

THE MONTHLY TRAILER

Echoes of November: Milestones, Memories and Legacy Makers



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ATATÜRK

-ONE OF US-

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is a historical figure who had a great role in the course of history. A role which was strong and effective enough to leave its mark on the fate of Turkish society and to guide the events of his time. We all know Atatürk for his historical and political achievements, but we don't know enough about his private life and character outside of his historical personality. However, Atatürk is one of us with his sense of humor, his favorite foods and his dressing style. In this article, we will get to know Atatürk beyond the history lessons we have taken.

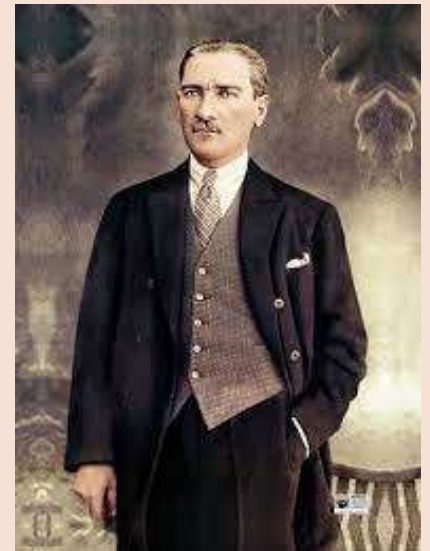
Atatürk's Dinner Tables

Throughout his life, Atatürk used dinner tables as an environment for free thought and political debate. The people he didn't like sat at his table as well as the people he liked. At these tables, he made his criticisms directly to his interlocutors. Atatürk's use of dinner tables for political purposes disturbed some people. Enver Pasha, the shining star of the Committee of Union and Progress, was extremely uncomfortable with Atatürk's table conversations. However, Atatürk proved that he wasn't speaking randomly by repeating his ideas expressed at dinner tables at the Committee of Union and Progress headquarters. Most of the time, there was no meat on these tables. Bulgur, chickpeas, beans and olives constituted the main menu. At all times, the table was definitely set and guests were invited. Various entertainments and activities, such as wrestling, were also performed at these tables. But their main function was that policies were being formed here. In short, governments were overthrown, opposition parties were opened or closed, important statesmen fell into disgrace due to various rumors and the first steps of great reforms were taken at these dinner tables.



Atatürk's Dressing Style

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is also considered as the most stylish leader ever in the history of politics. According to the words of his personal tailor, Levon Kordonciyan, he had great knowledge of fashion. He was a style icon. He himself explained to the tailors what kind of designs he wanted for sports, as suits and accessories and he would go beyond the standards by even drawing them. Back then, there weren't many fabric options in our country, so Atatürk used to import fabrics that suited his style. He had his trouser legs cut loose to make him look taller. Since he had nephropathy, he designed vests with knitwear fabric on the back to keep his back warm. Even when he was sick, elegance was a part of his life. Atatürk paid great attention to details in his style. He had clothes tailored according to the accessories he bought from different countries. He didn't lag behind the world's fashion. The hat was the most important accessory for him, he always carried it with him. His cane, gloves, tie, bowtie, scarf and even his pocket square were whole. Even in the photographs that Atatürk sits, his socks are flat as a board because he used sock garters to make his socks look straight.



Atatürk's Sense of Humour

Atatürk had a good sense of humor. He made some very funny jokes. Once, Atatürk attended an invitation after the War of Independence. He noticed a young man who was sitting alone and looking at him. Atatürk gave a greeting with his head but got no response. So, Atatürk ignored him and returned to chat with his friends. After a while, when Atatürk looked at the young man again, he saw he was still looking at him but this time in anger. Atatürk called the waiter over and said "Ask this young man why he is looking at me." The waiter went and asked him what Atatürk said but the young man didn't understand. This time the waiter went with a translator and asked the same question. The young man raised his voice and responded with harsh movements. The waiter came back and said "Pasha! He is an Anzac. He says you killed his father in Çanakkale." Atatürk told very calmly "Go and ask what his father was doing in Çanakkale."

In 1933, the King of Yugoslavia visited Türkiye and a wonderful table was set. Later in the night, as they were drinking alcohol, the King of Yugoslavia, relaxed and said "During the armistice days following the World War, the Allied Powers offered me the occupation of Türkiye before Greece. But I rejected this offer without hesitation so they had to choose Greece." Thereupon, Mustafa Kemal stood up, shook the King's hand and said: "I am happy for you and your nation."



Atatürk at Dolmabahçe Palace with King Alexander, the King of Yugoslavia.

