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# TURKISH HISTORY, CULTURE AND ITS ROLE IN GLOBAL ERA

ROOTED IN HISTORY, CONNECTED TO THE WORLD,  
SHAPING THE FUTURE.



RICH  
HERITAGE



VIBRANT  
CULTURE



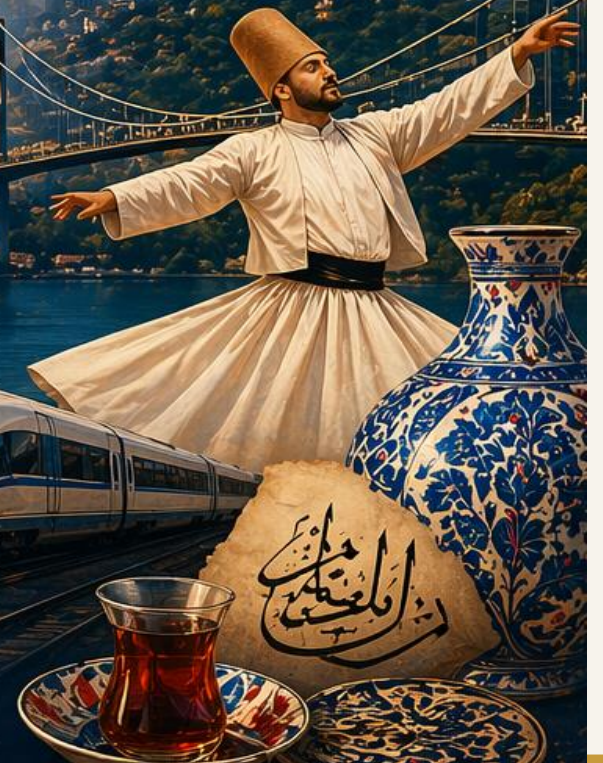
BRIDGING  
CONTINENTS



GLOBAL  
INFLUENCE



SHAPING  
TOMORROW



# Why Turkey already feels familiar

- Maybe you first met Turkey through TV dramas.
- Food words travel fast: kebab, baklava, Turkish coffee, lokum- Turkish delight.
- Istanbul feels cinematic, but Türkiye is much more than one city.
- Today's roadmap: geography -> history -> Istanbul -> culture -> global role.

## What I want students to leave with

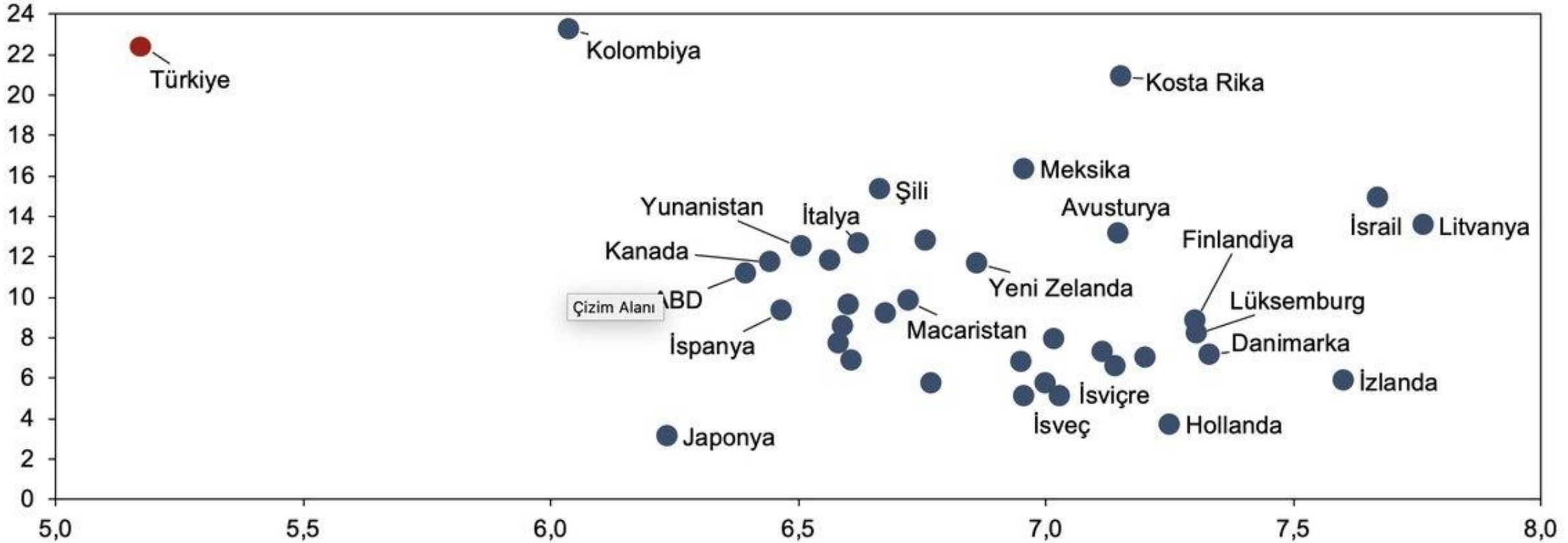
- Turkey is not only Ottoman history.
- Turkey is not only a bridge — it is a maker, exporter, connector, and storyteller.
- Istanbul is spectacular because it compresses geography, empire, trade, faith, and daily life into one city.
- Culture works best when we see both beauty and complexity.



