



Islamism in Turkey

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Political Parties

IRD 233

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Unit Seven

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Hyper Secularisation

*“Islamic movements were largely suppressed in the period between 1923-1945 when the country was ruled with a single party regime led by the Republican Peoples Party”
(Köni, Rosli & Mohamad Zin, 2015).*

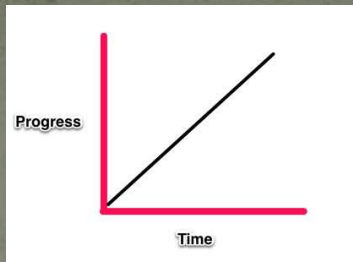


Hyper Secularisation

“Ismet Ozel, an ex-Marxist convert and the most prominent Islamist intellectual, argue that it was Ataturk’s reforms that, ironically, Islamicized Turkey by forcing people to internalize and value their religious identity....”

(M. Hakan Yavuz, 2003 :56).



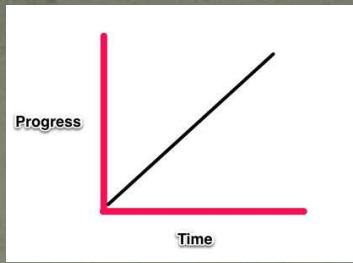


Progress over Time

Bawamurad (2012) commented as follows:

"Our Islamism identity has been occurred in counter to secularism. Basically, Islamic political parties have been established on the basis of opposing colonialism and the alien values to our societies. For that, this has continued up-till the current time. Then, from 1920s onward, the Marxist and Secular orientations came to exist. Because these orientations fundamentally were anti religion movements, the Islamist movements had to continue to defend the religious values. So, the Islamic movements are generally reactions to protect the Islamic values and preaching".





Progress over Time

- **Obsession About Secularism, Islamism and Shari'ah**

Ramadan (2013) comments on this point:
“I do not define Shari'ah as a legal corpus of Islamic law. For me, in the Quran, Shari'ah is defined as “the way”. The most important thing for me is the objectives of the law such as justice and equality. To be faithful to these objectives is to truly be within Shariah”.

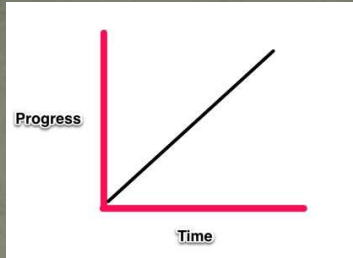


A Distinct Case: Merging within Secularism

Adnan Menderes Prime Minister 1950-1960

the *Democratic Party* (DP) headed by Prime Minister Adnan Menderes won 503 seats in the National Assembly. The *Republican People's Party* (CHP) won 31 seats in the National Assembly.





Progress over Time

- **Obsession About Secularism, Islamism and Shari'ah**

Recep Tayyip Erdogan: AK Party's new Concept of Secularism

“secularism is the way of life of all the religious and intellectual groups in the way that they want, and expressing their thoughts in the way that they believe, and the state must guarantee this Practice” (Erdugan 2016).



Seminar Questions

- "What are the key factors behind the success of Islamism in Turkey, and how has it influenced the country's political and social landscape?"