

RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND POLAND IN THE FIRST ERA OF THE REPUBLIC (1923-1950)

CUMHURİYET'İN İLK DÖNEMLERİNDE TÜRKİYE İLE POLONYA ARASINDAKİ İLİŞKİLER (1923-1950)

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Abstract

The Republic of Turkey, which was established on the Anatolian Peninsula with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire as a result of the First World War, adopted the aim of developing good relations with all states at the center of its foreign policy from the first times. It is possible to say that the Republic of Turkey, following a foreign policy in harmony with the policy of "Peace at Home, Peace in the World", has always positioned itself around a policy of peace in the face of developing world conditions. Thanks to this friendly foreign policy, cooperation with many states in political, cultural and military fields has been made, and the international connections of the state have been strengthened. In this direction, the mutual friendly relations developed with the Polish State continued even under the devastating conditions of the Second World War. It is proven in historical documents that the relations between Poland, which started with the Ottoman Empire, mostly continued in a friendly framework. In Turkish political history, the period between 1923 and 1938 is called as the Atatürk period, and the period between 1938 and 1950 is called as the İsmet İnönü period. During this era, important events took place in Turkish foreign policy. It is aimed to reveal the political, commercial and social relations between Turkey and Poland within the scope of the important events in the foreign policy of the new state named Turkish Republic, in the light of archive documents. In this article, it is aimed to explain how the developments in the Second World War affected the relations between the two countries and to prove it with documents showing that the Turkey stood by them during this war by supporting the Poles who were in trouble. This study has been created by making use of archival documents, national newspapers and copyrighted studies. Finally, this article named as Relationships Between Turkey and Poland in the First Era of the Republic (1923-1950) is a qualitative study and it was prepared by using the document analysis technique.

Keywords: *Diplomacy, İsmet İnönü, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Poland, Turkey.*

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Öz

Birinci Dünya Savaşı sonucunda Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun parçalanması ile Anadolu Yarımadası üzerinde kurulan Türkiye Cumhuriyeti ilk zamanlardan itibaren dış politikasının merkezinde bütün devletler ile iyi ilişkiler geliştirme amacını düstur edinmiştir. "Yurta Sulh, Cihanda Sulh" politikasıyla barışık bir dış siyaset izleyen Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin, gelişen dünya koşulları karşısında da kendisini daima barış politikası etrafında konumlandığını söylemek mümkündür. Bu dostane dış siyaset sayesinde birçok devlet ile politik, kültürel ve askeri alanlarda iş birliğine gidilerek, devletin uluslararası bağlantıları güçlendirilmiştir. Bu doğrultuda Polonya Devleti ile geliştirilen karşılıklı dostane ilişkiler İkinci Dünya Savaşı'nın yıkıcı koşulları altında dahi devam etmiştir. Osmanlı İmparatorluğu ile başlayan Polonya münasebetlerinin çoğunlukta dostane bir çerçevede devam ettiği tarihi vesikalar ile sabittir. Türk Siyasi Tarihi'nde Atatürk Dönemi olarak bilinen 1923-1938 yılları arasında daha da gelişen Türkiye ile Polonya Devleti arasındaki siyasi, ticari ve toplumsal münasebetler, İsmet İnönü Dönemi'nde de (1938-1950) devam ettirilmiştir. İlk dönemlerde siyasi ve askeri alandaki iş birliği ile başlayan münasebetler, savaş döneminde daha çok insani yardımlar çerçevesinde sosyal alanlarda devam etmiştir. Polonya halkına ve devletine her fırsatta desteğini esirgemeyen Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Devleti, birçok Polonyalı vatandaşın kendi topraklarında istihdam edilmesine dahi imkân sağlamıştır. Bu ilişkilerin seyrine yönelik gelişmelerin Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri belgeleri ışığında ortaya çıkarılması amaçlanmaktadır. Bu makalede iki ülke arasındaki ilişkilerin nasıl kurulduğu ve devam ettirildiğini, özellikle İkinci Dünya Savaşı sürecindeki olayların, devletlerarası münasebetleri nasıl etkilediği ortaya konulmaya çalışılmıştır. Bu çalışma, arşiv belgelerinden, ulusal gazetelerden ve telif eserlerden istifade edilerek oluşturulmuştur. Son olarak, Cumhuriyet'in İlk Dönemlerinde Türkiye ile Polonya Arasındaki Münasebetler (1923-1950) adlı bu makale, nitel bir çalışma olup; doküman analizi tekniği kullanılarak hazırlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Diplomasi, İsmet İnönü, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Polonya, Türkiye.*

Introduction

The new state Turkish Republic established with the Lausanne Peace made after the success of the National Struggle, after 1923, it could not immediately enter into normal relations with Western countries. This is because Westerners did not accept the reality of the New Turkey easily and therefore relations especially with Britain and France went through severe stages from time to time until 1930. Soviet Russia continued to be the mainstay of Turkish foreign policy as long as Turkish relations with Westerners went so distorted, However from 1936, the situation started to change.¹ In fact, although only 3 percent of Turkish land is located in Europe, there is a tremendous Western influence in the country. Turkey is the closest and most westernized democratic country of the Middle East to the West in all respects. The main reason for this is that the founding layer that founded the Turkish Republic pays close attention to Western and Western institutions in order to ensure the modernization of the country. For this reason, Turkey has always paid attention to be in good relations with European countries.²

Relations between Turks and Poles dating back to ancient times, have always been good. Especially during the Ottoman Empire, Turks and Poles got to know each other more closely and the Ottoman Empire helped most of the Polish people in trouble. In this context, the Polish state has been fragmented many times in the historical process. The Ottoman Empire which was an extremely powerful state during this period, protected and helped the Polish people. This situation has prepared a ground for the relations between the two nations to be always good.

After the end of the First World War, the Republic of Poland gained its independence in 1918 and emerged as a new independent state. One of the first states to recognize the Republic of Poland was the Turkish Republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923. Having carefully followed the negotiations of the Lausanne Peace Treaty which played an important role in the emergence of the new state Turkey as an independent political power, Poland appreciated the independence of Atatürk and the revolutions he made afterwards.³

The date of 19 May 1919 is very important for the political, social and cultural life of Turkey. Because this date is considered as the process of a new beginning for Turkey. This begins when Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who started the Turkish Independence War and was the leader of this movement, arrived Samsun on 19 May 1919, and it continues until his death on 10 November 1938. In Turkish political history, this process is called as the "Atatürk Era".⁴ It is understood that serious relations were established in this period between Turkey and Poland, especially diplomatic and economical matters.

1 Fahir Armaoğlu, *20. Century Political History (1914-1995)*, Alkim Publications, Istanbul, 1999, p. 47.

2 Baskın Oran, *Turkish Foreign Policy (Facts, Documents, Comments since the War of Independence)*, (1919-1980), volume I, issue 15, İletişim Publications, Istanbul, p.21.

3 Basri Alp Akıncı, "Turkey-Poland Relations from the date of the historical temperature", *Mavi Elma: Turkey-EU Relations*. (Ed. Ozan Hüseyin Örmeci and Hüseyin Işıksal). Gazi Bookstore, Ankara, 2016, p.777-786; Resul Köse, "An Assessment for the Border Relations of Turkey with the Eastern and Southern Neighbors (1923-1940)", *Recent Period Turkish Studies*, N.38, 2020, p.59.

4 Öztürk Emiroğlu, "Turkey in the Polish Press in the Atatürk Era (19 May 1919-1 September 1939)", *Turkish World Journal of Language and Literature*, 1999, V. 8, p.469.

Political relations between the two countries started with the Friendship Treaty between Turkey and Poland immediately after the signing of the Lausanne Peace Treaty. After a short while, it was decided to increase the number of copies of friendship, trade and residence agreements between the two countries with an agreement made on 11 October 1923. Poland approved this treaty on 6 December 1923.⁵

This study is analyzed in two parts. In the first part, the relations between Turkey and Poland between 1923 and 1938, the period of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who was the founder of the Turkish Republic were examined. Especially their relations of the new Turkish state called the Turkish Republic, are examined in detail in the light of the information obtained from the Presidential Republic Archive. In the second part, it was tried to reveal the diplomatic, social and economic relations between Turks and Poles in the period of İsmet İnönü, who was elected President after the death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1938 and remained in office until 1950.

With the study titled Relations between Turkey and Poland in the first Era of the Republic (1923-1950), it is aimed to contribute to the scientific studies previously conducted on the relations between the two countries. Especially in the first years of the Republic, there are many articles, books and theses on the relations between the two countries. However, it has been determined that there are little studies specifically on the relations between the two countries in the first periods of the Republic. With this article, it is aimed to overcome this deficiency and to contribute to scientists studying in this field.

1. Relations between Turkey and Poland during the era of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1923-1938)

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who played a very important role in winning the National Independence War and the emergence of the Turkish Republic as an independent state, is the first president of the country. Important developments took place in Turkish foreign policy during the era of Atatürk, who served for 15 years without interruption from 1923 to 1938. In this period, the understanding of "Peace at home, peace abroad" is dominant in the basis of Turkish foreign policy. During the period in question, emphasis was placed on friendly relations with the Poles who are the subject of the study.

In 1923, the first year of the Mustafa Kemal Atatürk era, Poland was one of the first countries that Turkey opened an embassy. In this context, an ambassador was appointed to Poland on 22 May 1924. The person appointed by the Turkish Republic as ambassador to Warsaw was İbrahim Ethem Tali, one of the counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁶. The fact that Poland was one of the countries where the embassy of the newly established state Turkey was established, can be thought as Turkey attaches importance to the Polish people and wants to establish strong diplomatic relations with this state.

Following Turkey, Poland opened also an embassy in Turkey. The first permanent ambassador of the Polish Government in Turkey was Roman Knool, who was appointed

⁵ Yüksel Kaştan, "Analytical Perspective on Turkey-Poland Relations Established during the Foundation of the Republic in the Light of Turkish Grand Assembly Minutes", *Journal of Ottoman Civilization Studies*, V.2, N.3, 2016, p.53.

⁶ Prime Ministry Republic Archive, (PMRA), Code: 30.18.1.1, Place No: 9.24.18.

in 1924.⁷ Knool, who was appointed to Ankara on 25 June 1924, started his work and started to play an active role in establishing strong relations between Turkey and Poland. It should be noted that İbrahim Ethem Tali, who is the Turkish ambassador to Warsaw, has made a serious contribution to the establishment of good relations between the two countries like the Polish ambassador.

During the period of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who made a serious effort to establish a modern Turkish state, two constitutions were made. The 1921 Constitution was made first and followed by the 1924 Constitution.⁸ The 1924 Constitution which is one of these constitutions, is important in terms of Turkish-Polish relations. Because, while preparing the 1924 Constitution of Turkey, one of the constitutions taken as an example is the 1921 Polish Constitution. In the meetings held in the parliament for this constitution, the Presidential powers in the Polish Constitution were examined and taken as an example. In addition, in the parliamentary negotiations for the new constitution, in the debate whether the Republic is a form of state or a form of government, reference has been made to Poland. In addition, before the constitutional negotiations started, a motion was made to ensure at least two-thirds of the meeting quorum in order to ensure a constant majority in the Assembly, and the proposer claimed that the regulations in the Polish constitution are in this direction.⁹ The fact that Turkey, who prepared a new constitution, took Poland's constitution of 1921 as an example, can be thought that this state closely follows the constitutional developments in Poland.

After the Lausanne Treaty, some of the problems between Turkish and Western powers continued to remain on the agenda for a while. As such, the aim of Poland in the first years when diplomatic relations were established between Poland and Turkey was to have a privileged position next to Turkey, which has not yet fully solved their problems with other states. As stated above, Poland took the first step by signing three agreements with Turkey one day before the Lausanne Treaty. This step was actually considered a delayed step, as the Polish rulers had so much to do with building the newly established structure of the Polish state after World War I and solving their problems with their neighbors.¹⁰ Nevertheless, with the realization of this delay and attempts to compensate, it was possible to establish brand new bridges between the two countries.

