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**KEMAL ATATURK**  
*Dead—but still dictating*

**President**



**ISMET INONU**  
*Deaf—but with an ear to the ground*

# WHO'S WHO IN TURKEY

*Written for "The Listener"  
by A.M.R.*

**“W**ILL Turkey actively join the Allied cause? This question, which millions have been asking during the last few weeks, has been answered already, as definitely as any question relating to the future ever can be. It was, in fact, answered in writing before ever the war began, in the Will of Kemal Ataturk.

In November, 1938, in his new made capital, the Founder of Modern Turkey (“Ataturk”—“Turk Number One”) lay dying largely of riotous living — 40 years of the sort of living that would have ended the career of any President elsewhere half-a-dozen times over. Yet his countrymen sobbed in the street as the news came through. And women fainted with grief as his bier passed by. Deprived of his headlong and often hated leadership the eighteen million Turks felt helpless children in a hostile, complicated world. Therefore they chose for their successors the men who had been his faithful comrades right through the revolution. And these men in turn took Kemal's plans and principles for their implicit policy. President Inonu, Premier Saracoglu, Foreign Minister Menemencioglu and Commander-in-Chief Chakmak are Turkey's leaders to-day. But the dead hand of Ataturk guides them.

## What Ataturk Did

This is why. In 1920 the Ottoman Empire was down and out. For many years foreign bailiffs had collected (and pocketed) her chief taxes. Now her former subject nationalities — Balkan Slavs, Arabs, Armenians, Greeks—were carving up the land itself. The Sultanate was dead—a mere mask and speaking-trumpet for the Allied Powers who sat along the Straits and in Constantinople. But on the other hand the liberal opposition, who had disastrously conducted the war on Germany's side, were also utterly discredited. The people themselves were

hopeless and apathetic. Only one “wild man,” exiled to a minor post in the interior (all of Free Turkey that was left) refused to let the nation die. The victor of Gallipoli, he had military ability. A former conspirator in the “Young Turk” reformist movement, he had underground connections. A terrific talker and egotist, he could persuade. And above all, from his experiences in conspiracy and war, he knew what his nation needed — a clean break from the past, speedy education and modernisation, and a thorough-going social revolution from the bottom up. By the time he died Turkey had had all three, was prosperous as never before (in the real sense of *spread* welfare), had regained her racial boundaries, and, coveting nothing further, was on excellent terms with all her nearby former subjects and enemies.

Only the onset of a general world war cast its shadow over Ankara. Kemal, when dying, laid down the national line towards it: “So long as you honorably can, keep out of war. If you do have to fight *don't* do it on the German side. With them you lose even if you win.” That is Turkish policy to-day.

## Contrast in Leaders

Only one successor to Ataturk was conceivable—Ismet Inonu, his administrative shadow since 1920. But what a contrast to the wild, lowering, volcanic, and utterly amoral Ghazi! Ismet, a year older (58), was small, neat, reserved, soft-voiced, a devoted family man, a Muslim to whom religion meant something at least. As a general he was said to have been a martinet. As an administrator he was accused of bureaucratic rigidity. And what is one to do with a Head of State who is deaf!

Nevertheless his services to Turkey had been, and were, second only to Ataturk's and complimentary to them. His tenacious organising, which had won

*(continued on next page)*