



„Everybody can do it” (ECDI)

Women who inspire Europe

Halide Edip Adivar

Halide Edip Adivar or Halide Edib Adivar (1884–1964) was a Turkish novelist and nationalist and feminist political leader.

She was best known for her novels criticizing the low social status of Turkish women and what she saw as the lack of interest of most women in changing their situation.



Fatma Aliye

Fatma Aliye Topuz (1862 - 1936), aka simply Fatma Aliye or Fatma Aliye Hanım, was a Turkish novelist, columnist, essayist, women's rights activist and humanitarian.

She is credited by literary circles as the first female novelist in Turkish literature and the Islamic world.



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Nezihe Muhiddin

Nezihe Muhiddin (1889 – 1958) was an Ottoman and Turkish women's rights activist, journalist, writer and political leader.

She spent her life working to improve the quality of the lives of Turkish women.



Feriha Tefvik Dağ

Feriha Tefvik Dağ (maiden name: Negüz, 1910–22 April 1991) was a Turkish beauty pageant contestant and actress. She is best known for being the very first Miss Turkey (1929).

She participated again in the pageant in 1932 and finished second after Keriman Halis.



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Hatı Çırpan

Hatı Çırpan (formerly Satı Kadın, 1890 - 1956) was one of the first female deputies of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, elected in the 8 February 1935 general elections.

She changed her first name, Sati, to Hatı at the request of the Atatürk who was interested in Hatti at the time.

Tansu Penbe Çiller

Tansu Penbe Çiller (born in 1946, Istanbul) is a Turkish economist, politician and the 22nd Prime Minister of Turkey.

She is Turkey's first and only female prime minister to date.





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Sabiha Gökçen



Sabiha Gökçen (1913 –2001) was a Turkish / Bosniak aviator.

According to the Air University, she was the world's first female fighter pilot, and the first Turkish female combat pilot, aged 23.

She was one of the eight adopted children of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Müfide İlhan

Müfide İlhan (1911- 1996) was a mayor of Mersin, Turkey in the early 1950s.

She is known as being the first woman mayor in Turkey.





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Gülkız Ürbül

Gülkız Ürbül (1901-1990) was the first female muhtar (villagehead) in Turkey. She later on changed her name to *Gül Esin Aydın*.

In 1930s Gülkız Ürbül was one of the few literate village women in Turkey. In the election campaign she ran against seven male candidates and won the muhtar election.

Behice Boran

First female Turkish party leader was Behice Boran (1910-1987).

A member of the Workers Party of Turkey (TİP), she was elected as the chairman of the party in 1970 and continued in this post until all the political parties were closed following the September 11, 1980 military coup.





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Türkân Akyol

Türkân Akyol (born October 12, 1928) is a Turkish female politician, physician and academician.

She was the first female government minister and the first female university rector in Turkey

Lale Aytaman

Dr. Lale Aytaman (born 1944) was the governor of Muğla province in Turkey from 1991 to 1995 and the first female governor of Turkey.

She is well known for her engagement for the protection of the environment, cultural heritage, and promoting tourism in her region. She helped women for promoting their handicrafts.





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Sabiha Gökçen (March 22, 1913 - March 22, 2001) was a Turkish aviator. According to the Air University, she was the world's first female fighter pilot, and the first Turkish female combat pilot, aged 23. She was one of the eight adopted children of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Atatürk attached great importance to aviation and for that purpose, oversaw the foundation of the Turkish Aeronautical Association in 1925. He took Sabiha along with him to the opening ceremony of Türkkuşu (Turkishbird) Flight School on May 5, 1935. During the airshow of gliders and parachutists invited from foreign countries, she got very excited. As Atatürk asked her whether she would also want to become a skydiver, she nodded "yes indeed, I am ready right now". Atatürk instructed Fuat Bulca, the head of the school, to enroll her as the first female trainee. She should have become a skydiver, however she was much more interested in flying, so she received her pilot's

licence. Gökçen was sent to Russia, together with seven male students, for an advanced course in glider and powered aircraft piloting. However, when she was in Moscow, she learned the news that Zehra had died, and with collapsed morale, she immediately returned to Turkey, isolating herself from social activities for some time.

