good wife by the way she cooks pilav". Guests to dinner or lunch in Turkey are sure to be served "pilav" in some form or other.

## ANIMALS.

Many countries or regions have their own special animal. For example, England has the highland pony, the chamois belongs to Switzerland, the bison is a representative of Northern America, and the kangaroo of Australia. The animal of Turkey is the Ankara (Angora) goat. It is known throughout the world for its special kind of wool, called mohair. The Ankara goat is more or less like an ordinary goat, but it differs in its fleece which is transparent white, lustrous, and very much longer — seven to eight inches in length — than the wool of the ordinary goat. Mohair is a commodity much sought by the manufacturers of fine cloth. It is used in sweaters, felt, and blankets. Its fleeciness and velvetiness have a caressing effect on the wearer. In 1838 the Ankara goat was smuggled out of the country and taken to South Africa. It has, also, been introduced to Australia, and it is raised in Texas and California, as well. But goats in Ankara still produce very high quality mohair, and Turkey ranks as the second largest producer of mohair in the world (number of goats: 4,000,000; annual production 4,500 tons).

On the grazing lands of the Turkish plateau sheep and cattle are raised in abundance. Oxen are used as draught animals by the small

farmers. Horses are numerous. They are of Arab extraction, fast and small. The donkey is very popular because it is a hard worker and is the general purpose animal. In the south mules and water buffaloes are numerous. Camels are also found in many parts of Turkey. But it is "the animal of Arabia" rather than of Turkey.

Among the wild animals the "Pennsylvania bear" is to be found in the mountainous districts of the country. Here wolves are also found. The jackal and the wild hog, being grape eaters, are the great enemies of the vineyards. The duck, the pheasant, the goose, the quail, and the partridge are common hunting birds. The Turkish quail is imported into the United States for breeding in Nevada. The coastline abounds with fish. Sardines are particularly popular, and in the Black Sea region there are so many dolphins that dolphin fishing has become an industry. The dolphin is useful primarily for the fat it yields.

## **INDUSTRY.**

Turkey is a predominantly agricultural country, but that does not mean that all the people earn their living from the land. Of every hundred Turks, 72 make their living by farming, forestry, and fishing. Of the same hundred, eight are in public administration and professional services and another eight are engaged in commerce and transportation. Twelve are in industry and mining. The number of those in industry has increased more than twenty times in the last twenty-five years. This is due to the desire of the people for a more well-rounded self-sufficient economy.

In the Europe of the 17th and 18th centuries, that is to say prior to the modern industrial age, Turkish manufactures such as textiles were in great demand. But the Ottoman Empire, due to political decline, failed to keep pace with industrial development in the West. Machine production having lowered costs, Turkish hand work was swept out of the market even in Turkey proper, and the country had to fall back on agriculture alone. But when the Republic was established in 1923, a rapid industrial development was undertaken. Factories were erected and the natural resources of the land were put to better use.

Today something like 58% of the industries in the country are based on food, drink, and tobacco. In 1923 there were 118 industrial establishments in the country; by 1941 the figure had increased to 1052 more. This should give a clear idea of the speed and intensity of industrial development. The production of gas and electricity in the larger towns has followed the same pattern of rapid increase. In 1923 there were only two municipal electricity generating stations; in 1945 the number of such stations had jumped to 190.

Among the food industries, the sugar beet industry ranks first. It is important because it has helped to put large tracts of land to better and more productive use and helped to raise the standard of living of the peasants living in the beet growing regions. It is also important from the point of view of the national economy. Before 1923 Turkey was totally dependent on imported sugar. Today she produces 100,000 tons annually, which is sufficient to meet her needs. Eskisehir, Alpullu, Usak, and Turhal are the four centers of the sugar industry.

In the last thirty years an increasingly large number of people have come to earn their living from the textile industry. Izmir, Istanbul, Adana, and Kayseri are the four great centers of textile manufacturing. Because she has the two essentials for the development of an industry — the raw material and the necessary power, textile manufacturing developed very rapidly in Turkey. It is one of Turkey's most basic and prosperous industries.

Thirty years ago the cotton grown in the country was exported. Although the people grew cotton, they had to import their requirements of cotton cloth from abroad. Today cotton production has tripled but even so practically the whole crop is consumed by domestic textile mills. Local production and manufacture of cotton goods meets

*The textile mills in Kayseri.*







*A tobacco planter with his family.*

approximately 60% of the country's requirements. In Kayseri, in Central Anatolia, is located the largest textile factory in the Near East.

Wool is an important export product of Turkey, but increasingly larger quantities are being consumed within the country. In woolen textiles, at present Turkey produces approximately 80% of her requirements of woolen cloth. The woolen industry is located in the great consumption centers of Istanbul and Izmir.

The Bursa region has, since time immemorial, been renowned for its silk industry. Today some of the finest silk materials in the world are produced in Turkey.

Cement is another industry important in the economy of the country. Because of great construction activity cement was and is in great demand. The country's annual requirement is estimated to be over a million tons. Production in the last twenty years has risen from 40,000 to 300,000 tons. Several new plants are under construction and it is hoped that soon local production will meet all demands.

One of the newly-established industries is the paper industry. The paper mills at Izmit on the Gulf of Marmora have brought new prosperity to this provincial town whose population has more than

doubled in fifteen years. Today these mills manufacture one-fourth of Turkey's annual requirements of paper and cardboard.

A new glass industry has been begun in Istanbul. There are also several leather-goods factories. Kutahya in Turkey is world-famous for its ceramics: hand-painted tiles, plates, pitchers, etc., from Kutahya come in colors whose non-fading dyes are a closely-guarded secret.