Figure 3 - World Happiness Index scores for under 30 and NEET rates, OECD countries, 2021-2023 average



NEET Oranı (%)



Kaynak: World Happiness Report, ILO, TEPAV hesaplamaları

30 yaş altı mutluluk oranı

# Where is Türkiye?

*A country with one foot in Europe, one in Asia, and its eyes on multiple regions at once.*





✦ **Bucharest**  
ROMANIA

○ Constanta

**BULGARIA**

○ Varna

○ Burgas

*Black Sea*

**RUSSIA**

○ Sochi

○ Sukhumi

**GEORGIA**

○ Edirne

○ Kırklareli

**Istanbul**

○ Tekirdag

○ Yalova

○ Izmit

○ Zonguldak

○ Bartın

○ Kastamonu

○ Karabük

○ Sinop

○ Samsun

○ Ordu

○ Giresun

○ Trabzon

○ Rize

○ Artvin

○ Batumi

○ Ardahan

○ Akyaka

○ Kars

○ Bayburt

○ Gümüşhane

○ Çanakkale

○ Bandırma

○ Bursa

○ Balıkesir

○ Edremit

○ Soma

○ Bergama

○ Manisa

○ Uşak

○ Afyon

**Ankara**

○ Kirikkale

○ Yozgat

○ Çankiri

○ Çorum

○ Tokat

○ Sivas

○ Erzincan

○ Bayburt

○ Erzurum

○ Agri

○ Iğdir

○ Agri Dagı (Mt. Ararat 5166 m)

**ARMENIA**

✦ **Yerevan**

○ Kütahya

○ Kirsehir

○ Nevsehir

○ Kayseri

○ Sivas

○ Divriği

○ Tunceli

○ Bingöl

○ Mus

○ Tatvan

○ Van

○ Bitlis

○ Siirt

○ Sırnak

○ Hakkâri

○ Van

○ Lake Van

○ İzmir

○ Aydin

○ Denizli

○ Burdur

○ Isparta

○ Konya

○ Nigde

○ Kahramanmaraş

○ Adyaman

○ Elazığ

○ Malatya

○ Diyarbakir

○ Batman

○ Siverek

○ Mardin

○ Nusaybin

○ Silopi

○ Şanlıurfa

○ Didim (Didyma)

○ Bodrum

○ Mugla

○ Marmaris

○ Fethiye

○ Antalya

○ Manavgat

○ Karaman

○ Tarsus

○ Adana

○ Osmaniye

○ Gaziantep

○ Kilis

○ Aleppo

○ Antakya (Antioch)

○ Latakia

○ Hamah

○ Homs

○ Tripoli

**GREECE**

○ Didyma

○ Bodrum

○ Mugla

○ Marmaris

○ Fethiye

○ Antalya

○ Manavgat

○ Karaman

○ Tarsus

○ Adana

○ Osmaniye

○ Gaziantep

○ Kilis

○ Aleppo

○ Antakya (Antioch)

○ Latakia

○ Hamah

○ Homs

○ Tripoli



○ Nicosia

**CYPRUS**

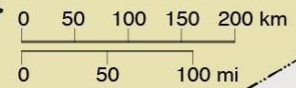
*Mediterranean Sea*

**SYRIA**



**TURKEY**

- ✦ National capital
- Province capital
- Town
- ✈ Airport
- - - International boundary
- Express way
- Main road
- - - Railroad



✦ **Beirut**  
**LEBANON**

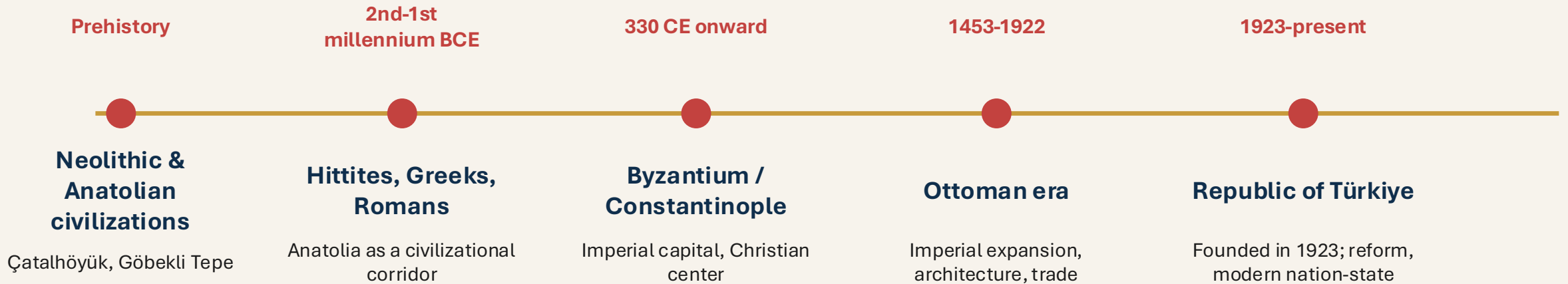
**IRAQ**



## Why geography matters

- The country straddles Europe and Asia.
- The Turkish Straits connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean via the Bosphorus, Sea of Marmara, and Dardanelles.
- That geography helps explain why Turkey matters in trade, migration, diplomacy, and security.
- It also helps explain why Istanbul became one of the great cities of world history.

