

# The *creation* of Turkey's and Atatürk's myths and symbols'

**Dr Hatice Sitki**



# GökTürks + Türkiye + Atatürk

This presentation is about how myths and symbols of Mustafa Kemal *became* ‘Atatürk’

- Osman Empire changed into ‘The Republic of Türkiye’ .

# Re-Creation of new Identity

- Michael Billig ‘Banal’ + Hobsbawn ‘Invented Traditions’
  - ‘Visible + not silent’ (Sitki:2009)
  - ‘Not Visible + silent’ (Sitki:2009)
- Roland Barthes – Semiotics
- Jacques Derrida - Deconstruction

# Six GökTürk Arrows



- ▣ GökTürks:
  
- ▣ Gök:
  - Blue
  - Sky
  
- ▣ Unification of 'Six Türkic Tribes under one Tribe + Leader

# The Six Arrows

- Republicanism ( **Cumhuriyetçili** )
- Nationalism ( **Milliyetçilik** )
- Populism ( **Halkçılık** )
- Secularism ( **Lâiklik** )
- Statism or Etatism ( **Develetçilik** )
- Reformism ( **Inkilâpçilik** )

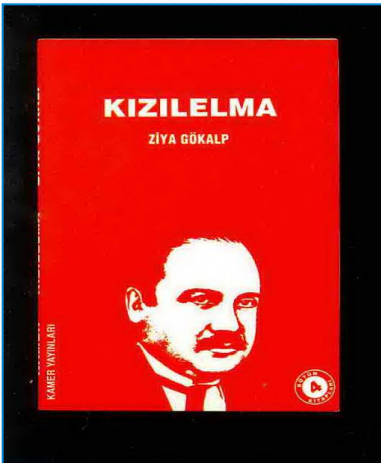
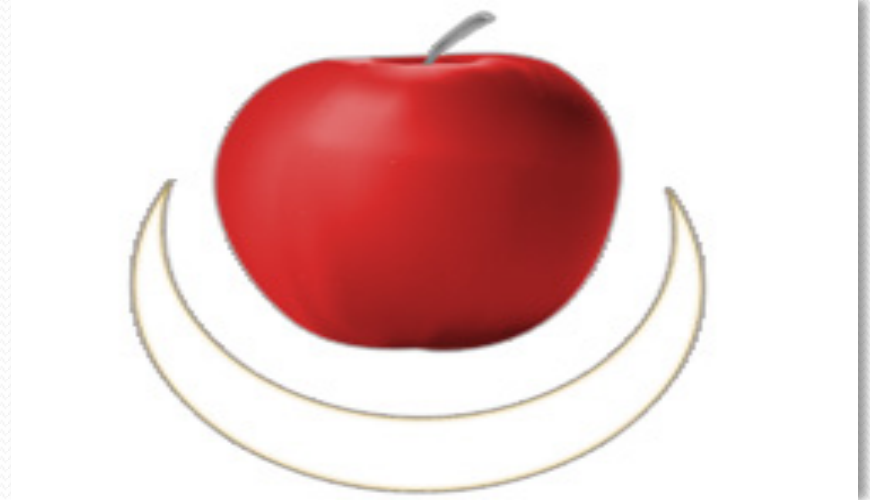
# Asena – the Boz Kurt (Gray Wolf)





Dr Hatice Sitki: The 'creation' of Turkey's and Ataturk's myths and symbols '16 July 2014

