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## THE FIRST TRANSLATIONS OF THE QUR'AN IN MODERN TURKEY (1924–38)

In 1925, the Turkish parliament commissioned a translation of the Qur'an from Arabic to Turkish as well as a Turkish-language Qur'anic commentary. This project is commonly misunderstood as an initiative engineered by Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) and linked to the radical institutional reforms of 1924: abolition of the Islamic caliphate, prohibition of the Sufi orders, and closure of the *medreses*. In fact, parliament's support of a Qur'an translation was not a radical nationalist reform but an initiative supported and executed by devout intellectuals who opposed other facets of Islamic reform in the early years of the Turkish republic.