In the beginning of 1936, Atatürk urged her to attend the Air Force Academy[citation needed] to become the first female military pilot of Turkey. She improved her skills by flying bomber and fighter planes at the 1st Aircraft Regiment in Eskişehir Airbase and got experience after participating in the Aegean and Thrace exercises in 1937. In that same year, she took part in the military operation against the Dersim rebellion and became the first Turkish female air force combat pilot. A report of the General Staff mentioned the "serious damage" that had been caused by her 50 kg bomb, upon a group of 50 fleeing "bandits." She was also awarded the Turkish Aeronautical Association's first "Jeweled Medal" due to her superior performance in this operation.

In 1938, she carried out a five-day flight around the Balkan countries to great acclaim. Later, she was appointed chief trainer of the Türkkuşu Flight School of Turkish Aeronautical Association, where she served until 1955 and became a member of the association's executive board. She trained four female aviators, Edibe Subaşı, Yıldız Uçman, Sahavet Karapas and Nezihe Viranyalı. Sabiha Gökçen flew around the world for a period of 28 years until 1964. Her book entitled "A Life Along the Path of Atatürk" was published in 1981 by the Turkish Aeronautical Association to commemorate Atatürk's 100th birthday.

Throughout her career in the Turkish Air Force, Gökçen flew 22 different types of aircraft for more than 8000 hours, 32 hours of which were active combat and bombardment missions.



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Afife Jale (1902 - July 24, 1941), was a Turkish stage actress, best known as the first Muslim theatre actress in her country. She was born 1902 as Afife in Istanbul to Hidayet and his wife Methiye. She had a sister Behiye and a brother Salâh. She was studying at Girl's Industry School in Istanbul, wanted however to be an actress. In the Ottoman Empire, Muslim Turkish women were not allowed to play on stage by a decree of the Ministry of Interior. Only non-Muslim women of Greek, Armenian or Jewish minorities were eligible for cast.

Her father was against a theatre career of her because he considered it as unsound. For this reason, she ran away from her parent's house. She entered as a trainee the theatre of the newly established city conservatory. The Conservatory had opened up a

course to train Muslim women actresses with the rationale to play for women audience only.

Afife debuted on stage in 1920, acting as "Emel" in the theatre play "Yamalar" written by Hüseyin Suat. The role had become vacant as the Armenian Eliza Binemeciyan had went abroad. She took the stage name Jale for this play, and was called from then on as Afife Jale. Performing at "Apollon Theatre" in Kadıköy, Afife Jale became the first ever Muslim Turkish stage actress in the country. She had to be hidden at least twice by her non-Muslim co-actors during police raids in the middle of the play. The management of the conservatory was warned of the restriction that led to her discharge from the theatre in 1921. She then played in some other theatre companies under various stage names. She found herself in financial trouble, and began suffering acute headache. She became addicted to morphine after her doctor applied a morphine based therapy to her.

In 1923, Mustafa Kemal, the founder of the newly proclaimed Republic, lifted the ban for acting of Muslim women on stage. This led to ending of Afife's fears. She joined the theatre again, and toured in Anatolia. However, her drug addiction caused worsening of her health that led finally to her retirement from the theatre forever.



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Nene Hatun(1857 - 22 known for brutally behing on the battlefield from Russian forces at According to Turkish Erzurum called Aziziye defending the city. On captured by the Russian brother Hasan, who was when, the news of the kissed her dead death. She left her



home, joining the counterattack against Aziziye with her dead brother's rifle and her hatchet. The counter-attack was launched by Turkish civilians who were mostly women and elderly men armed with axes and farming equipment. Hundreds of Turkish civilians were killed by Russian gunfire but their numbers were so overwhelming they managed to enter the fortifications breaking down its iron doors. A hand-to-hand fight ended with around 2000 Russian soldiers being killed and rest ran away. Nene Hatun was found unconscious, wounded and her bloodied hands still firmly grasping her hatchet. She was identified as being the most heroic of them all and became a symbol of bravery.

