

3. TURKEY'S CHALLENGES

KEY TERMS

Justice and Development Party (AKP): an Islamist political party supported by the conservative population in Turkey

caliphate: the office of an Islamic state held by the caliph, or political leader, the supreme leader and successor to the prophet Muhammad

coup: a sudden, sometimes violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government

Kemalism: the founding ideology of Turkey that focuses on modern ideals: republicanism, populism, statism, revolutionism, nationalism, and secularism; also known as Atatürk's six "arrows"

Ottoman Empire: an empire created by Turkish tribes in Anatolia that rose to its greatest power in the 15th and 16th centuries. After World War I, it was replaced by the Turkish Republic and other surrounding successor states

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK): a Kurdish organization that launched an armed struggle against the Turkish state for social and cultural rights as well as an independent Kurdistan from 1984–2013

secularism: a principle that adheres to the strict separation of the state from religious institutions and holds that people of different religions and beliefs are equal before the law

LESSON ONE

Student Objectives

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Identify key events in Turkish history that have led to the current instability
- Analyze the timeline of Turkish history in relation to Kemalism, the country's founding ideology

Materials

- *Great Decisions* article, "Turkey's challenges"
- Classroom set of Handout #3-A
- Computers with access to supplementary resources such as:

BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17988453>)

CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)

Time

One to two 45-minute class periods

Lesson Development

1. Warm up: Assess the students' prior knowledge by projecting a map of Turkey and its surrounding countries. Allow time for individuals to mark it with prior knowledge and/or predictions about what advantages and disadvantages arise out of Turkey's position between eastern and western worlds.
2. Preview the *Great Decisions* 2014 topic "Turkey's challenges" by providing some background about the end of the Ottoman Empire after World War I. Introduce Turkey's founder, Atatürk, and the principles of Kemalism. Break students into six teams to define and present the definition of one of the ideals: republicanism, populism, statism, revolutionism, nationalism and secularism.
3. Assign students to read the article with attention to the six ideals. Students should record notes on Handout #3-A with information from the article and supporting resources.
4. Allow students to work in pairs or small groups to make a rating scale of Turkish history from past to present in relation to Kemalism. Open the discussion to the whole class to allow students to present their observations and discuss different opinions.
5. Close the lesson with a whole class discussion. Return to the groups that presented each term (see Step 2 above) and ask students to share opinions on Atatürk's goals and whether or not they remain appropriate for Turkey in the modern world.

Additional Suggestions

1. For additional background knowledge, explore a brief history of the Ottoman Empire as a source of comparison for contemporary challenges. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/ottomanempire_1.shtml)
2. Invite students to further their understanding of the PKK on an international level as portrayed on BBC or U.S. Department of State.
3. Assign students to write an op-ed piece or illustrate a political cartoon to display Turkey's current challenges and express views on its role in the global community.

LESSON TWO

Student Objectives

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Describe factors that impact Turkey’s political, economic and social status
- Defend Turkey’s position between eastern and western worlds

Materials

- *Great Decisions* article, “Turkey’s challenges”
- Classroom set of Handout #3-B
- Computers with internet access to web sites:

Republic of Turkey, “Relations Between Turkey and the European Union”
(<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/relations-between-turkey-and-the-european-union.en.mfa>)

Republic of Turkey “Relations Between Turkey and Arab Countries”
(http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkey_s-relations-with-the-arab-countries.en.mfa)

Time

Two 45-minute class periods

Lesson Development

Session 1

1. Warm-up: Return to the original map from Lesson #3-1 where students shared prior knowledge about Turkey’s challenges based on its position on the globe. Revise notes based on new knowledge acquired by reading the *Great Decisions* article.
2. Divide the class in half, one side representing the East and the other the West. Tell students that they will prepare for a debate to persuade Turkey to consider your perspective for future foreign policy decisions.
3. Allow time for each team to gather facts to support each side and assign individuals or pairs to become experts on one of the following topics: economy, culture, politics, energy, religion and human rights.

Session 2

1. Facilitate a two-sided debate in which both the East and West go head-to-head on the assigned topics.
2. Close by asking students to synthesize their understanding of the tension between the East and the West in a post-debate reflection. Assign students to write through the perspective of a Turkish citizen, identifying either a secular or conservative bias, and express their hopes for the future.

Additional Suggestion

1. Consider reorganizing the debate and assign a third group to represent Turkey that would focus on current policy positions in the preparation work and determine which side, the East or West, is most persuasive.
2. Extend the lesson by exploring possibilities for cooperation between Turkey and the United States in the prevention of militant groups in neighboring countries.

HANDOUT #3-A TURKEY'S SIX ARROWS

NAME: _____

Research the events on Turkey's timeline as they pertain to Atatürk's aspirations for a modern state. How does each topic represent Turkey's growth and development in regard to Kemalism? Connect to these ideals in your analysis:

■ republicanism
■ populism

■ revolutionism
■ statism

■ nationalism
■ secularism

	Description	Analysis	Rating
Fall of the Ottoman Empire			
Rise of the AKP			
Kurdish Challenge			
Gezi Park			
EU Assession Negotiations			

HANDOUT #3-B
TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY
"PEACE AT HOME, PEACE IN THE WORLD"

NAME: _____

Prepare for a debate to persuade Turkish officials to consider your perspective in future foreign policy decisions. You are assigned to represent:

East

or

West

Before the debate, gather information from the article and supporting resources to defend your perspective on what the East or West offers Turkey in the following areas.

Economy

Energy resources

Culture

Religion

Politics

Human Rights

After the debate, reflect as a group and draw conclusions about what is best for Turkey. Record your thoughts on how Turkey's foreign policy decisions affect other parts of the globe, including the United States.