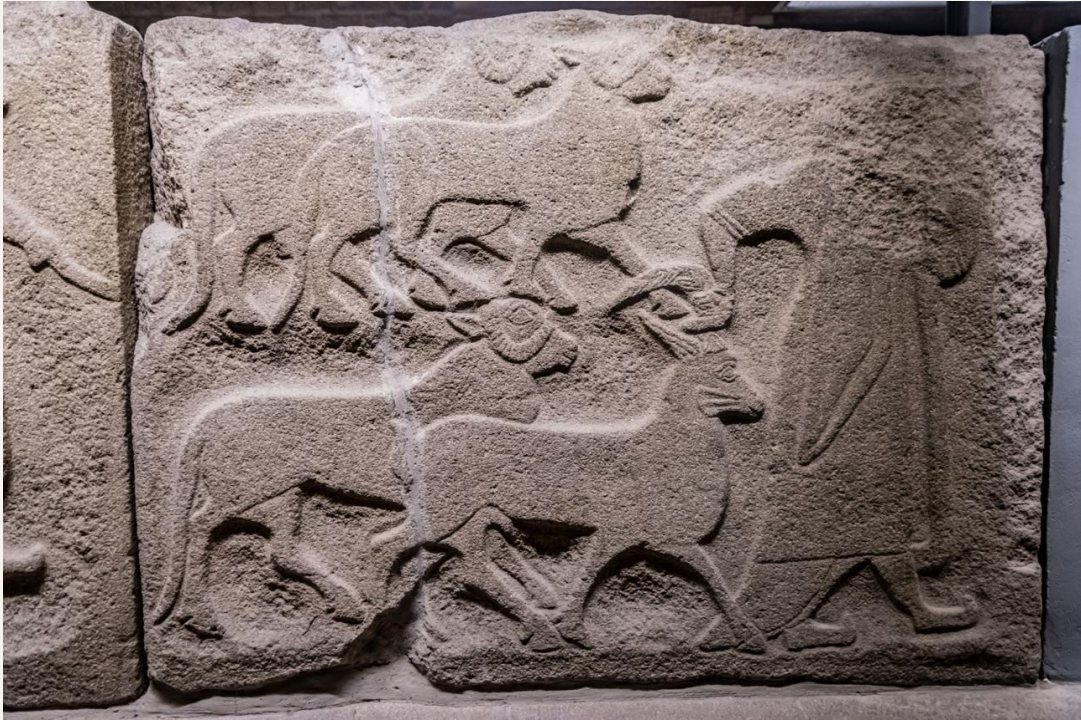
# 10,000 years in one region- Cradle of Civilizations



Turkish history is layered, not linear. Anatolia is older than any one empire.



Çatalhöyük, in central Anatolia, is one of the world's oldest known urban settlements, dating back around 9,000 years



Hittites – Bronze Age power centered at Hattusa, known for monumental stone reliefs and early statecraft. Ancient Greeks – coastal cities such as Ephesus and Miletus. Roman Empire – roads, theaters, baths, and cities across Anatolia such as Aspendos and Hierapolis.

# Byzantine Empire, A.D. 565





Hagia Sophia – Symbol of Byzantine Constantinople

**537 CE** – Completed under Emperor Justinian I as the grand cathedral of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. For almost **1,000 years**, it was the largest cathedral in the Christian world.

**1453** – After the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople by Mehmed II, it became a mosque.





- Founded around **1299** in Anatolia by Osman I.
  - Captured Constantinople in **1453**, transforming it into the imperial capital.
  - Reached its golden age under Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century.
  - Known for military strength, trade routes, architecture, and a multicultural society.
  - Famous landmarks include Topkapı Palace, Blue Mosque, and many bridges, baths, and bazaars.
  - Ended after World War I, leading to the foundation of Republic of Turkey in **1923**.
- The Ottoman era was a time when Istanbul became the center of a vast empire connecting East and West.**



**Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – founder  
of the republic and major  
reformer.**



The Republic of Turkey was founded in **1923** after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the successful Turkish War of Independence.

- Led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, national forces defeated occupying armies after World War I.
- On **29 October 1923**, the republic was officially proclaimed in Ankara, which became the new capital.
- The new state replaced the old imperial system with a **modern nation-state**.

### **Major Reforms**

Atatürk introduced reforms inspired by contemporary Western political and legal models:

- Secular state institutions
- Civil law system
- Latin alphabet (1928)
- Expanded education
- Rights and political participation for women
- Industrialization and modernization efforts

The foundation of modern Turkey marked a historic shift from empire to republic, combining national independence with modernization.

**Modern Turkey was built after a war of independence and reshaped into a secular republic focused on modernization and sovereignty.**





- **Total area:** 783,562 sq km
- **Population:** 85.8 million
- **Government type:** Presidential republic
- **Administrative division:** 81 provinces (called “iller”)
- **Capital + other major cities:** Ankara (capital; 5.7 million), Istanbul (15.9 million), Izmir (4.4 million), Bursa (3.2 million), Antalya (2.7 million)
- **Currency:** Turkish lira
- **Languages:** Turkish (official), Kurdish
- **Ethnicity:** Turks 70-75%, Kurds 19%, other minorities 6-11% (Arabic, Zazaki, Armenian)
- **Religion:** Muslim (99.9%)
- **President:** (Mr.) Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN (since 28 August 2014). Since 2018, serving also as head of government following a constitutional amendment.
- **Date of EU accession:** **Official candidate country since 1999**