In considering industrial development in Turkey, the iron and steel works established in Karabuk should be mentioned. All the industries previously discussed produce consumer goods. Turkey being a producer of coal and having discovered iron ore deposits, found herself in a position to start an iron and steel industry. When compared with the United States, the greatest iron and steel producer in the world, Turkey's annual production seems very, very small. But her needs in comparison with those of the United States are very small too, and the Turkish iron and steel works are meant to provide partly for her needs. The annual production of pig iron is around 100,000 tons, and 70,000 tons of steel ingots.

Turkish carpets have for centuries enjoyed world-wide renown. They are woven by hand by village women as a pastime. They owe their great reputation to the exquisite interplay of design and colors that have been developed and transmitted from generation to generation for centuries. The Metropolitan Museum in New York has some fine samples of Turkish carpets dating back to the 15th Century. The colors are still as bright as they originally were. This is one of the great attributes of the Turkish carpet industry. The colors do not fade because they are natural dyes extracted from special plants grown for that purpose.

## *MINING.*

Of the natural resources of a country minerals are of great importance. Whether Turkey on this score is richly endowed or not cannot as yet be definitely asserted. To determine the mineral wealth of the country the Turkish Republic has organized a Research Institute whose scientists are exploring all parts of the country as well as studying the applied use of previously discovered resources. Coal, chromium, antimony, copper, and iron ore mining is being rapidly developed and has come to occupy an important part in Turkish economy.

Chrome was first discovered in Turkey in 1848, fifteen miles north of the town of Bursa, in the Marmora region. Up to the present chrome ore has been located in 117 different parts of the country. The richest chrome mining operations today are in Guleman in the Elazig

district of Southeastern Turkey. Production in 1924 was 701,519 metric tons. Today it has attained 3,800,000 tons and Turkey has become one of the four major producers of chrome in the world. This important mineral is one of the strategic materials used in the production of steel, so important in peace and war. Chrome is widely used in plating because it provides a rust-proof surface. It is used for everything from automobile bumpers to ash trays.

Iron ore is also an important natural resource. The discovery of iron ore at Divrik, between Sivas and Erzurum, in 1937 gave great encouragement to the founding of heavy industry in the country. Today the Steel Works at Karabuk process the ore mined at Divrik. The annual production of Divrik is already over 100,000 tons.

Another important deposit of iron ore was located near Adapazar in the Marmora region, but this has not yet been mined. These deposits of chrome and iron ore are considered very important from the point of view of the future development of the Turkish steel industry, for they provide the basic raw material for that industry. In the development of Turkey from an agricultural to an industrial nation these mines are a great asset.

Coal as a source of fuel and power is always important in any national economy. There are two kinds of coal deposits in Turkey — bituminous and lignite. Bituminous, which is the more important for industry, is found around Zonguldak on the Black Sea coast. Its location is a great advantage because it can be easily shipped. Like all other minerals produced in Turkey, the production of coal has increased rapidly. In 1924 the Zonguldak mines produced 701,519 tons annually. Today production has reached 4,000,000 tons.

The amount of coal consumed can be used as a reliable gauge of a country's industrial progress. On this score we see that although Turkey's coal production has increased five-fold in the last three decades it barely meets the increasing needs of the country. Plans are under way to raise production to 7.5 million tons annually in the next three years. This is important not only for the Turkish economy but also for Turkey's neighbors, because Greece and Italy and all the Arab countries lack coal. To these countries Turkey sends part of her present supply, but as coal production is increased more will be exported.

Lignite is found in abundance in western Turkey — some two or three hundred miles inland from the Aegean coast. The best known deposits are the ones around Soma and Balikesir. Because the need for bituminous coal in industry is great, the country is more and more using lignite as a further source of heat and energy.

Copper has been mined in Turkey since ancient times. There are



rich deposits at Ergani in Southeastern Turkey and at Murgul in Northeastern Turkey near the Russian border. The Murgul source is just being developed, but the production at Ergani is around 10,000 tons of blister copper annually. These mines are a good source of income for Turkish international trade. The United States ranks first among the purchasers of Turkish copper.

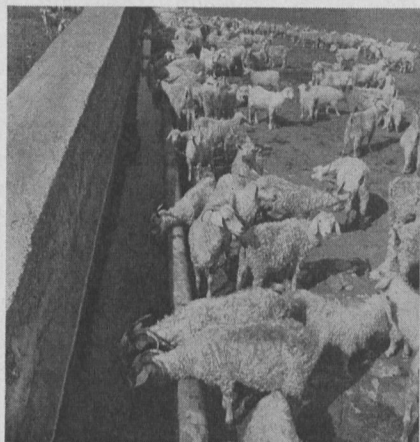
Manganese, magnesite, emery, asbestos, antimony, and lead are other mineral resources. Of these, lead ranks first in importance.

Eskisehir in Central Turkey is the world's center of meerschaum mining. This is a soft white metal, but it dries and hardens when exposed to the sun and looks like ivory. Turkish craftsmen have long been renowned for their skill in fashioning beautiful objects such as artificial flowers, powder boxes, and buttons from this metal. In the United States meerschaum pipes from Eskisehir are among collector's items.