Atatürk's Habits

Atatürk didn't like to eat breakfast. He used to get up late because of the night meals. When he woke up, he would sit on his sofa, drink a cup of coffee and light a cigarette. Then, he would get his massage, shave and go to his workroom. He used to consume a slice of bread and a bowl of ayran or yoghurt as breakfast and lunch. He had an obsession for symmetry and order. He couldn't feel comfortable without straightening the crooked objects at his home and even in the houses where he was a guest.

Even though he came to close quarters with the enemy on the battlefields, he would feel faint when he saw blood outside the battlefields.

Apart from horses, his favorite animals were dogs. He loved birds very much, too. He had a dovecote in Çankaya Mansion that was taken care of by a caretaker.

He spoke a clean and attentive Turkish. However, he used to pronounce some words with a Rumelian accent. Mathematics was his favorite subject in his educational life. He even wrote a geometry book. He found Turkish equivalents for geometry terms of Arabic and Persian origins.

There is no one like Atatürk in the world. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was an incredible person with his acute mind, intellectualism, elegance and as a historical figure. He is the greatest leader the world has ever seen. He saved a nation who had lost his hope and fallen into the hands of Allied Powers. When a foreigner came to visit Atatürk but didn't shake Atatürk's hand because his own hands were dirty, Atatürk said "My country's land is clean, washed with the blood of martyrs. That hand can't pollute us!" and then shook his hand. Atatürk gained an international reputation during his lifetime. Even after many years, he still hasn't lost this respect. He was such a great leader that even death couldn't defeat him. You truly die when the last person on earth who remembers you dies. So, Atatürk is immortal. He will remain immortal. I think what really matters is not to die in people's eyes while you're still alive, but to manage to prevail in people's minds and hearts even many years after you die. In the 86th year of his death, we commemorate our great leaders with love, respect and longing.

THE ALPHABET REVOLUTION

THE REBIRTH OF A NATION

As the Republic of Turkiye was completing its fifth year and revolutions were being made one after the other, Mustafa Kemal and his friends were getting prepared to take the biggest and most important step of the revolution.

On November 1st 1928, with the Alphabet Revolution in Turkiye, an era was closed and a new one began. Breaking ties with the old meant that a nation rebuilt itself. The transition to the Latin alphabet was not only a change of letters but also a change of mentality and perspective.

Turkish people used different alphabets throughout history. The first alphabet used was the Gokturk Alphabet, which was also the first national alphabet. Secondly, the Uighur Turks used an alphabet unique to them. And after the adoption of Islam, the Arabic alphabet began to be used.

The Arabic alphabet used during the Ottoman Empire was suitable for the social structure of that period. However, this writing system could not carry Turkey into the future because it didn't align with the modernization process that started with the proclamation of the Republic. Arabic script was difficult to learn and to use, the literacy rate was low and the level of education among the population was low. New Turkiye wanted to reverse this situation, enlighten the public, and establish a closer relation with the West.

The biggest obstacle in the way of progress was ignorance. The Arabic alphabet was related to religious texts, illiterate people viewed all books written in Arabic from a religious perspective and everything written in the script of the holy book was sacralized. For this reason, even the mere ability to read and write was associated with religion. The illiterate people were unable to write on their own and needed the help of those who knew the old script. Mustafa Kemal, determined to save the nation from this situation, showed the way to salvation with the following words: ***"The great Turkish nation can only be saved from ignorance immediately, with little effort and by a means that easily fits into its beautiful and noble language. This key to literacy is the new Turkish alphabet which is based on the Latin alphabet."***

The transition to the Latin alphabet was a concrete step in this endeavor. Of course, everything couldn't change overnight; this revolution required an educational mobilization that would last for years. Villages and towns were traveled to teach the new alphabet, everyone, young and old, had to adapt to this change. However, people mostly welcomed this process with excitement and hope. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the pioneer of this revolution, took care of his people, stood at the blackboard, and taught them the alphabet.



The Alphabet Revolution was an educational reform and one of the most important steps in Turkiye's search for identity. The goal was not to reject the past but to build the future with the help of lessons learned from the past. The transition to Latin script changed the world's view about Turkiye; this step toward modernization inspired the country's reforms in other areas. Today, we still see the effects of the Alphabet Revolution; the increase in the literacy rate, the radical changes in the education system, and Turkish culture flourishing.

The idea behind this reform was simple yet powerful: if a nation was to progress, it must be able to read, write, and express itself. The Latin alphabet gave Turkiye this opportunity; modernization was possible through technological and economic developments together with mental transformation.

This reform means rewriting not only the letters but also the future of a nation.

Işık Yavuz 11/ A

BERLIN WALL

Why was the Berlin Wall constructed?

