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QUESTION

Evaluate the success and limitations of Ataturk's reforms in shaping modern Turkey.

① INTRODUCTION:

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk changed the trajectory of the Turkish nation when he came to power. He introduced extensive reforms during his rule from 1923-1938. He presented six principles that strived to achieve a secular, modern and nationalistic state, a clear departure from the previous religious nature of the state. These reforms were instrumental for the success of the nation after fighting a devastating war. However, these reforms were not without its limitations that fueled political instability and increased military interventions in the political affairs of the country.

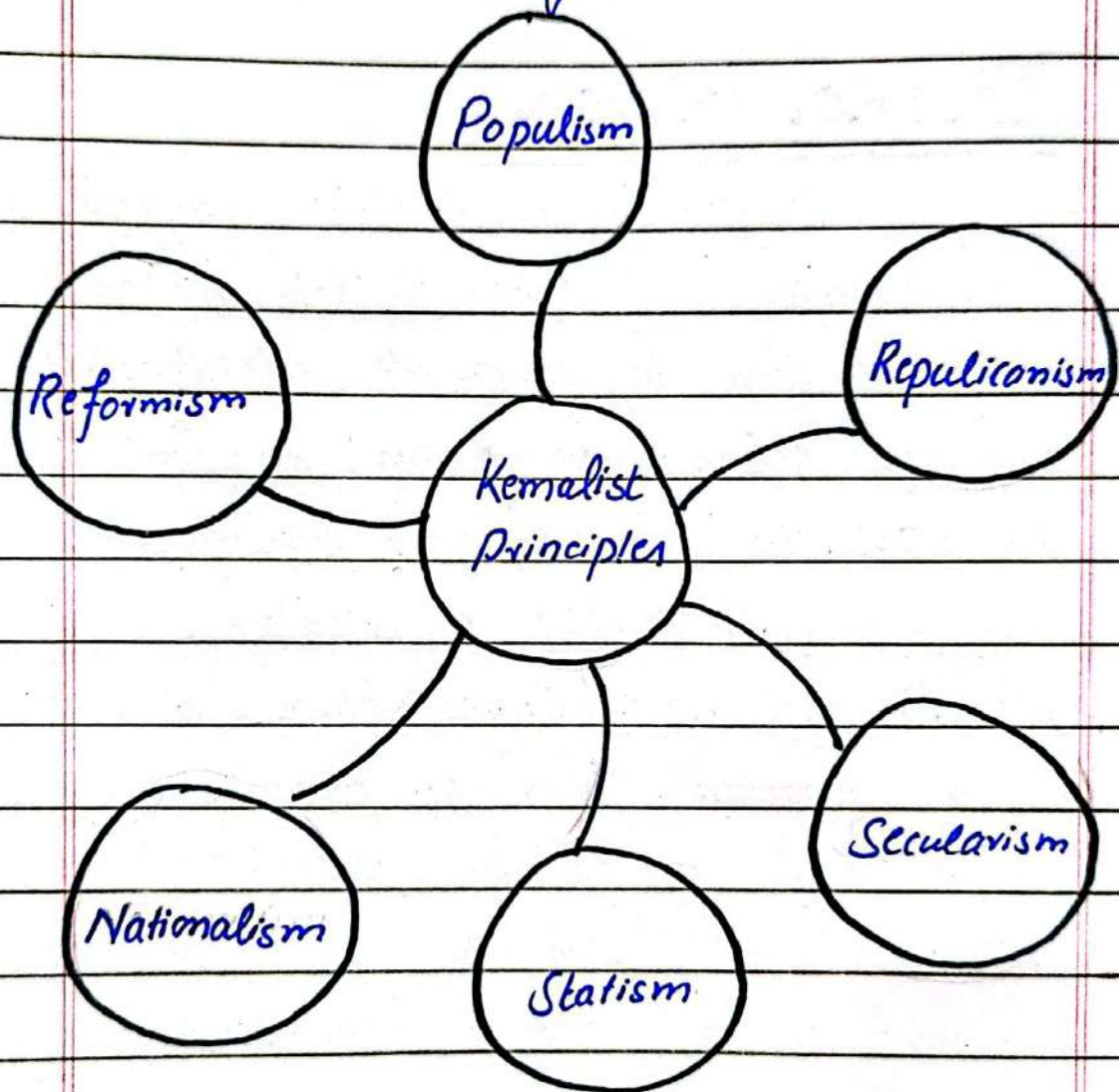
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②

UNDERSTANDING THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF KEMALISM:

The following six principles were introduced by Kemal Ataturk



(a) Reformism: Vesting authority in the popular will

Mustafa Kemal abolished the Ottoman Empire and established a democratic republic in ~~1922~~ 1923.

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(b) Reformism: Progressive reforms
towards the future

Pushed for progressive reforms, rejecting the Ottoman past. For instance, the Hat law replaced traditional Ottoman clothing with western attire.

(c) Secularism: Separation of
religion from politics

Kemal Atatürk abolished Islam as the state religion through a constitutional amendment in 1928

(d) Statism: State led economic
development

Introduced mixed economic model, balancing private enterprise with state led industrialization.

