



"The Grand National Assembly is the essence of centuries-long quest of Turkish nation and a strong symbol of its consciousness of self-government."

K. Atatürk



EGEMENLİK KAYITSIZ SARTSIZ MİLLETİNDİR



HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The construction of the First Grand National Assembly building, which is used as the "Museum of the War of Independence" today, had started in 1915 with the intention to be used as the Committee of Union and Progress club building. The construction had been left half-finished due to the War of Independence and lack of materials and its architect Hasip Bey died a martyr during the War. When it was decided that the inaugural meeting of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey be held on April 23, 1920, it was observed that not a single building with the required size and equipment existed in Ankara for the Assembly meeting. Under these circumstances, it was decided that the Committee of Union and Progress club building be completed and used as the Assembly building.

The building, which was one of the first examples of the First National Architectural Period Style in Ankara and completed by architect Necati Bey, hosted the Assembly from April 23, 1920 to October 15, 1924. Work started in 1957 in order to convert the building into a museum and it was opened to the public as the "Museum of the Grand National Assembly" on April 23, 1961. The building was reopened on April 23, 1981 as the "Museum of the War of Independence" and passed on to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on May 5, 2009.

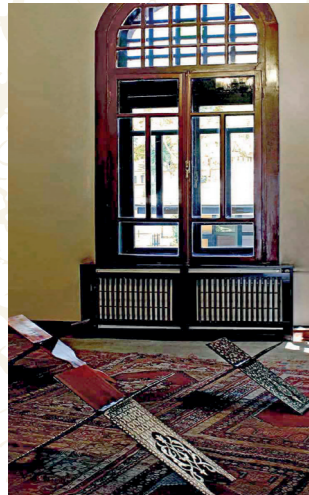
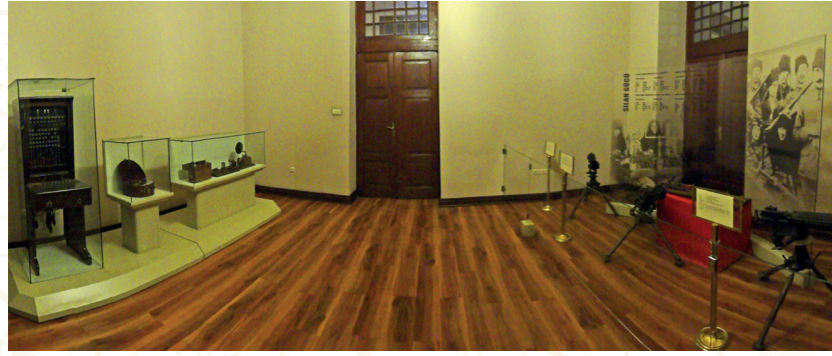


OPENING OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly, which was opened on April 23, 1920 with a rapturous ceremony, held its inaugural session with the participation of 115 deputies. After the opening speech of Sinop Deputy Şerif Bey who had served as the *interim speaker* as the eldest member, Mustafa Kemal Pasha, Deputy for Ankara, had taken the floor. Mustafa Kemal Pasha had emphasized the importance of the Assembly at his speech by stating that "*There exists no longer an authority above the supreme Assembly*". Mustafa Kemal Pasha was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the Assembly at the second session held on April 24, 1920.

It was this Assembly that adopted the first Constitution of Turkey and the Turkish National Anthem (1921), abolished the Sultanate (1922), established Ankara as the capital of the Republic of Turkey (1923) and proclaimed the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923. *Gazi (Veteran) Mustafa Kemal Pasha* was also elected as the President of the Republic at this Assembly.





WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



MUSEUM OF THE



THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY

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Museum of the War of Independence

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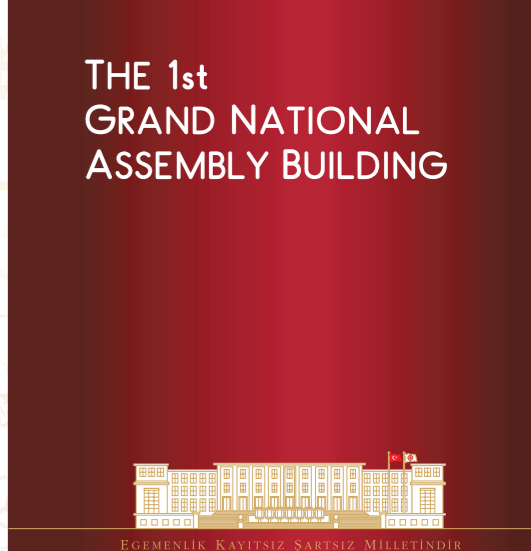
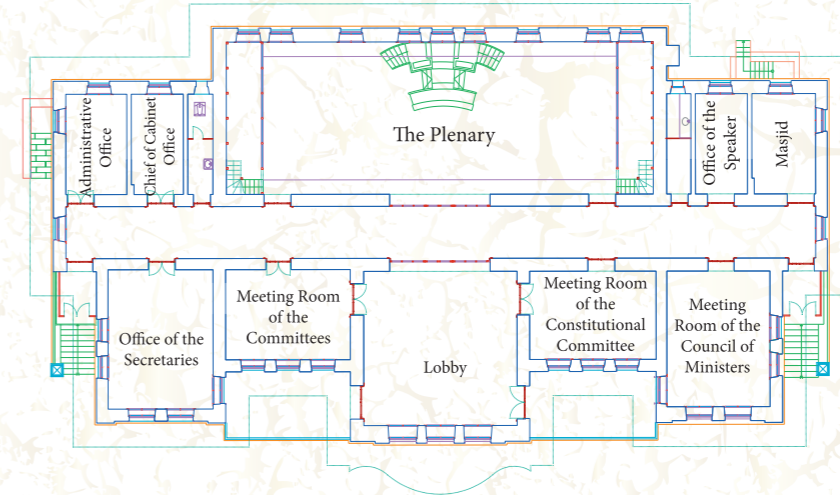
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THE 1st GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING



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