The Berlin Wall was one of the most powerful symbols of the Cold War and was built on August 13th, 1961. After World War II, East Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union, while West Germany was influenced by the United States, Britain, and France. Berlin was at the center of this division, and many people were leaving East Germany to escape to the West. To stop this, the East German government decided to build a wall separating the two sides. From 1961 to 1989, the Berlin Wall was not just a physical barrier; it also represented the divide between East and West, as well as oppression and fear. Building the wall showed how weak the East German economy and government were, as they struggled to keep people from leaving.



What Was Its Significance and Impact on Berliners?

The Berlin Wall was more than just a border; it was a symbol of the conflict between capitalism in the West and communism in the East. It highlighted the differences between freedom in the West and repression in the East. While West Berlin prospered and enjoyed democracy, East Berlin faced poverty and strict government control. The construction of the wall shocked many Berliners, separating families and friends overnight.

In the West, people felt angry and united against this injustice, while in the East, there was a growing sense of hopelessness. Over time, many East Germans tried to escape the oppressive regime. Some dug tunnels, while others planned secret routes. Stories like that of Peter Fechter, who died trying to escape, showed the harsh reality of life behind the wall.

How Was the Berlin Wall Brought Down?

The fall of the Berlin Wall is remembered as a major victory for freedom and unity. In the late 1980s, economic problems in East Germany, reforms in the Soviet Union, and rising public protests created a situation that led to the wall's fall. On November 9, 1989, an East German official mistakenly announced that border crossings would be allowed immediately. This announcement led thousands of East Berliners to rush to the checkpoints, demanding access to the West.



Faced with this overwhelming pressure, border guards opened the gates. That night, people from both East and West climbed on the wall and celebrated its destruction in a historic moment. This event not only marked the reunification of Berlin but also symbolized the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany. After the wall fell, artists used its remains to create works of art. The East Side Gallery is now a famous outdoor gallery that celebrates the wall's destruction.

November 25th: The Dissolution of Czechoslovakia

November is generally known as the month when the weather gets colder and thicker clothes reappear. But with a little research, you can see that this month also hosts important events and births. In this issue of *Monthly Trailer*, I would like to draw attention to one of these important events: *Approval of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia on November 25th, 1992.*

First of all, you need to know about the history of Czechoslovakia to understand the dissolution of it. Czechoslovakia is a country that existed in Central Europe between 1918 and 1992. Its capital before dissolution was Prague. It was surrounded by Austria and Hungary to the southeast, Ukraine to the east, Poland to the northeast, and Germany to the northwest and west. The founding of Czechoslovakia dates back to World War I. After World War I ended in defeat for Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia sought independence. Czechoslovakia, which declared its independence with the approval of the national council on October 28, 1918, is one of the states located on the territory of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Czechoslovakia dissolved after 74 years of existence as a joint state of Czechs and Slovaks. It is a known fact that most divisions do not end well. The dissolution of the USSR was no exception to this rule as the nation itself, along with many of the individual states within it, fell apart in the early 90s. However, one country, the Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia, proved resilient to the tendency towards violence and conflict when a state split. In history, this event is called the "Velvet Revolution."

There are several important factors among the reasons for the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, that is, the Velvet Revolution:

- 1. Ethnic Conflicts:** Czechoslovakia was a country where different ethnic groups, especially Czechs and Slovaks, lived together. Over time the increasing tension and differences between these groups led to the emergence of a search for national identity.
- 2. Political and Economic Problems:** After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, economic reforms led Slovaks to demand greater autonomy.
- 3. Historical Differences:** Czechs and Slovaks have had different cultural and political experiences throughout history. These differences in history strengthened the desire to establish their own states.
- 4. International Factors:** With the end of the Cold War, many countries in Central Europe began to demand independence and reform. This accelerated the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Other nations' desire to establish their own states influenced the Czechs and Slovaks to follow in their footsteps.
- 5. Conflict Between Czech and Slovak Leaders:** Political disagreements between the leaders of the two groups weakened unity in the country and eventually led to the decision to separate peacefully.

With all these reasons combined, The Federal Assembly voted to approve the dissolution of Czechoslovakia on November 25th, 1992. Czechoslovakia was dissolved on December 31st, 1992. But there was something very interesting about the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Yes, people talked about whether the dissolution of this country was the right decision, whether the changes in the economy, social life and administration were correct, and the reasons for the dissolution. But it wasn't any of these that made this revolution special. This revolution was special because no people were killed during the revolution and the separation of Czechoslovakia. The process was completed without shedding blood and in peace, which has made it unforgettable to our day.

