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MEMORIES OF ATATURK

FALIH RIFKI ATAY

SYNOPSIS

In this book, Falih Rifki Atay repeats what he writes in *What Ataturk Told Me* with minor additions. Accordingly, since Mustafa Kemal is a politicized soldier, he is exiled to Damascus and then comes to Thessaloniki. He joins the Committee of Union and Progress in Thessaloniki. However, he doesn't have important roles because he cannot get along with the committee's leaders. Although he doesn't support entering the World War on the side of Germany, he wants to take on duty after the empire allies with Germany. He is appointed by Enver Pasha as the commander of a division that does not exist. Afterwards, he achieves success in Gallipoli and then accompanies Vahdettin, the heir apparent, on a trip to the German headquarters. He shares his opinions with him at every opportunity as he is against putting the army in the hands of German commanders. When he is back to Istanbul, he undergoes treatment for his kidney failure. While continuing his treatment abroad, he is summoned to Istanbul because Vahdettin becomes the new sultan. When he returns to Istanbul, Vahdettin appoints him to the 7th Army command that is in charge of Palestine and Syria at the request of the pro-German Enver Pasha. Afterwards, he takes command of the Thunderbolt Army Group. Upon the Armistice of Mudros, he communicates to the authorities that it is against the country's interests in every sense. The cabinet is dissolved, and he is summoned to Istanbul again. In Istanbul, he tries to find a way to organize people in Anatolia against the Allied Forces. Upon being sent to Anatolia as an army inspector by Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha the Groom, he finally finds the opportunity to organize people for the national struggle.

PEOPLE

Ahmet Izzet Furgac	Soldier and statesman
Ahmet Riza	Politician
Ali Cenani	Politician
Ali Fuat Cebesoy	Soldier and politician
Cemal Pasha	Soldier and politician
Cevat Abbas	Soldier and politician
Cevat Cobanli	Soldier and politician
Ferit Pasha	Politician, and son-in-law of Abdulmecid
Edmund Allenby	British general
Enver Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Erich Friedrich Wilhelm Ludendorff	German soldier
Erich von Falkenhayn	German general
Fethi Okyar	Soldier, diplomat, and politician
Fevzi Cakmak	Soldier and politician
Hilmi Oytac	Physician and politician
Kazim Inanc	Soldier and politician
Mehmet Sakir Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Mehmet Vahdettin	Abdulmecid's son, the last sultan
Naci Eldeniz	Soldier and politician
Otto Liman von Sanders	German general
Paul von Hindenburg	German soldier and statesman
Salih Bozok	Soldier and politician
Talât Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Yakup Cemil	Soldier

EVENTS

1926

Mustafa Kemal has not yet taken the surname Atatürk. Falih Rifki and his friends call him Gazi or Gazi Pasha. In the evenings, they gather for dinner at the mansion in Cankaya, but these dinners are never meant for entertainment. Someone reads the parts of *Nutuk* [The Speech] Mustafa Kemal writes during the day, the others listen, or Mustafa Kemal starts a discussion about a book he reads. These discussions, which last for hours, are no different from those at a school of politics.

Falih Rifki wants to publish Mustafa Kemal's memories simultaneously in newspapers *Hakimiyetimiilliye* in Ankara and *Milliyet*, which is published by Siirt Deputy Mahmut Soydan in Istanbul. Mustafa Kemal accepts this offer. Falih Rifki listens to his memories, prepares writings to read aloud at dinner and then publishes them if there is no objection. But those who want to freeze Mustafa Kemal as the head of state in history are against this effort. Falih Rifki calls many of these people "ghazist," while he describes himself and people like him as Kemalist. As a matter of fact, after the death of Mustafa Kemal, all of the "ghazist" politicians act against Kemalist reforms.