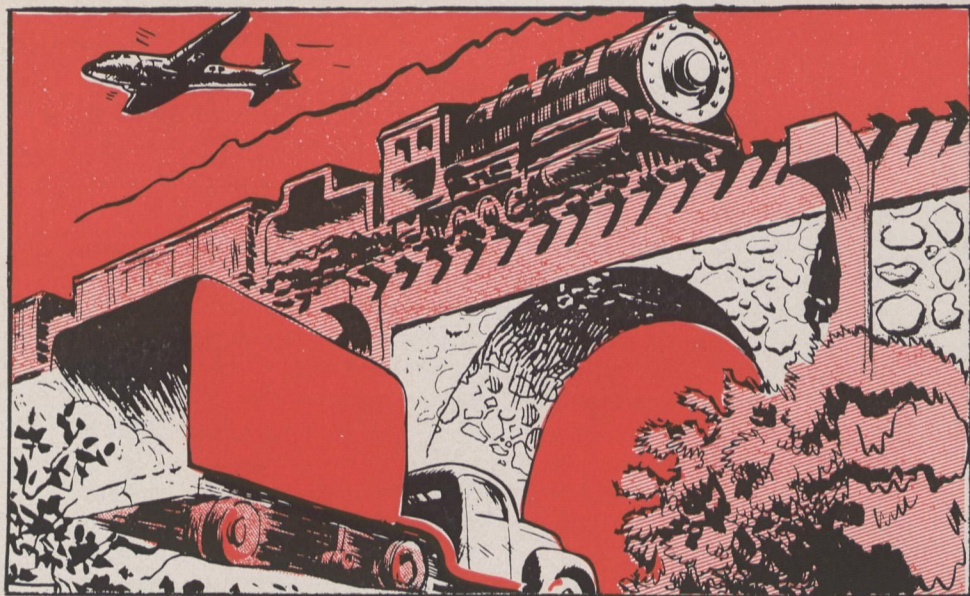
Minerals constitute 6% to 8% of Turkey's present exports, but with constantly increasing production and the discovery of new deposits this percentage is bound to increase.



*A Turkish girl wearing a hand-made Turkish blouse.*



*Mohair is the choice wool of the Ankara goat.*



## *transportation and communications*

**T**URKEY IS A PENINSULA surrounded by three seas, with an extensive coastline of 4,454 miles. Naturally her main contact with the outside world is by the sea.

In the south, on the Mediterranean coast, Iskenderun and Mersin are the most important ports serving as export and import centers for the southern provinces.

Izmir, on the Aegean coast with its natural harbor, is the second most important Turkish port. With a very rich hinterland where the three most important export products of Turkey — grapes, figs, and tobacco — grow, it handles 20% of the total foreign trade of the country. For 2500 years it has conserved its position as one of the main trading ports of the Mediterranean area. As Turkey's potential wealth is developed and as her foreign trade increases, it is destined to assume an even greater importance, especially as a tourist center. The ruins of Ephesus and the remains of Pergamum are among the many historic attractions of this sunny countryside.

Istanbul, the greatest city in Eastern Europe (population: 1,000,000) is the most important Turkish port. It handles 66% of Turkey's international trade. There are three reasons for this:

(1) It is the natural outlet for the vast hinterland of the Marmora regions.

(2) The Turkish Black Sea coast lacks natural harbors and thus the export trade of the Black Sea area is conducted through Istanbul by transshipment from Turkish vessels.

(3) Istanbul also serves as the redistribution center for most Turkish imports.

On the Black Sea coast the port of Trabzon serves as an outlet not only for Northeastern Turkey but also as the terminal point of the transit land route to Iran. Giresun is the great hazelnut exporting port, Samsun the tobacco port, and Zonguldak the coal port of the Black Sea coast. But all these lack natural harbors and plans are under way for the construction of artificial port facilities.

The Turkish merchant marine has a gross tonnage of 353,573 tons. Turkish ships run services to foreign countries, including a cargo service to the United States. But the tonnage available does not meet the requirements of the country, and constant efforts are made to obtain new ships.

On land, Turkey is linked to Europe by the famed Simplon Orient Express. This railway line starts from London and crosses to France, and then runs through the Simplon pass in Switzerland and across the Balkans to Istanbul. From there the Anadolu Express, another crack train, takes the traveler across Turkey as far as Bagdad in Iraq, or south through Syria to Israel.

This was the only line that crossed Turkey from north to south in 1923 when the Republic was established. There were no through railways from east to west. But in the last twenty-five years an extensive program of construction has been carried on, and the mileage of railroads in the country has doubled. This increased mileage was undertaken, as should be the case with all railway building, for the purpose of (a) connecting the different economic centers of the country with one another, (b) linking centers of consumption with centers of production (c) and finally connecting all these centers with the sea where they can obtain contact with foreign markets. Today one can go by rail to Izmir in Western Turkey, Kars in the Northeast, and Diyarbakir in the Southeast. North and south there is also a line between Samsun and Adana, and one from Zonguldak to Adana.

But again this mileage, for a country like Turkey, whose natural wealth is distributed over a wide expanse of territory, is far from sufficient to meet the needs of a constantly increasing production and a rising standard of living. The existing lines serve only as main arteries, crossing the country east and west, south and north. They need to be connected by minor lines that will feed them with the traffic of the main provincial centers of the country. A 15-year plan is at present



*The Port of Istanbul*

*The Railroad Station, Ankara*



under way and as a result, between 1950 and 1965, 1,435 miles will be added to existing mileage.

The Ottoman Empire, fully engrossed in the problem of preserving the imperial domain, had long neglected the development of Turkey proper. The Republican Government in 1923, as in other fields of public works, inherited a very insufficient system of roads. In 1923, throughout all Turkey, there were only approximately 8,073 miles of roads. Of these only 2,484 were macadamized, the rest being only dirt and dry-weather roads allowing no passage in rainy weather. Between 1923 and 1940, 14,314 miles were constructed, of which 3,130 miles were macadamized. Today the total mileage of roads is approximately 26,703 miles. The great problem is to modernize these roads to allow for traffic under all conditions and in all seasons, and to meet the needs of a rapidly developing rural community where automobile and bus transportation assumes an increasingly important part in everyday life.