# Kizil Elma + Turan





# GökTürks



# Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

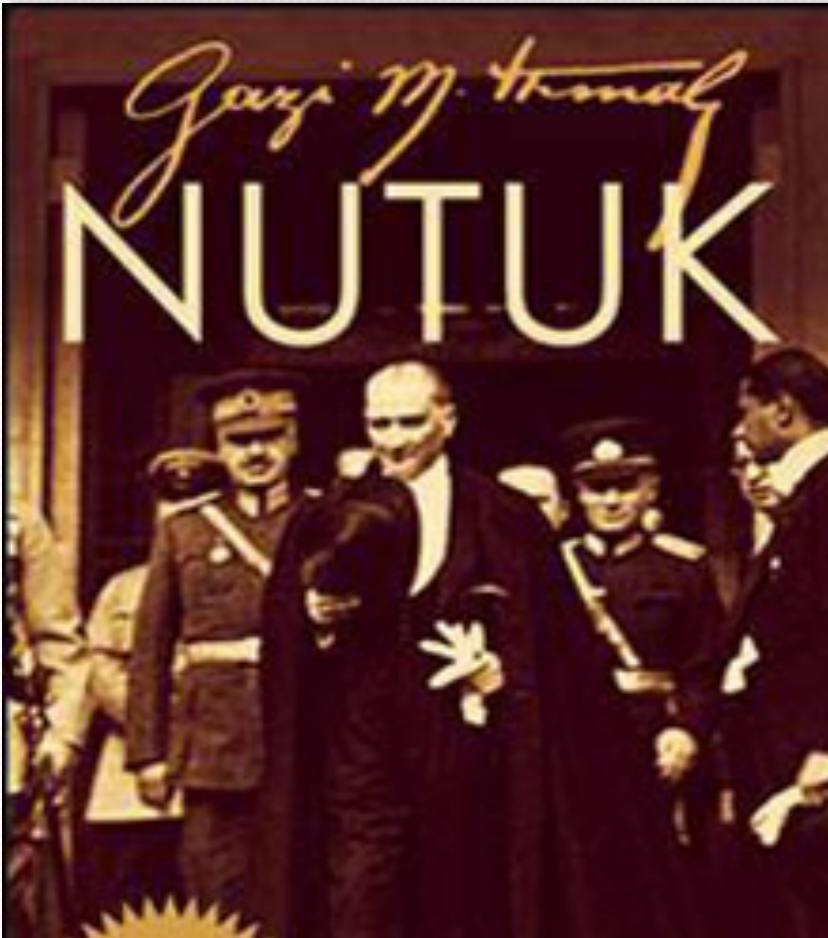


- ▣ Mustafa:
  - Given first name
  - Chosen one
- ▣ Kemal:
  - Given second/Surname
  - Clever
- ▣ Atatürk
- ▣ Ata (father) + Türk
- ▣ Progenitor/Father of *all* Türks
- ▣ Asena (Mother of all Türks)
- ▣ ‘Chosen (one) + Perfection + Father’ (Sitki: 2009)

# Atatürk' s myths and symbols becomes synonymous with the Republic' s



# Atatürk' s Nutuk



- ▣ Set up structure and collective group identity of the Republic
- ▣ Gazi (Fighter) Mustafa Kemal '*visibly + not silently*' (Sitki:2009) changes to:
  - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
  - Ata + Türk to his Tribe.