Defne Kanat 10/ A

Brazil Becoming A Republic

Brazil became a republic in a relatively peaceful process following a military coup that overthrew Emperor Dom Pedro II and ended the Brazilian Empire on November 15, 1889. This transition was driven by a combination of political, social, and economic factors. The main reasons behind Brazil's transition from a 67-year monarchy to a republic are:

- ◆ Growing Discontent in the Military: The Brazilian military became increasingly dissatisfied with the monarchy.
- ◆ Abolition of Slavery: The abolition of slavery in 1888 was a major turning point. Although the law was progressive, many landowners and elites who relied on slave labor felt alienated and abandoned by the monarchy because the government provided no compensation for the loss of their labor.
- ◆ Republican Sentiment: During the 19th century, republican ideals were gaining momentum in Brazil, inspired by other countries in the Americas and Europe that had overthrown monarchies and established republics. The monarchy was seen as obsolete.
- ◆ The Declining Influence of Dom Pedro II: Dom Pedro II was a respected monarch, but by the end of the 19th century, his popularity and political power had waned. He was aging, had no male heir, and was personally uninterested in remaining in power. He wasn't interested in preserving the monarchy at all costs, which made the transition to a republic seem logical.

Coup of November 15, 1889

On November 15, 1889, a republic was declared in Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil. Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca was a monarchist but later he was convinced by his republican colleagues to lead a military coup to remove Dom Pedro II from power. The emperor and his family were peacefully exiled to Europe.

So after the coup, Brazil was declared a federal republic known as the First Brazilian Republic. The new government implemented a constitution modeled after the United States. The 67-year-old monarchy was formally abolished.



THE SUEZ CANAL

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway, which opened during the Ottoman rule of Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea and separating Africa from Asia. It starts at Port Said and ends at Suez Port. Construction of the canal began on April 25th, 1859, and ended on November 17th, 1869.

The idea of connecting the Mediterranean to the Red Sea dates back to the Pharaohs in Antiquity. From then until 1859, there were many attempts to build a canal but none were successful. For example, Napoleon, who would become the Emperor of France in 1804, considered building a canal running from north to south to connect the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, but he gave up on the idea because the water level on the south side of the canal was 10 meters higher than the north, which would require the use of locks and water lifts (like the Panama Canal today), and, therefore, would be expensive. This false assumption was based on the fact that the French engineer Le Pere, who was assigned to Napoleon during the Egyptian Campaign, made an incorrect measurement and said that the Red Sea was 10 meters higher than the Mediterranean. In fact, there was no such difference in the height between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

The construction of the Suez Canal was started by Said Pasha, the governor of Egypt in the Ottoman Empire, and it was to be built by a French company. The canal was completed in 1869 during the reign of Ismail Pasha, the governor of Egypt at the time. England, who was against the opening of the Suez Canal, invaded Egypt in 1882 to take control of the Canal, but still Egypt remained loyal to the Ottomans until 1914. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire organized the 1st and 2nd canal operations in order to retake the Suez Canal. However, these operations were unsuccessful.

If we look at its features, the Canal, located in the west of the Sinai Peninsula, is 193.3 kilometers long and 60 meters wide at its narrowest point. The Canal allows sea transportation between Asia and Europe without having to go around Africa. The idea to build such a canal arose because ancient sailors had to travel around Africa since there was no shorter trade route. It is among the most important waterways in the world, can be crossed day and night, and it is the longest canal in the world without gates. The accident rate is almost zero compared to other canals.

2021 Suez Canal Crisis

The Ever Given ship which lost control while passing through the canal in March 2021, completely stopped maritime traffic in the Suez Canal. The ship was removed from its jam after approximately one week. It is thought that the accident's financial damage to world trade reached \$100 billion since the passage was blocked.



The Suez Canal, 1863

The Failed Assassination Attempt on **President Harry S. Truman**

On **November 1st 1950**, the United States was shaken by a daring assassination attempt on President Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States. The would-be assassins, two Puerto Rican pro-independence activists, **Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo**, had traveled from New York City to Washington, D.C with the intention of assassinating Harry Truman, to draw attention to their cause. This event is important for American history since it highlights the political tensions of the time and issues surrounding domestic terrorism.



Harry S. Truman became president in 1945 after Franklin D. Roosevelt had passed away. His presidency was marked by the aftermath of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. Truman faced many challenges, including the rise of communism and demands for civil rights in the United States.

On that day, Truman was staying at the Blair House since the White House was being renovated. The activists believed that killing Truman would draw attention to their cause of Puerto Rican independence from U.S. rule, as we mentioned before.

The attackers confronted Secret Service agents outside the Blair House, leading to a shootout. Torresola was shot and killed while Collazo was captured. Thankfully, Truman was unharmed, and the assassination attempt failed.

Later on, Collazo was tried and convicted for his role in the attack. Some people saw him as a freedom fighter rather than a terrorist. In 1952, Truman reduced Collazo's sentence to 29 years, showing that he understood the desire for independence.