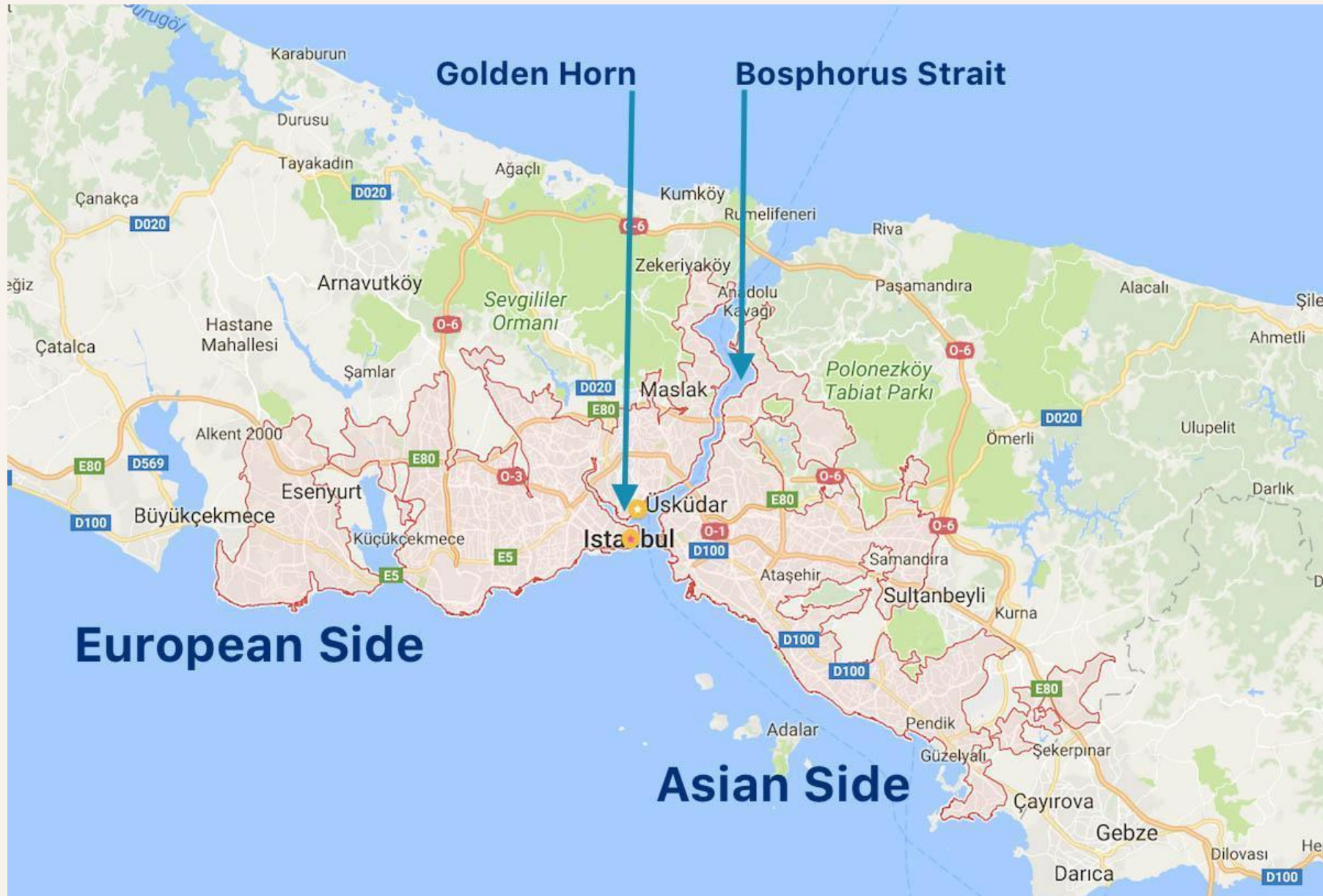
## KEY FEATURES

- From 2022 formally known as Türkiye
- Geostrategic location between Europe and Asia
- Second-largest military force in NATO after the United States
- Applied for EU membership as early as 1986
- Islam is the predominant religion
- Young population (21% of people under the age of 15)
- Member of the G20
- The Middle East's leading steel producer