# İstiklâl Marşı National Anthem 'Freedom March'

- Fear not! For the red flag that proudly ripples in this glorious twilight, shall never fade,  
Before the last fiery hearth that is ablaze within my nation is extinguished.  
For That is the star of my nation, and it will forever shine;  
It is mine; and solely belongs to my valiant nation.
  - Frown not, I beseech you, oh thou coy crescent,  
But smile upon my heroic race! Why the anger, why the rage?  
Our blood which we shed for you will not be blessed otherwise;  
For freedom is the absolute right of my God-worshipping nation.
  - I have been free since the beginning and forever will be so.  
What madman shall put me in chains! I defy the very idea!  
I'm like the roaring flood; powerful and independent,  
I'll tear apart mountains, exceed the heavens and still gush out!
  - The lands of the West may be armored with walls of steel,  
But I have borders guarded by the mighty chest of a believer.  
Recognize your innate strength, my friend! And think: how can this fiery faith ever be killed,  
By that battered, single-fanged monster you call "civilization"?
  - My friend! Leave not my homeland to the hands of villainous men!  
Render your chest as armor and your body as trench! Stop this disgraceful rush!  
For soon shall come the joyous days of divine promise...  
Who knows? Perhaps tomorrow? Perhaps even sooner!
  - View not the soil you tread on as mere earth, recognize it!  
And think about the shroudless thousands who lie so nobly beneath you.  
You're the noble son of a martyr, take shame, hurt not your ancestor!  
Unhand not, even when you're promised worlds, this paradise of a homeland.
  - What man would not die for this heavenly piece of land?  
Martyrs would gush out were one to just squeeze the soil! Martyrs!  
May God take all my loved ones and possessions from me if He will,  
But may He not deprive me of my one true homeland for the world.
  - Oh glorious God, the sole wish of my pain-stricken heart is that,  
No feather's hand should ever touch the bosom of my sacred Temples.  
These adhan's, whose shahadahs are the foundations of my religion,  
And may their noble sound last loud and wide over my eternal homeland.
  - For only then, shall my fatigued tombstone, if there is one, prostrate a thousand times in ecstasy,  
And tears of fiery blood shall flow out of my every wound,  
And my lifeless body shall gush out from the earth like an eternal spirit,  
Perhaps only then, shall I peacefully ascend and at long last reach the heavens.
  - So flap and wave like the bright dawning sky, oh thou glorious crescent,  
So that our every last drop of blood may finally be worthy!  
Neither you nor my race shall ever be extinguished!  
For freedom is the absolute right of my ever-free flag;  
For freedom is the absolute right of my God-worshipping nation!
- Korkma, sönmez bu şafaklarda yüzen al sancak;  
Sönmeden yurdumun üstünde tüten en son ocak.  
O benim milletimin yıldızıdır parlayacak;  
O benimdir, o benim milletimindir ancak.
  - Çatma, kurban olayım çehreni ey nazlı hilal!  
Kahraman ırkıma bir gül! ne bu şiddet bu celal?  
Sana olmaz dökülen kanlarımız sonra helal,  
Hakkıdır, Hak'ka tapan, milletimin istiklal!
  - Ben ezelden beridir hür yaşadım, hür yaşarım.  
Hangi çılgın bana zincir vuracakmış? Şaşarım;  
Kükremiş sel gibiyim, bendimi çiğner aşarım;  
Yırtarım dağları, enginlere sığmam, taşarım.
  - Garbın afakını sarmışsa çelik zırhlı duvar,  
Benim iman dolu göğsüm gibi serhaddim var.  
Ulusun, korkma! Nasıl böyle bir imanı boğar.  
"Medeniyet!" dediğin tek dişi kalmış canavar?
  - Arkadaş! Yurduma alçakları uğratma sakın!  
Siper et gövdeni, dursun bu hayasızca akın.  
Doğacaktır sana vaadettiği günler Hak'kın;  
Kimbilir, belki yarın, belki yarından da yakın.
  - Bastığın yerleri "toprak" diyerek geçme, tanı!  
Düşün, altında binlerce kefensiz yatanı.  
Sen şehit oğlusun, incitme, yazıktır atanı;  
Verme, dünyaları alsan da bu cennet vatanı.
  - Kim bu cennet vatanın uğruna olmaz ki feda?  
Şüheda fışkıracak toprağı sıksan, şüheda!  
Canı, cananı, bütün varımı alsın da Hüda,  
Etmesin tek vatanımdan beni dünyada cüda.
  - Ruhumun senden, ilahi şudur ancak emeli;  
Değmesin mabedimin göğsüne na-mahrem eli!  
Bu ezanlar ki şahadetleri dinin temeli,  
Ebedi yurdumun üstünde benim inlemeli.
  - O zaman vecd ile bin secde eder varsa taşım;  
Her cerihamdan, ilahi, boşanıp kanlı yaşım,  
Fışkırır ruh-ı mücerret gibi yerden naşım;  
O zaman yükselerek arşa değer belki başım!
  - Dalgalan sen de şafaklar gibi ey şanlı hilal;  
Olsun artık dökülen kanlarımın hepsi helal!  
Ebediyen sana yok, ırkıma yok izmihlal.  
Hakkıdır, hür yaşamış bayrağımın hürriyet;  
Hakkıdır, Hak'ka tapan milletimin istiklal!

# Anit Kabir



- Anit : Memorial (Türkish)
- Kabir : Grave, Tomb, Memorial, Great (in size) (Arabic)
- Bridge word + Place
- Join:
- ‘*Past + Present + Future*’ (Sitki: 2009)
- East + West progenitors
- *Hittite + Phrygians + Selçuk Empire + Osman Empire + Republic + (Republic/Türks) off-spring* (Sitki: 2009)