The years 1923-1926 correspond to a period when bilateral relations between Turkey and Poland were resumed. Relations based on friendship from history, offered both these two countries and their peoples the opportunity to get closer to each other in the post-war period. As we mentioned, although Poland could not attract Turkey politically, the main factor that determined the course of the relations during this period was the

7 Hacer Topaktaş, "The Establishment Process of Poland's First Permanent Embassy in Turkey: Historical Dynamics", *Journal of International Relations*, V.11, N.43, 2014, p.117.

8 Bülent Tanör, *Ottoman Turkish Constitutional Developments (1789-1980)*, (26th Edition), Yapı Kredi Publications. Istanbul, 2016, p.225,290; Bilal Tunç, "The status and importance of the 1961 Constitution in the History of the Turkish Constitution" *Journal of Black Sea Studies*, V.17, N.67,2020, p.662-664.

9 H. Aliyar Demirci, "The Effects of the 1921 Polish Constitution on the 1924 Turkish Constitution", *Pamukkale University Journal of Social Sciences Institute*, V. 26, 2017, p. 6-7.

10 Hediye Yılmaz Odabaşı, "The Function of Major External Dynamics in the Establishment of Turkish-Polish Relations", *Journal of Universal History Studies*, V.2, N.2, 2019, p. 313.

activities carried out in the field of trade and the relations developed especially in this lane.¹¹

In 1926, both the Polish ambassador to Ankara and the Turkish ambassador to Warsaw were changed. In this context, on 1 May 1926, Yahya Kemal Bey (Beyatlı), one of the deputies of Urfa was appointed to replace the present ambassador.¹² Likewise, on 21 October 1926, a person named Józef Wierusz-Kowalski was appointed to the Polish embassy in Ankara.¹³ Yahya Kemal, who was appointed as the envoy extraordinary to Poland, is above all a man of culture.¹⁴ This feature of him can be considered as contributing to the development of relations in the cultural field, as well as the political and cultural relations between Turkey and Poland.

On 1 June 1926, when Yahya Kemal (Beyatlı) was appointed as the ambassador to Poland, the president of Poland changed and Ignace Moscicki was elected as the new president. On the same dates, on 15 June 1926, an assassination was carried out against Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk). Due to this situation, the President of Poland officially notified Mustafa Kemal Pasha that he was elected as the President and he also sent a get well soon telegram to Atatürk who was saved from the assassination. Thus, a friendly closeness immediately began between Atatürk and the new President of Poland. Meanwhile, President Moscicki accepted the Turkish envoy extraordinary Yahya Kemal Bey on 19 June and Yahya Kemal Bey presented the Letter of Trust to Moscicki with a ceremony.¹⁵

Elected as Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1926, August Zaleski attached great importance to the opening of new Polish representations abroad. In this respect, Turkey either did not escape from Zaleski's attention. It was thought that opening more diplomatic representations in Turkey which is an important country in terms of the Polish economy, would have positive results. In this direction, in order to further develop both diplomatic relations and trade, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to open consulates in Izmir and Trabzon in 1926. Thus, studies has begun to conclude a consular agreement. As a result, the consular agreement was signed in Ankara on 25 March 1927. The agreement was signed by the Polish ambassador Józef Wierusz Kowalski and the embassy staff Karol Poznański, and by A. Şevki Bey from the Turkish side. However, this agreement has not been approved by the parliament in the recent past. Thus, it was not possible to open consulates in Izmir and Trabzon.¹⁶

The Litvinov Protocol is important for the development of relations between Turkey and Poland. As it is known, with the Locarno Treaty of 1925, the borders of Poland were endangered. Therefore, the search for the security of Poland's borders has

11 Emrah Adalı, *Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era*, (Unpublished Master Thesis), Kocaeli University Institute of Social Sciences, Kocaeli, 2013, p.83-83.

12 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.1, Place No: 18.26.15.

13 Adalı, *Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era*, p.83-86.

14 Nezahat Özcan, Özcan, "Yahya Kemal Beyatlı's Ambassador Years and his other Official Duties", *Bilig Journal*, N.1, 1996, p. 36.

15 Bilal N. Şimşir, "The Ministerial envoy and Ambassador duty of the Poet Yahya Kemal Beyatlı", *Atatürk Research Center Journal*, V.23, N.67, 2007, p. 43.

16 Adalı, *Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era*, s.87.

begun.¹⁷ Therefore, in the interwar period, Poland took part in the initiatives to ensure international security. Accordingly, the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which prohibits the use of war as a national policy tool, was signed on 27 August 1928 with the participation of Poland. Again for this pact, at the request of the Soviet Foreign Minister Litvinov, Turkey was also invited and Turkey joined this pact in January 1929. Thus, Turkey and Poland have entered into international cooperation for the first time in the arena. In addition, both Turkey and Poland signed the Litvinov Protocol which was prepared by Litvinov's initiative, on 9 February 1929, for the pact to enter into force as soon as possible between Russia and its neighbors, without waiting for the ratification process¹⁸. This development has proven that both countries are determined to cooperate in the international arena in line with common interests.

In 1928 and 1929, the ambassadors of both countries changed. As a result of the death of the current ambassador of Poland as a result of a brain hemorrhage in Ankara, a new ambassador was appointed to Ankara by the Polish Government. Moreover, 2 new ambassadors were appointed within a year. First, Kazimierz Papée, who was appointed as the ambassador to Ankara on 1 January 1928, lasted a very short time, and on 25 October 1928, 9 months after this appointment, Kazimierz Olszowski took office in Ankara as the new ambassador of Poland.¹⁹ Later in 1929, the Turkish ambassador to Warsaw was changed and İbrahim Hasan Vasfi Bey (Menteş), the Turkish Ambassador to Rome was appointed to replace Yahya Kemal Bey.²⁰

In 1931, a study was initiated to sign a trade agreement with the aim of developing commercial relations between Turkey and Poland and Zekai Bey (Apaydın), who was the Minister of National Defense, was authorized to follow these process.²¹ On 17 August 1931, when Zekai Bey was authorized, the Turkish ambassador to Warsaw also changed and Cevat Bey (Ezine), the Turkish Ambassador to Tokyo, was appointed as the Polish ambassador.²² With the Trade Agreement signed between the two countries on 29 August 1931, it was aimed to further increase the existing commercial structure.²³ This agreement was ratified by the Turkish parliament on 13 March 1932.²⁴ It is extremely important to take steps for a trade agreement between the two countries. Because the trade agreement entered into force in 1933, it was an extremely important situation in terms of increasing the trade potential in addition to diplomatic relations between the two countries.