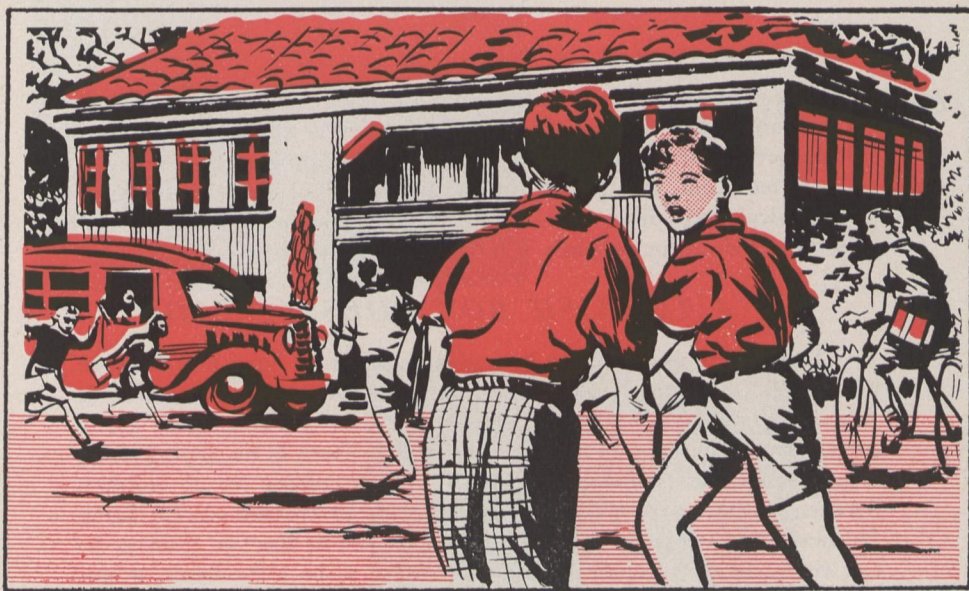
A nine-year plan has been drawn up and was put into execution in 1949. This plan calls for reconstructing, in nine years, a nation-wide system of large trunk roads covering 14,317 miles. Here American aid has been very helpful. Road building machinery obtained from the United States has made possible the very rapid progress of the plan.

Air travel is becoming increasingly popular in Turkey. The Turkish Airways run a very efficient service between the principal cities of the country. The airplane is popular because where distances by rail are long, travelers prefer the airplane that saves so much time and trouble. Also, almost all the big international companies run a service to Turkey. Istanbul and Ankara are the two international stops in the country.

*The airport in Ankara.*







## *education*

**T**HE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM of Turkey has two outstanding features:

(1) From elementary schooling through university studies, all phases of education are provided by the State free of charge.

(2) There are *village institutes* which represent a new and practical idea in rural education.

When the Republic replaced the Ottoman Empire in 1923 there was a great lack of schools and teachers. As one of the main factors in determining a country's place among the community of nations in the modern world is the standard of education of the mass of the people, the founders of the Republic set about trying to spread the benefits of schooling as widely as possible. This was not an easy burden for a national treasury that was already bearing heavy expenditures for various other public services such as communications and health. But time has proved that it was well worth the sacrifice. In 1923, when the Republic was established, only one out of every ten people knew how to read and write. Today five of every ten can read and write.

At present thirteen per cent of the annual expenditure of the state is devoted to education. This gives a clear idea of the importance the Republic places on educating its citizens. Of the total amount spent on education, 61% is spent on elementary education because primary

schooling constitutes the core of the literacy of a people, and in a largely rural country like Turkey this assumes an even greater importance. Fifteen percent of the total expenditure on education goes to secondary, 13% to technical, and 3% to university education. The amount spent on technical training is significant. It indicates the importance that a technical education assumes in a rapidly industrializing country.

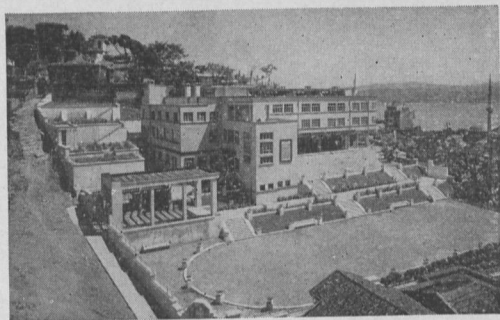
### ***A TURKISH BOY GOES TO SCHOOL.***

Tunc Ertan is a typical boy of seven. Let us take him through his years of schooling. If he is living in a city like Ankara, Istanbul, or Adana he might have to take a streetcar, a bus, or the ferry to get to school. But if he lives in a village, he walks. There is no getting away from elementary schooling for Ertan. It is compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and twelve. If he is an average student Ertan finishes the elementary school in five years. Then he has two choices: he can either go to a technical school and learn to be a mechanic, a carpenter, a tailor, an electrician, or some other such skilled worker, or he can continue his academic studies.

Today the emphasis is on technical training. A large number of the boys and girls choose technical schools because good careers are open to young people with such training. The new factories that are being built, the mines that are being developed, the tractors, harvesting machines, and other mechanical equipment used in agriculture, all demand an ever increasing number of technicians.

If Ertan prefers to continue his academic career, he goes to a secondary school. Here he has to go through seven grades. The courses through secondary school are roughly the same as those from junior high school through junior college in the United States. Both elementary and secondary schools are co-educational. However, it is quite possible that he and his sister might attend different secondary schools because there are also separate secondary schools for boys and girls.

After his graduation from the secondary school, if Ertan decides to enter a university to study for a profession, he has to prove his qualification by taking a competitive examination and he is accepted by the university only after he passes. But suppose he lives in a small town and his father does not possess the means to send and maintain his son at Istanbul or Ankara, where the universities are located? He need not despair, for every year hundreds of scholarships are offered by the State to poorer young people who cannot provide for their board and lodging as well as their education throughout the training period. And Ertan can participate in a competitive examination for



## A TURKISH BOY GOES TO SCHOOL

*The School*

*The Library*



*Ertan and Schoolmate*



*At Play*



*The ice-cream man*

the scholarships offered. After he is accepted, all his expenses throughout the university course are provided by the State. That's not all. If, after graduation, his ambitions prompt him further, he can try for competitive scholarships for specialized study abroad. Today there are some seven hundred students doing post-graduate work in the United States some of whom have obtained their scholarships from the Turkish Government.

