

INSPIRING DEMOCRACY

From Historic Anatolia to the United States ...

From the United States to Modern Turkey

“Democracies cannot be static — they must move forward.”

President Obama, Address to the Turkish Grand National Assembly, April 6, 2009

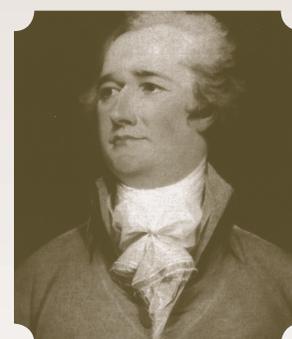
Democracy is a system of government that has existed far longer than the United States. This form of government finds its origins in many different nations. Later, it evolved through the great thinkers of the Enlightenment and the Founding Fathers of America. Several key aspects of our form of government find their roots in the land that is now home to the Republic of Turkey. In turn, American democracy was a strong influence in the creation of the Republic of Turkey.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON & THE FEDERALIST PAPERS — INSPIRATION FROM THE LYCIAN LEAGUE, LOCATED IN MODERN-DAY TURKEY

“Were I to give a model of an excellent Confederate Republic, it would be that of Lycia.”

Alexander Hamilton, Federalist Papers #9, The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection

In Federalist No. 9, Hamilton explained that in Lycia, the common council had the power to appoint all judges and magistrates for the confederated cities. In Federalist No. 16, he pointed out that in Lycia, federal laws applied not only to cities, but also directly to individuals. In Federalist No. 45, Madison referred specifically to the “degree and species of power” of the national government in Lycia, which he welcomed as the model for the stronger national government established in the Constitution.



US LEGAL SYSTEM’S INSPIRATION FROM SULEIMAN THE LAWGIVER



The twenty-three marble relief portraits over the gallery doors of the US House Chamber depict historical figures noted for their work in establishing the principles that underlie American law. One of the reliefs is of Sultan Suleiman, known as “The Lawgiver,” who was a ruler (1520–1566) of the Ottoman Empire, the predecessor of the Republic of Turkey.

FOUNDING FATHER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK’S INSPIRATION FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“The American ideal is our ideal. As you had a Declaration of Independence, we also have our National Pact. Both of these documents are of the same nature; like you, we also wanted independence. Turkey and America are democratic societies. Turkey and the United States can cooperate in the commercial and economic fields...Do you know why I like Washington and Lincoln? Both worked for the advancement, elevation, and prosperity of America.”

Ataturk in an interview in 1922 with American Journalist Isaac Fredrick Marcossou, one year before the Turkish Republic was officially proclaimed.



The Turkish Coalition of America hopes to work closely with both members of Congress and the Administration to ensure that this friendship continues to endure and grow even stronger. Over the coming weeks, please check back to this same page for a series by TCA on the importance of US-Turkey relations and contributions of Turkish Americans to our nation.