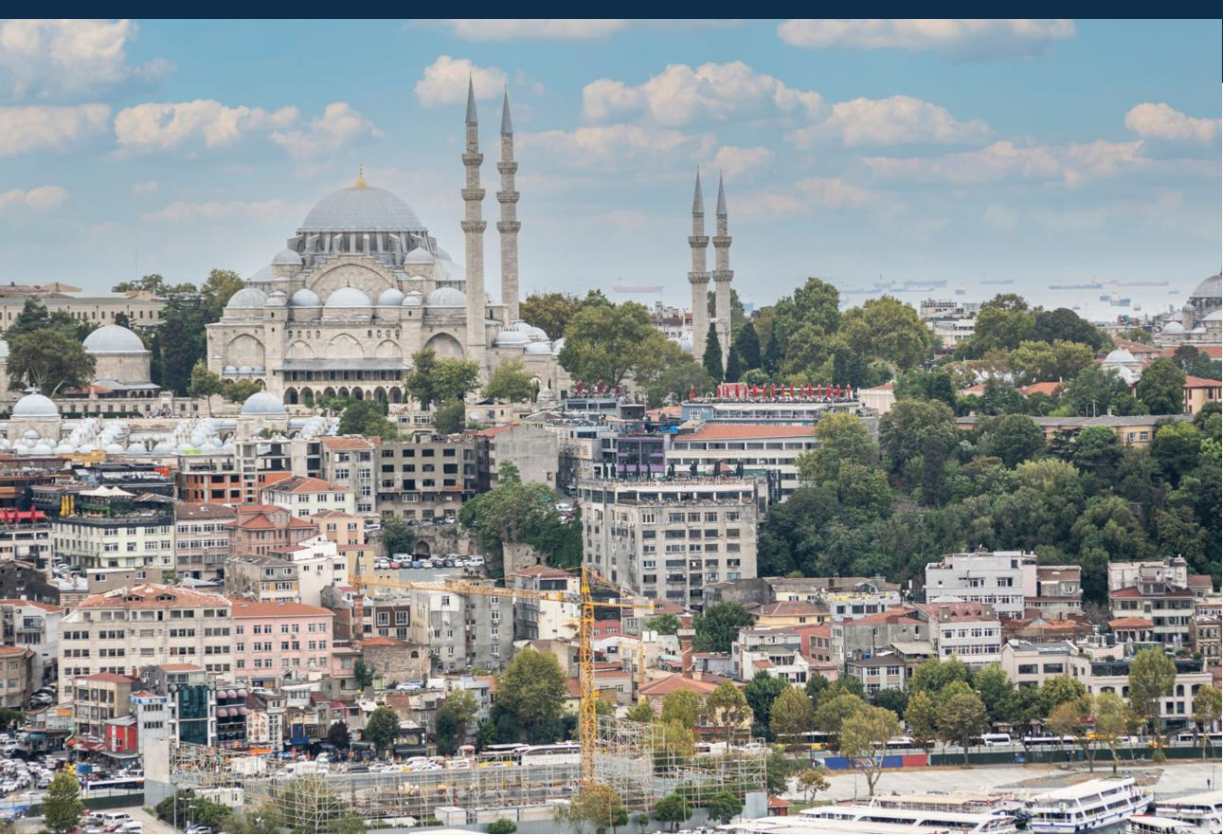
## KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- **Nominal GDP:** ~\$1.64 Trillion USD (2026 forecast)
- **Nominal GDP per Capita:** ~\$19,020 USD (2026 forecast)
- **GDP Growth Rate:** ~3.4% (2026 forecast)
- **Inflation:** 30.7% in early 2026,
- **Unemployment:** The unemployment rate is largely remaining in single digits, holding at 8.1% to 8.6% as of early 2026.





<https://share.google/4pR3dkO90EadRdqax>





# Food matters in Turkey 😊



**TURKISH COFFEE**



**TURKISH TEA**



**KEBAP**



**BAKLAVA**



**MANTI**



**ESNAF LOKANTASI**



**RAKI**



**Turkish culture values hospitality, community, music, movement, and the balance between tradition and modern life.**

### **Dervishes**

Mevlevi Order whirling dervishes are linked to the teachings of Rumi. Their rotating **Sema ceremony** symbolizes spiritual unity, discipline, and inner peace.

### **Traditional Dance**

Turkey has strong regional folk dances:

- **Halay** – group line dance common in eastern and southeastern regions
- **Horon** – fast, energetic Black Sea dance
- **Zeybek** – proud, heroic Aegean dance style
- **Roman dances** – expressive Thrace/Marmara traditions

### **Village Culture**

Village life traditionally emphasizes:

- Strong family ties
- Sharing food with guests
- Tea culture and long conversations



**Modern Turkish life is energetic, social, urban, and global—while still deeply connected to family, food, and tradition.**





### **Orhan Pamuk**

- Awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature (2006)**.
- Known for novels exploring identity, memory, East–West tensions, history, and city life.

### **Famous Books**

- My Name Is Red – mystery set in the Ottoman world.
- Snow – politics, identity, modern Turkey.
- The Museum of Innocence – love, memory, objects, Istanbul.
- Istanbul – personal and cultural portrait of the city.

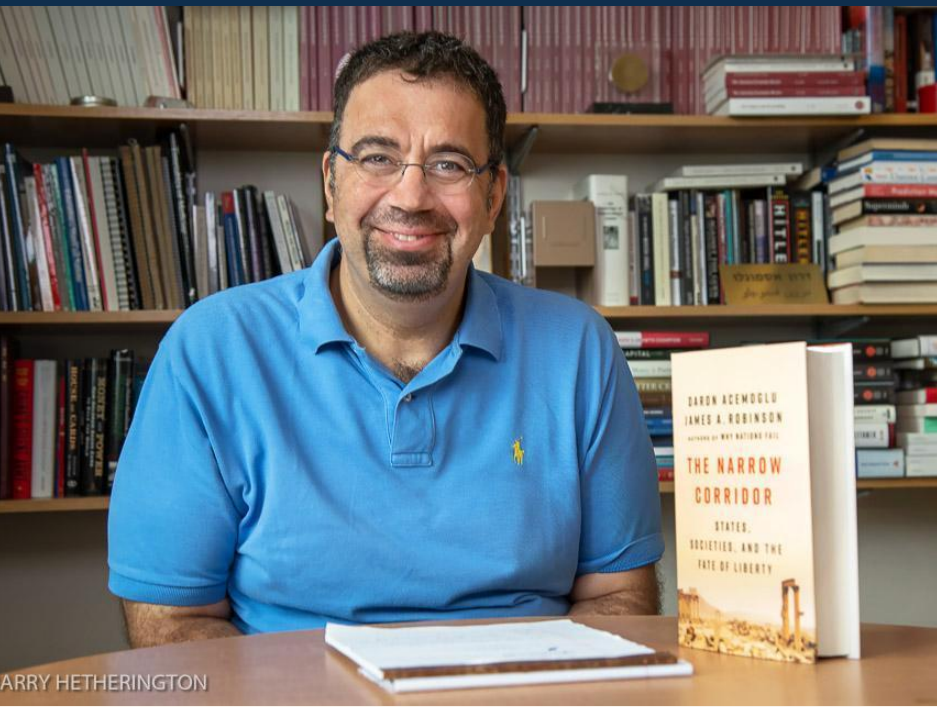
### **Aziz Sancar**

Awarded the **2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**.

