

"The Turkish Empire will disintegrate and fall into the hands of European civilization."

The
above words
belong to a
famous
man who left

his mark on an era:
Karl Marx.

In his letter to Engels dated March 10, 1853, regarding the Eastern Question, Marx predicted, "The Turkish Empire (Ottoman Empire) will fall into the hands of European Civilization in one way or another."

Has Türkiye, which has been pushing at Europe's doors since 1959 to become a full member of the European Union, really fallen into Europe's hands, confirming this prediction?

Relations between Europe and the Ottoman Empire (Europeans always called the Ottoman Empire the Turkish Empire) reached their most intense form in the last two hundred years, and the Ottomans tried to adapt Western law, technology, bureaucracy, etc.: first with the Tanzimat Edict of 1839 and then with the Islahat Edict of 1856, and made many regulations regarding this.

This adaptation reached a new level with the declaration of the Republic in 1923. With the Republic, Turks transitioned for the first time from an Eastern form of government and state to a Western form of state.

For strengthening the infrastructure of this form of government, many revolutions were subsequently made, even in the superstructure.

The New Republic also took part politically in international institutions in which Western officials were a minority in the 1930s, such as the League of Nations and signed a "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation" with the British and French during World War II.

With the end of the war, Türkiye transitioned to a democratic system in order to become a member of the UN and became a member of the Council of Europe, OECD and NATO

1957 in Rome, Europe

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Two years
after the signing of the
agreement
establishing the Economic
Community, Türkiye

applied to the EEC in
1959.

Due to the intervention
of the 1960 Military Coup, the
Association Agreement with the EEC

could only be signed on
12 September 1963.

Lausanne Hero İsmet İnönü, who signed the treaty as the Prime Minister of the time, said during the signing ceremony, "With this treaty, Turkey is bound to Europe forever."

The process is accelerating. The Additional Protocol, signed with the EEC in 1970 and delayed three years from entering into force due to the Military Intervention of March 12, 1971, aimed to add Türkiye to the EEC's Customs Union after a 22-year period.

This was realised in 1995 with the Association Council Decision No. 1/95, and as of January 1, 1996, Türkiye established a Customs Union with the EU.

The integration of Turks into European civilization had to continue on a political level. In December 1993, at the Helsinki Summit, the EU declared Türkiye a candidate member state.

The new goal now is to begin full membership negotiations with the EU. This will mark the end of the Westernization process, because the country has begun negotiations and yet failed to complete them.

Turkey, by adapting the Republic from Western Civilization, will first Westernize

its state form, and now, five days before its rendezvous with history, it will complete its Westernization (or civilization) process by adapting Democracy, the spirit and virtue of the Republic, with all its institutions and rules.

If what Karl Marx meant by the Turks falling into the hands of European Civilization was the Turks' integration with Europe, then Karl Marx seems to have made the right prediction.