

Democracy in Turkey, 1950-1959: Records of the U.S. State Department Classified Files

Follow the political, economic and social development of Turkey during a period of democratization.

Date Range: 1950-1959

Content: 54,489 pages

Source Library: U.S. National Archives

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13	TITLE: Central File, Decimal File 783.54, Internal Political And National Defense Affairs - Turkey, Film, January 13, 1950 - February 27, 1950	SOURCE: Records of the Department of State relating to Internal Affairs, Turkey, 1950-1959	DETAIL: January 11, 1950 - February 27, 1950 Top	COLLECTION: Democracy in Turkey, 1950-1959	View Document Full Citation About This Collection
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15	TITLE: Central File, Decimal File 863.7268, Other Internal Affairs, Communications, Transportation, Science, Air Transportation, Between Country Or Area And Country Or Area Or (Smaller Country Number For --), March 8, 1950	SOURCE: Records of the Department of State relating to Internal Affairs, Turkey, 1950-1959	DETAIL: March 8, 1950 Top	COLLECTION: Democracy in Turkey, 1950-1959	View Document Full Citation About This Collection

The official image of Turkish society promoted by the ruling elite since the 1920s is one of relative constancy. In reality, however, Turkish society is a mosaic of diverse and at times contending ethnic and linguistic groups.

The postwar result of Pres. Atatürk's secularist reforms was the creation of two cultures: a secularized and westernized elite culture, and a mass culture based on traditional religious values.

In the liberalized postwar atmosphere, party politics became a source of instability and democracy. During the 1950s, tensions between the main parties increased as the Democratic Party government of Prime Minister Adnan Menderes became more authoritarian, and the economy suffered inflation and heavy debt.

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