May 1955) was a Turkish folk heroine, who became massacring dying and wounded Russian soldiers left after the recapture of Fort Aziziye in Erzurum the start of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878. folklore, she had been living in a neighborhood of that was close to an important fortification the night of 7 November 1877, Fort Aziziye was army on the evening of 9 November. Nene Hatun's heavily wounded died that evening. In the morning Russian capture of Fort of Aziziye was heard, she brother's head and took an oath to avenge his three-month old baby girl and an adolescent son at



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Halide Edib Adivar(1884- 9 January 1964) was a Turkish novelist and nationalist and feminist political leader. She was best known for her novels criticizing the low social status of Turkish women and what she saw as the lack of interest of most women in changing their situation. During the Independence War, she made so much speech to motivate public about Istanbul occupation. Also, she worked as a journalist and had a role of the foundation Of Anadolu News Agency. She wrote twenty one novels, four storybooks and two drama. "Sinekli Bakkal" is the best known novel. She wrote so many articles about women rights, as a defender of women. In 1950, she worked at parelementer as a senator.



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Semiha Berksoy (Istanbul, 1910 - August 15, 2004) was one of the first Turkish opera singers, the prima donna of the Turkish opera, painter, and an internationally acclaimed artist. She studied painting at the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts and singing at the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory. Berksoy started her acting career the role of Semiha in the first Turkish sound movie *İstanbul Sokaklarında* directed by Muhsin Ertuğrul in 1931. She was cast in operettas in Istanbul theaters early in her career. She sang in the first Turkish opera *Özsoy* in 1934. She was honoured as the First Turkish Opera Singer and awarded with the opportunity to go to Berlin Music Academy for further training. She started her international singing career in 1934, performing in Turkey, Germany and Portugal, becoming known as a Wagnerian soprano. In 1939, for the 75th birthday of Richard Strauss in Berlin, she sang the role of

Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, becoming the first Turkish prima donna to perform on stage in Europe. Back in Turkey, she worked with Carl Ebert helping him in his efforts to create the Turkish State Opera and Ballet. This initiative led to the creation of the Experimental Stage of the Ankara State Conservatory 1940.

She retired from the Istanbul Opera in 1972. She was decorated with the "Atatürk Opera Award" at the 50th anniversary ceremonies commemorating the introduction of women's rights to vote and to be elected. She received the title of "State Artist" in Turkey in 1998. Following her retirement, she remained active mostly as a theater artist.

Four years preceding her death, at the age of 90, she appeared in a dramatic scene singing *Liebestod* in Robert Wilson's opera *The Days Before: Death, Destruction and Detroit III* at the Lincoln Center in New York City (1999).

She died in Istanbul at the age of 94 due to complications related with heart surgery. She is survived by a daughter, Zeliha Berksoy.



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Remziye Hisar(1902-1992) was a Turkish academic in chemistry, who is considered as one of the first women scientists of her country. Arrived in Istanbul, she was appointed administrative staff at Erenköy Girls High School. Remziye did not like the post because she wanted to teach chemistry. Her application to study for her PhD degree on scholarship in Paris was initially rejected. So, she applied for a vacant chemistry teacher's position at the Mining Engineering School in Zonguldak. Thereupon, Minister of Education Cemal Hüsnü (Taray) offered her a scholarship for doctoral studies in France, and her son Feza's entry into the renowned Galatasaray High School as a free-of-charge boarding student.

In 1930, the couple divorced. She took her daughter Deha and her younger sister Mihri along with her to Paris, where the sister cared for the daughter. She conducted research on Metaphosphate by Paul Pascal (1880-1968) receiving her PhD title three years later with honors.

In 1933, Remziye returned home. She was appointed associate professor of general chemistry and physical chemistry at Istanbul University, which had recently underwent an organizational reformation. In 1936, she moved Ankara to take the post of a specialist for biochemistry at the Pharmacodynamics Department of Public Health Institut.

In 1947, Remziye, who had adopted the surname Hisar following the commencement of Law on family names in 1934, went to Istanbul Technical University to take again the post of associate professor in chemistry at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry. She was promoted to full professor in 1959. In 1973, she retired.