### **Why He Won**

He was honored for research explaining how cells repair damaged DNA, especially damage caused by ultraviolet light. This work helped deepen understanding of cancer biology, aging, and genetic repair





**Daron Acemoglu** received the **2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** (officially the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel), shared with Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson.

### **Why He Won**

They were honored for research on how **institutions**—political systems, rule of law, and governance—shape national prosperity and long-term economic development.

**Fazıl Say** is the world-famous Turkish pianist and composer who blends classical mastery with Turkish cultural identity.

Known for performing classical masters such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin. Also composes original works inspired by **Anatolian, Ottoman, and modern themes.**





**Zeynep Sönmez** is one of the leading female tennis players from Turkey and represents the new generation of Turkish tennis. Ranked 67<sup>th</sup> recently.

**Arda Güler** is one of the most exciting young football talents from Turkey and plays at elite European level for Real Madrid CF and the Turkey national football team.



**Alperen Şengün** is one of the brightest young basketball stars from Turkey and plays in the NBA for the Houston Rockets. Expected to be selected All Star.

## Beyond Istanbul: landscapes and heritage across the country



### Cappadocia

Volcanic landscape, rock sites,  
balloon iconography



**Pamukkale** meaning "cotton castle" in [Turkish](#), is a natural site in [Denizli Province](#) in southwestern [Turkey](#). The area is famous for a carbonate mineral left by the flowing of [thermal spring](#) water.



Turkey has a **significant global role** because it combines geography, economic capacity, military relevance, diplomacy, and cultural influence in a way few countries do.

## 1. Bridge Between Continents

Turkey sits between **Europe and Asia**, with access to the **Middle East, Caucasus, Black Sea, and Mediterranean**. This makes it a natural transit, trade, and diplomatic hub.

- Controls the strategic **Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits**.
- Key for shipping between the Black Sea and world markets.
- One of the few truly transcontinental states.



## **2. Major Regional Power**

Turkey has:

- Population of **85+ million**
- Large armed forces
- NATO membership since 1952
- Expanding defense industry (especially drones, naval systems, armored vehicles)**

**This gives Turkey real strategic weight.**

## **3. Economic Importance**

Turkey is a major manufacturing and logistics base.

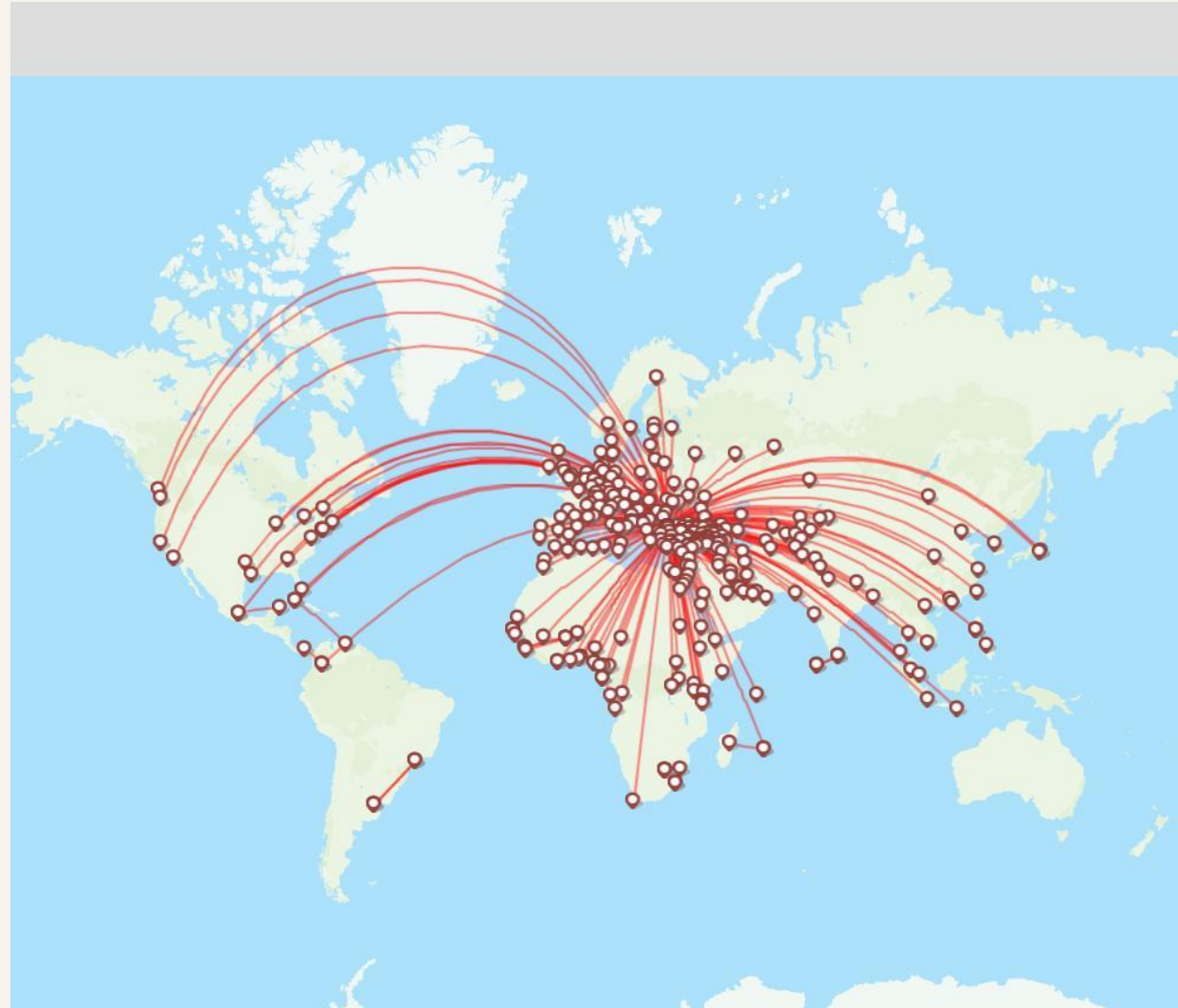
Strong sectors:

