

Timeline / Before 1800 to After 1930 / TURKEY

Date	Country	Theme
1815	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		Mahmud II leaves Topkapı Palace to live in Beşiktaş Palace.
1823	Turkey	Political Context
		28 July: Treaty of Erzurum, which ends the Ottoman–Iranian war and restores the previous border.
1826	Turkey	Political Context
		15–17 June: The abolition and extermination of the Janissary corps (the so-called Auspicious Incident) in Istanbul by troops loyal to Sultan Mahmud II. This act provides the conditions for institutional modernisation.
1827	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		First steamboat in the Ottoman Empire is launched.
1827	Turkey	Political Context
		20 October: A joint British, French and Russian fleet destroys the Ottoman and Egyptian navy at Navarino as the Sublime Porte did not accept the declaration of the UK, France and Russia for an autonomous Greece (in the Protocol of London, 6 July 1827).
1829	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		3 March: Clothing regulation: the Ottoman state mandates the fez as the common headgear for all Ottoman men.
1829	Turkey	Political Context
		14 September: Treaty of Adrianople (present-day Edirne). This treaty secures Greek independence and strengthens the autonomy of Wallachia, Moldavia (Romania), and Serbia.
1831	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		11 November: The first newspaper in Ottoman Turkish, Takvim-i Vekayi, published by the state.
1833	Turkey	Political Context
		8 April: Treaty of Kütahta with Egypt. The Ottomans recognise Syria, Palestine and Lebanon as within the sphere of the Egyptian control.
1833	Turkey	Political Context

Date	Country	Theme
		8 July: Defensive Treaty of Hünkâr #skelesi with Russia establishes Russian naval superiority in the Black Sea.
1835	Turkey	Political Context
		Reorganisation of the bureaucracy and introduction of a new system of rank.
1835	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		Bureaucracy is reorganised and a new rank system is introduced.
1835	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		1 July: The War Academy is founded.
1837	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		The first blueprints for a new Istanbul are prepared by Helmuth von Moltke, a general in the Ottoman army working for its modernisation, under direct orders from Mustafa Re#id Pa#a.
1838	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		Sultan Mahmud II gave some parts of the bas reliefs of the temple of Assos to France and he also authorises French archaeologist Charles Texier (1802–71) to take away parts of the frieze from the temple of Artemis in Magnesia ad Meandrum.
1838	Turkey	Political Context
		Founding of the Ministry of Finance and formation of Sublime Council for Judicial Ordinances. The title “grand vizier” becomes “prime minister”.
1839 - 1861	Turkey	Political Context
		Reign of Sultan Abdülmecid.
1839	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		February: A plan for the modernisation of general education is approved.
1839	Turkey	Political Context
		3 November: Mustafa Re#id Pa#a declares the Imperial Rescript of Gülhane (the beginning of the Tanzimat reforms), granting basic rights to Ottoman subjects and declaring a policy of state reform. These reforms included the "fair and public trial[s] of all accused regardless of religion", the creation of a system of "separate competences, religious and civil", and the validity of non-Muslim testimony.
1840	Turkey	Political Context

Date	Country	Theme
		After his term as governor in Samos, Kostaki Musurus Paşa, a Phanariot Greek becomes the first Ottoman envoy to independent Athens (1840–47) followed by Vienna (1848) and London (1851–55).
1840	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		23 October: The Ottoman Ministry of Post is established in Istanbul.
1840	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		12 October: The Ministry of Post is established.
1840	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		3 July: The first newspaper in Ottoman Turkish published by a private individual, Cerîde-i Havâdis (Journal of News), begins to appear in Istanbul as a weekly, published by an English journalist, William Churchill.
1840	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		Official recognition of the Mâli Takvim (Rumi calendar) as the second calendar system alongside the Hijra calendar.
1840	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		7 February: The tax system is reorganised.
1840	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The first mixed courts are introduced to hear civil and criminal cases involving Muslims and non-Muslims.
1841	Turkey	Political Context
		13 July: The Straits Convention, signed by the Ottoman Empire and the great powers, prohibits foreign warships from entering the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles.
1843	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		The first successful attempt to open a modern bank in the Empire. Smyrna Bank is established by foreign merchants (English, French, Austrian, Dutch, Russian, American, Italian, Danish, Spanish and Greek) under the Swedish Consulate in Izmir in order to diminish their dependence on other merchants and bankers. It is closed in the same year for operating without permission.
1844	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		Monetary reform. Ottomans accept bimetallism. Lira, mecdiye and kuruş become official units. 100 kuruş are equal to one Ottoman lira. Silver mecdiyes equal to 20 kuruş are issued.
1844	Turkey	Travelling