Selen İNAL 11/A

John F. Kennedy's Death

Who is John Fitzgerald Kennedy?

John F. Kennedy was an American politician who served as the 35th president of the United States. He graduated from Harvard University in 1940 and joined the army in 1941. He was in the U.S. navy and served as a lieutenant for 4 years. Because of the Cold War, most of his service as a president concerned relationships with the Soviet Union and Cuba. He served from 1961 to 1963 until his assassination in Dallas, Texas. He was 46 years old when he died.



The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

On November 22, 1963 John F. Kennedy was assassinated while he was riding in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. Kennedy was in the car with his wife, Texas governor and governor's wife when he was lethally shot by Lee Harvey Oswald, a former U.S. Marine. The motorcade rushed to the hospital but the shots fired were struck to the president's head and neck which led to his certain death.

Why Did a Former Marine Kill the President?

Lee Harvey Oswald was a U.S. marine who was discharged from the military in 1959 claiming his mother needed care and defected to the Soviet Union. After his return to the U.S. in 1962, he tried to assassinate General Edwin Walker in 1963 but avoided any charges. Even though all of these negative actions are prone to make Lee Harvey Oswald look guilty, his motive for murdering President Kennedy is unclear and has led to numerous conspiracies.

What Happened After the Assassination?

While the vice president Lyndon B. Johnson took the president's duty, Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. Two days after his arrest he got shot to death in the County jail by Jack Ruby, a nightclub owner in Dallas.

If you are interested in this topic, I suggest you also do some digging yourself since there are a lot of conspiracies surrounding the assassination.

Hasan Alp KORKUSUZ 10/B

Abraham Lincoln: A Huge Step for Human Rights and Democracy

Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the most important and interesting presidents of the United States. While I was doing research about him, I found out what a correct statement this is: "He had an ability that almost everyone possessed but not many dared to use: the ability to defend the truth and change the wrong."



A. Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809. Since his parents were farmers and very poor, he could not get a proper education but he was determined to learn. So, he started learning law, history and so much more. Growing up in a poor family and in a state very close to the racist Southern states, Abraham Lincoln realized how unacceptable racism was. Throughout his career, he acted both as a lawyer and a politician who always fought against racism.

At the time, America was split into two sections: The North which was developed in industry and the South which was developed in agriculture. Most of the states in the North were against slavery while the southern states used slaves as farm workers. In that period, there was a pending war between those two sections.

As a politician, Lincoln first joined the Whig party and became its leader. This, however, did not last long and he returned to his career as a lawyer in 1849. But he could not stay away from politics and became the leader of the Republican Party in 1856. *"I will end slavery"* were the words that made him popular. In 1861, he was chosen as the president of the USA. Immediately after that, the southern states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee) declared their independence from the US because the abolition of slavery, promised by Abraham Lincoln, was a devastating thought for them. They were economically dependent on agricultural slavery and found themselves superior to "Blacks" as "Whites". After their declaration of independence, they called themselves "Confederated States" and the North, led by Lincoln, formed "the Union".

The American Civil War was about to start. Indeed, it went on for years without either side gaining advantage over the other until the battle of Gettysburg, which lasted three days in 1863 and ended with the victory of the Union. However, it was not the end. To end the war once and for all, Abraham Lincoln needed more soldiers and asked the allied states to provide him the necessary troops. That was a decision that was not very welcomed. New York, for instance, rioted against it. Abraham Lincoln made a public speech to convince and calm down the New Yorkers.

This speech, called “Gettysburg Address” is, without a doubt, one of the most important speeches of the history of America. There, Lincoln said: “ To honor our soldiers, we must keep on fighting. If we don’t do this, those soldiers will have died for nothing. ” The army, renewed under the effect of this speech, defeated the southerners once and for all and forced them to surrender in 1865.

After the Civil War, slavery was officially abolished in the USA. Lincoln transferred funds to southern states to support their economy and to give them a sense of unity. Everything seemed to be over until a tragedy happened, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. He was shot while he was watching a play in Ford Theatre in Washington D.C. He became the first US president to be assassinated.

What impressed me the most about Abraham Lincoln is that he respected differences and fought for any discrimination and inequality in accordance with human rights. We may find some people different from us and indeed the same people may find us different from themselves. Differences, of whatever kind, should not lead us to forget our unity as humanity. I think we must learn a way to live together peacefully. Like the French Revolution said: “**Liberté, égalité, fraternité**”, which means Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, we are equal no matter what. I wish the door that Abraham Lincoln opened for America will be opened one day for everyone.

Selim ENNELI 10/B

November 7th, 1867: Marie Curie's Birthday!