- Automotive
- Textiles
- Appliances
- Construction
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Defense technology

**Its customs union links many goods sectors closely with the European Union.**

#### 4. Global Transport Hub

Istanbul Airport and Turkish Airlines connect dozens of countries across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, making Istanbul one of the world's major aviation crossroads. Flying more than **130 countries**.



## **5. Diplomatic Balancer**

Turkey often maintains dialogue with countries that may not easily talk to one another. It can play mediator or balancing roles in regional conflicts and negotiations.

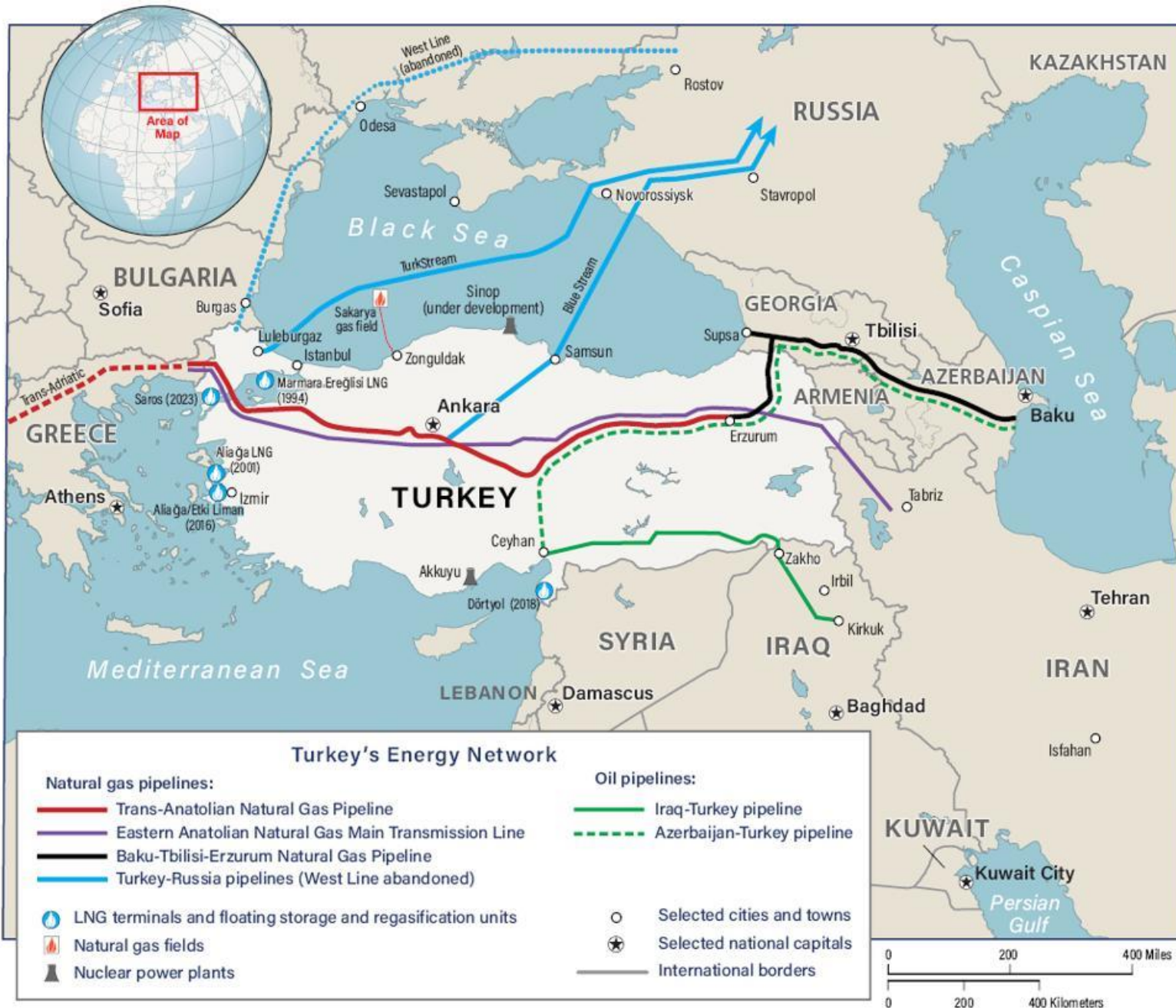
## **6. Energy Corridor**

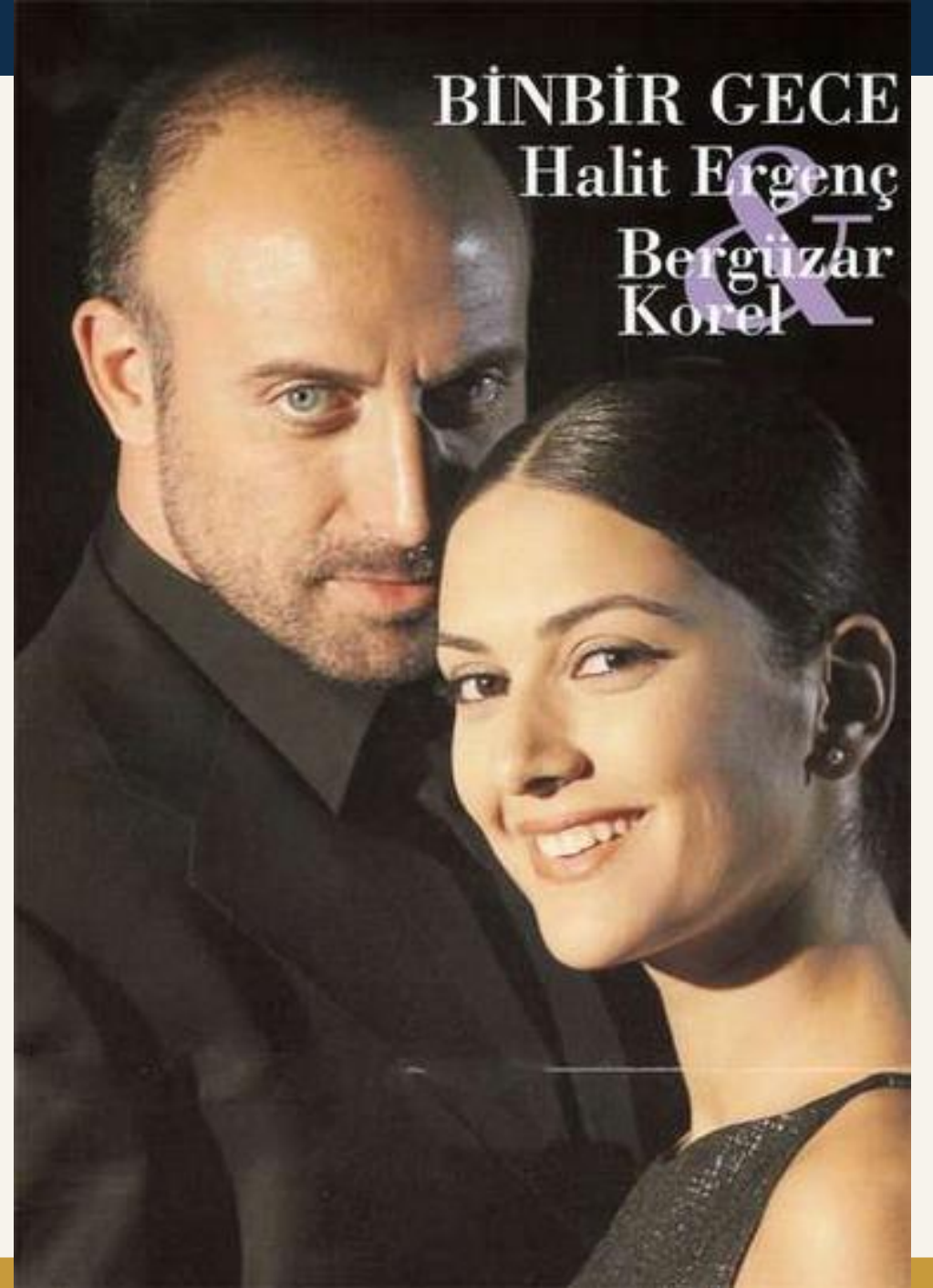
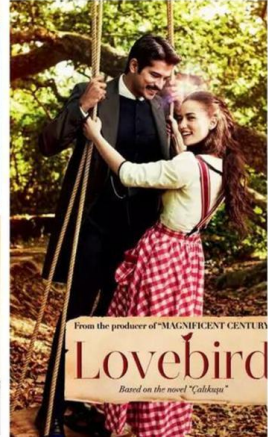
Pipelines and transport routes make Turkey important for moving regional energy toward Europe.

## **7. Cultural Soft Power**

Turkey's influence also spreads through:

- TV dramas popular in Latin America, Balkans, Middle East
- Cuisine (kebab, baklava, coffee, tea culture)
- Tourism
- Historical heritage from Byzantium, Ottomans, Anatolia





THANKS FOR LISTENING😊

A promotional banner for 'Turkish History, Culture and its Role in Global Era'. The banner features a collage of images: a Turkish flag, a mosque, a Sultan in a turban, a modern city skyline, a suspension bridge, a train, and a Whirling Dervish. The text 'TURKISH HISTORY, CULTURE AND ITS ROLE IN GLOBAL ERA' is prominently displayed in gold and white. Below the main title, it reads 'ROOTED IN HISTORY, CONNECTED TO THE WORLD, SHAPING THE FUTURE.' At the bottom, there are five icons representing 'RICH HERITAGE', 'VIBRANT CULTURE', 'BRIDGING CONTINENTS', 'GLOBAL INFLUENCE', and 'SHAPING TOMORROW'.

**TURKISH**  
HISTORY, CULTURE  
AND ITS  
ROLE IN GLOBAL ERA

ROOTED IN HISTORY, CONNECTED TO THE WORLD,  
SHAPING THE FUTURE.

RICH HERITAGE  
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