



A country's panorama: The First Year of the Republic



At Yapı Kredi Cultural Center, the exhibition "The First Year of the Republic", curated by Cengiz Kahraman, showcases a panoramic view of a country's establishment during the initial years of the republic.

In 1923, which marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic, a weary nation emerged from years of wars, pandemics, and economic hardships. It was a year of intense transformation for the country, with political debates, economic challenges, population exchanges, and comprehensive reforms in various sectors, ranging from administrative structures to education, judiciary, and municipalities. The adoption of the Constitution, the abolishment of the caliphate, and the profound changes towards secularism played significant roles in the rebuilding of the nation.

Despite all the difficulties, daily life continued with the publication of new books, screenings of films in cinemas, theater performances, concerts, and sports events. Festivals were celebrated, people visited picnic areas during Hidirellez, and dances were held in ballrooms. In the first



year of the Republic, alongside dissenting voices, the common slogan echoed from the parliament to the welcoming crowds of Gazi Pasha, from striking workers to the prisoners released through general amnesty, and from women and children lodging complaints to the governor's office: "Long live the Republic!"

The exhibition, aiming to reflect not only the major political and economic developments of this magnificent period, but also all these intricate details to the audience, was curated based on the book of the same name published by Yapı Kredi Yayınları. The exhibition "The First Year of the Republic", answers these questions by showcasing the documents and evidence of the intriguing moments that were taking place during those days between October 29, 1923, and October 29, 1924. It sheds light on what was happening in Turkey, how society was living, what they were discussing, watching, and how they were having fun. The exhibition brings forth the lesser-known aspects of daily life during the early years of the Republic, providing insights into the interesting events of that time.

The exhibition "The First Year of the Republic" aims to recreate the first year of the Turkish Republic for the audience by showcasing visual documents of interesting events that appeared in newspapers and magazines. Curated by Cengiz Kahraman and designed by Yeşim Demir Pröhl, the exhibition can be visited until September 3, 2023.

