



The establishment of a multiparty system in Turkey and its role in the country's socio-political life.

**Boltaeva Mohichehra
Jamshid kyzy**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Jizzakh Branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek.

**Farida Tuychievna
Khalidibekova**

Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology
Lecturer at the Department of Socio-Political Sciences

ABSTRACT

One of the main conditions of democratic life is the issue of multiparty system. A democratic society, of course, requires a multiparty system. Multipartyism is characterized, first of all, by the ability of any social stratum and group, regardless of their interests and views in society, to fully reflect their goals and aspirations. Each party, as a political force representing the interests of a certain segment of the population, expresses different interests and views. When they unite in pursuit of common goals, such as the homeland and the interests of the nation, they develop the life of the state and society in the shadow of the struggle of different opinions. Today, many countries in the guise of democracy are following this path. However, the process of transition to a multiparty system has taken place in different countries at different stages and with specific features.

Keywords:

Turkey, multiparty system, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Umsan Turks, Republic, Union, Development Party.

The Turkish multiparty system, which is at the center of our research, also reflects these features. The Republic of Turkey was founded on October 29, 1923 under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on the basis of ideas completely different from the political and administrative traditions of the Ottoman Empire. Leaving the principles of religious and monarchical rule of the Ottoman Empire, a system based on secularism and national statehood, reflecting modern and rational ideas, was established. However, these revolutionary changes paved the way for a one-party, non-opposition regime that lasted until 1945. Although there were efforts for a multiparty system during this period, it failed due to some political and ideological conflicts.

In Turkey, political parties first entered public life during the Ottoman period as a result of amendments to the 1876 constitution (the basis of the law) and the 1909 constitution. During this period, many political parties were formed, such as the Union and Progress Party, the

Moderate Hürriyet Party, the Ottoman Democrats Party and the Ottoman Socialist Party. The Union and Development Party, which became the only party as a result of the Bobiali uprising, operated from 1913 to 1918.

Although there were a number of political associations in Turkey during the national liberation movement, they were dominated by the Anatolian and Romanian Human Rights Law Societies. This organization became the People's Party (September 9, 1923) and became the first political party in the Republic of Turkey. On November 10, 1924, the party was renamed the Republican People's Party of Turkey (hereinafter RXP). The RXP, led by the revolutionary leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, soon launched reforms to modernize the state and society. However, a group of conservatives dissatisfied with these reforms left the party and on November 17, 1924, founded the Progressive Republican Party. The formation of the Progressive Republican Party, considered the first step in the transition to a multiparty system, is very important in

terms of the first experience of multipartyism in Turkey. Kozim Karabakir, the party's leader, Hussein Rauf Orbay, the party's deputy secretary general, and Ali Fuat Jebasoy, the party's secretary general, were not only heroes in the struggle for independence, but also close friends of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. However, there were some disagreements during the reform process. Opposition from the Progressive Republican Party was sharpening in two areas: economics and religion. The party favored the western form of the economy, the liberal economy. The RXP, on the other hand, continued its strong state policy. In the religious sphere, the Progressive Republican Party considered the ideas of secularism of the RCP to be sharp and resolute, and in its program promoted the ideas of "respect for religion and religious beliefs." Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was also pleased with the formation of a new party with the aim of establishing a democratic system. His views also confirm this: - "Let them come to us and discuss the affairs of state" or - "Our parliament should also have two parties,.... We need to be like the parliaments of civilized countries."

The Progressive Republican Party was banned on June 3, 1925 for supporting the Sheikh Said uprising in Eastern Anatolia. Thus, the first attempt to move to a multiparty system failed. In 1927, the RXP adopted a new program. According to the program, the first chairman of the party, Mustafa Kemal, announced the main ideology of the RXP. An ideology based on republicanism, nationalism, and secularism led to some changes to the constitution. On April 10, 1928, the provision that the state religion was Islam was removed from the constitution. Meanwhile, initiatives to form a new opposition party have begun to rise. At Mustafa Kemal's suggestion, Fothibey, a supporter of the liberal economy, formed the Free Republican Party in 1930. However, the rapidly growing Free Republican Party followed a path of sharp opposition. In 1930, the party closed as a result of RXP pressure. The economic crisis of 1929-1930 discredited the pro-free Republican Party. The outbreak of World War II delayed the re-emergence of liberalism in Turkey. When the Free Republican Party closed, there was a one-party system in the country. The RXP continued

its activities in the shadow of an ideology infused with "secularism," "statehood," and revolutionary ideas.

The changing world balance after the Second World War showed that the social instability caused by the ongoing authoritarian revolutionary regime could no longer survive the bureaucratic and dictatorial system of government. In a speech on May 19, 1945, President Ismet Inenyu announced the need to form new parties. The first was the National Awakening Party in July 1945, led by businessman Nuri Demerag.

