

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



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**Archives Unbound** answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

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

This collection of State Department documents provides access to unique primary source materials on the political, economic and social development of Turkey during a period of democratization in the 1950s.



**Coverage:** 1950-1959

**Size:** 54,489 pages **Source Library:** U.S. National Archives

The Republic of Turkey has matured into a regional power. It pursues economic development within the global free market system. Its tradition of statecraft, inherited from the old empire, has helped it surmount internal political crises and develop a successful foreign policy that has ensured the support of like-minded foreign powers in defense of Turkish national independence and the general world order. Turkey's leaders have promoted cooperation with the West and other advanced industrial countries. In particular, they point to Turkey's unique distinction as a secular Muslim country that governs itself by a freely-elected parliament.

The official image of Turkish society promoted by the ruling elite since the 1920s is one of relative homogeneity. This image has been enshrined in successive constitutions of the republic in which it is stated that "the Turkish state, with its territory and nation, is an indivisible entity." In reality, however, Turkish society is a mosaic of diverse and at times contending ethnic and linguistic groups.

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

Records of the Department of State Relating to Internal Affairs offer immediate access to these records and provide many new insights into how Turkey has shaped their policies toward the U.S. and other nations. This collection illuminates the internal conditions of Turkey in exhaustive detail by reproducing thousands of pages on political, governmental, and military affairs, as well as economic and social issues. It is this kind of documentation—official, in-depth, and on crucial topics—that makes the Records of the Department of State essential for research.

#### U.S. State Department Central Classified Files

The U.S. State Department Central Classified Files are the definitive source of American diplomatic reporting on political, military, social, and economic developments throughout the world in the twentieth century.

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



This publication of U.S. State Department Central Classified Files relating to internal affairs contains a wide range of materials collected and reported from the American Embassy in Ankara and U.S. consular offices, including:

- special reports on political and military affairs
- studies and statistics on socioeconomic matters
- interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign government officials
- court proceedings and other legal documents
- full texts of important letters, instructions, and cables sent and received by U.S. diplomatic personnel
- voluminous reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers
- countless translations of high-level foreign government documents, including speeches, memoranda, official reports, and transcripts of political meetings and assemblies

This collection consists of thousands of pages arranged topically and chronologically on crucial subjects, such as:

- political parties and elections
- unrest and revolution
- human rights
- government
- administration
- fiscal and monetary issues
- labour
- police and crime
- public health and housing
- national defense
- foreign policymaking, wars and alliances
- education, religion and culture
- trade and industry
- natural resources

Research topics include:

- Postwar result of Atatürk's secularist reforms
- Turkish state as an indivisible entity
- Industrial and economic development
- Cultural differences between the modernist and the traditionalist
- Competitive political parties
- Military intervention and government control

## Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection