

TURKEY - - THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

The area of Turkey is 296, 503 square miles, 96.88% of which lies in Asia and the remainder in Europe. Turkey-in-Europe is divided from Turkey-in-Asia by the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus - the historic waterway which links the Aegean Sea with the Black Sea. The European portion of Turkey is about the size of New Hampshire, while the Asiatic portion is somewhat larger than the combined areas of Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

Few regions in the world have had in their history so long a period of successive civilizations. This period in Turkey dates back to the fourth millennium before the Christian era. People of the Paleolithic period, and those of the Age of Caverns, which we know archeologically, but not historically, lived on these highlands and along the coast. Then came the Hittites, Lydians, Phrygians, Carians, Dorians, Acolians, Ionians, Cimmerians, Bithynians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Danishmondided, Selcuks, and then finally the Ottoman Turks, who established themselves after the beginning of the 14th Century,

There were 24,111,778 people living in Turkey when the last official count was taken in 1955. She ranks as the 14th largest country in population among the 76 members of the United Nations.

Turkey is primarily an agricultural country, therefore 80% of the people live in rural areas. Of the 17 Turkish cities with a population of more than 50,000 people, the largest and best known are the old capital ISTANBUL (1,214,616), the important port city of IZMIR on the Aegean Sea (286,310), and the new capital ANKARA (453,151). All these historic cities are thousands of years old.

THE TURKISH FLAG

Among the traditions most honored by the Turk is his deeprooted respect for his flag. In saluting his flag, the Turk honors his long and inspiring history as well as all of his leaders. This reverence has reached a point where the Turkish flag is now identified as being synonymous with national aspirations and pride. It is needless to say that the slightest flaunting of this reverent worship, especially by a foreigner, will immediately raise the most violent reaction.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE - TURKEY

The establishment of customs and currency laws, including the fixing of exchange rates, is the sovereign right and responsibility of every nation. As in other countries, visitors in Turkey must abide by the currency and customs laws and regulations established by the Turkish Government. At the present time the officially approved exchange rate established by the Turkish Government is 9 TL for \$1.00, and all U.S. Government operations are conducted at that rate.

MIDDLE EAST BARS AND NIGHT CLUBS

Everywhere in the world bars and night clubs seem to exist for no other purpose than to prove the old saying that a fool and his money are soon parted. Night clubs in Middle East cities run the gamut from the plush sophisticated places where you might take your wife, if you can afford it, to the skid row variety where you wouldn't take her if they paid you.

For the single man, there are many pitfalls. Nearly every bar is organized to exploit his desire for excitement, loneliness or other frustrations in order to empty his pockets. One tricky night club diversion is bowling. The "bowl" is a large drink or combination of drinks with little or no alcoholic content. It is the drink which your bar hostess or "B-girl" orders and which later appears on your bill.

You will hardly escape the B-girl or the bowl if you walk through the door of a bowling bar. The bowl will cost from \$3.50 to \$10.00. The girls have an

No accurate statistics are available but it is estimated by people of some experience that 80-100 percent of promises made by B-girls are not and cannot be kept. The B-girl is not free to leave the bar with you. If she were to do so, her boss, the proprietor, could call the police. If you wait until closing time, she will slip out of a side door. In some areas here movements are so closely controlled by the police that she has to be back at her hotel, alone, for bed check.

Based on conservative estimate, if the chipies fall right and bowling costs can be kept down to 50 dollars a night, it would cost a minimum of 400 dollars before you could expect to have more than a bad headache and a busted bank roll for your efforts. It hardly needs to be mentioned that VD rates among B-girls are high everywhere.

Bowling then is an expensive game of chance played against tremendous odds for a questionable prize.

In some parts of the Middle East, the "artist cocktail" takes the place of the bowl. This drink is mostly ginger ale with enough vermouth to give an alcoholic smell. Though cheaper than the bowl, the artist cocktail is just as deadly to your pocket book because the girls can drink even more of this concoction. Eighty artist cocktails was reported as a record in one city. This figure has been belittled by experienced people as an achievement which only an amateur would boast of.