### **THE VILLAGE INSTITUTES.**

The second outstanding feature of education in Turkey is the *village institute*. Turkey is still largely an agricultural country and three quarters of her people live in small villages of from 25 to 300 families. There are some 40,000 such villages, and the problem of elementary education in Turkey is centered mainly around providing for these small communities.

At the start, there were two aspects of the problem: the financial and the human. They were both equally difficult. Obviously a poor country like Turkey could not provide all its 40,000 villages with a school in a decade or two. But villagers have proved so eager for a school building that in many cases they either helped personally in its construction or have contributed funds. The human element was more difficult to solve, for here again some sixty-seventy thousand teachers could not be trained, so to speak, over-night. Several methods were tried for a speedy but also effective training of teachers. Commendable results were obtained but they still did not completely meet the demand. Finally, ten years ago, the idea of the *village institute* was conceived and put into practice.

This scheme operates as follows:

Among the village boys and girls who have finished elementary schools, the best are selected by competitive examination for training as village school teachers in the institute. The institute is a boarding school in a rural center. Its environment does not differ from the environment of the village where the pupils are to teach. Training takes five to eight years. But this is not schooling alone in the ordinary sense of the word. Half of the time is devoted to studies and half to practical work. In a small community of two hundred to two thousand people a man has to be his own mason, carpenter, plumber, and the like. The boys in the institute learn how to build a house conforming to modern standards of hygiene, how to make their own furniture, and finally how to till the soil according to the best methods known to science. The girls are taught housekeeping, emergency first aid, and child care. This is in addition to the more standard curriculum of a teachers' college.



**The Village Institutes**  
—a new idea in  
**Rural Education**

*Students at play*



*Practice in new methods of Cultivation*



*Learning how to  
improve the  
village*



It is this practical side of the institute's program that is of the greatest importance to Turkey. After the pupil graduates from the institute, he is sent back to his village not only to teach at the school but at the same time to set an example to other villagers in the way he lives and farms his land. To do this he is provided with a home, land, and the capital to cultivate that land. He is expected to devote half of his time to the school and half to his land and the improvement of the village. In other words he is not a school teacher alone but the progressive man of the village, the man with a knowledge of better living and more progressive methods of land cultivation. He thus becomes the human instrument that is helping to raise — and so rapidly — the standard of living of the village communities of Turkey. The importance of this cannot be exaggerated because in the Anatolian plateau and in other remote corners of the country the standard of living was low.

There are twenty-two such institutes located at strategic places throughout the country. The practical program of each differs. For example, in those near the Black Sea coast pupils are trained also as fishermen, for this is the major local occupation. At the institute in the vicinity of Ankara cereal raising and animal husbandry are the main agricultural subjects studied.

Each year approximately two thousand pupils graduate from these twenty-two institutes. On the basis of this it can be seen that in two decades all the villages in Turkey will be provided with institute graduates. Thus the problem of rural education will be solved and in its wake social and economic progress will be made.

There are today over 17,000 primary schools in Turkey. The number of boys and girls attending these schools is over 1,700,000. In 1923 there were only 350,000 attending school. The progress is tremendous but even so there are still over a million youngsters who have no schools to which to go. The country is continuing to strive to close the gap.

The University of Istanbul and the University of Ankara are the two seats of higher learning in Turkey. The School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Istanbul enjoys an international reputation and draws students from nearby countries in Southeastern Europe and the Middle East. The School of Archaeology of the University of Ankara has achieved renown by its studies and excavations of Hittite and Sumerian civilizations.

## **SPORTS.**

Tunc Ertan does not know how to play baseball. He may have seen American-style football in the movies and wondered what sort

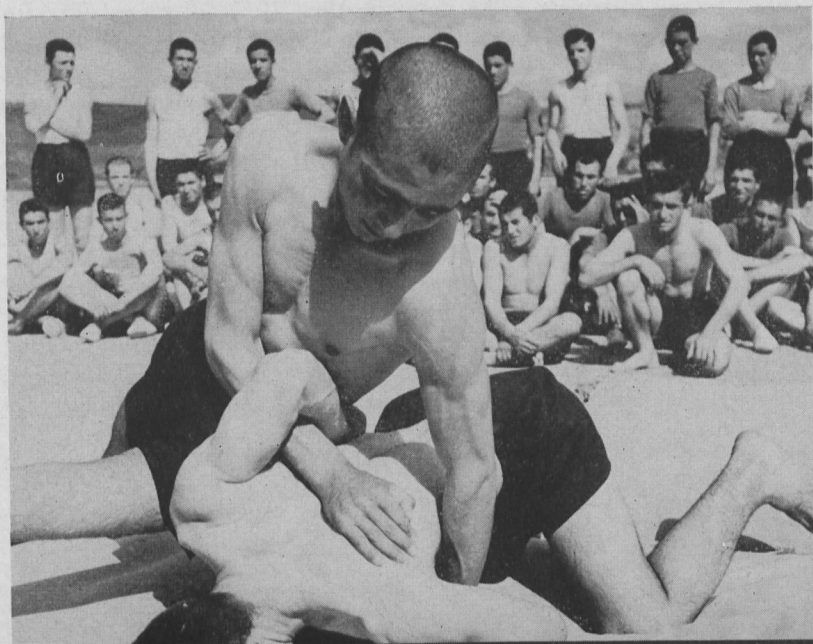
of game it was. But he can match his American counterpart in volleyball or basketball. Of these two games, basketball is more widespread than volleyball in all schools in Turkey. Tennis is also played but on a more limited scale. Among the ball games, soccer is the most popular both in and out of school. It is the national game. Every city and town has several clubs that play against each other, and after the regional contests the champion teams play for the national championship. These contests always draw large crowds of spectators. Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir generally have the strongest teams. The Turkish national soccer team often participates in international competitions. It has also given a good account of itself in the Olympic Games.

