

TWO INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF TURKEY



SABIHA GÖKÇEN

Anyone who has been to Istanbul is probably familiar to the name Sabiha Gökçen because the Airport in the Asian side of the city takes its name from this very famous aviator.



A BRIEF LOOK INTO HER CAREER



After discovering her passion to flying and starting the aviation school, she was sent to Russia, together with seven male students for advanced training in gliding; and subsequently enrolled at the Military Aviation Academy in 1936. She also received training at the First Aircraft Regiment in Eskisehir, and flew fighter and bomber planes. In 1937 she was presented with Turkish Aeronautical Association Gratification - Medallion at a ceremony attended by the President, the Prime Minister and the Commander of Turkish Armed Forces. The same year she also received military aviation badge.

SABIHA GÖKÇEN AND ATATÜRK

She was also the adoptive daughter of Atatürk (the founder and first president of Turkey). Atatürk attached great importance to aviation.

As Atatürk asked her whether she would also want to become a skydiver, she nodded "Yes indeed, I am ready right now". After her answer Atatürk enrolled her as the first female trainee of the aviation school.



Although Atatürk insisted she would become a skydiver, she always focused on getting her pilots license and becoming a war pilot.

As a thanks to Atatürk 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.



After the introduction of Surname Act, Atatürk gave her the family name Gökçen in 1934. Gök means sky in Turkish and Gökçen means 'belonging or relating to the sky'.

Sabiha herself was selected as the only female pilot for a poster of 'The 20 Greatest Aviators in History' published by the United States Air Force in 1996.



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- Before retiring, she last piloted an aircraft, a Falcon 2000, with Daniel Acton when she was 88 years old.
 - Today, she is recognized as the first female combat pilot by The Guinness Book of World Records.



DEMET MUTLU



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- Demet Mutlu is a 40 year old Turkish technology entrepreneur. She is the founder and chairman of the Trendyol group(the most used e-shopping site in Turkey) .She is one of the most important women figures of Turkey as of today.



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- Demet Mutlu graduated from the Economics Department of New York University. In 2008, she received a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School. In 2009, she left her education and founded Trendyol.



- Demet Mutlu founded Trendyol with a fund of 300 thousand dollars in 2010. Which, in a very short amount of time started growing and made an incredible amount of profit. Today, with its nearly 100 thousand sellers and millions of buyers, Trendyol has been estimated to have the net worth of 16.5 billion dollars.



- Along with many awards she has been given in Turkey, such as The Best Business Woman of 2021 and The Woman Entrepreneur of 2021; she has also been applauded by many international boards.



HER INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

- Mutlu has been selected as one of the Most Promising Women Entrepreneurs of Fortune, The 50 most inspiring women in technology in Europe, the 50 Most Powerful Women in Fortune, the top 100 women in technology in Europe, "The Economist" has chosen her as the entrepreneur of the year in 2013.

