

Nilüfer Göle discusses the challenges Turkey faces in balancing the religious and the secular.

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The Speaker

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Review Questions

CHAPTER 1: *Göle explains how Turkey has come to be a contemporary example of the adaptation of Islamic tradition and culture to a modern democracy, and describes the difficulties inherent in this combination.*

1. Describe some of the effects of Turkey's efforts to modernize and secularize the country.

CHAPTER 2: *Göle talks about issues of national and individual identity in Turkish society as tensions have developed between secular and religious views of democracy.*

1. Give an example of how secularism has come into conflict with the democratization process in Turkey.
2. Why does Göle disagree with the view that Turkish secularism is only possible through military power?

CHAPTER 3: *Göle compares Turkish and French secularism, and describes how the enforcement of secularism has shaped modern Turkey.*

1. How has secularism come to represent modern life in Turkey?

CHAPTER 4: *Göle describes the mix of traditional and modern religious thought in Turkey, an outgrowth of the urbanization and politicization of the Turkish Muslim identity.*

1. What factors led to an increase in dissent against Turkish secularism?
2. What does Göle mean by "spatial transgression," and how has this phenomenon fueled tension in Turkish society?

CHAPTER 5: *Göle talks about controversies on issues of religion in the public sphere, like the wearing of headscarves in Turkish universities.*

1. Describe the debate over the wearing of headscarves in Turkish universities.
2. How do different concepts of Turkish identity appear in Turkey's public sphere?

CHAPTER 6: *Göle discusses some of the ways the Turkish government influences social debates, as well as the complex role of secularism in Turkey.*

1. How does Göle explain the role of secularism in modern Turkish democracy?

Key Figures and Vocabulary

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
Founder and first President of the Turkish Republic. A distinguished military figure, Atatürk led the Turkish national liberation struggle before becoming President in 1923. From this time until his death in 1938, he introduced political and social reforms, paving the way for a secular system of government in Turkey.

Atatürk Reforms
Reforms implemented by Atatürk after the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The intent of the reforms was to promote secularism and modernism over Islamic tradition.

Laïcité
State policies that keep religion outside of the public sphere, restricting any public expressing of religion. Example: The banning of headscarves in Turkish universities.

Webcast: Exploring 9/11 – The World Before and After Supplementary Materials

CHAPTER 7: Göle describes the effects of secular/religious tensions on Turkey's candidacy for membership in the European Union, as well as a new religious identity developing among European Muslims.

1. What are some of the obstacles Turkey faces as it pursues membership in the EU, according to Göle?

CHAPTER 8: Göle talks about the prominence of Islam in discussions of globalism since 9/11, as well as how the event has changed the way she approaches her work.

1. Why does Göle believe that Islam is the active ingredient in current discussions about globalism?

Questions for Further Discussion

1. Göle says Turkey represents the success of the project of modernity. How do you measure the success of modernity? Is secularism necessarily modern?
2. Explain how a Muslim woman attending a university in Turkey could upset both secular feminists and religious traditionalists.
3. Göle mentions three entry points for participating in a society: education, the market, and politics. How has Islam affected these three spheres in modern Turkey?
4. How would the secularism debate in Turkey be complicated by an emphasis on privacy?
5. Give an example of how secularism can come into conflict with the democratic process.
6. What are some of the implications for the European Union of accepting Turkey as a member? What are the implications for the European identity?

Recommended Resources

Göle, Nilüfer. *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling (Critical Perspectives on Women and Gender)*. (University of Michigan Press, 1997)

Göle, Nilüfer, Ludwig Ammann. *Islam in Public*. (Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2006)

Barkey, Henri J. *Reluctant Neighbor: Turkey's Role in the Middle East*. (United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997)

Ozyurek, Esra. *Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey*. (Duke University Press, 2006)