The figure is a high one in any event and the B-girl who drinks artist cocktails is no more available than the sophisticated consumer of bowls. Don't forget that you are wide open for exploitation as soon as you enter the door of a bowling dive. When you get a bill for an astronomical sum, there won't be much you can do but pay it. If you think it is unreasonable, you can try reasonably to explain your point of view. You probably won't be very successful.

Apart from the expense, bowling can give you other headaches. Some of the local men's protective feeling for women often extends to public women if they are natives of his country. Local men go bowling too and might be very touchy about the competition he feels you are giving him.

RELIGION IN TURKEY

Practically every Turk is a Moslem. The Moslem's religion is called Islam.

Islam was founded by Mohammed about the year 612, at Mecca, Arabia. Through conversion and conquest the Islam religion spread until today it has over 200 million followers throughout the world, but mostly in the Middle East and Asia.

At first glance Islam and Christianity do not seem to resemble each other. Moslems and Christians have different ways of carrying out the practice of their faith. Yet, beneath the surface of both Christians and Islamic cultures lies a common base which has created similar forms of religious life and thinking.

This common base is older than either Christianity or Islam. It developed in the Middle East. Many people had a hand in its creation. Religiously Islam and Christianity spring from the same concept of God. This concept grew out of the religious life and experience of the Hebrews as recorded in the Old Testament.

Because of this common Semitic root, Islam and Christianity both see history in the light of God breaking into the lives of men in the form of a prophet, who by his life, established a point of contact between men and God.

In this respect Christianity and Islam have similar origins. Geographically the relationship is even more evident. Jerusalem, Mecca and Medina,

WOMEN IN TURKEY

A sweeping reform in the early days of the Turkish republic made Turkish women free. Today, women can vote, and do; they hold office in the National Assembly; many are entering business and the professions; all have more social freedom. But the habits of centuries cannot be broken overnight.

Especially in rural Turkey, the old protective customs continue to effect the lives of Turkish women. Most Turkish girls still lead sheltered lives. The average Turkish man is possessive and protective of the women of his family, and these are usually the only women with whom he associates.

Most Turkish men believe that a woman's place is in the house. But even in the homes, particularly in small villages, men and women do not eat together, work together or spend their leisure time with one another.

ATATURK

You cannot understand the modern Turk until you know the story of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk - known to the world simply as Ataturk.

Ataturk was one of the world's great men. He was rough and tough at a time when force and decision were necessary. He jerked Turkey up out of the Middle Ages by her bootstraps and made her a modern republic. Your Turkish friends will be pleased if you show some knowledge of his life.

Ataturk was named Mustafa when he was born about 1880 in Salonika, Greece, at a time when this city was the capital of a Turkish European province. The son of a poor government official, he was educated for the army at the military academy in Istanbul. Here he distinguished himself in mathematics, for which he was nicknamed "Kemal" meaning "perfection." (The Turks, at this time, did not have last names.)

Before World War I, he took some part in the Young Turk reform movement, which obtained a constitutional government for Turkey. He was one of the Turk commanders under a German general who defeated the Allies so thoroughly at Gallipoli (Gallipoli) in World War I. He fought against the Russians on the eastern front, and by the end of the war was fighting the British in Palestine. By this time he was a general; hence the term pasha; which meant "general," and you may have heard of him as Mustafa Kemal Pasha.

After the war the Allies occupied Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) while they were deciding what to do with Turkey. In southern Turkey the French were moving in, and the Italians were eyeing the southwestern corner. Finally Greek troops landed in Izmir in May 1919. The future existence of Turkey was at stake.

Mustafa Kemal soon saw that the Sultan and his government were too weak to meet the situation. Breaking with his government, Mustafa Kemal and a group of nationalistic Turkish officers crossed the Black Sea to Samsun, and moved inland, organizing peasant resistance groups on the way. As most of eastern Turkey rallied to him, the French and Italians withdrew their forces.

The Greeks, however, reinforced their army and it was not until 1922 that the Turks finally defeated them. Ataturk established a government at Ankara that deposed the Sultan in Istanbul.