Falih Rifki opposes these people and writes Mustafa Kemal's experiences between 1914 and May 19, 1919. Mustafa Kemal narrates the aftermath of 1919 in his *Nutuk*. Falih Rifki's publication is ended upon the complaint of the embassy about a dialogue between Mustafa Kemal and German President Hindenburg during the First World War. So, he quotes the rest of the memories in his books.

To be Like Cemal

Like many intellectuals during the reign of Abdulhamid, Mustafa Kemal is a soldier interested in politics. He is exiled to Damascus for a while and then comes to Thessaloniki. Here, he joins the Committee of Union and Progress. He meets Major Cemal Pasha while he is a adjutant major.

He likes to spend time with his friends in entertainment venues in Thessaloniki. One evening, he sits down at the table of the Unionists in a place called Yonyo. The people at the table drink raki and beer, discuss political issues, and mention the need to be a great man. But they get stuck on who one should be like to be a great man. One shouts that one should be like Cemal Pasha to be a great man. Others enthusiastically support the idea. But as Mustafa Kemal watches them calmly, their eyes turn to him. According to Mustafa Kemal, it is an error to think that it is necessary to be a great man to save the country. Because if you cannot be like the great man you aspire to be, you think that you aren't able to save the country. However, this thought doesn't please the people at the table.

One evening, while going to an entertainment venue called Olympos with Cemal Pasha, Cemal Pasha hands him a newspaper and asks if he has read the editorial. He says he hasn't, then Cemal Pasha asks him to read it. After reading it, Cemal Pasha asks how he found it. Mustafa Kemal answers that it is an ordinary article of an ordinary journalist. Cemal Pasha says that he wrote the article without a signature. This time, Mustafa Kemal advises him not to please people but to act according to what is right for the country.

Mustafa Kemal and His Mother

Mustafa Kemal holds a secret meeting with the committee members in their big pink-painted house in Thessaloniki. In this meeting, the coins which are secretly collected are counted. As soon as the maid sees them, she informs Mustafa Kemal's mother about the money. Zubeyde Hanım goes to the room where the meeting is held and returns without saying anything. After the guests leave, she comes up to Mustafa Kemal and asks if he plans to rebel against the sultan, who has the power of seven saints. He answers that the sultan has no power and that he and his friends are working to save their country from oppressors like Abdulhamid. Zubeyde Hanım tells him that she doesn't want to see her only son ruined. Mustafa Kemal expresses that he is involved in these affairs as an honest man and asks if she can prevent him from doing what he is doing. Zubeyde Hanım states that she will be upset if she doesn't see him side by side with honest men after these things are over and cannot prevent him from pursuing the things he gets better than her.

Command of the Division That Doesn't Exist

Mustafa Kemal doesn't get along with the Unionists. For this reason, he is not given an important role in the organization. When he gets close to Fethi Okyar, the secretary general of the Committee of Union and Progress, Fethi Bey is removed from Istanbul. He is appointed ambassador to Sofia, and Mustafa Kemal becomes as his attaché.

He objects to the Ottoman participation in the First World War as an ally of Germany and leaving the army in the hands of German generals. All of his petitions go unanswered. Only Hafiz Hakki Pasha tells him that he is not experienced enough, that his love for the nation is too much, but that he should think whether this nation is worthy of his love. However, Mustafa Kemal continues his objections.

As soon as he learns that the country is in the war, he wants to take on duty suitable for his rank. But he is told it is safer for him to remain as attaché. He then asks if it is implied that he is not a first-class soldier. His question remains unanswered for a long time. Thus, he decides to fight at any front like any soldier, has all his belongings transferred to the embassy and prepares a small suitcase. At that time, he receives a telegram signed by Ismail Hakki Pasha, the quartermaster general, announcing that he is appointed to the command of the nineteenth division. So, he directly goes to Istanbul.

When he arrives in Istanbul, he goes to Enver Pasha's office. While waiting in front of the door, he learns that the person who appointed him is Enver Pasha and that he made this appointment by telegram from Erzurum. When he enters his room, he finds Enver Pasha tired and asks how the situation is. Enver Pasha, who has just returned from the Battle of Sarikamish, says that everything is fine. Since Mustafa Kemal doesn't want to upset him, he thanks the pasha for his new duty as the commander of the nineteenth division and asks where this division is. Enver Pasha advises him to ask this question to the chief of the general staff. Mustafa Kemal thanks him and then leaves.

He introduces himself as the commander of the nineteenth division to everyone he meets in the general staff headquarters, but everyone who hears this looks at him in surprise. Eventually, he learns that such a division does not exist. Someone suggests that he meet with Liman von Sanders, the head of the army defending Gallipoli, but he first wants to see the chief of the general staff. The chief of the general staff also says that there is no such division. Then, they go up to Liman von Sanders together.

Liman von Sanders asks Mustafa Kemal when the Bulgarians plan to enter the war. He replies that the Bulgarians don't fight unless the war spreads to their territory and they are sure that the Germans are able to win the war. Liman von Sanders is annoyed at how the Bulgarians are unsure of the Germans' ability to win the war and asks him for his personal opinion. Mustafa Kemal expresses that he agrees with the Bulgarians. Upon this answer, Liman von Sanders stands up and lets him go.

Mustafa Kemal Who is not Heard

Mustafa Kemal visits Grand Vizier Talât Pasha in his office to talk and ask questions about vital issues, but Talât Pasha gives evasive answers. Later, he hears from his friend who visited Talât Pasha just after him that Talât Pasha is happy as he can fence with him. Two days later, Talât Pasha invites him to his house at midnight to talk about an urgent matter. He comes across his same friend there. As Talât Pasha asks him about his opinion, he says that he has already explained his ideas on significant issues before, so he doesn't want to talk in vain again. Also, he condemns Talât Pasha because he is happy that he can fence with him. Talât Pasha denies this right away. Then, Mustafa Kemal states that the person who told this to him is his friend sitting next to him.

In 1918, while he is Ariburnu front commander, Anafarta Ridge is attacked by the British. He has to speak to the Commander-in-Chief Enver Pasha directly but cannot get a satisfactory answer. Liman von Sanders, whose headquarters is in Yalova, calls him and asks how he sees the situation and what measures should be taken. Mustafa Kemal says that he has already told him his opinion about the situation and what measures should be taken before, but he hasn't paid attention. So, there is only one precaution left; placing all troops at his command. In response, Liman von Sanders hangs up after implying that this would be too much.

Mustafa Kemal stops by the foreign minister, Halil Mentese, while visiting various statesmen to share his ideas about the course of the war after his victory in the Dardanelles Campaign. He is told to wait to see the minister. But as he sees that those who come after him are accepted to the office, he gets upset. After a while, the gatekeeper announces that the minister is ready to see him. Since Mustafa Kemal is chatting with the deputy undersecretary, he tells the gatekeeper that the minister should wait.

After finishing his conversation, he enters the minister's room, and the minister greets him courteously. He optimistically portrays the military and political situation of the country. Mustafa Kemal as a commander from the front tells the minister that he disagrees with him and that the current danger will go beyond what is expected if this policy persists. The minister, changing his tone, asks what he means. Upon this, Mustafa Kemal humbly tells the minister that he is sure that he can see everything as a minister but doesn't speak openly with him because he considers him a novice. However, he is the person with whom he can talk about everything openly.

Then, the minister says that he accepted him as a sign of goodwill due to his successes at the front, that he is not his main interlocutor and that he should meet with the chief of staff to talk about this subject. Upon this, Mustafa Kemal explains that he took office in different ranks and knows the army very well and then criticizes him, asking if he is now directing him to the Germans, as the chief of staff belongs to the Germans.

A few days later, he finds out that the minister complained about him to the Council of Ministers and demanded that he be punished. He makes fun of it, knowing that they cannot do anything to him. One reason for his self-assuredness is that he knows how scared they were when they executed Yakup Cemil.