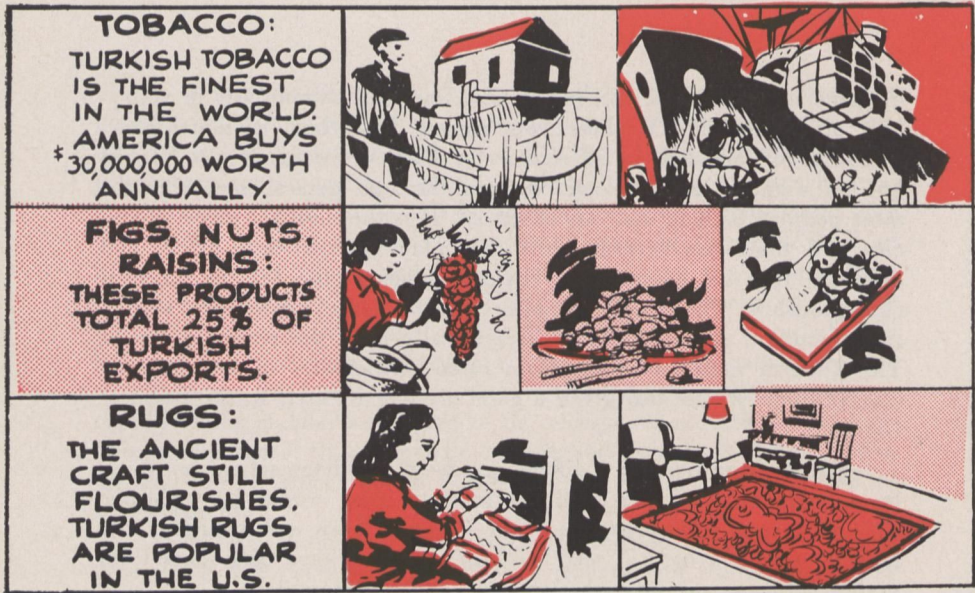
But if Ertan lived in a village and went to village school he would be an expert horse rider and his favorite sport would be wrestling. This is a very widespread sport in Turkey. Town and country boys take to it with a natural zest. Turkish wrestlers have been famed for many centuries and today they are the Olympic champions.

Next to soccer and wrestling, gymnastics offers the most keenly competed events. In the spring there is much competition between different schools.

Skiing is gaining in popularity, especially in university circles in Ankara and Istanbul. In the coast towns swimming and rowing are a favorite pastime throughout the summer.

*Wrestling is a national sport.*





## *turkey's foreign trade*

**A** COUNTRY whose economy is preponderantly agricultural naturally exports chiefly agricultural products. In this category Turkish goods that reach foreign markets are mainly tobacco, raisins, dried figs, cereals, cotton, wool, mohair, opium, dried fruits, oil seeds, and livestock. Tobacco has for long been Turkey's most valuable export, attaining as high as 30% of the country's annual total export value. Dried fruits like raisins, figs, and pistachio and hazelnuts make up more than 15% of annual Turkish exports. Livestock and their by-products such as wool, mohair, and hides constitute 11%, and cereals 9% of over-all exports. Minerals at the moment amount to only 8% of Turkey's exports. But with the rapid development of new mines they will assume a much greater importance in Turkey's foreign trade. The remaining 27% includes such important Turkish products as rugs, valonia, canned and salted fish, fresh fruits and vegetables, olive oil, etc.

A study of Turkish imports gives an idea of the rapid development program being carried out. Industrial material, machinery, and means of transport constitute over 50% of Turkey's annual imports. Of the other 50%, 30% is taken by textiles and the remaining 20% by consumer goods like paper, glass, tea, and coffee. It is hoped, however, that with the new textile, paper, and glass factories that are



being set up, the proportion of imported consumer goods will decrease, enabling Turkey to import greater amounts of machinery and transport equipment so necessary for the development of her resources.

Central Europe was, prior to 1946, the natural outlet for the greater part of Turkish exports. This area also supplied the largest percentage of Turkey's industrial imports. Germany, as the largest trading unit in this region, occupied a very important part in Turkey's foreign trade, supplying 50% of her exports and imports. The United States was the next most important country, handling 11-15% of Turkey's foreign trade. Great Britain and Italy ranked third and fourth with 8% and 5% respectively.

But since 1946 the direction of Turkey's trade has changed. Trade with Germany in the post-war period came to a complete standstill. The vacuum left was partly filled by the United States which now takes about 20% of Turkey's exports and supplies and about 20% of its imports. Trade with Great Britain jumped to 12% in exports from Turkey to Britain and to 17% in imports from Britain to Turkey; and with Italy, to over 12%, both in imports and exports.

Western Europe is the major outlet for Turkish products, and within the Organization for European Economic Cooperation trade ties are being increasingly strengthened.

### ***AIMS IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT.***

Turkey's present-day aims in domestic development can be summed up in one phrase: "The improvement of the lot of the individual." Steady progress has been made towards this objective, particularly with respect to the social, economic, and political welfare of the people. In the political field, the elections of May, 1950, proved the maturity of Turkish democracy. In the social and economic fields, the aims of the Republic, set forth in its early days, are more than ever today its guiding principles:

I. To raise the cultural level of the mass of the people Turkey seeks to spread the benefits of education to all classes of people. With this end in view great efforts are exerted to increase the number of schools, and school teachers, so that every boy and girl will, at least, have an elementary school education.

