

Out of the ruins of the old Empire should rise a new Turkey, a modern Western nation, a state that could hold its own with any other Power. From the point of view of Kemal Ataturk the loss of the Empire, however great the blow to prestige, was in truth an advantage. Nothing else could have so shocked the Turks into a consciousness of themselves, into a desire to save their identity, into a willingness to change their ways. The loss of important possessions freed them to concentrate upon their own problems in their own land. In these circumstances Kemal set out to build a Turkey for the Turks.

As President-Dictator he acted with utmost vigour, with ruthless efficiency when necessary. His was a program of stirring nationalism, and of compulsory wholesale westernization. No corner of Turkish life was left untouched. A new alphabet of the Latin type took the place of the traditional Arabic. Turks, from the small children to grandparents, were forced to go to school and learn the new alphabet, were fined, even imprisoned if they used the old. Women were brought out of the harems and introduced into public affairs. As a symbol to an ignorant populace it was made obligatory to wear Western style hats. Islam was abandoned as the state religion, and with it went all the old system of law and justice, the old schools and countless traditions and habits. New laws, new ways of education, new means of administration were set up, all modelled upon the practices of Europe and America.

### **End of Dictatorship**

True, the change from old Turkey to the new is still an incompleting process, especially in rural areas. True, too, that disbelieving Westerners shook their heads and said that the old despotism of the Sultan had merely given way to the dictatorship of Kemal, that all these changes were so much window-dressing. When Kemal died in 1938 and was succeeded by his lifelong friend and associate, Ismet, now Ismet Inonu, many still were incredulous. But in 1950 the party of the dictator, the party of Kemal and Ismet, allowed itself to be voted out of office and a new and more democratic régime came into power. Thus, Kemal and Ismet had kept their word.

### **Bastion of the West**

The natural links of this new democratic nation are with the West. Her revolution has been a progress towards the type of society in which we live, and she takes her stand with those nations that propose to uphold that society. All the more so in Turkey's case since for generations her independence has been menaced by Russia, and only in alliance with the Western nations can she hope to withstand that ancient threat. For these reasons Turkey may be counted the great bastion of Western strength in the Middle East. Turkey's entry into NATO is no fluke; it is the logical development of her interests and of her views already made manifest by the performance of the Turkish Brigade with the United Nations forces in Korea.

Yet if Turkey's ties are unquestionably with the West, it must not be forgotten that the Turkish Revolution is above all a national movement. In Asia Minor a nation has been created along Western lines. European ideas have crossed the Bosphorus. But they have been applied by an Asian leader in an Asian land among an Asian people. A nationalist revolution has succeeded in raising up a state that commands the respect of the Western world. Other Asian peoples will not forget this example, least of all the one-time subject nations of the Ottoman Empire, for they too cry out for independence and recognition, for respect and equality.

### **Arab Nationalism**

From the Turks we must turn to the Arabs, a people of ancient culture and a proud past, once the peer of the Europeans, then for centuries subjected to Ottoman