Marya Skłodowska was born in Warsaw on 7th November 1867. Growing up in a family where education had great importance, Marie succeeded at her secondary education and dreamed of studying science. However, at that time, women weren't allowed in universities in Warsaw. The only way for this young Polish woman, who wanted to study higher education, was to go abroad. In 1891, when she was 24 years old, she went to live with her sister in Paris to study at the Sorbonne University. This Parisian university had opened its doors to women 20 years ago. Marie was chasing a dream that was then inconceivable for a woman: to pursue a scientific career. In July 1894, she was accepted to physical sciences at the Sorbonne University, where she met a man known for his scientific work.

She discovered the phenomenon of radioactivity and in 1898, she and her husband discovered a new element: polonium (which will later be radium). In 1903, she presented her thesis at the Sorbonne University with her husband and Henri Becquerel. Thereafter, she received the Nobel Prize in Physics, becoming the first woman who received this prestigious prize awarded to the greatest scientists. Pierre and Marie Curie were already beginning to suffer physically from radiation, but they neglected the dangers. In April 1906, Pierre Curie died because of an accident, which led to Marie Curie replacing Pierre's position on 5th November 1906 as a professor at Sorbonne University where she had just been appointed. She had to raise her two daughters alone. In 1911, she received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and became the first scientist who won two Nobel Prizes. During World War I, she organized and developed "Petite Curies" which were ambulances equipped with portable X-ray machines. These ambulances provided early diagnosis for wounded soldiers. From the beginning of the 1930s, she was involved in the creation of a high school for girls in Sceaux, where she lived. The "Lycée Marie-Curie de Sceaux" opened its doors on 18th October 1936. Exhausted, almost blind, and with fingers burned by her beloved radium, Marie died of leukemia in July 1934.

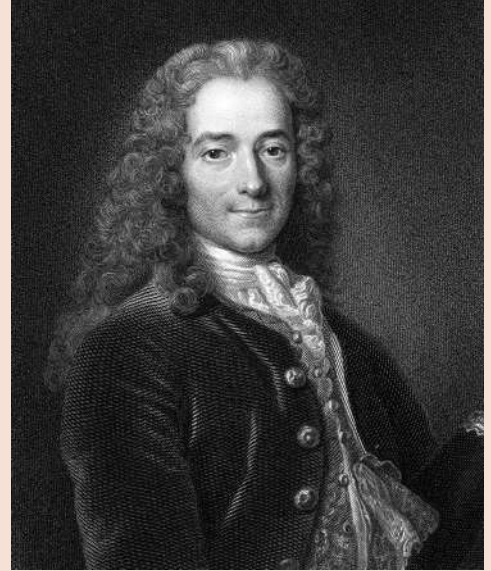
Duru Berna BİLGİN 11/A

VOLTAIRE'S BIRTHDAY

and his philosophy

Voltaire, the man who led the way to the French Revolution was born on November 21st 1694. And today, in honor of his birthday, we will take a deep dive into his philosophy. I will add my own point of view while explaining his thoughts.

As many of us know, back then, the authority was largely in the monarchies' and the Church' hands. However, Voltaire was a defender of freedom of expression. And during his life, he never accepted the supremacy of authority to human intelligence. He believed that doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd. According to him, if an idea can fight with certainty, it deserves respect. Which was an extremely radical saying at that



For me, these words are the best explanation of his point of view, ***'Doubt is uncomfortable but certainty is ridiculous.'*** Dogma is certainly ridiculous because it's very assertive. History has shown us that things thought to be accurate can always be a delusion. People thought the world was flat until Galileo proved the theory wrong. So, if it's possible for our beliefs to be an illusion, what's the point in insisting on one truth and forcing people to believe it? It's true that doubt is an uncomfortable feeling. For example, we all prefer to believe that the way we decide to spend our time is the best or rather the most productive way. Personally, I want to think that I was doing something right all this time. It's such a comforting feeling not to question your thoughts. I admit that realizing you have been on the wrong path during your whole life is one of the scariest things one can think of. But Voltaire prefers the discomfort of doubt to certainty. Doubt makes you investigative. Searching for the truth only makes sense when there is a possibility of your truth turning out to be wrong because if what I do is surely right then why would I search for another truth? It doesn't make any sense. But if I can accept that my truth may not be the only right point of view, then I can start discovering new ideas, new approaches and improving my thoughts. Start by saying 'I might be wrong, so I have to be open to criticism.' to yourself.

DOUBT IS AN INSPIRATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE ENOUGH.

Ayşe Umay ÇALIŞKAN 9/A

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a 19th century novelist and philosopher, regarded as one of the most influential authors of the world of literature. He was a beautiful mind who never lost hope in spite of the difficult and nightmarish life he had to suffer from.