Date	Country	Theme
		June–July: Sultan Abdülmecid visits İzmir, Bursa, Gallipoli and the Aegean Islands.
1846	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		A gendarme organisation is formed.
1846	Turkey	Travelling
		May: Sultan Abdülmecid visits Varna.
1847	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		American John Lawrence Smith, an agricultural chemist and mineralogist in Ottoman employ, demonstrates the electric telegraph invented by Samuel Morse in an elaborate presentation to Sultan Abdülmecid and his officials. The sultan bestows on Morse the prestigious Nishan-ı Şahi (Order of Glory of the Empire), Morse's first official honour.
1847	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		September: First government secondary schools (rüşdiye mektebi) are established.
1847	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		Publication of the first government yearbook (salname).
1848	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Ebniye Nizamnamesi (Regulation for Buildings) issued.
1848	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		The earliest Turkish textbook on chemistry, Usul-i Kimya (Elements of chemistry), is written by Mehmed Emin Derviş Paşa, a graduate of the Military Engineering School in Istanbul, based on the chemistry books he used during his studies in the École des Mines in Paris.
1849	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		English archaeologist and politician Austen Henry Layard (1817–94) publishes Nineveh and its Remains.
1849	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The Teachers' Seminary is founded in Istanbul.
1851	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century

Date	Country	Theme
		The Ottoman steamship company #irket-i Hayriyye is founded. It provides regular and rapid transportation from Istanbul to points along the Bosphorus, replacing the oar-drawn kay#ks that had monopolised this traffic since the 18th century.
1851	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		Ottoman Academy of Sciences (Encümen-i Dan##) opens.
1852	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		A museum of ancient costumes (Elbise-i Atika) is opened in Hippodrome (#stanbul) where old costumes of Janissaries are exhibited on mannequins.
1852	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The steamship company #irket-i Hayriyye is founded.
1853 - 1856	Turkey	Political Context
		War between Russia and the Ottoman Empire and its allies France, UK and Piedmont-Savoy. The Crimean War is a consequence of rivalry over the Eastern Question and France's support of Catholic claims and Russia's support of Orthodox claims to control the holy sites in Jerusalem. Russia seeks to exploit Ottoman political weakness to gain diplomatic rights for Orthodox subjects of the Empire. Peace established by the Treaty of Paris (1856).
1853 - 1856	Turkey	Migrations
		The Crimean War causes an exodus of the Crimean Tatars, about 200,000 of whom move to the Ottoman Empire in continuing waves of immigration.
1854	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		English amateur archaeologist Frank Calvert (1828–1908) begins excavations in Troy.
1854	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		Ottoman Empire obtains its first foreign loan.
1854	Turkey	Political Context
		The Tanzimat Council appoints a City Ordering Commission (Intizam-# #ehir Heyeti), comprising Ottoman and foreign residents, charged with developing new regulation to transform the structure of Istanbul into a municipal government. It recommends establishment of a commission to enforce urban regulations and improve the city's physical make-up, financed through a separate tax structure.
1855	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		The earliest railway line within the Empire is opened between Costanta and Cernovoda (in present-day Romania).

Date	Country	Theme
1855	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Ahmed Cevdet Pa#a, historian, jurist and conservative Tanzimat reformer, completes the first volumes of Târih-I Cevdet (History of Cevdet), which deals with Ottoman history, 1774–1826.
1855	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		9 September: Telegraphic communication is introduced within the empire.
1856	Turkey	Political Context
		28 February: Under diplomatic pressure, the Sublime Porte is forced to declare the Imperial Rescript of Reforms (Islahat Ferman#), giving the empire admission to the Concert of Europe. The Rescript states the equality of Muslims and non-Muslims before law, the right of non-Muslims to be admitted to government and military service, and abolition of the poll tax and freedom in education for non-Muslims.
1856	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Fire in Aksaray district, #stanbul, destroys more than 650 buildings and is a major turning point in the history of #stanbul's urban form. Italian architect Luigi Storari is appointed to carry out the re-building of the area, which is to conform to the new pattern: hence it is to be regular with straight and wide streets.
1856	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		#stimlak Nizamnamesi (Regulation for Expropriation) issued.
1856	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		The Ottoman Bank is established by English capitalists with capital of #500,000 (equivalent to about US\$52 million in 2007). Established on a small scale, the bank becomes an imperial bank by 1863.
1856	Turkey	Political Context
		30 March: The Paris Treaty marks the end of the Crimean War (1853–56); the Ottoman Empire is admitted into the Concert of Europe.
1857	Turkey	Migrations
		Ottoman Refugee Code/Immigration Law is issued. Forced migrants-turned-settlers are given 70 donums (about 17 acres) to start farming.
1857	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		March: The Ministry of Public Education is founded.
1858 - 1870	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces

Date	Country	Theme
		Planning project for Galata and Karaköy in #stanbul. They are important centres for international trade.
1858	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		6 June: Promulgation of the Land Law regulating private property in agricultural areas.
1859	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Sokaklara Dair Nizamname (Regulation for Streets) issued.
1859	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		#brahim #inasi completes his stage comedy #âir Evlenmesi (Marriage of a Poet), the first theatre play written by an Ottoman Turkish author.
1860	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		October: First private newspaper to be published by Turkish journalists, Tercüman-# Ahvâl, published by Agah Efendi and #brahim #inasi.
1860	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		October: Journalists #brahim #inasi and Agah Efendi publish the first private Muslim newspaper Tercümân-# Ahvâl (Interpreter of Events).
1861 - 1876	Turkey	Political Context
		Reign of Sultan Abdülaziz.
1862	Turkey	Travelling
		Steamship company Fevâid-i Osmâniyye is founded.
1862	Turkey	Travelling
		April: Sultan Abdülaziz visits Egypt.
1863	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		Sergi-i Umumi-i Osmani (Ottoman General Exhibition), its format borrowed from Western exhibitions, is opened in #stanbul.
1864	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Imperial decree orders that all civil servants have to light one or two street gas lamps in front of their houses both in summer and winter.
1865	Turkey	Political Context

Date	Country	Theme
		Formation of Young Ottoman opposition against the bureaucratic domination of Ali Pa#a and Fuad Pa#a.
1865	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		The first comprehensive physics textbook in Turkish, Mehmed Emin Dervi# Pa#a's (1817–79) Usul-i Hikmet-i Tabiiyye (Elements of physics) is published in Istanbul.
1866	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		#zmir-Ayd#n railway is built.
1866	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The Civil Medical School is opened.
1867	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		The Ottoman Empire participates in the International Exhibition in Paris. The Ottoman pavilions are designed in #stanbul by a self-taught French architect named Léon Parvillée in collaboration with the Italian architect Barborini. Sultan Abd#laziz travels to Paris at the invitation of Emperor Napoleon III to attend the opening of the World Exhibition.
1867	Turkey	Travelling
		Sultan Abd#laziz makes state visits to European powers.
1867	Turkey	Political Context
		8 June: The Egyptian governor receives from the Sublime Porte the title of “khedive,” which provides him legislative independence.
1868	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		29 June: Nam#k Kemal and Ziya Pa#a publish oppositional weekly newspaper in London, where they had fled to.
1870	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Fire in Beyo#lu (#stanbul) destroys about 3,000 houses; 80 people are killed. After that incident using brick and stone to build houses becomes obligatory.
1870	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Ahmed Mithat Efendi (1844–1912), who introduced the novel from the Ottoman community begins to publish Letaif-I Rivayat (Finest Stories), which includes long stories and novellas.
1871	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822–90) begins excavations in Troy.

Date	Country	Theme
1871	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		Ottoman railway policy is formulated by the decree of Sultan Abdülaziz to establish a main line between #stanbul and Baghdad, with secondary lines to the Black Sea and Mediterranean coasts.
1873	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		Heinrich Schliemann finds what he calls “Priam’s Treasure” in Troy.
1873	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		Ottoman participates in Vienna World Exhibition with a faithful full-scale replica of the Sultan Ahmed Fountain near Hagia Sophia in #stanbul. Ottoman artisans crafted the details of the façade panels, and the most of the materials were brought from Turkey.
1873	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts
		First art exhibition in #stanbul, organised by #eker Ahmed Pa#a.
1873	Turkey	Political Context
		1 April: Nam#k Kemal's play Vatan Yahud Silistre arouses patriotic sentiments in #stanbul.
1874	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		Construction of the residential blocks of Akaretler (Istanbul) by the architect Agob Balian. They are built for the elite staff of the nearby Dolmabahçe Palace.
1875	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Publication of the novel Taa##uk-u Talat ve Fitnat (The Romance of Talat and Fitnat) by #emseddin Sami (1850–1904). This book is considered to be the starting point of the Ottoman novel.
1876 - 1909	Turkey	Political Context
		Reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II.
1876	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces
		The construction of Dolmabahçe Mosque by Agob Balian.
1876	Turkey	Political Context
		23 December: Promulgation of the first Ottoman constitution.
1877	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past