A Hitman: Yakup Cemil

Yakup Cemil is a young man who admires Mustafa Kemal. He tries to organize his friends to kill the statesmen for the sake of their homeland in a meeting in Bursa. When his friends ask how he can ensure peace after the murders, he says that Mustafa Kemal is to do it. Later, he comes to Istanbul to kill some statesmen but is caught and hanged as his friends turn him in.

Mustafa Kemal learns these things from Doctor Hilmi Oytac, who shares the same ideas with Yakup Cemil. Fearing that he will end up like Yakup Cemil, Hilmi Oytac flees from Istanbul and takes refuge with Mustafa Kemal, who is in the headquarters in Silvan at that time. Mustafa Kemal informs the authorities that he has taken the doctor under his protection and that they cannot execute him.

While chatting with a friend, he states that if Yakup Cemil succeeded, he would not be a minister or anything else because he is not a man to accept any post with the advice of Yakup Cemil and others like him.

The Gold Sent by General Falkenhayn

The night Mustafa Kemal is preparing to depart from Istanbul to Aleppo as the Commander of the Seventh Army, General Falkenhayn sends him chests full of gold. Mustafa Kemal, thinking that the chests are for the army, states that they should be delivered to the quartermaster. He prepares a signed note, which includes the amount received to the German officer who brought the chests and has the chests delivered to the quartermaster.

The chests wait for several months under the command of the quartermaster. When Mustafa Kemal resigns from his post, he hands over the chests to Ali Riza Pasha, whom he appoints as his deputy. He asks his aides, Cevat Abbas and Salih Bozok, to deliver the signed note to General Falkenhayn and take the other copy of it from him. However, their aides say that General Falkenhayn forgot about the chests in question. This time, Mustafa Kemal, through his aides, communicates to General Falkenhayn that he wants to return the gold to him. If he cannot find the signed note, he must sign another document verifying the chests are back and that he is not someone who betrays his country for gold. Finally, General Falkenhayn delivers the signed note to his aides.

The Gold Sent by Cemal Pasha

Mustafa Kemal disagrees with General Falkenhayn on military and political issues, as he is Commander of the Seventh Army and wants to leave his post. Then, he is appointed to the command of the Second Army in Diyarbakir. But he doesn't accept the assignment, thinking that this is to show the conflict between him and General Falkenhayn as a personal problem. Finally, he is executed from duty for a month.

When he is informed about his new condition, he is in Aleppo without any money to buy a train ticket to return to Istanbul. He has only a few horses and mares to sell but cannot find anyone who wants to

buy them. Finally, Cemal Pasha buys them, paying two thousand gold coins. In this way, he returns to Istanbul.

While in Istanbul, a telegram arrives from Cemal Pasha. It reads that Cemal Pasha sold the animals to someone else for five thousand gold coins and wants to deliver the three thousand gold coins to him. In reply, Mustafa Kemal says that he sold his animals for two thousand gold coins and now doesn't need any other payment. But Cemal Pasha sends the three thousand gold coins to him.

Journey to Germany with the Crown Prince

Mustafa Kemal settles in Pera Palace Hotel. While desperately thinking that everything is coming to an end for his country, Enver Pasha informs him that the German emperor invites Sultan Resat to his headquarters. But the sultan's health problems don't allow him to make this journey. So, his brother Vahdettin is preparing to go. Then, he asks Mustafa Kemal whether he can accompany the heir apparent on this trip. Mustafa Kemal accepts.

He goes to the palace with Naci Pasha to meet Vahdettin, as it is deemed appropriate for Naci Pasha to join the trip. Vahdettin comes and sits next to them. After closing his eyes for a while, he says he is glad to meet him. Then, he closes his eyes again. Mustafa Kemal waits without knowing how to respond. Vahdettin opens his eyes again and asks if they will travel together. Mustafa Kemal says they will, but as he is concerned about Vahdettin's mental health, he tries not to have a deep conversation with him. He gets up and leaves to meet at the station on Thursday evening.