Dostoevsky was born in 1821 in Moscow, Russia. At the age of nine, a friend of his was killed. One of his acquaintances recounts the effects that Dostoevsky suffered after the incident. "Dostoevsky said to me that taking someone's life was a terrible sin, but to take away one's faith in the beauty of life was an even more terrible crime."



Dostoevsky lost his mother when he was 15 and two years after that, while he was studying military engineering, he also lost his father. After the passing of his father, Dostoevsky started showing his first signs of epilepsy, a disorder he dealt with for the rest of his life. Afterwards, Dostoevsky graduated and briefly worked as an engineer before finding out about his passion for writing. His first book, "Poor Folk", was a huge success, yet it was criticized by many critics at the time. Due to his disappointment with literary circles, he also joined secret meetings with writers and thinkers during which they focused on utopian socialism. In 1849, he and his companions were arrested by the government and sentenced to death. Dostoevsky reflects on the moments preceding his execution in one of his most known books, "The Idiot".

While waiting for the day of his sentence, Dostoevsky admitted that he had had thoughts about his sentence being lifted and being given a second chance in life. Those thoughts soon turned into anger and made him wish that they would hurry and shoot him. Then, at the last moment of his execution a pardon was sent by the Tsar. Dostoevsky was sent to a Serbian camp for four years for an indefinite time as a soldier. However, Dostoevsky did not lose hope.

Ten years later he returned to Russia and picked up writing again. This time his works lacked romanticism, showing the horrors he had witnessed in the camps. His tragic voice as a writer was reflected in his style, and his anger was stronger than ever.

Then, in 1869, Dostoevsky wrote, "Beauty will save the world." It left the readers wondering "How can a life like his assert that beauty will save the world?" In his book "The Idiot" the main character is a genuinely kind and innocent soul who traverses a world filled with greed and nihilism, which makes him give into insanity in the end. However, like Dostoevsky, the main characters turn their sufferings into lessons in the form of charity, love, hope and humility. This helps us better understand what Dostoevsky could have meant in his quotation "Beauty will save the world".

Dostoevsky turned his sufferings into blessings, his experience into stories and his life into a testimony. The words "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it produces much grain." are engraved on Dostoevsky's tombstone.

Perhaps beauty might not be the solution to all our problems but it can serve as a source of hope, faith and optimism that will help us break the walls of despair and loneliness. As for the case of Dostoevsky, there must be beauty in life before anything.

Hours after he stood facing the barrel of a gun, Dostoevsky wrote,

“When I, look back at the pass and think how much time has been wasted in vain, how much time was lost in delusions, in errors, in idleness, in ignorance on how to live, how I did not value time, how often I sinned against my heart and spirit- my heart bleeds...”

*Life is a gift,
Life is happiness.”*

“BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD.”

Yeliz Mina Çellik 10/ B

World's First Inhabited Space Capsule: *Sputnik II and Laika*

Sputnik II, launched by the Soviet Union on November 3rd, 1957, was the second artificial satellite sent into orbit and marked a significant advance in space technology. This spacecraft weighed approximately 508 kg and unlike its predecessor, Sputnik I, was designed to carry a living passenger. It was a 4 meter high cone-shaped capsule with a base diameter of 2 meters. It contained several compartments for radio transmitters, a telemetry system, a programming unit, a regeneration and temperature control system for the cabin, and scientific instruments.



Sputnik II's mission was crucial for expanding human understanding of space travel in the early space race that had started between the United States and the Soviet Union after the launch of Sputnik I. And so, Sputnik II was launched with its living passenger Laika, one meal, and oxygen to last for a week.

Laika, a female part-Samoyed terrier stray dog from Moscow streets, became the first living creature to be sent into space and orbit the Earth. Multiple female stray dogs were tested, because females were smaller and apparently more docile, but, eventually, Laika was chosen for her temperament and endurance. She was trained rigorously to withstand the stresses of space travel. Her name was originally Kudryavka (Little Curly) but because she barked during her introduction to the public, she later became known as Laika meaning "barker" in Russian. After reaching the orbit, the nose cone was discarded successfully but the Blok A core did not separate as planned, which inhibited the operation of the thermal control system. Additionally, some of the thermal insulation tore loose, so the interior temperatures reached 40 C. It is believed Laika survived for only about two days instead of the planned ten because of overheating.



This mission raised ethical concerns about animal welfare because it was always intended as a one-way trip, which made people call it a suicide mission and blame the Soviet Union for unethical behaviour. Still, the Sputnik II mission was a pivotal moment in space exploration, proving the possibility of sending living creatures into orbit, which paved the way for human space travel and accelerated developments in space technology. Today, Laika is memorialized with statues, stamps, and envelopes and we can even find other dogs named Laika, just like my dog.