Date	Country	Theme
		German archaeologist Carl Humann (1839–96) begins excavating Pergamon. He would later conduct excavations in Zincirli (1888) and Magnesia (1892).
1877 - 1878	Turkey	Migrations
		Mass Balkan migration. After the Russo-Turkish War (called the '93 War by Turks) between 1 and 1.5 million people are driven from the Balkans to the Ottoman heartlands.
1877	Turkey	Political Context
		19 March: Opening of the parliament.
1878	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The Law School is opened.
1878	Turkey	Political Context
		3 March: Russo-Turco Treaty of St Stefano defines Bulgaria, which includes present-day Bulgaria, present-day Macedonia and northern Greece.
1878	Turkey	Political Context
		13 March: Abdülhamid II dissolves parliament.
1879	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		4 May: Judicial reform extends the administrative authority of Ministry of Justice over mixed courts.
1882	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts
		Birth of #brahim Çall# (d. 1960). He was a prominent painter who was sent to Paris between 1910 and 1914 where he studied in the workshop of Fernand Cormon.
1882	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		28 September: Bayezid Kütüphânesi, the first public library in #stanbul is founded.
1883	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		Osman Hamdi Bey, Ottoman administrator and archaeologist excavates in Nemrud. Publication of his book Le Tumulus de Nemroud-Dagh.
1883	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		Nam#k Kemal writes Renan Müdafanamesi (Critique of Renan), a book on Islam and science.
1883	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts

Date	Country	Theme
		Opening of the School of Fine Arts (Sanâyi-i Nefise Mektebi) by Osman Hamdi Bey. It consists of sections for painting, sculpture and architecture.
1884	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		7 May: An industrial school for girls is opened in #stanbul.
1886	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts
		26 February: Mihri Mü#fik Han#m, one of the first female painters of renown, is born.
1887	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		Osman Hamdi Bey excavates in Saida.
1888	Turkey	Economy And Trade
		The Agricultural Bank (Ziraat Bankas#) is founded as the first state-funded bank of the empire.
1888	Turkey	Travelling
		12 August: Direct rail connection is established between Paris and #stanbul.
1889	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		Although the Ottoman government does not participate in the 1889 Paris Exhibition, the architecture of the Sultan Ahmed Fountain (from the Vienna Exhibition in 1873) is recycled in the exhibition in the Pavilion of Turkish Tobacco.
1890	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		16 September: Sailing frigate Ertu#rul sinks while returning from a goodwill voyage to Japan off the coast of Oshima in a typhoon that kills all but 69 of its 609 crew.
1890	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts
		Müfide Kadri is born (d. 1912). One of the early female painters, she took private classes from Osman Hamdi Bey.
1891	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		13 June: The Archaeology Museum in Istanbul is opened.
1891 - 1892	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		Osman Hamdi Bey excavates in Lagina.
1891	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts

Date	Country	Theme
		Fausto Zonaro (1854–1929) arrives in #stanbul as an independent artist. He receives the title of court painter in 1896.
1891	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Ahmed Vefik Pa#a dies. Besides his administrative positions, he is regarded as a precursor of Turkish cultural nationalism and remembered also for contributing to the development of Western theatre in the empire by translating French plays.
1892	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Fatma Âliye (1862–1939), female novelist and publisher, publishes Muhâdarât (Reminiscence). Her feminist attitude was apparent in her rejection of marriage for economic reasons, believing in the need for women to join the workforce.
1893	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		At the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the main Ottoman pavilion refers to the Sultan Ahmed Fountain, but it experiments with a different approach, being designed as an exhibition building.
1893 - 1902	Turkey	Migrations
		72,000 Muslims and Jews are forced out of Bulgaria. Unlike earlier migrants, they are resettled in towns in Thrace as well as in rural areas of central and eastern Anatolia.
1895	Turkey	Rediscovering The Past
		German archaeologist Theodor Wiegand begins to excavate ancient Greek city of Priene. He would start to excavate in Miletos in 1896.
1896	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Recaîzâde Mahmud Ekrem publishes the novel Araba Sevdas# (A Carriage Affair). He was prominent in literary circles and promoted the Westernisation of Ottoman Turkish literature.
1898	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Ay#e S#d#ka (d.1903), the first female Ottoman pedagogue, publishes Usûl-i Talim ve Terbiye Dersleri (Lectures on Methods of Teaching and Education). She was the instructor for courses in geography, ethics and handicrafts at the Female Teachers' Seminary in #stanbul.
1900	Turkey	International Exhibitions
		As if to compensate for its absence from the Paris 1878 and 1889 exhibitions, the Ottoman government spends a considerable sum on the pavilion for the Paris Internation Exhibition of 1900, designed by the French architect Adrien-René Dubuisson.
1901	Turkey	Cities And Urban Spaces

Date	Country	Theme
		Izmir Clock Tower is built to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Abdülhamid II's accession to the throne. It is designed by Levantine French architect Raymond Charles Père.
1902	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		Nazım Hikmet Ran, famous Turkish poet, playwright and novelist, is born.
1908	Turkey	Great Inventions Of The 19th Century
		Hijaz Railway is opened.
1908	Turkey	Political Context
		4 July: Young Turk Revolution.
1908	Turkey	Political Context
		23 July: The Constitution of 1876 is restored and the Committee of the Union and Congress (CUP) takes control over the administration.
1909	Turkey	Fine And Applied Arts
		A Turkish group of painters, Association of Ottoman Painters, is founded by students from the Fine Arts Academy in Istanbul.
1909	Turkey	Political Context
		The 31 March Incident (31 Mart Vakası/Olayı or Hadisesi) is a rebellion on 13 April (31 March in official Rumi calendar) in Constantinople against restoration of the constitutional system. It is the culmination of the Ottoman countercoup that attempted to end the Second Constitutional Era in the empire and the newly established influence of the Committee of Union and Progress in order to reaffirm Abdülhamid II as absolute monarch.
1909	Turkey	Political Context
		27 April: Unseating of Sultan Abdülhamid II and accession of Sultan Mehmed V.
1912 - 1913	Turkey	Migrations
		Balkan Wars. Large wave of Muslims and Jews flee the Balkans for Ottoman lands to the south. This involuntary migration is estimated to involve 64,000 persons.
1913	Turkey	Political Context
		23 July: Edirne retaken by the Ottoman Army under the command of Enver Paşa.
1913	Turkey	Political Context
		23 January: Bab-ı Ali coup d'état in the empire (Turkish: Bâb-ı Âlî Baskını) results in Grand Vizier Kamil Paşa being driven from power and replacement of Minister of War Nazım Paşa by İsmail Enver. Effectively ending the London

Date	Country	Theme
		Peace Conference, it marks a significant point in the Ottoman government's progress towards centralisation, giving de facto power to the triumvirate known as the Three Pashas.
1914	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		A school for theatre (Dârülbedayi) is founded.
1914	Turkey	Reforms And Social Changes
		The School of Fine Arts for female students (#nâs Sanâyi-i Nefise Mektebi) is opened.
1914	Turkey	Political Context
		29 October: German warships, officially designated as Ottoman vessels, shell Russian Black Sea ports, an action that leads the Ottoman Empire to enter World War I.
1915	Turkey	Political Context
		Allied forces occupy #stanbul (16 March); Greece occupies #zmir (15 May).
1917	Turkey	Music, Literature, Dance And Fashion
		The conservatoire (Dârülelhân) is founded.
1920	Turkey	Political Context
		23 April: Formation of Turkish National Assembly in Ankara.
1920	Turkey	Political Context
		10 August: Treaty of Sévres, which divides Anatolia between the Allies, Greeks, Armenians and Kurds.
1922	Turkey	Migrations
		Exchange of population between Greece and Turkey.
1923	Turkey	Political Context
		24 July: Treaty of Lausanne, which officially dissolves the Ottoman Empire.
1923	Turkey	Political Context
		30 August: Final battle in western Anatolia results in the collapse of the Greek army.
1923	Turkey	Political Context

Date	Country	Theme
		29 October: Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk becomes the first president of Turkey.