The struggle between the People's Republican Party (XRP) and the Democratic Party (DP), founded in 1945, has intensified. The DP opposed the state monopoly and used the 'Private Initiative'. In the 1946 elections, the XRP won by terror and immediately began repression. This escalated tensions in the country. The country has been ruled since 1938 by the pro-US Inenyu I. The process of transition to a multiparty political system in Turkey, which began in 1945, was based on the July 12, 1947 protocol. The July 12 protocol was an important step in Turkey's path to democracy. The government finally adopted a multiparty political regime. With the transition to a multiparty political system, one-party elections with two rounds of voting ended. The acceleration of this historical process after the Second World War and, as a result, the establishment of a multiparty system in Turkey took place in the shadow of a number of historical factors.

1. Protests against the ruling party during the war: Although Turkey did not enter World War II, it was affected by the war. This did not go unnoticed by the ruling party. "Military spending during the war has destabilized the country's economy," he said. During this period, famine, high prices, and various abuses aroused resentment against the RXP government. "In addition, the war and a number of reforms in the first years after it provoked protests from various sections of society. In particular, the National Protection Law of 1940 was a heavy economic burden on the people, while the 1942 Law on the Tax on Existence provided for large-scale landowners and landowners. separated The 1944 Land Tax caused a government conflict

with farmers. In particular, the 1945 Peasants' Land Law prompted traders and landowners to form a political opposition to the RXP.

The rise of the democratic movement has worried the ruling circles. Big wealthy bankers, big traders, industrialists and big landowners, investors entered the party's governing body. The Democratic Party used public outcry to seize power. In his program, he began to use nonsense to demand democratic freedoms and the formation of parties and trade unions for workers and industrialists. Opposition members of the People's Republican Party have used their goals to change the party's program and charter, repeal unconstitutional laws and hold one-stage elections.

2. Changes in the world after the Second World War : After the Second World War, the political and ideological landscape of the world took on a new look. The division of the world into two poles and the escalation of political struggles due to the Cold War have affected the political changes in Turkey. On the other hand, the end of World War II with the exposure of fascism made democracy attractive on an international scale. In international politics, democratic governance has come to be regarded as the inalienable foundation of a peaceful political order. Turkey was forced to determine its domestic and foreign policy based on these processes. "Under these circumstances, Turkey had to make political changes in order to join the United Nations and get closer to the West, especially the United States," he said. This rapprochement would not only save Turkey from isolation in international politics, but also pave the way for US economic aid. The strained relations between Turkey and the Soviet Union also intensified the need for rapprochement with the West. "After the Second World War, the Soviet Union demanded land from Turkey and wanted to control the straits, so Turkey felt the need for Western protection. A democratic system would lay the foundation for such cooperation."

The People's Republican Party, which pursued a policy of rapprochement with the United States and Europe, had no idea of leaving power, along with the democratization of social and political life. The Republicans prevented the Democrats from consolidating their activities by holding

snap elections in July 1946. They launched a protest process against the People's Republican Party, accusing them of corruption and falsification of election results. This was at a time when the US Congress was discussing military aid to Turkey. The United States has criticized the XRP for lacking political freedom in the country. XRP leaders have been caught between DP and U.S. criticism and DP demands between the two fires. As a result of the general protest, the Republicans were forced to give in. The party's general council rejected the opposition's demands and expelled them from the party. As a sign of protest, some prominent figures of the People's Republican Party voluntarily left the party. J.Bayar, A.Menderes, F.Koprulu and R.Koraltan formed the Democratic Party (D.P) on January 7, 1946. A society fed up with the ruling party (XRP) welcomes the formation of a new party. The DP, which has the concept and outlook of democracy and a liberal economy, will soon rise. He entered parliament in the 1946 election, and on May 14, 1950, he won the election on his own and came to power. In this way, the era of one-party rule in Turkey will come to an end. For the first time, a change of government has taken place in Turkey by popular vote. In the field of foreign policy, the government relied on the support of the United States, which had published the Truman Doctrine and had begun to take a keen interest in Turkey.

In this context, the investment in Turkey in the shadow of the US Marshall Plan and the Turumen Doctrine led to the establishment of a multiparty system as the United States wanted. In July 1948, an agreement was signed with the United States to provide "economic assistance" to Turkey under the Marshall Plan. This led the country to economic hardship. In 1952, Turkey became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Since then, Turkey has been actively involved in the creation of the Baghdad Pact, a NATO military bloc in the Middle East. After Iraq withdrew from the Baghdad Pact (January 1959), the pact was renamed SENTO. The negative attitude towards the 27-year-old one-party system ensured that the DP (Democratic Party) easily won the 1950

elections. Former RXP allies have also backed the Democratic Party.

3) *Ismet Inenyu's factor*

As a far-sighted politician and head of state, Inenyu could not have watched the post-war winds of freedom and democracy around the world, nor the protests in the country caused by the hardships of the war. That is why he stressed the need for "regime liberalization" in late 1945, and then "the need for an opposition party."

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