Bennu Turan 12/C



THANKSGIVING DAY

Lots of us know Thanksgiving from American movies. Families gather and eat a huge meal together on this day as far as we all know. But have you ever wondered what is the origin of Thanksgiving? And what is Thanksgiving day?

Thanksgiving day is a holiday that has been celebrated both in some cities in Canada since 1957 and in all of the cities in America since 1863. Nowadays, it is celebrated on the fourth Tuesday in November.

The Origin of Thanksgiving

There are many stories about Thanksgiving, but most Americans think that it was first celebrated in Plymouth, a town in North America, for 3 days. Thanksgiving was celebrated by a small group of people from England called Pilgrims. In the 17th century Pilgrims were against the church of England and they wanted freedom of religion. So, in 1620, they left England with a ship to start a new life in North America. However, since it was winter in North America, they couldn't find any food and didn't know how to grow crops. Many of them died because of famine and cold weather. During spring, one of the Native Americans called Squanto to help the Pilgrims. He

The First Thanksgiving Dinner

In 1621, William Bradford wanted to celebrate their first harvest and organized a celebration dinner with Native Americans. The celebration lasted for 3 days. They had turkey, seafood, corn, squash, venison and wild berries.



Traditional Thanksgiving Day

Nowadays, all the family members come together to celebrate the holiday.

The aim of the holiday is to thank god, spend time with people you love and to share. Families cook the foods together in the morning and eat in the afternoon. They usually eat roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, corn, sweet potato casserole and pumpkin pie.

Other Activities During Thanksgiving:

- ◆ Watching sports: After dinner, people watch American football games organized specially for Thanksgiving by the NFL.
- ◆ Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade: It is held in New York and the parade features different performances and giant balloons.
- ◆ Helping people cook meals to be sent to community centers: It is the most important characteristic of Thanksgiving as it strengthens the meaning of this day

Ceylin Atalay 12/C

IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF ZAHA HADID *FUN FACTS ABOUT THE WELL-KNOWN ARCHITECT*

First off, even though Zaha Hadid is considered as one of the best in her field to walk the earth, and though her immaculate and almost unreal work is recognized everyday, in her experiences earlier on the start of her career, most of her projects got rejected by whom she'd work with. The reason why most of her projects failed was that her designs were seen as too radical and too marginal for the time in a world where most buildings looked alike. So, to start up her work as an architect she worked on projects that were not so original yet technical, as one might say, in comparison to her projects that make her unforgettable. Once again as Einstein was a misfit to his school and his teachers, and as JK Rowling was a crazy writer for writing Harry Potter in the eyes of publishers, Zaha Hadid was an undermined architect in her early attempts but she went through the struggles and became who she is today. Her and the other genius people who were misunderstood or outcast can inspire you not to give up on yourselves!

Secondly, in 2004 she was given the Pritzker Award, which people refer to as the Nobel Prize for architecture, she had the honor of winning this award while only having finished four projects; *the Vitra Fire Station, the Ski Lift in Innsbruck Austria, the Car Park and Terminus Hoenheim North in France, and the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati*. But if you look closely at these projects and examine how thought out, detailed and extravagant these buildings are, without a doubt you'd say she deserved it. Each structure was designed to be in harmony with where it existed while also having Zaha's magical take on forms and buildings.



Zaha attended a Catholic school, graduated from American University of Bahrain, the Department of Mathematics. Her education had nothing to do with the title she'd earn, but after she graduated she started working at a well known architectural firm before opening her own. Her educational adventures didn't end after being a student, as an architect she also became an academican at multiple universities including the Graduate School of Design of Harvard.

Here's an interesting fact, Zaha didn't limit her abilities to only architecture and she dabbled into the fashion field. She showed her talents in collaboration with many fashion houses of luxury and fame. First, Zaha designed a shoe and heels line which attained great success but after that, still keeping her own style in the equation, she came up with a bag for Louis Vuitton that looked nothing like the previous designs. The structure of the bag is similar to a drop of water, the material is not ordinary or conventional like leather, and the outside is white while the inside is pink to create shadows in the shape of the LV logo. Making it a simple yet a different and an elegant design.



The buildings Zaha designed weren't conventional to build so she had a team of constructors to help her bring her creations to life. One of her projects was a structure that is longer than 400m that floats atop a structure that is less potent and that doesn't seem like it could hold up such a form, but it somehow does. From the Maxxi Museum to the many pavilions she designed and built, much of the credit should also be given to the ones who dared to construct something so unbelievable, in a way they are the ones who made her who she was. While thanking any architect, we shall never forget to thank the crews who conceptualized his/ her works in 3D.

Tan Gözalıcı 12/A