

TURKEY

Date of Elections: 6 November 1983

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament. In September 1980, Parliament had been dissolved following a military coup d'Etat*.

Characteristics of Parliament

Under the 1982 Constitution**, the unicameral Parliament of Turkey, the Grand National Assembly, comprises 400 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Turkish citizens at least 21 years of age, except military students and persons serving their compulsory military service, are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, prisoners and persons ineligible for or withdrawn from public service.

Electoral registers are revised every four years. Voting is compulsory, abstention being punishable by a fine of TL2,500 (approximately US\$14).

Qualified electors who are at least 30 years old and have completed their primary education may be candidates for Parliament provided they have completed their compulsory military service (for men) and have not been sentenced for certain crimes listed in the Constitution. Judges, prosecutors, members of high courts, university professors, public officials and members of the armed forces may not stand for elections unless they resign from their work.

Candidates may either be nominated by political parties or run as independents. They must be supported by a given number of electors (which varies according to the population of the constituency) and make a monetary deposit, which is reimbursed to all unsuccessful candidates.

For election purposes, Turkey is divided into 82 constituencies. In each, selection of Assembly members is via party-list proportional representation system. Parties which fail to obtain 10% of the nationwide poll do not qualify for the seats in any constituency. By-elections between general elections are held once there are 20 vacant seats.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), p. 26.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XVII* (1982-1983), p. 14.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

With the military take-over in September 1980, the National Assembly elected for four years in June 1977 was dissolved and all legislative powers were transferred to a National Security Council (NSC). In October 1981, a Constituent Assembly was given the task of drafting a new Constitution, Electoral Law and Political Parties Law. The new Constitution was approved by popular referendum in November 1982; it included provisions for a single-chamber legislature.

The 1983 election date was announced on 29 April by General Kenan Evren, Chairman of the NSC. The campaign lasted 20 days. Contenders (as allowed by the NSC) for the 400 Assembly seats were the centre-right Motherland Party (*Anavatan Partisi*), led by Mr. Turgut Ozal; the centre-left Populist Party (*Halkei Partisi*) of Mr. Necdet Calp; and the right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party (*Milliyetci Demokrasi Partisi*), headed by retired General Turgut Sunalp. During the campaign, Mr. Ozal, a former Deputy Prime Minister, concentrated on economic issues, promising to take measures to encourage exports and foreign investment, as well as increase the market orientation of Turkey's economy. The Nationalist Democracy Party vowed to continue the work of the ruling military council, and emphasized "law and order".

On polling day, the Motherland Party registered a clear victory, obtaining an absolute majority of 211 Assembly seats. As a result, Mr. Ozal became Prime Minister and, on 13 December, announced the composition of his Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Grand National Assembly

| | | |
|--|------------|---------|
| Number of registered electors. | 19,740,500 | |
| Voters. | 18,214,104 | (92.2%) |
| Blank or void ballot papers. | 885,369 | |
| Valid votes. | 17,328,735 | |

| Political Group | Votes obtained | % | Number of Seats |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Motherland Party | 7,823,827 | 45.15 | 211 |
| Populist Party. | 5,277,698 | 30.46 | 117 |
| Nationalist Democracy Party | 4,032,046 | 23.27 | 71 |
| Independents | | 1.12 | — |
| | | | 399* |

* Plus one vacancy.

*2. Distribution of Deputies according
to Professional Category*

| | |
|---|-----------|
| General directors. | 61 |
| Lawyers. | 59 |
| Administrators of private sector. | 56 |
| Businessmen. | 44 |
| Members of the teaching profession. | 26 |
| Contractors. | 22 |
| Military (including retired). | 20 |
| Financial advisers. | 14 |
| Doctors. | 13 |
| Trade unionists. | 12 |
| Governors, administrators. | 10 |
| Journalists. | 9 |
| Judges, prosecutors. | 9 |
| Pharmacists. | 7 |
| Engineers. | 6 |
| Dentists. | 6 |
| Farmers. | 5 |
| Importers-Exporters. | 5 |
| Architects. | 3 |
| Others. | <u>12</u> |
| | 399* |

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Men. | 387 |
| Women. | <u>12</u> |
| | 399* |

*4. Distribution of Deputies according
to Date of Birth*

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1895-1900. | 1 |
| 1901-1910. | 4 |
| 1911-1920. | 32 |
| 1921-1930. | 122 |
| 1931-1940. | 102 |
| 1941-1950. | 116 |
| 1951-1953. | 22 |