# GökTürks



- Makbule Atadan

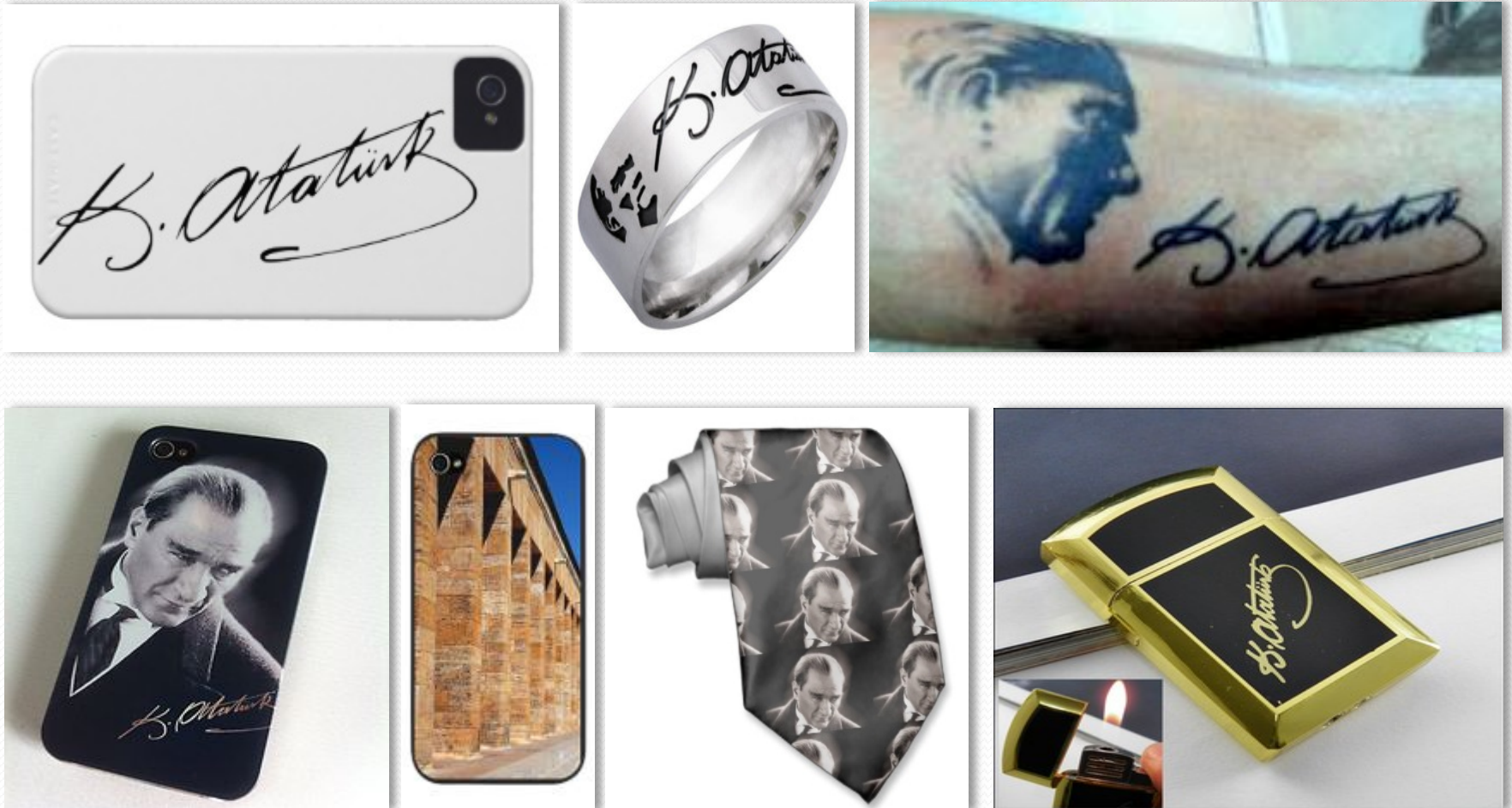


# Türkey' s new identity Emblem





# Revival of Atatürk symbolism or 'banal' tourist merchandise?



# Revival of Türkiye/Atatürk' s Myths and symbols?



# Revival of Türkiye/Atatürk' s Myths and Symbols?



# Conclusion

- This presentation demonstrated how the present collective group identity of the Republic of Turkey and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk has been deliberately created using Gök Türk myths and symbols.
- GökTürk myths and symbols gave the Republic longevity and continued the Türks' *'military mentality myth'*.