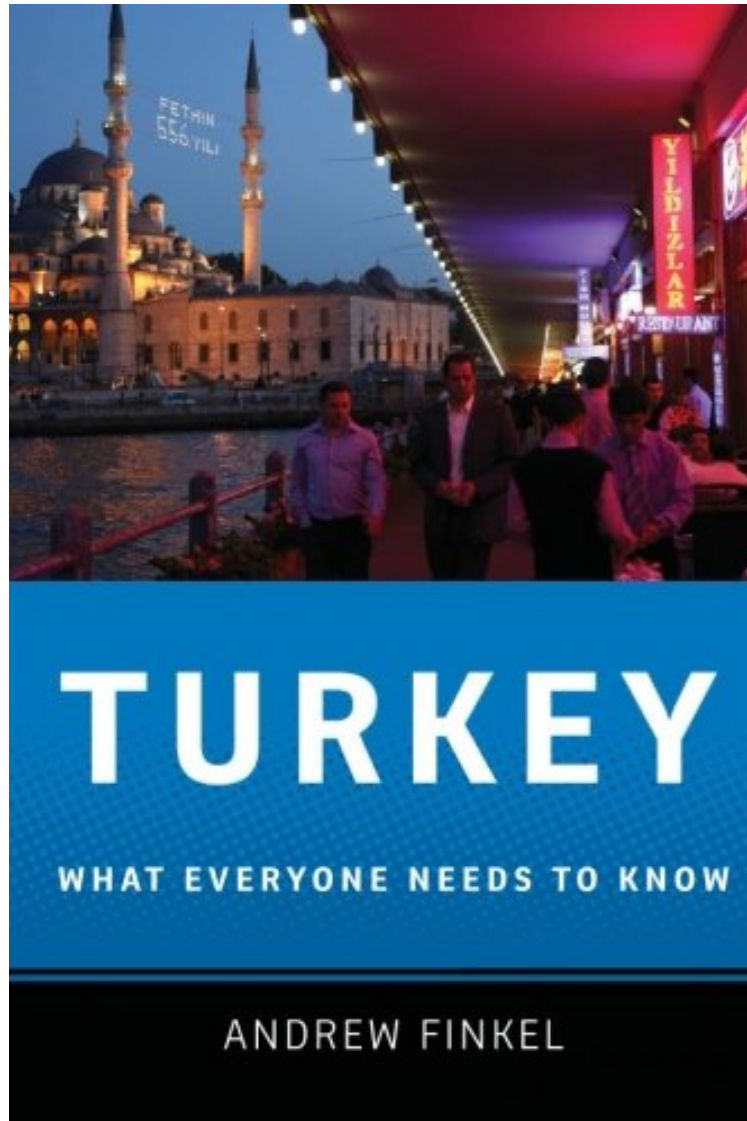


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## Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know

*Andrew Finkel*

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**Andrew Finkel : Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Easy to read, very informative By T. Herburger Taking a college class on the politics of the Middle East, I was recently assigned to write a research paper on Turkey. Along with various other sources, I endeavored to find a book on Turkey that was easy to read, full of information, and concise and to the point. So it was that I ended up a happy customer after reading this book. I enjoyed how the author structured his

chapters, covering so many interesting aspects about the wonderful country of Turkey, while also dispelling some rumors and stereotypes. From the perspective of a research student, I was happy that he writes many quotable passages, includes much of his own experience having had lived in the country, and it was written somewhat recently, covering many of the changes going on post-Arab Spring. The author covers all number of topics on Turkey, from explaining why they switched from using Arabic letters to using the Latin alphabet, to the Turkish military dismantling the civilian government many times in the past. The author fulfills the promise set forth by the title, as he covers all the important things one needs to know on the country, and he does so while staying fairly neutral on touchy subjects. For those who desire to learn more on this influential Muslim country whether as a student, tourist, businessman, or simply a curious bystander, you will not be disappointed with this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ruefully outdated By Ben Turkey features heavily in the news lately, and as such it is understandable that a book from 2012 is not going to be particularly accurate. Today, it's mostly just amusing to read how the author considers a future military coup 'unlikely', and how the Glen movent is presented as wholly supportive of Erdogan. The historical parts, which should technically still be relevant, are mostly brief and shortened down in order to bemoan the lack of care for famous landmarks. Not a bad book, it just deals with subjects that has moved beyond it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More economics... By Lupa An interesting read that addresses important issues about Turkey. The book analyzes, briefly, the relationship with the US and the conflicting relationship with the Armenian and Kurdish but, unfortunately it was not what I had expected. The writer stress much more the economic and politics aspects than cultural and historical factors. It really lacked an analysis of the complex Turkish society, their social strata and the huge cultural diversity and its historical roots .

Turkey occupies a strategic position in today's world: the only predominantly Muslim nation to be a member of NATO and an ally of Israel, it straddles both Europe and Asia. Turkey is the link between Islam and Western democracy, between Europe and the Middle East. In this concise introduction, Andrew Finkel, who has spent twenty years in Turkey writing about the country for publications such as *The Economist* and *Time* magazine, unravels Turkey's complexities. He sets the complications and transformations of present-day Turkey against the historical background of the Ottoman Empire, the secular nationalist revolution led by Kemal Atatrck, and repeated political interventions by the military, which sees itself as the guardian of Atatrck's legacy. Finkel reveals a nation full of surprises. Where else but in Turkey, Finkel writes, would secularist liberals have supported a prime minister who was once jailed for promoting religious extremism? From the Kurdish question to economic policy, from Turkey's role in Iraq to its quest for EU membership, Finkel illuminates the past and present of this unique, and uniquely consequential, country in Turkey: *What Everyone Needs to Know*. *What Everyone Needs to Know* is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

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