II. Economically — as Turkey is mainly an agricultural country she needs to improve irrigation facilities, seeds, and livestock. Several government-sponsored agricultural centers are engaged in research work on better methods of land utilization. Modern machinery and credit to buy this equipment are supplied to the farmers. With the

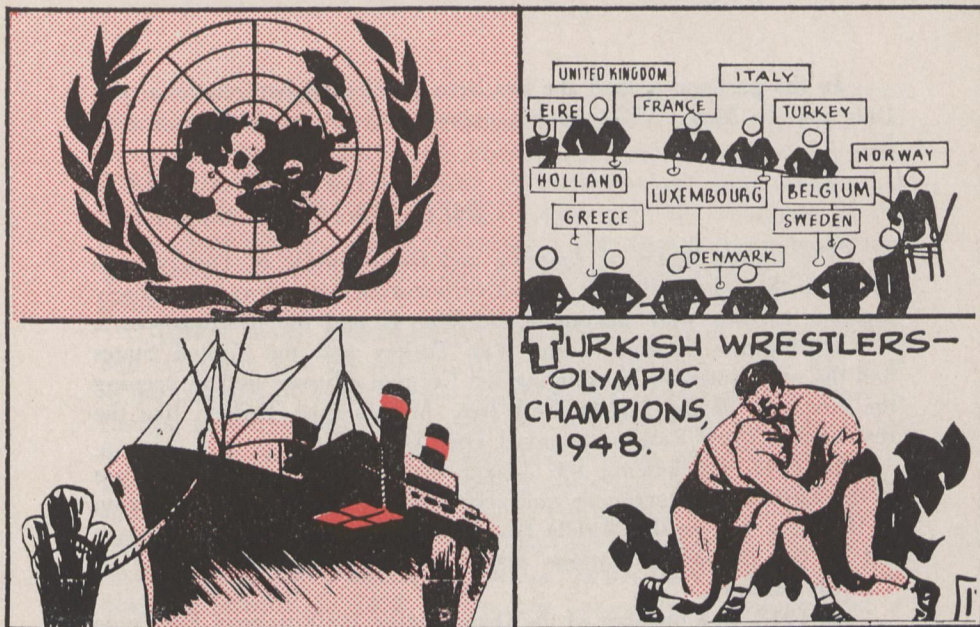
help obtained through the Marshall Plan from the United States an over-all increase of 25% in agricultural produce is expected by 1952.

III. The development of the mineral resources of the country needs to be intensified. Technical aid and equipment received from the United States through the Marshall Plan have facilitated the carrying out of projects to ensure greater and better exploitation of Turkey's mineral wealth.

In short, in domestic development Turkey aims to make better use of her natural resources with the avowed purpose of raising the standard of living of the people for a fuller enjoyment of life by the individual, in a free and democratic society, with equal rights and opportunity for all.

*The busy port of Istanbul.*





## *turkey's place among the nations of the world*

### **FOREIGN POLICY.**

**T**URKEY'S main aim in her foreign policy is the preservation of her independence and territorial integrity. It is in the maintenance of peace that she finds the best guarantee for the prosperity and happiness of her people.

She has no territorial or any other designs on her neighbors. Since the foundation of the Republic she has constantly cultivated the friendship of all the countries touching her boundaries. With the great majority of them like Greece, Iraq, and Iran, she has succeeded in basing her relations on firm and sound principles of cooperation and understanding. Provided that her territorial integrity and her independence are respected, Turkey is always ready to respond to any desire of good neighborliness on the part of any of her neighbors. Turkey is also taking part in the military planning of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with respect to the defense of the Mediterranean.

With Great Britain and France she has a treaty of mutual friendship and alliance. Signed in the fall of 1939, after the outbreak of the Second World War, it has withstood the test of time and has emerged as a main pillar of Turkish foreign policy.

In the post-war period she has been developing her relations with Italy and in May, 1950, she has signed a treaty of friendship with her.

### **RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.**

The United States of America and the Republic of Turkey have never, in the course of their respective histories, been drawn so closely together as they were during World War II and the post-war years.

During the Second World War Turkey and the United States had the same interests in stopping the German advance and in keeping the countries of the Middle East free. At this time Turkey, like the rest of the Allied Powers, received Lend-Lease Aid.

In 1947, recognizing the danger of the spread of Communism to the Eastern Mediterranean and acknowledging Turkey's key position in this area and in the Middle East, the Truman Doctrine of military aid to the threatened nations resulted in a great strengthening of Turkish defenses.

In 1948, as a member of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, Turkey began receiving American economic aid through the Marshall Plan, and the United States came to occupy the most important place in Turkish foreign trade accounting for some 20% of its total exports and imports.

In October, 1950, another close link between the United States and Turkey was forged when the Atlantic Pact countries invited Turkey to associate herself with them in planning the defense of the Mediterranean.

These links between the United States of America and the Turkish Republic show that although thousands of miles apart, with two seas and several countries in between, these two republics of the contemporary world are linked by the close relationship of their political and economic interests. It is a relationship based on an attachment to identical ideals of the Western civilization and of peace—the true basis of genuine and lasting friendship between different peoples.

### **TURKEY AND HER WORLD NEIGHBORS.**

Turkey is a member of the United Nations and of all the auxiliary organizations of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization.

Turkey cooperates fully in all international activities—political, economic, and cultural. In population she ranks twelfth among the



members of the United Nations. She is, also, a participant in the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and a member of the European Council where she has the fourth largest representation. Her position in the European community of nations might appear somewhat contradictory to her general classification with the countries of the Middle East but the truth of the matter is that there is no contradiction, as Turkey's interest in both areas is a natural outgrowth of her unique geopolitical status.

Turkey, today, geographically, historically, politically, economically, and culturally is a European country. *Geographically* — She has part of her territory on the European continent; but her geographic status in Europe is determined not so much by her European territory as by the fact that the Turkish peninsula has, literally speaking, turned its back on the Asiatic Continent. The mountains that rise to almost inaccessible heights on the eastern borders of the country fan out into fertile valleys towards the West as they increasingly open up towards the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe. *Historically* — Since the conquest of Istanbul in 1453 Turkey has been part of Europe, and it would be very hard to cite any event in the history of Europe in the last five hundred years that has not influenced Turkey or that has not been directly influenced by her. *Politically* — Since the institution of the Republic in 1923, Turkish political thought and institutions have been

Sailors of the U. S. battleship *Missouri* talking to Turkish sailors in Istanbul.



based on Western European political philosophy. *Economically* — Turkish trade and commerce is part and parcel of European economy. Her place in the Organization for European Economic Cooperation emphasizes her economic status in Europe. *Culturally* — Her social reforms in the last three decades, so well exemplified by the emancipation of women and the separation of state and church, have brought about an integration of Turkish every-day life with that of Western Europe.