A new agreement was made in 1933 in order to develop commercial relations between Turkey and Poland. With the Trade and Navigation Agreement dated 28 May 1933, customs duties were reduced and the number of import and export products

17 İsmail Şahin and Erşin Müezzinoğlu, "Turkish Foreign Policy under the Clamp of Locarno and Mosul", *Journal of Human and Social Sciences Research*, V.5, N.4, 2016, p. 647.

18 Adalı, Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era, p.89-90.

19 Hacer Topaktaş Üstüner, "Restoring Turkish-Polish Relations after World War I (1918-1928)", 600th Anniversary of Turkish-Polish Relations Symposium (27-28 September 2014)", Istanbul, 2014, p. 99-100.

20 PMRA, Code: 30.11.1.0, Place No: 46.8.9

21 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 22.58.17.

22 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 23.70.6.

23 Official Gazette, 18 February 1949, Issue: 7135, p. 15.526.

24 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 26.18.3.

increased in order to increase and facilitate trade between the two countries.²⁵ With the aforementioned agreement, there has been an increase in the trade revenues of Turkey and Poland. Because after this agreement, the current trade amount has increased even more and this can be evaluated as bringing the two countries closer to each other.

Although serious studies were done for the development of political, commercial, and social relations between Turkey and Poland during the Atatürk era, some newspapers published in Poland were not allowed to enter Turkey. In this context, as it was understood that the newspaper "Vatan Sesi", published by Harabi Baytugan in Warsaw in 1935 was articles that would touch Turkish foreign policy, this newspaper was forbidden to be brought into Turkey. Likewise, the newspaper named "Millet Bayrağı" published by Canbey Havjoko is prohibited from entering Turkey and selling it in Turkey on the grounds that it has written articles against the friendship between the Turkey and the Soviet Union.²⁶

With a decision taken on 29 August 1936 for the prohibition stated above, sales here have been suspended by preventing the entry to Turkey of Bayrak, a magazine published by Canbey Havjoko in Warsaw, which is understood to be a harmful publication for Turkish foreign policy.²⁷ Later, with a decision taken by the Council of Ministers on 2 November 1937, the publication of the magazine named İleri, published by Ali Mirza, was banned from entering Turkey.²⁸ Finally, in 1938, the last year of Atatürk's era, two newspapers published in Poland were banned from entering Turkey. These publications are magazines called Ülkemiz and Çağırış and they are prevented from entering the Turkish borders by stating that they are harmful publications.²⁹

The person who made the Turkish ambassador to Poland in the mid-1930s was Ferit Tek. Likewise, the person who is Poland's ambassador to Ankara is Jerzy Potocki. During this period, Polish diplomacy thought that if there was good cooperation with Turkey, favorable conditions would be created for Turkey to stop pursuing a foreign policy on the axis of Russia. In this respect, the Poles were especially interested in the changes that might occur in Atatürk's foreign policy, considering that Turkey would not sign important agreements without the permission of Russia. As a result of developments such as Turkey joining the League of Nations in 1932, the formation of the Balkan Pact with Greece in 1934, and the rapprochement of Italy with Britain after attacking Abyssinia, a noticeable change began to occur in Turkish foreign policy in the mid-1930s. However, Turkey did not turn its back to Russia completely and tried to maintain its security by following a balanced policy. This change in Turkish foreign policy has also been followed with interest in Poland.³⁰

In the first years of the Republic, it is seen that some warplanes were bought by Turkey from Poland. In this context, it was decided by the Ministry of National Defense to purchase fighter jets for the Air Force Command and a serious investigation was carried

25 Official Gazette, 7 June 1933, Issue: 2421, p. 2637.

26 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 57.63.16.

27 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 68.72.12.

28 PMRA, Code: Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 79.89.14.

29 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 85.100.13; PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 84.65.19.

30 Adalı, Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era, p. 94.

out in this respect. As a result of the researches, it was understood that the aircraft belonging to Poland were superior to the aircraft of other countries in many respects, and therefore, it was decided to purchase aircraft from Poland on 30 March 1936.³¹ The fact that Turkey preferred Poland for the purchase of warplanes among many countries can be thought that, it attaches importance to the development of relations with the mentioned country in the military field.

As explained above, great importance was attached to the development of commercial relations especially with Poland during the Atatürk era and some agreements were made. One of the agreements made in this sense is the Clearing Agreement between the Central Bank of the Turkish Republic and the Polish Clearing House.³² With the clearing agreement, countries that have bilateral trade agreements with each other, pay with a fundamentally different good for the goods they buy.³³ This agreement too can be thought of as contributing to the further development of the trade potential between Turkey and Poland, as in others.

Polish aircraft engineers were employed at the Kayseri Aircraft Factory, which started its operations in 1931, such as the purchase of military aircraft from Poland.³⁴ In this context, with a decision taken on 7 December 1936, it was decided to employ Wilhem Gibelka, a Polish Aircraft Engineer, on "pazatel" aircraft at the Kayseri Aircraft Factory.³⁵ Like Wilhem Gibelka, Polish experts appointed employed in various businesses in Turkey in the republican era. One of them is the appointment of Pol Biyaloblosk, who was a Water Engineer, who was assigned to the Malaria Public Control Organization in 1937.³⁶ These appointments make it clear that Turkey brought experts from Poland as well as from Hungary and benefited from them.

In 1936, both Turkish and Polish ambassadors were changed. As of 1936, Basri Reşit was appointed as the Undersecretary of the Warsaw Embassy instead of Kadri Rıza, the Undersecretary of the Turkish Embassy in Warsaw.³⁷ In 1935, Prof. Dr. Michal Sokolnicki was appointed to Ankara as the ambassador of Poland. He served as Poland's Ambassador to Ankara between 1935 and 1945 and did not return to his country after the war and continued his academic life at Ankara University. In the words of Michal Sokolnicki, Although many of the countries that remained neutral during World War II took a cold attitude towards occupied Poland, Turkey showed a great affinity with Poland.³⁸ This situation can be considered as another evidence showing the love of the Poles for the Turkish people and the Turkish state.