On the way, he and Naci Pasha talk about how disastrous it is that the country's future is in the hands of such a man. When Mustafa Kemal questions whether they can do anything as they are aware of the current and future state of the country, Naci Pasha implies that they can do nothing to change the course of events.

Mustafa Kemal informs Vahdettin that he should wear a military uniform because they are going on a military trip. But when he arrives at the station, he finds him in civilian clothes. He asks Vahdettin's attendant the reason for his choice and learns that Vahdettin was appointed general and then lieutenant general. Because of this degradation, he decided to wear civilian clothes.

Before getting on the train, he asks Vahdettin to salute the soldiers who are there to see them off. Then, Vahdettin walks toward the train, waving with both hands. They get on the train. To Mustafa Kemal's annoyance, Vahdettin stays in a separate compartment. When they enter the borders of Thrace, Vahdettin invites him to his compartment. He tells Mustafa Kemal that he has just learned who he is and appreciates him for his success in the Dardanelles Campaign. Mustafa Kemal is convinced that as the train moves away from Istanbul and Vahdettin realizes that the people around him are reliable, he begins to express his own thoughts more freely. Thus, he even thinks that it is possible to work with the heir apparent for the country's future.

They reach the town where the headquarters is located and visit Hindenburg and Ludendorff. When Mustafa Kemal hears that Hindenburg is speaking to Vahdettin in a comforting way, he thinks that what he says is due to his politeness, and doesn't interfere with the conversation.

However, he interrupts Ludendorff and asks how far the attacking German army can advance. Ludendorff is first disturbed by this question and then says that circumstances will determine the result. Then, Mustafa Kemal states that there is no need to wait to see the outcome of the attack if the type of the attack is known. Ludendorff doesn't reply this time, and the conversation ends.

When Mustafa Kemal is left alone with Vahdettin and Naci Pasha in Vahdettin's room, he tries to convince Vahdettin that it doesn't make sense to entrust the army to the Germans. A little later, it is announced that the emperor is coming to the room.

During their conversation with the emperor, Vahdettin asks if the Germans can give any assurance about stopping the enemy forces advancing in Turkey. The emperor gets up and says that they need nothing but his word. Vahdettin replies that this is not enough to relieve his worries. The emperor leaves the room without saying anything. He shakes hands with Vahdettin and Naci Pasha in front of the door, but since Mustafa Kemal is waiting a little far away and doesn't attempt to shake hands, he leaves. After a few steps, he turns back and shakes hands with him, too.

After dinner with the emperor, Mustafa Kemal chats with Hindenburg. Since Hindenburg told them that the situation in Syria was better during their visit, Mustafa Kemal wants to correct this information, saying that this is not true. He states that what he knows is limited to the statements but that he personally served there and that no real army is serving there. He asks Hindenburg to convey what he tells him to the emperor. Hindenburg promises to do it.

One day, as a commander on the western front explains the latest status on the map, Mustafa Kemal communicates to Vahdettin that it would be appropriate to see the situation in person. So, they go to the trenches. While Vahdettin is chatting with one of the commanders who greeted them, Mustafa Kemal leaves them and sees the soldiers. He makes the soldier watching the battlefield climb down from the tree and climbs it himself. When he realizes that the cavalry is being used instead of the infantry because they don't have enough infantry, he tells the soldiers that they are in danger. Then, they state that they are aware of that.

While they are guests at the governor's house in Alsace, Vahdettin invites Mustafa Kemal to his table that he shares with the governor. He says that the governor asks him some questions, and he wants him to confirm his answers. The governor asserts that the Armenians don't deserve this, as he heard that the Turks massacre the Armenians. Mustafa Kemal listens to him and expresses how surprised he is that this is the topic chosen by a German governor to talk to Crown Prince Vahdettin. Then he asks why he bothers to speak on behalf of the Armenians. Thereupon, the governor states that what he knows is just what he has heard and that he doesn't have any say on the matter. To end the conversation, Mustafa Kemal reminds him that they are there to examine the situation of their ally Germany, not that of the Armenians.

