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**“Eğitim, kültür ve bilgi aydınlığa açılan en geniş penceredir”**

**“Education, culture and knowledge are the widest window to enlightenment”**

**Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**

## **Introduction**

On November 11th 1918 was the end of the world war I in which the Ottoman Empire suffered a huge loss of territory to the occupation forces, a popular Turkish General known as Mustafa Kemal alongside with his friends (officers in the Ottoman army) started a military campaign on May 19th 1919 leading the free Turkish people who refused the occupation forces that occupied their lands, this military campaign is known as the war of independence. After a lot of brevity from the Turkish people on the battle field, Turkish people emerged victorious against imperialism, On October 29th 1923 Atatürk and his friends claimed victory against occupation forces, but that's not just what happened, on that same day they also declared the foundation of Republic of Turkey with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as a president of the republic, and Ankara it's capital, with that Turkish people start a new journey that is much more different than they had with the Ottoman Empire.

The foundation of the Republic of Turkey was followed with the abolition of the sultanate and the end of the Ottoman Empire era which followed by the official abolishment of the Ottoman caliphate on March 3rd 1924, but in order for that to happen there has to be some kind of reforms within the country and its people and that's where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk came up with 6 important reforms that changed everything for the Turkish people, those reforms are( it's important to mention that some of those reforms were not fully adapted not until the year 1936):

**Political Reforms** in which the Republic is a representative democracy, constitutional Republic multi-party system.

**Legal Reforms** like new legal system (adapted modern European laws), civil codes and penal codes and equality between men and women allowing women to have the right to vote and be part of the political system.

**Religious Reforms** like the translation of religious text and prayers to Turkish, new religious establishments under the supervision of the government in order to make new reforms to religion.

**Cultural Reforms** like new education system, militarization of education, higher education, allowing women the right to study, new alphabet (replacing Arabic alphabet with Latin alphabet), and adapting copyright laws and press.

**Social Reforms**, reforms like women's rights (equal participation in the political system, equality between men and women in workplace, social life and goes on to everything,) the adaptation of the name surname law, opening of art galleries and museums.

**Economic Policy changes.** Reforms in agriculture (land reforms, establishing model farms), nationalization of the industry, and establishing the banking system.

Now if we talk about Iraq and which of those reforms are unavoidable, or let's say which of those reforms should be implemented in Iraq, I personally think that most of the people are open to the idea of making a lot of changes whether it is on the political terms, social, economic policy, and even on a religious term.

## **Arguments**

Now it is going to be extremely complicated to talk about Iraq and what are the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk that are considered unavoidable, because in Iraq the situation is difficult, and we will explain why in further arguments.

**Political system.** In Iraq in terms of politics, Iraq on paper is a democratic country that has a democratic political system, an elected parliament, parliament president, prime minister, and a president, but religion and ethnicity still plays a huge part in the political system of Iraq which I personally think it should not and many people also think so. But that is not all, even the politicians while they believe in democracy and care about the country, when it comes down to what benefits Iraq or their religious beliefs they will always pick religion, and to add more to that, those politicians actually have militant groups that either support them or they actually own it and they are much more stronger than the Iraqi army, even if some politicians try to make changes in the political system they will end up either dead or oppressed by those militant groups. Some people cannot help but wonder how those politicians are winning again and again in the elections why are people voting for them. The answer is simple, it is the electoral commission of Iraq which is very corrupted they even sold votes to politicians in the last elections.

So even if Iraq needs to implement those political reforms it's not going to be easy and it might not happen at all.

**Social laws and life.** In Iraq social life and laws are different in each part of the country, it is true that in Iraq there are laws that protect women rights, minorities, and children. But those laws can't help much when it comes down to the tribes and tribal laws, and I believe that the government should strengthen those laws and change the ideology of the Iraqi people by focusing on restricting the Iraqi tribes specially in the middle and south of Iraq. There are some parts of the countries that have managed to restrict those tribes though focusing on education and social reforms like Mosul, Baghdad, and Erbil. those cities there are tribes but their influence and ideology is much more different, they are more civilized and they do actually follow the social laws and care about women, minorities and children rights, and they do believe in equality. So unfortunately, to have more social reforms tribal laws should be restricted and in some parts of the country it is impossible to do so.

**Economic Policy.** It is true Iraq is one of the leading countries in producing and importing crude oil but that's make about 90% of its imports, a country like Iraq should not just rely on one product to import. Iraq led by the right hand and the right politicians, has the potential to be one of the leading economies in the world. Iraq is a rich country with a lot of unused raw materials. Iraq should adapt agriculture laws that can help the country to improve its economy, but here we notice that politicians rather focusing on how to improve the country's economy they actually focus on corruption and stealing from the country for their own personal gains or to their support their religious believes.

**Religious reforms.** Religion.. in Iraq there should be a separation between religion and government, but it is impossible to achieve that. We can say that the biggest issue right now in Iraq is religion, and the religious parties that control the country and can influence the political system. In Iraq there are too many religious groups and each one of those groups work for what benefits them more and almost all of them are involved in the political system, you can find few religious groups that are not involved in politics, but they don't have much influence like the ones that are involved in politics. so basically, they are the religious leader and political leaders who are corrupted at the same time, and they actually have used religion for their own personal gains and they still used even though the Iraqi people have stopped following them but it is too

late now because they control everything those religious groups even have their own armies which are stronger than the Iraqi army. We can basically say that the main issue in Iraq is corrupted religious groups who control the political system and the weapon power in Iraq.

### **Counter arguments**

To implement Mustafa Kemal Ataturk reforms In Iraq there need to be a huge change in the political system in Iraq, without that happening there is no change to implement those reforms. The Iraqi people should start to speak up make demands expose the religious groups for what they really are, what they have done, and how are they using religion as a cover for their own interest, the Iraq influencers, public figures, and journalists should start to influence the people to stop their support for the religious and young people should start creating their own political parties and should be more involved in the government to try and implement more reforms into the country.

### **Rebuttal**

If we look at Iraq from 2003 up to 2021, people ideology is improving up, specially in the last 3 years because people have had enough with this so called democratic political system which in reality is just controlled but religious groups, people now are demanding reforms, improvements, and changes in the political system by protesting peacefully, but those demands are being faces with a strong actions from the government, militant groups, actions like opening gunfire at peaceful protestors, kidnapping and oppressing influencers, public figures, and journalist who have helped exposed the religious groups for what they really are and how did they manage to disfigurement religion by using it to gain people support just so that they can gain more power and money. Thousands of people were injured, hundreds are dead due to those barbaric actions from the government against its own people.

### **Conclusion**

Basically, Iraq needs to implement 4 of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk reforms, which are, political reforms, social reforms, economic reforms, and religious reforms. for to happen there has to be some changes in the ideology of the Iraq people,

new political system and new young politicians, separation of religion and government, and stripping away the weapon power from the militant groups. For that to happen Iraqi people should start speaking up making more demands, exposing the politicians for what they really are