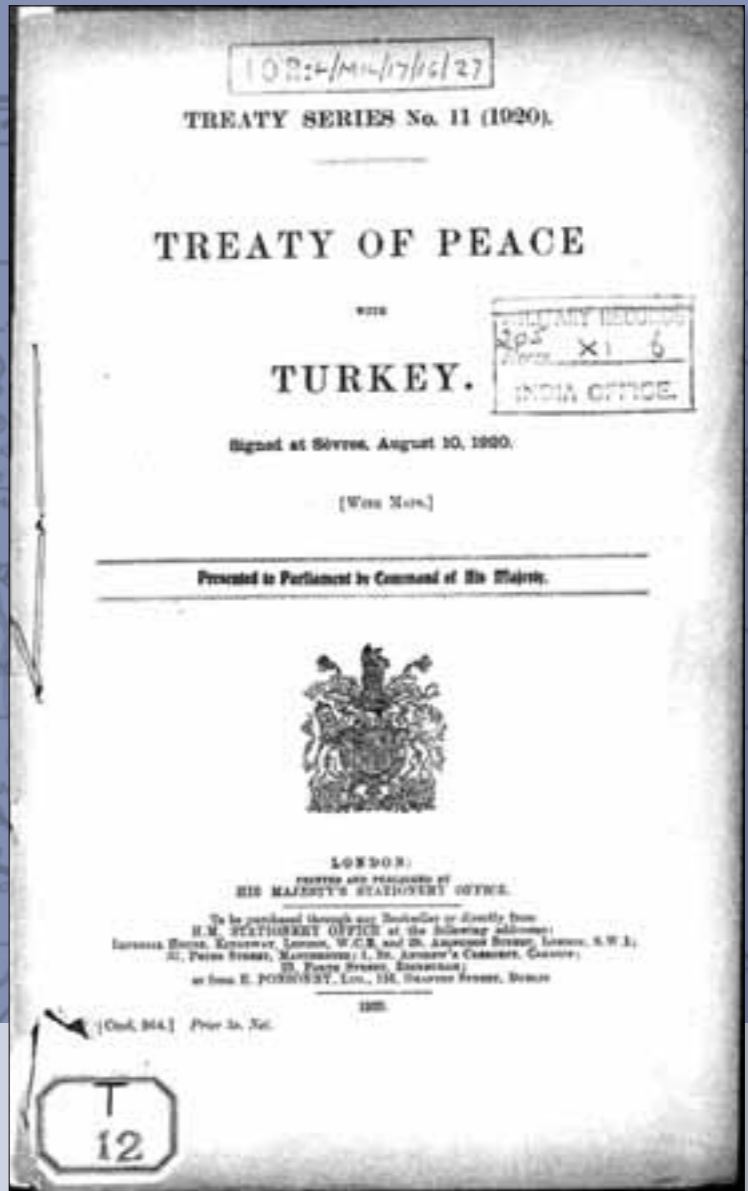





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The Rise of Modern Turkey, c. 1903-1939

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When Kemal Atatürk died in 1938, the British Ambassador to Turkey wrote to the Foreign Office about the “vast strides in moral, material and political progress” made by the country under “the dynamic impulse of this remarkable man”. His report is one of a series included in this collection of political and secret files and confidential printed material from the India Office archives at the British Library.