(e) Nationalism: Common Turkish
Identity

Common Turkish identity was emphasized over ethnic or religious identities

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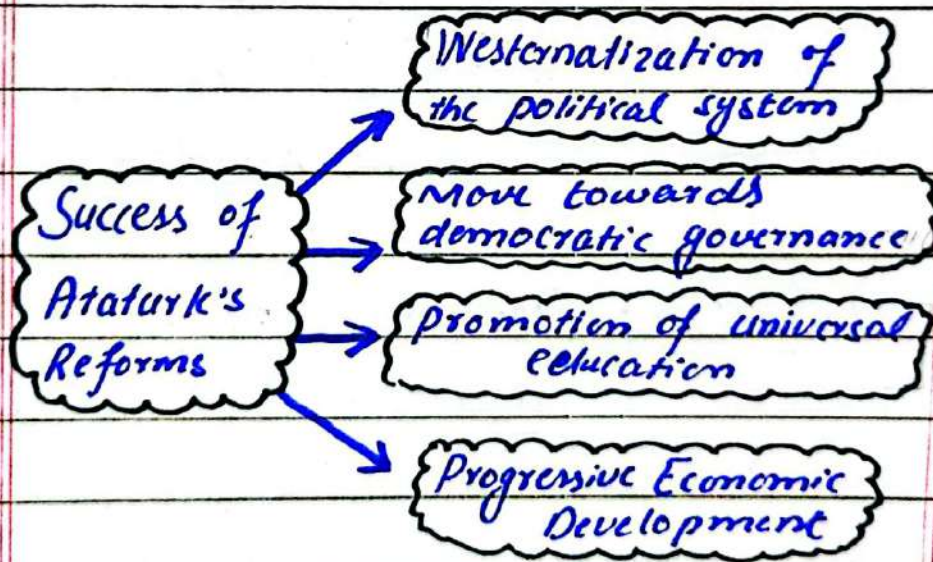
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(f) Populism : Strengthening national unity

Ataturk sought to eliminate class distinctions, promoting equal rights for all citizens.

③ SUCCESS OF ATATURK'S REFORMS :

The implementation of Kemalist principles achieved following success



(a) Westernization of the political and governance structure :

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk introduced various policies and reforms based on the Western model.

- Abolished Caliphate in 1923
- Abolished Islam as a state religion in 1928
- Implement Civil Code (1926) that replaced Islamic law

Mustafa Kemal stressed the importance of separating religion from politics in the following words

"A nation without a religion is like a person without a soul, but religion must be a matter of conscience, separate from the affairs of the state"

(b) Moving towards democratic governance:

Mustafa Kemal after abolishing the Caliphate introduced democratic reforms mirroring western democratic model. He established parliamentary system in Turkey

"Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the nation"

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(c) Promotion of universal education:

A nation that does not
educate its women

cannot progress

- Mustafa Kemal

Introduced a secular and modern education system. Replaced Arabic script with Latin alphabets in 1928 to enhance the literacy rate. Women were also given the right to vote in 1934.

(d) Progressive Reforms to Rebuild the Nation:

Progressive reforms were introduced such as the Hat law to promote European attire. Similarly surname law (1934) was implemented that required every citizen to adopt a surname, which banned using the title of Afendi and Pasha.

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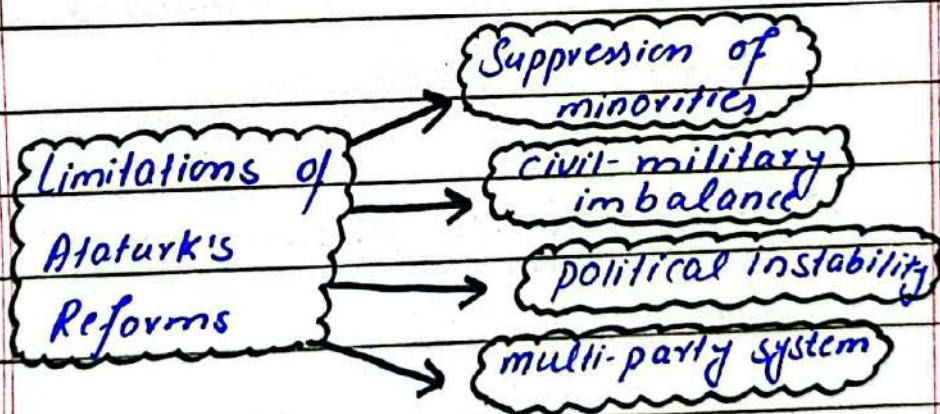
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(e) Economic Growth through Public-Private Model:

Establishment of state controlled industries along with public private growth led to the economic growth of the country.

④ LIMITATIONS OF ATATURK'S REFORMS:

Mustafa Kemal's reforms had the following limitations



(a) Suppression of Ethnic and Religious Minorities:

Adoption of Kemalist principle led to the suppression of ethnic minorities. For instance, The Kurdish uprising in 1925 was violently crushed.

(b) Civil-Military Imbalance:

Ataturk's reliance on the military led to long term militarization of politics. The military saw itself as the guardian of kemalist ideals, justifying interventions.

(c) Political Instability through military Coups:

Kemalist legacy led to numerous military coups which led to political instability and weakened the democratic institutions

(d) Transition to Multi-Party System:

Turkey moved to a multi-party system in 1946, but democracy remained unstable.

(5) CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

Mustafa Kemal's reforms were revolutionary, as it introduced democratic principles vesting

authority in the people which aligned with Rousseau's concept of general will. However, the authoritarian implementation of reforms led to political instability.

According to Plato's theory of justice suggests that each class should perform their function which would lead to justice in the society.

However, the intervention of the Turkish military in the domain of executive and legislature led to the instability in the society.

⑥ CONCLUSION:

To conclude, Kemalist principles were instrumental in development of the war-torn country of Turkey. However, it led to long term instability, where military asserted influence in the political arena. Nonetheless, Turkey has progressed since its accession to the EU and has moved towards a more democratic governance system.