The following year the Allies negotiated with Ataturk's government the Treaty of Lausanne, which set up the borders of Turkey about as they are today. The former Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire are today's independent nations of Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the break-up of the Ottoman Empire is that most Turks feel neither resentment nor regret. Turkey's foreign policy has been one of friendly relations with all the countries that were once part of the Empire.

Having won the war for independence, the Turks went to work organizing

absolute innocence and without ill-will, is automatically regarded by the average Turk as a serious insult.

Among the traditions most honored by the Turk is his deep-rooted respect for the Turkish flag. In saluting the flag the Turk honors all his history and all his leaders. This reverence has been raised almost to a degree of worship and reached a point where the flag is identified with national aspiration and pride. The slightest flaunting of this reverence and worship, especially by a foreigner, immediately raises the most violent reaction.

The same holds true for the subject of Ataturk, the father of the Turkish Republic. In fact, the two are practically identical in Turkish minds. Any disparaging or derogatory remark or action with reference to Ataturk is bitterly resented by all Turks.

Next to the flag and Ataturk, the Army is the most revered institute in Turkey. To the Turk, the Turkish Army is impeccable and invincible. Any opinion or action suggesting the opposite is as offensive to Turkish pride as an insult directed at the flag or at Ataturk.

TURKEY IN NATO

When Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1952, NATO acquired one of its most enthusiastic members. Not one opposing vote was cast in the Turkish Grand National Assembly when that body voted on whether to join the North Atlantic alliance. Since that time, Turkey has continued its wholehearted support of NATO.

Turkey's joining its Western allies in a defense alliance against a common threat was an important milestone in the history of NATO.

OUR TURKISH PARTNERS

As an American taxpayer you may have wondered why the Turks don't stop you on the street, shake your hand, and thank you for all you've done for them. There are good reasons why they don't and once you've understood these reasons you'll understand why Turkey is just the right kind of ally. For one thing, they have fought over a dozen wars with their giant neighbor and assume that some day Turkey will have to fight Russia again. They feel that even had no outside help been provided, Turkey would still be here today and would still be able to rally her manpower to meet any attack of the Red Army.

During World War II there was a gradual build-up of Russian pressure against Turkey. The fundamental reason behind this pressure was, and is, Russia's historic desire for control of the Black Sea and the Bosphorus-Dardanelles water route from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. Immediately after the war ended, Turkey was told that the price of Russia's renewing a 20 year old Friendship Treaty with Turkey would be Turkey's cession of territory to the USSR, a change in the status of the Straits, the lease of Turkish naval bases on the Dardanelles, and the renunciation of Turkey's friendly association with the West.

Turkey's refusal resulted in a full-scale communist propaganda assault against Turkey that has not stopped to this day. Tension was heightened by the presence of at least 25 Red Army divisions in the Caucasus whose sabre-rattling maneuvers on the frontiers of Turkey were an unmistakable threat to the peace and security of the entire Middle East.

Turkey is today the largest contributor to NATO's manpower. She is a staunch supporter of the United Nations, and as part of its obligations to the UN, participated with outstanding effectiveness in the fighting in Korea.

The Turk does not feel that his country is an object of American charity. He believes, and correctly so, that America needs Turkey as much as Turkey needs America.

The Turkish soldier that stands guard at the Turkish-Russian frontier is

...ion of our manhood into the armed services, spend many more billions of
...asure, and put a more intense strain on all our resources and capabilities.
We would become more and more like a garrison state.

"Fortunately, we do not have to adopt such a desperate course. Nearly
50 nations have joined with us in a cooperative effort to protect freedom.
This system of mutual security allows each nation to provide forces which it
is best able to supply."

The Turks don't need to say thanks. They're busy holding up their end of
a partnership that is vital to both their country and ours.

ISTANBUL

Istanbul, the greatest city in Eastern Europe (population: 1,214,616) is
the most important Turkish port. It handles 52% of imports and 20% of exports
in Turkey's international trade. There are 3 reasons for this:

- (1) It is the natural outlet for the vast hinterland of the Marmara 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 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.