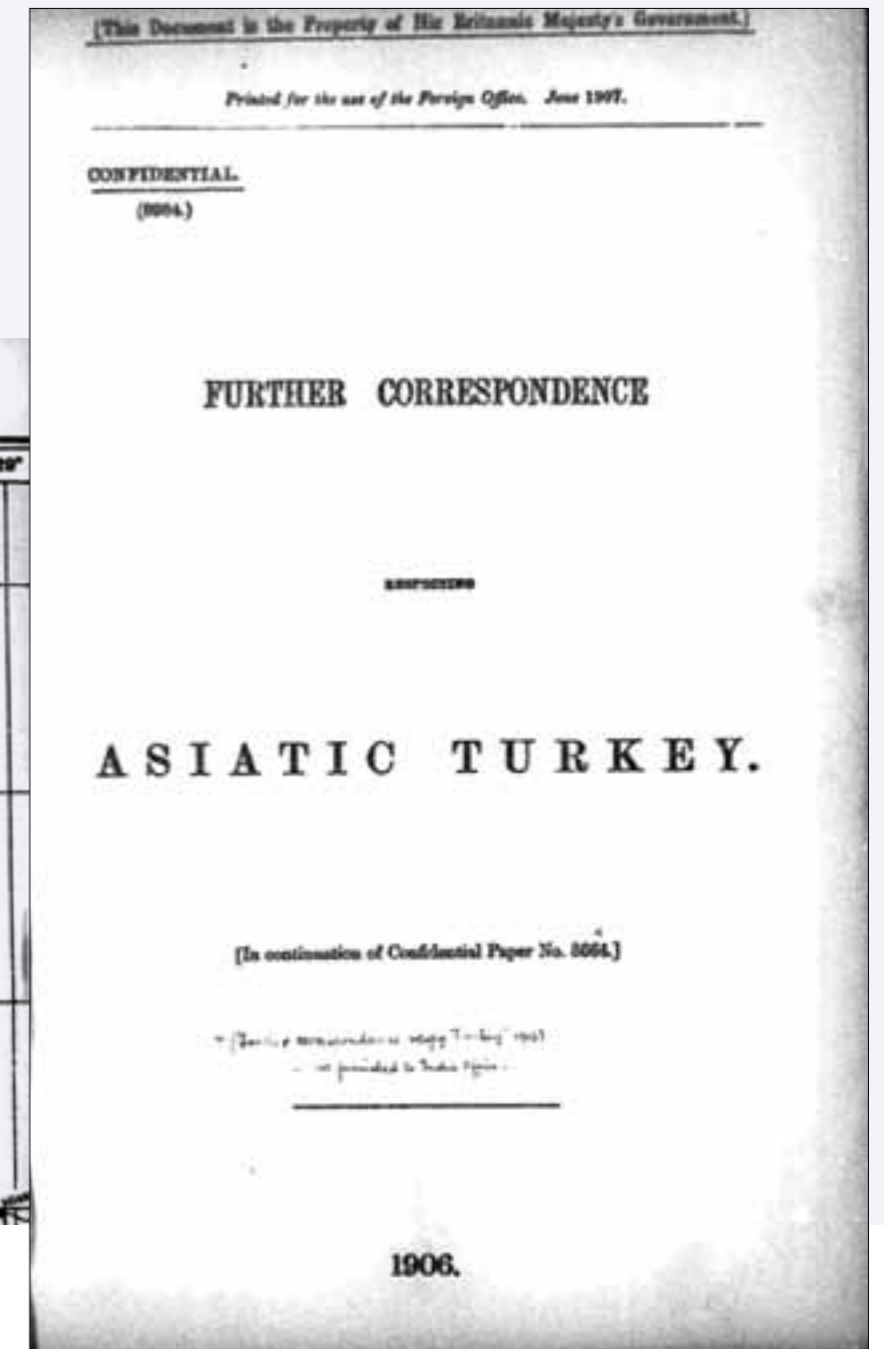
The collection focuses on the last years of the Ottoman Empire, the First World War and the emergence of the modern Turkish Republic up to the death of Atatürk. It begins with the build up of international tension before the War, symbolised by the Baghdad railway project. At the same time the material also presents a picture of the internal political development of modern Turkey from the Young Turk revolution in 1908 and 1909. A series of printed confidential Foreign Office correspondence describes the political situation in Constantinople and events in other Ottoman territories in the 1900s. During the First World War there are secret and confidential intelligence reports and handbooks on all the Turkish provinces.

After the end of hostilities in 1918 the files detail the lengthy peace negotiations, the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire and the official diplomatic recognition of the new Turkish state by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. They contain reports on foreign relations, boundaries and territorial issues including the hostilities between Turkey and Greece in the early 1920s. In the domestic sphere, they also contain detailed information on the financial and economic situation, education, the distribution of population, military and naval affairs and aviation.

This British Library material, published for the first time, provides a unique opportunity to study the origins of modern Turkey and its historical position in Europe and the wider world.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MATERIAL

- BIT-1 Handbooks and Intelligence Reports, 1908-1920
- BIT-2 Foreign Office Confidential Printed Correspondence, 1906-1913
- BIT-3 Ottoman decline and the First World War: Political and Secret Files, 1903-1919
- BIT-4 The post-war settlement and the Turkish Republic: Political and Secret Files and Collections, 1918-1939



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTION

- Personalities -Turkey, Admiralty, War Staff Intelligence Division, 1916
- A handbook of Turkey in Europe London: Admiralty, War Staff Intelligence Division, 1917
- Anatolia. Handbook prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office, 1919
- The rise of the Turks. The Pan-Turanian Movement. Handbook prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office, 1919
- Railways in Asiatic Turkey and the Baghdad Railway negotiations, 1903-1914
- Turco-Italian war, 1911-1913
- The Caliphate and Pan-Arab movement, 1914-1918
- The question of the Caliphate and Sultanate, 1919-1925
- Treaty of Peace with Turkey: Treaties of Sèvres and Lausanne, 1919-1930
- Turkey and Greece: war and peace, 1921-1923
- Foreign Office annual printed reports on Turkish affairs, 1926-1938,
- Remilitarisation of Dardanelles: Montreux Conference, 1936-1937