



MODERNITY, ITS PROMISE, AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Case study: The Republic of Turkey



WHERE EUROPE AND ASIA MEET

THE BYZANTINE HERITAGE

- “Eastern Roman Empire” 395 – 1453
- Capital: Constantinople
 - Straddled the Bosphorus
- Greek learning, Orthodox Christianity



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (1299 – 1922)



- Capital: Istanbul (from 1453)
- Centre of the Islamic world
- Contained multitudes
 - Turks, Arabs, Kurds, Greeks, Armenians, Slavs, Christians, Jews, Muslims (Sunni and Shia)

OTTOMAN DECLINE

- Lost dominant position to Europe
 - Industrial revolution, nationalism
- 19th century – pressure to ‘catch-up’, modernise, westernise, imitate the west
 - Similarities with Qing Dynasty



ANOTHER "SICK MAN."

CULTURAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

- Periphery breaks away
- Empire becomes more 'Turkish'
- New divisions
- Westernised, educated, modern elite in Istanbul
- 'Traditional', religious, poor 'masses' in the countryside





PAMUK ON PAMUK

- “Freud once said what is repressed comes back in disguise. I am the repressed Ottoman culture coming back in disguise as a post-modernist.”

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- Born out of losing WWI [1914 -1918]
- ‘Secular’, ‘modern’, ‘democratic’
- Founded by Mustafa Kemal ‘Ataturk’
- Capital moved to Ankara
 - Decline of Istanbul from centre of empire to relic of the past...





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STATE-LED REVOLUTION FROM ABOVE

THE
HEADSCARF
ISSUE





ARMY KEEPS DEMOCRACY FROM BEING “TOO DEMOCRATIC”

- Four coups between 1960 – 1997
 - Stop too much left-wing influence on government
 - Stop too much religious influence on government

**TURKEY'S
IDENTITY CRISIS:
STUCK BETWEEN
WORLDS**

NATO member

Invited to apply for EU membership BUT...

...application stuck, no progress, moving goal posts

Leads to popular resentment towards west

By 1980s globalisation and modernisation uproot the countryside

Popular Islam provides a sense of belonging, pride

1980 – 2015: CHANGES IN ISTANBUL, CHANGES IN BEIJING

- Both centres of former empires
- Repository of history, culture, tradition
- Go from being poor to rich, quite quickly
- Much changed, damaged, destroyed by modernization, economic development
- Massive growth, influx of rural population



“I AM THE REPRESSED OTTOMAN CULTURE COMING BACK IN DISGUISE AS A POST-MODERNIST”

- Explores sources of identity
 - Rich, international heritage
- Tensions between
 - Past and present
 - Social classes
 - Men and women
 - Modernity and tradition
 - Find the continuity in the change