31 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 63.24.4.

32 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 63.27.13.

33 Cüneyt Dirican, "Applicability of Clearing and Payment Transactions in Foreign Trade in National (Domestic) Currency: Situation and Requirements for its Application in Turkey", *Journal of Yasar University*, N.14, 2019, p. 48.

34 Osman Yalçın, "The First Initiative in the Struggle of the State of the Turkish Republic to Establish an Airplane Factory: Tayyare ve Motor Türk Anonim Şirketi (TOMTAŞ) and the Kayseri Airplane Factory", *Journal of Atatürk Research Center*, V.26, N.78, 2010, p.561.

35 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 70.94.8.

36 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 72.12.15.

37 PMRA, Code: 30.11.1.0, Place No: 101.2.17.

38 Togay Seçkin Birbudak ve Bülent Akbaba, "Poles in Turkey during World War II", *Ankara University Turkish Revolution History Institute Atatürk Yolu Journal*, N.62, 2018, p.5.

At the beginning of the period when Sokolnicki was an ambassador in Turkey, an unpleasant incident occurred in terms of relations between the two countries. However, this incident was resolved due to the common sense of the Polish and Turkish diplomatic representatives. The reason for such an issue is that the Poles living in Polonezköy acquired Polish citizenship. According to the Turkish authorities, it was illegal for those living in Polonezköy to acquire Polish citizenship. When the matter arose, the Turkish authorities took action to convert the residents of Polonezköy to Turkish citizenship again. Upon this, the Polish government decided to protect the Polish citizens of Polonezköy and as a sanction, decided to deport the Turks working in various bakeries in Poland in August 1937. This decision was taken while the Turkish Ambassador to Poland Ahmet Ferit Tek was on vacation.

The ambassador who suspended his vacation as soon as he heard the matter, came to Warsaw to meet with Polish Foreign Minister Józef Beck. The Ambassador conveyed to the Minister Beck the assurance of the Turkish government that no harm would be done to the people of Polonezköy. Minister Beck, on the other hand, stated that he believed that the Turkish government would solve the Polonezköy issue and assured that the deportation decision of Turkish citizens would be withdrawn and those who were deported would be given a re-entry visa. Thereupon, the Polish government withdrew its decision to deport Turkish citizens.³⁹ Thus, upon the prudent approach of both states, the problems were resolved without growing and friendly relations between the two countries continued.

On 12 January 1937, an official letter to Turkey was written by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Józef Beck, and it was asked whether Polish warships could pass through the Turkish straits in accordance with the 1936 Montreux Straits Convention on the Straits Regime as of 1937. In the official letter written to Poland by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was stated that war and merchant ships from the Straits are allowed according to the terms of the agreement, regardless of the country, and that the same conditions will apply to Poland.⁴⁰

In 1937, martyrdom was planned for Turkish soldiers in Poland. Especially, a study was initiated by the Turkish Government to collect the graves of 2,262 Turkish soldiers who were martyred during the First World War and who were in different cities in Poland, to gather them in the city of Lemberg and to make a martyrdom there. For this, 12,100 Liras was allocated in 1936 and later additions were made to this Money.⁴¹ Although it was not possible to make this martyrdom immediately, today there is a Turkish martyrdom in the city of Krakow.⁴² Because of the martyrdom in question, many Turks visit Poland every year. This can be interpreted as bringing the two peoples closer together.

It is understood that in the last periods of Atatürk, especially new commercial agreements were made between Turkey and Poland and the terms of the existing agreements were extended. In this context, on 2 April 1937, the duration of the Clearing

39 Adalı, Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era, p.94-95.

40 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 246.664.2.

41 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 193.325.7.

42 Cengiz Dönmez, "Turkish Martyrs Abroad Due to World War I", Journal of Academic, V.7, N.14, 2014, p.155.

Agreement with Turkey and Poland for Secret Trade was extended.⁴³ Likewise, with a decision taken on 9 April 1937, the duration of the Turkish-Polish Trade and Clearing Agreement, which was signed in 1937, was extended.⁴⁴ Later, on 2 August 1937, a new trade agreement was made between Turkey and Poland, and it was put into effect by being published in the Official Gazette on 9 August 1937.⁴⁵ With these trade agreements made in the last era of Atatürk, it can be evaluated that the trade volume between Turkey and Poland has expanded further and the relations between the two countries have become stronger.

During the period of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, serious studies were carried out in order to improve Turkish agriculture and many experts were benefited. Agricultural experts, specially brought from Hungary and Poland, have been assigned in various fields⁴⁶. In this context, Polish Hans Bremerr came to Turkey as a plant diseases specialist in 1937 upon the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and he first worked at the Institute of Plant Protection in Bornova district of Izmir province, and later worked at the Institute of Plant Protection in Ankara.⁴⁷ It is very important to benefit from Poles, Germans, and Hungarians in order to increase productivity in Turkish agriculture and to do agriculture with more modern methods. These have made significant contributions to the development of Turkish agriculture.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was one of the most important actors of Turkish political history and who established strong relations between Turkey and Poland in political, commercial, social, and cultural fields, passed away on 10 November 1938. The death of Atatürk was welcomed with sorrow in Poland as in many countries, and this situation can be clearly seen in the Polish press of the time. In this context, upon the death of Atatürk, many Polish statesmen and soldiers sent a telegram to their Turkish counterparts and conveyed their condolences. Michał Sokolnicki Ambassador in Turkey representing President Ignacy Mościcki from Poland and General Zygmunt Podchorski representing the Polish army attended Atatürk's funeral ceremony held in Ankara on November 21.⁴⁸ This situation, as stated above, can be considered important in terms of showing the importance given to Atatürk and therefore to Turkey in Poland.