However, it must not be assumed from this that the classification that places Turkey in the Middle East is wrong. Turkey is, also, a Middle Eastern country. In this respect she can be likened to the United States which is as much an Atlantic Power as she is a Pacific country.

Turkey is a Middle Eastern country not only by virtue of her geographic location but mostly as a result of her historical heritage. The Ottoman Empire for more than five hundred years held the Middle East within its boundaries. The psychological ties that were woven and interwoven between the people of the Middle East and the Turks in the course of these years could not, naturally, be completely severed as a result of the political separation of these lands and peoples from Turkey. This historical inheritance the Turkey of today means to use to the advantage of whole world as a bridge that will carry the material enlightenment of Western culture into the under-developed lands of the Middle East. In the political, social, and economic turbulence of our era, Turkey, with her faith in the future of humanity and her belief in the dignity of the individual, stands out as an example of steady progress for all Middle Eastern countries to emulate. As the founder of the Ottoman Empire she is the inheritor of great influence that emphasizes her present status as an outpost of democratic ideals in this region.

*The University of Istanbul has an old reputation as a center of learning for Europe and the Middle East.*



## DO YOU KNOW? . . .

- I. (a) Where Turkey is located.
- (b) Why this part of the world has been and is one of the great importance in World History.
- (c) The routes and means by which Turkey can be reached from the United States, and the time involved.
- (d) On what two continents Turkish territory is located, and the name by which ancient Turkey was known.
- (e) When and why the Turkish Republic was organized.
- (f) The main differences between the old Ottoman Empire and the new Republic of Turkey.
- (g) Why Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is called the George Washington of Turkey.
- (h) The two principal social changes that have taken place under the guidance of the Turkish Republic.
- (i) How the population of Turkey compares with that of other members of the United Nations.
- (j) Where most of the people of Turkey live — in rural areas or in cities and towns.
- (k) The kind of a climate that Turkey has, and why it has the kind of a climate it does.
- (l) The size of the Turkish Republic as compared with the United States.
- (m) The climate and topography of the central part of Turkey as compared with the coastline areas.
- (n) The three seas that border the Turkish peninsula and their location.
- (o) The countries that border Turkey and the location of each.

## II. THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF TURKEY.

- (a) What the chief occupation of Turkish people is.
- (b) Other occupations of the Turkish people and the relative importance of each.
- (c) What is meant by "Red Turkish".
- (d) The main agricultural product of Turkey not native to that country.
- (e) Why Turkish figs and raisins are world famous.



- (f) The kinds of nuts that grow near the Black Sea coast and which nut is of the greatest importance to Turkey's export trade.
- (g) The importance of the olive tree to Turkey.
- (h) The animal that is of most importance to the people of Turkey and why.
- (i) The major mineral resources of Turkey.
- (j) Turkey's position in the world production of chromium, and the uses of chromium in our modern world.
- (k) Why coal is so important to the industrial development of Turkey. The two kinds of coal deposits that are found in Turkey.
- (l) The mineral of which Turkey is the world's greatest producer.

### III. TURKEY'S BASIC INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- (a) What the proportion of Turks engaged in industry is as compared with other occupations.
- (b) The location of Turkey's main industrial districts.
- (c) What new industries have been established since 1923.
- (d) Why Turkish carpets are unusual.
- (e) The main links of Turkey with the outside world.
- (f) The three most important Turkish ports and their location.
- (g) Why Istanbul is Turkey's major port.
- (h) Why the Turkish railroad system is not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the country.
- (i) What the Turkish Government has done to improve railroad and road transportation in the last thirty years. The present railroad and road building program of the government.
- (j) How the United States has helped in the ever-improving road system.

### IV. FOREIGN TRADE.

- (a) What the major exports of Turkey are.
- (b) Which of these exports is most famous and why.
- (c) What the major Turkish imports are. Why these imports are particularly important to the economy of Turkey.
- (d) The important place occupied by the United States in Turkey's international trade.



## V. EDUCATION IN TURKEY.

- (a) What has been the chief educational problem of Turkey ever since the establishment of the republic.
- (b) What the outstanding features of Turkey's educational system are.
- (c) The educational progress that has been made in the past thirty years.
- (d) The educational opportunities available to a typical Turkish boy.
- (e) What the purpose of the *village institute* is. How it is influencing the social, cultural and economic life of those who live in rural Turkey.
- (f) The games played by the young people of Turkey.
- (g) The sports in which the Turkish people excel.

## VI. TURKEY'S FUTURE AND HER PLACE IN THE WORLD.

- (a) What the objectives of Turkey's domestic policy are.
- (b) How Turkey is going about reaching these objectives.
- (c) What aim of Turkey's foreign policy is.
- (d) How Turkey and her neighbors get along with each other.
- (e) Who the allies of Turkey are.
- (f) Factors that have drawn Turkey and the United States ever closer.
- (g) The position of Turkey as a member of the United Nations.
- (h) Turkey's place as a member of the European Council and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation.
- (i) Why there is no contradiction between Turkey's place in Europe and her classification as a Middle Eastern country.
- (j) What Turkey can and is doing to work more closely with her Middle East neighbors.



**Other material on Turkey, obtainable free  
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New Turkey  
Doing Business with Turkey (economic)  
Mr. Smith Visits Turkey (travel)  
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An American Looks at Turkey  
The Road Comes to the Village  
Turkey For the Best  
Cooperation for Mutual Security

**TURKEY TODAY SERIES:**

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Turkey's Foreign Policy  
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Turkish Elections of 1950 and United States Reaction  
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**FOLDERS:**

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