

# GREAT DECISIONS

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## Glossary: Turkey

**Abdullah Öcalan:** Founding member of the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Öcalan has been imprisoned in Turkey since 1999.

**Justice and Development Party (AKP):** A social conservative party in Turkey established in 2001. The political party self-identifies itself as pro-Western with its members supporting Turkey's membership in the European Union.

**Alevis:** Religious minority group with beliefs originating in Anatolian folk Shi'ite Islam that historically has been the victim of persecution by dominant Sunni Muslim powers.

**Anatolia:** Also known as Asia Minor. This is the westernmost protrusion of Asia and makes up the majority of modern Turkey.

**Anatolian Tigers:** Turkish entrepreneurs whose prominent status mirrors the impressive economic growth rates in their home cities since the 1980s. The cities in reference to the Anatolian Tigers managed to rise economically with little state support or subsidies.

**Anti-Terror Law:** Legislation in the 1990s that demanded three-year prison sentences for acts of separatist propaganda and non-violent offenses in Turkey.

**Peace and Democratic Party (BDP):** Serves as a Kurdish political party within Turkey founded in 1988. It calls for Turkey's membership in the European Union, recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and the passage of same-sex marriage legislation.

**Bulent Ecevit:** Prime minister of Turkey in the 1970s and from 1997 until 2002. As a proponent of secularism, Ecevit aimed to diminish the role of Islam in Turkey's political sphere. He is also known for his work in journalism and poetry.

**Republican People's Party (CHP):** Turkey's oldest political party that self-identifies as social-democratic. It was established as a resistance group in 1919 against the invasion of Anatolia. In 1923 it became a political party.

**European Court of Human Rights (ECHR):** An international

court system created by the European Convention on Human Rights intended to review cases in which a state violates human rights provisions set by the convention's protocols.

**EU Copenhagen criteria:** A set of rules used to determine whether a country is eligible for membership in the European Union. These rules include criteria such as democracy, market economy, human rights, rule of law and the protection of minorities.

**Liberal Democrat Party (HDP):** The political organization dissolved itself in 1986 due to low support.

**Imam Hatip Schools:** Institutions that provide secondary education whose origins can be traced to vocational schools during the Ottoman Empire that trained students as imams in government circles.

**Group of Communities in Kurdistan (KCK):** Represents the efforts of the Kurdish people to establish democratic confederalism among the people without a political state.

**Kemalism:** Also known as Atatürkism, is the founding ideology of the modern Republic of Turkey created by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Its six guiding principles, known as the six arrows, place a strong emphasis on secularism, nationalism, and rapid modernization.

**Kurdish Regional Government (KRG):** Official ruling body of the predominantly Kurdish region of Northern Iraq, commonly known as Iraqi Kurdistan. Although it is an autonomous region subordinate to the central Baghdad government, it has historically negotiated certain trade agreements in its own authority.

**Kurds:** An ethnic group in Western Asia of more than 30 million people. The population is centered in a region known as Kurdistan, which includes adjacent parts of Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

**Lausanne Treaty:** Treaty that concluded the state of war between Turkey and the Allied powers in the Turkish War of Independence. In exchange for giving up claims all claims to the remainder of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey received international recognition of its sovereignty within its newly defined borders.

**Massoud Barzani:** Current President of the Iraq Kurdistan Region and leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

**Mehmed VI:** Last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Reigned from 1918 to 1922. His endorsement of the Treaty of Sèvres, which severely debilitated the Ottoman state, incensed Turkish nationalists and catalyzed the final dissolution of the Ottoman empire and the formation of a new Turkish Republic.

**National Security Council (MGK):** The political body responsible for setting the national security policy. It is comprised of the chief of staff, members of the Council of Ministers, and Turkey's president.

**Mustafa Kemal Atatürk:** Ottoman army officer who led the Turkish national movement in the Turkish War of Independence. After defeating Allied forces, Atatürk went on to become the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey. His secularist and reformist principles serve as a guide for Turkey to this day.

**Necmettin Erbakan:** Prime Minister of Turkey from 1996 until 1997 when the Turkish military forced him to step down.

**Ottoman Empire:** 1299–1923. Turkish empire that extended into Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. By the beginning of the 20th century, the much-weakened empire collapsed, culminating in the emergence of a new political regime in Turkey and the formation of new states in the Balkans and the Middle East.

**Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK):** Founded in 1974 dedicated to Kurdish autonomy from Turkey. The organization contains an armed wing known as the People's Defense Force and is seen as a

terrorist organization by countries such as the United States.

**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan:** The 25th prime minister of Turkey and the chairman of the Justice and Development party (AKP).

**Refah Party:** Also known as the Welfare party, a Turkish Islamist political party established in 1983 and dissolved in 1998 on grounds that it violated the Turkish constitution's secularist principles. Prime Minister Erdogan served as a member of the party prior to the ban.

**Sheikh Said Rebellion:** Unsuccessful 1925 Rebellion to revive the Islamic caliphate system led by Sheikh Said and supported by several Kurdish groups.

**Southeastern Anatolian Project (GAP):** Development project that aims to eliminate regional disparity in Southeastern Anatolia by harnessing the hydroelectric potential of the Euphrates and Tigris, expanding infrastructure, and developing agriculture.

**Sunni Islam:** The largest branch of Islam. It is also the dominant form of Islam practiced in Turkey.

**Treaty of Sèvres:** Peace treaty signed in 1920 between the defeated Ottoman Empire and the victorious Allies. The terms of the treaty included the wholesale partitioning of the Ottoman Empire and the limitation of sovereignty in finance and military administration.

**Turkish War of Independence:** War waged between 1919 and 1923 by Turkish nationalists based out of Ankara and led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk against the Allied Powers in opposition to perceived injustices manifested most clearly in the Treaty of Sèvres.