2. Turkish and Polish Relations in the era of İsmet İnönü (1938-1950)

İsmet İnönü was elected President of the Republic after Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. İsmet İnönü is the person who became the second president after Atatürk. During the period of İsmet İnönü, who served as president between 1938 and 1950, significant developments

43 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 76.56.9.

44 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 73.28.15.

45 Official Gazette, 10 August 1937, Issue: 3679, p. 8570.

46 Resul Köse, *The Compassionate Face of the State in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia, (1923-1960)*, Gazi Bookstore, Ankara 2021, p.135.

47 Alev Gözcü, "German Influence on the Development of Turkish Agriculture in Atatürk Era", *Journal of Contemporary Turkish History Research*, V.18, N.36, 2018, p.129.

48 Adalı, *Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era*, p.87.

took place in Turkish foreign policy.⁴⁹ This situation naturally affected the diplomatic relations between Turkey and Poland.

In the first years of İsmet İnönü's Presidency, the Second World War was experienced. The Second World War started with Germany's attack on Poland on 1 September 1939, and Poland was defeated in a short time with the attack of Soviet Russia from the east on 17 September 1939.⁵⁰ Poland went through a very difficult period during this era. Turkey which did not participate in the Second World War and followed a neutral policy did follow this event closely and the Turkish press often brought the developments in Poland to the agenda.⁵¹ According to the documents and information obtained from the Presidential Republic Archive, Turkey which was with Poland during this difficult period, tried to continue its existing relations with this country during the Second World War. This situation is explained below in the light of archive documents.

In the early years of İsmet İnönü's Presidency, weapons were purchased from Poland to be used in warplanes. In this context, the principles of the existing clearance agreement were used to purchase 400 light machine guns planned to be purchased from the PWU State Equipment Factory on 31 May 1939.⁵² After this commercial exchange, a new trade agreement was made in 1939 and this agreement and its annexes were approved on 19 July 1939.⁵³

In 1939, the Turkish ambassador to Hungary also changed. In place of the current ambassador Ferit Tek, the Brussels ambassador Cemal Hüsnü Taray has been appointed as Ambassador to Warsaw.⁵⁴ Thus, the Turkish Republic has started to follow the developments in Poland since this date in line with the information given by the new Ambassador Cemal Hüsnü Taray. Also, the date the new ambassador took office is the period when the Second World War started. This situation can be thought as Cemal Hüsnü Taray was serving under extremely difficult conditions.

Some people who had to leave their country due to the situation in Poland in 1940, were accepted as refugees in Turkey. In this context, Polish refugees, who started to work in various business areas in Turkey, requested support from the Turkish Government in order to send aid to their relatives and families staying in their native country.⁵⁵ This request has been accepted by the Turkish Government. Likewise, the Government of Poland, one of the former ministers Dr. Felicja Skladows and Witold Grabowski is permitted to remain as refugees in Turkey. On the same dates Antoni Roma, Julijusz Poniatoes, Bronislav Nakonicezniloow, Kulowski Nakoniceznikow and Kulkows in Romania, were allowed to come to Turkey as refugees. In addition, their spouses and children have also

49 Tefrik Çavdar, *History of Turkish Democracy (1839-1950)*, (3rd Edition), İmage Publications, Ankara, 2014, p. 353; Bernard Lewis, *The Birth of Modern Turkey*, (5th Edition), (Trans. Metin Kıratlı), Turkish Historical Society Publications, Ankara, 1993, p. 293.

50 Oral Sander, *Political History (1918-1994)*, (5th Edition), İmage Publications, Ankara, 1996, p.112; Rifat Uçarol, *Political History (1789-2014)*, (10th Edition), Der Publications. Istanbul, 2015, p.853.

51 Bülent Bakar, "The Katyn Incident in the Turkish Press: The Lost Polish Officers in the Second World War", *Marmara Turkic Studies Journal*, V.11, N.1, 2015, p.51.

52 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 87.49.17.

53 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 87.70.8.

54 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 87.71.12.

55 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 178.234.7.

been recognized as refugees.⁵⁶ This situation is important in terms of showing that Turkey helped the Polish people with whom they were in good relations during the war.

It is understood that people who came as refugees to Turkey in 1940 and 1941 from Poland who were in an extremely difficult situation due to the Second World War, were employed in various business areas. In this context, on 17 April 1941, Teodor Brys, a Geodesy and Photogrammetry Engineer, was employed for 2 years at the Mineral Research and Exploration Institute in Ankara.⁵⁷ After that, it was found appropriate to employ an expert named Henry Latour in Turkish Iron and Steel Factories in Karabük on 21 April 1941.⁵⁸ Likewise, with a decision taken on 7 August 1941, a Polish Agricultural Engineer Eugenius Grosser was employed in Eskişehir Factory owned by Turkish Sugar Factories Inc.⁵⁹ Likewise, there are also Polish experts who were employed in various business lines in Turkey in 1941. This can be thought of as showing the extent to which Turkey is helping the Polish refugees.

According to the documents obtained from the Prime Ministry Republic Archives, it is understood that the Turkish side sent packages containing various foodstuffs to Poland for aid purposes. In this context, it was decided to send 200 aid packages every month by the Turkish Red Crescent to Poland, where the people are in a difficult situation due to the war conditions.⁶⁰ On the same dates, it was decided to increase the 150 boxes of aid sent to Polish prisoners of war in Germany to 300 boxes.⁶¹ The aid packages in question reveal the fact that Turkey extended a helping hand and supported the Poles who were in a difficult situation due to the conditions of the Second World War.

Turkey demonstrated at every opportunity that it was in full solidarity with Poland during the war years. However, there have been also problems during these years. During this period, the only problem in Turkish-Polish relations arose due to the Wealth Tax Law dated 11 November 1942. 15 Poles living in Polonezköy are covered by this tax. In general, about 500 Polish citizens living in Turkey were obliged to pay the wealth tax. Although there is no detailed information about the attitude of the Polish Embassy in the face of this problem and the solution of the issue, Turkey being in full solidarity with Poland as of the period prevented this problem from creating a serious crisis between the two countries.⁶² Although there were small problems between the two countries during the Second World War, attention was paid to the establishment of friendly relations between Turkey and Poland.

