

# NOT EVEN PAST



TEXAS MIDDLE &amp; HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

UNIV OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENTS

## The Emergence of Atatürk: A Turning Point in Turkish History

[Like 0](#)[Tweet](#)*by Ilona Altman*

**Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** is a monumental figure in Turkish history. After leading the successful **Turkish War of Independence** against the occupying Allied forces, Atatürk entered the realm of politics and initiated a bold agenda of social, political and economic reforms. Known as *Kemalism*, these reforms sought to transform Turkey into a modern and secular nation-state that would be equal to—and not subject to—European powers. Almost a century after the Republic's founding, *Kemalism* remain a cornerstone of Turkey's government, economy and society. Moreover, Atatürk's likeness continues to adorn statues, paintings and memorials around the nation he built.



For Texas History Day, Ilona Altman explores the historical

significance of Atatürk and his "Kemalist" agenda in the website "The Emergence of Atatürk: A Turning Point in Turkish History." In the site's process paper, Ilona talks about her personal and historical interest in this topic:

"We strolled down the streets of Istanbul, walking into teashops, rug stores, and bazaars. Every place we went had a unique aura. Oddly enough, every place had one consistent quality – in all of the shops, a portrait of a man known as "Atatürk" was hanging on a wall. Our family made a game trying to find "the poster" in each shop, and I suddenly came to wonder who exactly "Atatürk" was. What had he done to earn such recognition? I began drowning in questions, so upon our arrival home, I began researching."

"The emergence of Atatürk as Turkey's president was an immense turning point in Turkish history, fitting perfectly with the NHD Theme "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events." Atatürk's emergence through presidency was a turning point that allowed for the movement toward a modern and successful Turkey to begin. By becoming president, Atatürk had the power to implement reform. Turkey's successful embrace of Western ideals makes it a role model in the Middle East today, demonstrating that a successful incorporation of Western secularism, principles, ideals, and progressive economy with an Islamic religious consciousness is possible. Turkey demonstrates that western ideas can build a middle class and strong economy. Learning about Atatürk

made me realize that individuals matter – one person truly can change the world.”

Photo Credits:

Atatürk speaking before a crowd in Bursa, Turkey, 1924 (Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Atatürk's visage carved into rock, Izmir, Turkey (Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Portrait of Atatürk, 1923 (Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Ilona Altman  
Junior Division  
Individual Website

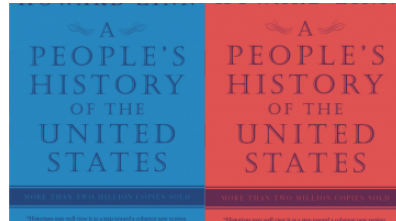


Posted July 22, 2013

[More Students, Teaching, Texas Middle & High School Students, Websites](#)

## TEACHING

Why Study the Ugliest Moments of American History? Reflections on Teaching Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States



[More from Teaching](#)

## DIGITAL & FILM

Digital Archive Review - Imágenes y relatos de un viaje por Colombia

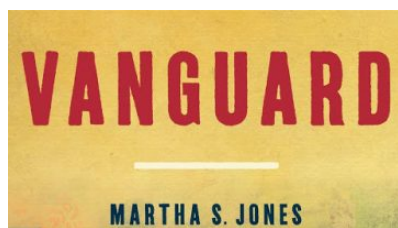


[More from Digital & Film](#)

## BOOKS



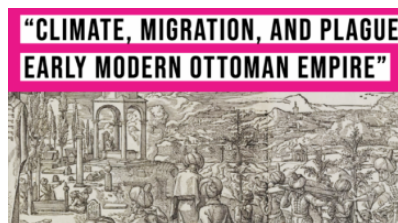
Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All by Martha S. Jones (2020)



[More Books](#)

#### IHS & PUBLIC HISTORY

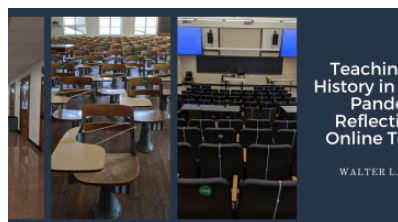
IHS Climate in Context - Climate, Migration, and Plague in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire



[More from IHS & Public History](#)

#### TEXAS

Teaching Texas History in a Time of Pandemic: Reflections on Online Teaching



[More from Texas](#)

19th century **20th Century** African American History american history Asia Asia & Middle East book review Brazil  
British Empire China Civil War Cold War Colonialism communism cultural history digital history Early Modern Europe  
Europe film gender **history** History of Science immigration India Islam Latin America Latin American History  
Mexico Not Even Past Public History race religion Russia **slavery** Texas Texas History Texas History Day  
Transnational Twentieth Century History United States **US History** USSR Womens History world history  
World War II

NOT EVEN PAST is produced by  
The Department of History  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
We are supported by the College of Liberal Arts  
And our **READERS**



[DONATE](#)

[CONTACT](#)

All content © 2010-present NOT EVEN PAST and the authors, unless otherwise noted

Sign up to receive the monthly Not Even Past newsletter

Your email address

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[FEATURES](#)

[BOOKS](#)

[TEACHING](#)

[DIGITAL & FILM](#)

[BLOG](#)

[IHS & PUBLIC HISTORY](#)

[TEXAS](#)

[ABOUT](#)

