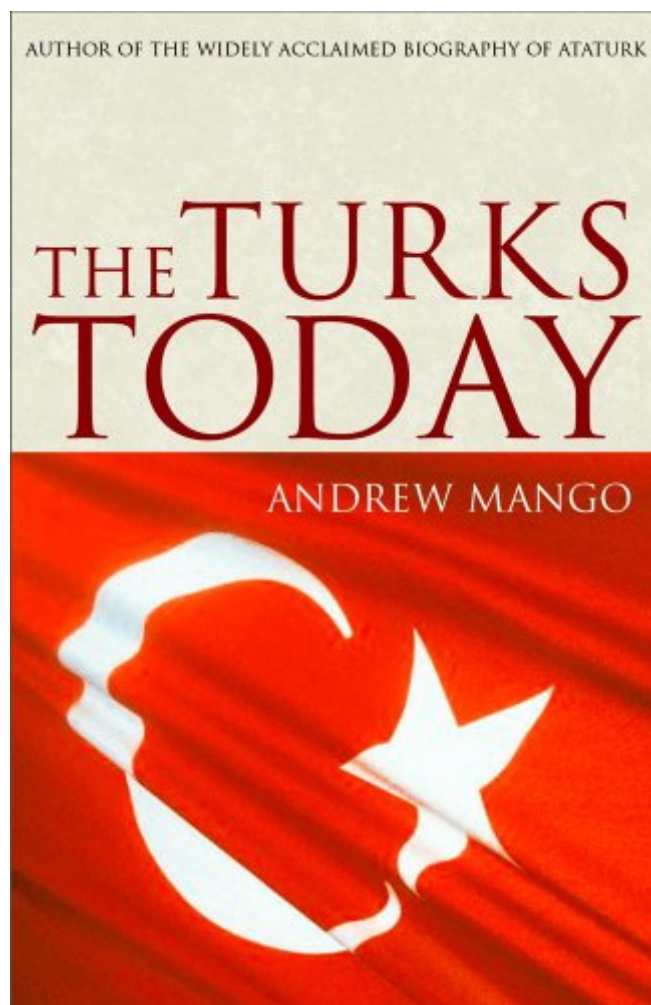


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The Turks Today: Turkey After Ataturk



Synopsis

Eighty years have passed since Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded the Turkish Republic out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire and set it on the path of modernisation. He was determined that his country should be accepted as a member of the family of civilised nations. Today Turkey is a rapidly developing country, an emergent market and a medium-sized regional power with the second strongest army in NATO. It is an open country which attracts millions of tourists, thousands of foreign businessmen and hundreds of researchers. They enjoy Turkish hospitality and experience its rich landscape and history, but many find it hard to form an overall picture of the country. In this sequel to his acclaimed biography of Ataturk, Andrew Mango provides such an overall portrait, tracing the republic's development since the death of its founder and bringing to life the Turkish people and their vibrant society. The Turks Today interprets the latest academic research for a broader audience, making this highly readable book the authoritative work on modern Turkey.

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Customer Reviews

Mango, truly an expert on Turkey, is castigated by some reviewers for not making injustices to ethnic minorities the principal theme of this balanced, insightful, and cogent historical conspectus.

Suffice to say, the author speaks plainly in this regard, and often enough of "targeted assassinations", "destruction of villages", etc. The book is, of course, now out of date by some very eventful years, but that does not in the least negate its worthiness as a summary of important modern events spanning many decades and its value for informative characterizations of Turkish society and culture, which sets the stage for subsequent, recent years in Turkey. (If you prefer an arm-waving tirade by a crusading ax-grinder -- and there are many -- look elsewhere.)

Very helpful book to gain more knowledge of Turkey and its place in the current world order. From the short history of the Turkish Republic to the second half of the book's coverage of all things in Turkey. The history of Turkey after Ataturk's death has been rife with corrupt politicians, military takeovers and internal fights with the Kurds and Marxists. Turkey is gaining importance in the world order and this book helps explain the why and the how it is poised to do so. I picked up a great deal of new info on Turkey, so this book was well worth the time.

Good book. I enjoyed it.

This book gives an excellent account of recent events in Turkey. It starts out with an overview of Turkish history which is fairly brief, then moves into the 20th century and gives a nice summary of events since 1923, and most of the book then focuses on events of the last few years. There are MANY statistics, and much research obviously went into this book. Overall it is a great resource for recent events in Turkey and would be the perfect companion book to Stephen Kinzer's "Crescent & Star."

Dr. Andrew Mango in *The Turks Today* covers the history of the Turkish Republic with an easy-to-read narrative and thoughtful analysis. In the first segment, the author provides a short history of the Ataturk era (1923-1938) when the founding principles of the Republic were established, difficult times (1938-1945) in which President Ismet Inonu managed to keep Turkey non-aligned and out of WW II, transition period to a multi-party system (1946-1960) and the huge electoral successes of the Democratic Party in 1950, 1954 and again 1957 and the first intervention of the military into politics in 1960, years of strife (1960-1980) when the coalition governments struggled to cope with growing domestic problems, conflict contained (1980-2003) while Turkey made progress and emerged as a regional economic and military power. In the second segment, Dr. Mango offers insightful analysis on several major issues, such as: economy, education, culture,

Ankara (the seat of government and the ruling elite), Istanbul (the center of practically everything outside of government), the divide between Islam and secularism, the Cyprus saga and relations with Greece, the quest to join the European Union and all EU related matters, the Kurdish problem and PKK's terrorist activities, the contentious Armenians' claim of genocide of events in 1915, changes in relations between USA, Israel and Iraq after the events of Sep 11, 2001 and the rule of an Islamist party in a majority government since November 2002. This book is vintage Mango. Page after page, it offers the essentials without getting into boring details yet remains factual and balanced. Once you begin to read "The Turks Today", it becomes very clear that Dr. Andrew Mango knows the history of the Turkish Republic and presents it in a marvelously lucid fashion. Anyone who is interested in knowing "what's going on in Turkey today" would enjoy reading this book. Muharrem Sev
Ottawa, Canada Dec 16, 2004

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