During the Second World War, numerous Poles were allowed to be employed in Turkey. In this context, the decision was taken on 1 April 1943, Engineer David Alleweil, the brother of Leon Alleweil Polish Jew working in the Turkish State Port Enterprises, his wife Ruth, and their children Victor, were allowed to come to Turkey.⁶³ Likewise,

56 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 92.76.9.

57 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 94.33.6.

58 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 94.34.7.

59 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 95.69.7.

60 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 179.235.11.

61 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 178.234.30; Nurgün Koç, "Aids by Turkey to German Occupied Countries in World War II", *Bilig Journal*, N. 84, 2018, p. 105.

62 Adalı, Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era, p.106.

63 PMRA, 30.18.1.2, Place No: 101.25.12.

Polish Montor Roman Çekoviç was allowed to be employed within Sümer Bank.⁶⁴ Polish experts Ander Wactx İgnacy, Rawcz Czerski Hastausz and Josef Cubulski were appointed to organize the Sumer Bank.⁶⁵ These people, who left Poland and took refuge status in Turkey, made serious contributions to the development of Turkish public institutions and organizations.

The Embassy of Poland aware of the Turkish aid to Poland during the Second World War, made a request from Turkey. In 1943, the Polish Embassy demanded an increase in the aid packages it sends to Poland every month to be sent to poor professors, scientists, and artists in their countries. By accepting this request, Turkey accepted the sending of 5,000 boxes of five kilograms each containing dried figs and raisins to French prisoners in Poland and Germany.⁶⁶ Turkey helps scientists in Poland who are considered to be struggling for life in difficult conditions, which reveals the importance given by the Turkish people to the world of science.

In the 1940s, Poland faced serious problems in the field of foreign policy, where it was in the war. Therefore, diplomatic relations were extremely limited in relations between Turkey and Poland during the period in question. Due to the aforementioned situation, it tried to help Polish people and accepted those who could come to Turkey and employed them in various business fields. In this sense, Herbert Motsek, who is from Poland, has been allowed to work in the Municipality of Ankara department of Bus Operations.⁶⁷ Another Polish citizen Josef Cybulski, has been found appropriate to be employed in Cement Factories in Kocaeli and Eskişehir. In addition, Josef Cybulski was allowed to enter the 2nd Forbidden Zone in Eskişehir in order to ensure the transportation of the machines to be dismantled in the cement factory in Kocaeli Eskişehir.⁶⁸ In 1944, it was approved by the Ministry to employ one of the Polish experts named Roman Çekoviç as Electrical Foreman for one year at the Sümer Bank Survey and Installation Committee.⁶⁹ This person was also allowed to enter the forbidden zones to work in Eskişehir Cement Factory, Hereke Weaving Factory, İzmit Chlorine and Alkali Factory and Isparta Yarn Factory.⁷⁰

The years of the second war were the years when cooperation between Poland and Turkey was established, which is perhaps not the first in the aviation field, but which yielded much more lasting fruit than the first. "Kayseri Aircraft Factory is one of the important places where numerous Polish engineers work in a large Turkish Aeronautical Association workshops where the Poles worked in Turkey during World War II, and that the Turks themselves call the "Polish factory in Turkey".⁷¹ As seen in the examples, Poles were employed in important Turkish workplaces. This clearly reveals that Turkey both trust and give importance to the Poles.

64 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 101.25.14.

65 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 101.32.16; PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2, Place No: 101.32.17.

66 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 179.236.3.

67 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 105.27.11.

68 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 106.56.16.

69 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 107.87.11.

70 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 107.80.16.

71 Osman Firat Baş, "The Katyn Incident in the Turkish Press: The Lost Polish Officers in the Second World War", Marmara Turcic Studies Journal, V.11, N.1, 2014, p.37.

Relations Between Turkey and Poland in The First Era of The Republic (1923-1950)

Supporting the Polish government in exile, who first settled in Angers in France and then in London during the Second World War years, on 17 August 1945 Turkey announced that it recognized the Provisional National Unity Government. Thereupon, Ambassador Michał Sokolnicki, who was the representative of the government in London, left the embassy building in Ankara on 28 August 1945. Thus, the Polish government sent the charge d'affaires Romuald Buczyński to Turkey as its first representative after the war. Immediately after Romuald Buczyński, who took office in Turkey on 16 January 1946, Turkey appointed a new ambassador to Warsaw. The Turkish new ambassador to Warsaw was Şevki Berker, who was appointed from the Government on 28 September 1946.⁷²

Turkey which wants to maintain good relations with the Republic of Poland after the Second World War stated that it was uncomfortable with some articles published against Poland in the press. In this sense, in the first years of 1947, applications were made to the Turkish Embassy in Warsaw by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Polish Embassy due to the articles against the Polish Government in the Turkish press, and these articles which could cause problems between the two countries were asked to be terminated. Turkey which found this demand justified requested the press to stop these articles. It was stated that the reason for this was to prevent the deterioration of the existing good relations between Turkey and Poland.⁷³ In fact, there is freedom of the press in Turkey and newspapers can write their ideas in a free environment. However, Turkey had to intervene in the press at the request of Poland. Because if it had continued these articles against Poland in the newspapers, this would have caused the relations between the two countries to be damaged. Therefore, Turkey which does not want to spoil strong diplomatic relations with the Polish Government, prohibited from writing such articles in the press.

Entering the normalization process after the Second World War, Poland became active again in its foreign policy. The most obvious examples of this are the trade agreements made by Poland. In this context, a Trade and Payment Agreement was signed between Turkey and Poland on 18 October 1948.⁷⁴ Thus, it can be interpreted as the commercial and diplomatic relations between the two countries which had stopped due to the Second World War, started again with this agreement.

After the Trade and Payment Agreement signed between Turkey and Poland, a new trade agreement was signed in 1949. Within the scope of this agreement, a trade and payment agreement was signed between the two countries on 15 February 1949 and the annexes of these agreements were also approved. With this trade agreement, the Turkish Government and the Polish Government will apply a mutually favorable treatment as far as possible in order to facilitate trade exchanges between the two countries within the framework of general import and export regimes in the submission of import and export permits and licenses.⁷⁵

72 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2; Place No: 111.62.8; Turkish-Polish Relations in the Republic Era, p. 108.

