



**NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISE TURQUIE**

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**SPECIAL 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION**



On this 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye, we would like to dedicate this edition to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, saviour of the country, founder of the Republic, father of all Turkish citizens, a great statesman, strategist, visionary and a true lover of the nation.

In the history books in Turkiye, students get to know Atatürk from the elementary school. Some of you might remember having made an album of his life for a school homework in year 2 or 3. In later school years, students read the beginnings of Atatürk's military life from the painful war years starting in the Balkans in 1912, continuing through the WW I and ending with the War of Liberation. His career as a

statesman, all the reforms he put in place to modernise and advance the country are also studied with the aim to motivate the young generation to continue the work that he had started.

Yet, the War of Liberation or Atatürk are not mentioned in the history books of students in Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany... They do not know that at the end of WW I, at the signing of the Sevres Treaty, the defined map of Turkiye was as below, and that Atatürk, in a series of battles called the War of Liberation from 1919 to 1923, gained back inch by inch all the territory that constitutes the country today.



They also do not know about his personality. For Turks and those who learned about him, one thing which strikes is his overwhelming dedication to the progress and welfare of his nation. An epigraph from one of Atatürk's speeches is extremely revealing (Karpaz 1985): *"Man as an individual is condemned to death. To work, not for oneself but for those who will come after, is the first condition of happiness.... Each person has his own preferences. Some people like gardening and growing flowers. Others prefer to train men. Does the man who grows flowers expect anything from them? He who trains men ought to work like the man who grows flowers."* We can say that Atatürk is one of these very few statesmen whose dedication to country and nation is selfless.

In his memory, here are some tributes to Atatürk by his contemporaries and those who studied his life and achievements:

*"During a conversation with the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Soviet Union, Litvinov, I asked him who was, according to him, the most valuable and remarkable statesman of Europe. He replied that, the most*

*valuable and interesting leader in the world was the President of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk."*

Franklin D. ROOSEVELT

President of the United States of America

*"The ones who want to restore peace and health in this painful world, and who want mankind to develop not only materially but also morally, must take as an example and ponder upon Atatürk's galvanization and course".*

Professor Herbert MELZIG

Historian

*"Above all, he was a builder, the greatest nation-builder of modern times."*

Andrew MANGO

British author and biographer

*"Probably no other 20th century leader did more for his country than Atatürk. He brought Turkey independence, changed its alphabet and culture, and created a secular democracy. And probably no 20th century general had any better battlefield instincts, skill or discipline."*

Wesley CLARK

General

*"Fifty years before this we heard the name of Mustafa Kemal as a distinguished Turkish Commander. Later, with the establishment of peace, he got the opportunity to put forth his characteristics as a statesman and as one of the great national leaders, he gained one of the most eminent ranks in history. We remember that courageous and heroic soldier with respect and that statesman, the true father of modern Turkey with praise and gratitude".*

Sir Alexander DOUGLAS-HOME

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

*"We meet genius people very rarely in centuries. It is so unlucky that, in this century that great genius person belongs to the Turkish Nation. The centuries rarely produce a genius. Look at this bad luck of ours, that great genius of our era was granted to the Turkish nation".*

D. Lloyd GEORGE

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

*"The name of Atatürk reminds mankind of the historical accomplishments of one of the greatest men of this century: His leadership gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, farsightedness in the understanding of the modern world, and courage and power as a military leader. It is without a doubt that another example cannot be shown indicating greater successes than the birth of the Turkish Republic, and ever since then Atatürk's and Turkey's broad and deep reforms undertaken, as well as the confidence of a nation in itself".*

John F. KENNEDY

President of the United States of America

*"In the life of a nation it is very seldom that changes to such a radical degree were carried out in such a short period of time... Without a doubt, those who have done these extraordinary activities have earned*

*the attributes of a great man in the complete sense of the word. And because of this, Turkey can be proud of itself".*

Eleutherios VENIZELOS

Prime Minister of Greece

Those who would like to know more about him and the foundation of Turkish Republic, Patrick Kinross' "Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation", remains one of the main reference books.

We wish all our Turkish members happy October 29 Republic Day!

Bezen Hong

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at [editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

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## RECENT EVENTS

### Association Events

Republic Ball 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary was held on October 7

For this year's very special anniversary ball we returned to the iconic Beau-Rivage Palace in Lausanne where the Treaty of Lausanne determining Turkiye's current borders was signed

Conference about Treaty of Lausanne was organized on October 5

As part of the events organised by the City of Lausanne to commemorate the Treaty of Lausanne, our association organised a conference with the title "İsmet Pacha, négociateur hors pair du Traité de Paix". Ms. Gülsün Bilgehan, grand-daughter of İsmet Pacha and the member of İnönü Foundation, walked us through the events of the time, the role of the Pacha in negotiating the terms of the treaty, and his close collaboration with Atatürk.

For future Association events : [www.assoctr.ch](http://www.assoctr.ch)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Lausanne Bizim Lozan"

**100<sup>th</sup> year edition is out.** The much-praised book published by our Association is available for purchase at:

-Bookstore Letu in Geneva

-<https://letubooks.com/collections/new-arrivals-1/products/notre-lausanne-bizim-lozan>

We believe it will be a much-appreciated gift by your friends and family!