73 PMRA, Code: 30.10.0.0, Place No: 246.664.19.

74 PMRA, Code: 30.18.1.2; Place No: 117.65.15.

75 Official Gazette, 13 February 1949, Issue: 7135, p. 15.528.

According to the documents obtained from the Presidential Republic Archive, in 1950, the last period of our study, two important developments took place in the context of Turkish-Polish relations. The developments in question are the acquisition of Turkish citizenship of some Polish people. In this context, the Polish Viktor Miklesko and his wife Meri Simon, and his daughter Luis Miklesko, were granted Turkish citizenship for the first time on 23 February 1950.⁷⁶ Likewise, in 1950, Elvina Godmirska was taken into Turkish citizenship and allowed to settle in Turkey.⁷⁷ It can be interpreted that the relations between the two countries, which have improved with the previous political and commercial agreements, have enabled progress in the social field, as well as the incident described above.

CONCLUSION

The history of relations between Turkey and Poland goes back to very old times. Relations between the two countries have been very good until the start of the second world war. Although there has been a decrease in the relations between the two countries due to the Second World War, the relations have entered a normalization period again in the Cold War Period.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first President of the Turkish Republic, served from 1923 to 1938. During this period, extremely important developments took place in Turkish foreign policy. Peace lies at the heart of Atatürk's Turkish foreign policy. Trying to establish strong relations with Western states, it is seen that one of the places where Turkey paid close attention to Poland and opened an embassy, was Poland. This can be interpreted as that Turkey wants to establish good relations with the Polish Government, especially in diplomacy, economic, social, and cultural fields, and that they want to get to know these people more closely.

The first years of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's rule are regarded as the beginning of a period in which bilateral relations between Turkey and Poles were resumed. Relations based on friendship from history offered both these two countries and their peoples the opportunity to get closer to each other in the post-war period. During this period, serious steps were taken between the two countries, especially in the field of trade, and attention was paid to further increasing the existing commercial potential. In this, Turkish Ambassador to Warsaw Ibrahim Ethem Tali and Polish Ambassador to Ankara Roman Knool had serious contributions.

In the context of establishing strong relations between Turkey and Poles, the Litvinov Protocol is extremely important. The borders of Poland, which tried to preserve its existence before the Second World War, became vulnerable with the Locarno Treaty signed in 1925. Recognizing this situation, the Polish Government started to look for some solutions in order to protect its borders. Accordingly, the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which prohibits the use of war as a national policy tool, was signed on 27 August 1928 with the participation of Poland. At the request of Poland, Turkey also participated in the Kellogg-Briand Pact negotiations. Thus, it is seen that Turkey and Poles started to act together in

⁷⁶ PMRA, Code:30.18.1.2, Place No: 121.112.16.

⁷⁷ PMRA, Code:30.18.1.2; Place No: 123.74.20.

the international arena. This makes it clear that the two nations are getting closer to each other in the field of diplomacy.

Since the 1930s, trade and payment agreements have been made one after the other in order to increase the trade potential between the two countries. In these agreements, guarantees were given by the two countries that the necessary facilities would be provided in order to increase the import and export rates. Especially before the Second World War, there was a relative increase in the Turkish trade volume with Poland. These agreements had a serious contribution to this increase.

Except for a few incidents during the Atatürk period, attention was paid to establishing very friendly relations with Poland in general. However, during this period, some adverse events occurred for both countries. One of them is the events of Polonezköy and the other is that some newspapers in Poland write articles against Turkish foreign policy. In this context, some newspapers published in Poland were banned from entering Turkey on the grounds that they wrote articles contrary to Turkish foreign policy. During the Atatürk period, many newspapers published in Poland were allowed to enter Turkey. However, as stated above, some newspapers are strictly prohibited from entering Turkey. Although this situation did not cause the deterioration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it can still be thought that there may be a change in the view of some Turkish citizens towards Poland due to these newspapers.

In the mid-1930s, the era of Atatürk, the Polish government wanted to establish good and strong diplomacy with Turkey, so they thought that favorable conditions would be created for Turkey to stop pursuing a foreign policy on the Russian axis. Due to the aforementioned situation, the Polish Government, considering that Turkey would not sign important agreements without the permission of Russia, was especially interested in the changes that might occur in Atatürk's foreign policy. Since 1932, Turkey's close interest in the developments in the world and its membership in many international institutions and organizations have been followed with the deal by Poland.

During the Atatürk era, new institutions were opened and existing ones were renewed in order to ensure the modernization of the country. In this context, many experts have been brought from abroad and employed in important fields. In this context, many experts were brought to Turkey from Poland and Hungary which are among the Central European countries. Especially those from Poland have worked in agriculture, machinery and aircraft fields. These people have contributed to the development of the country by carrying out serious studies in these fields.

After the death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1938, İsmet İnönü was appointed as the head of state and İnönü continued this duty until 1950. During the new President's term, good and strong diplomatic relations with Poland continued. Although this situation was interrupted for a short time due to the Second World War, the relations between the two countries started to return to normal after the end of the war.

From the very beginning, the Turkish Republic extended a helping hand to the Poles, who were struggling for existence under extremely difficult conditions due to the Second

World War, and tried to help the people here. In this context, during the period of İsmet İnönü, many Polish refugees were accepted, and they were allowed to reside in Turkey with their families. These refugees were also provided with job opportunities and allowed to work in various business lines. In addition, various aids and aid packages were sent to the Poles in Poland and Germany by the Turkish side. In this way, this attitude of Turkey which tries to show that it is with the Polish people, has prepared the environment for the two peoples to approach each other with even more sympathy.

After the end of the Second World War, life in Poland started to return to normal again. The Polish Government has started to pursue an active policy in the field of foreign policy. In this context, a number of agreements were made in order to restore diplomatic and economic relations between Turkey and Poland which had considerably reduced during the war years. Especially the trade agreements made during the period of İsmet İnönü, prepared the environment for the re-development of the trade volume between the two countries. Diplomatic relations between the two countries which became active again after the Second World War, still continue very well today.

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