Alone with Crown Prince Vahdettin

After having dinner at Krupp's owner's castle, they take the night train to Berlin. In the hotel where the emperor stays, Vahdettin gives interviews to foreign journalists. After the journalists leave, he is left alone with Mustafa Kemal in the room.

Vahdettin asks him what their next step should be. Mustafa Kemal says that the German crown princes and princesses are working together, that he can do the same, and that he should ask for the army command when they return to Istanbul. Vahdettin asks which army he should command, he suggests asking for the command of the Fifth Army, which is responsible for the Straits, but Vahdettin states that he is going to think about this when they are back in Istanbul.

Illness

When they return to Istanbul, Mustafa Kemal can't get out of bed for a month because of his kidney disease. His doctors send him to Vienna for treatment. At the end of a month, he crosses from Vienna into Carlsbad to continue his treatment. However, in July 1918, someone he met in Izmir visits him with another person to inform him that Sultan Resat is dead and that Vahdettin is the new sultan. Mustafa Kemal pauses for a few minutes, the reason for which he cannot understand. In a few days, he congratulates Vahdettin by telegram.

A few days later, he receives a telegram from his aide, Cevat Abbas, who is in Istanbul, informing him that he is expected to return to Istanbul. He answers that he doesn't want to return because his treatment is yet to be completed. However, his aide asks him to return immediately in a second telegram. Upon this, he decides to go back to Istanbul involuntarily.

With Sultan Vahdettin

He arrives in Istanbul with a delay because he is also treated for the Spanish flu and finds out that the one who summoned him is Vahdettin's aide, Izzet Pasha. Izzet Pasha asks him not to break his ties with the sultan, as he thinks he can help the sultan. Thereupon, Mustafa Kemal visits Vahdettin and advises him to dominate the army. Vahdettin closes his eyes as before and asks if there are other commanders who think like him. As Mustafa Kemal approves, he says he will think about it. Mustafa Kemal leaves the palace as the conversation ends by itself here. Within days, the sultan wants to see him and Izzet Pasha together. But their conversation is limited to daily topics, and Mustafa Kemal can't share what he thinks about the military.

After a while, he requests to meet with the sultan alone. When they are alone, he suggests Vahdettin that it is necessary to protect the army. But Vahdettin says that the people of Istanbul are hungry, and he has to feed them. Mustafa Kemal states that what he has to do to feed the people of Istanbul doesn't prevent what he has to do to protect the whole country. Thereupon, Vahdettin says that he talked to Enver Pasha and Talât Pasha about what is necessary. Mustafa Kemal doesn't like this attitude, as Vahdettin used to speak of Enver and Talât with hatred when he was a crown prince. He gets up and asks permission, then Vahdettin closes his eyes again, and he leaves.

While waiting for the prayer time with the commanders on a Friday, Naci Pasha informs Mustafa Kemal that the sultan wants to see him after the prayer. But as Mustafa Kemal learns that there are two German generals with the sultan, he conveys that he wants to meet with him alone. Naci Pasha says that he has already said the same thing to the sultan, but he insisted on meeting with him in the presence of the generals. Mustafa Kemal requests him to ask one more time. However, the sultan doesn't change his mind. In the end, Mustafa Kemal involuntarily meets him in the presence of the German generals.

After introducing him to the German generals with laudatory expressions, Vahdettin says that he wants to send him to Syria. Mustafa Kemal goes out of the room, thinking that it would be pointless to argue with this man who reinstates him in charge of the army he left. He congratulates Enver Pasha, who is one of those waiting in the hall, for taking a good revenge by sending him to Syria as there is nothing left of the army there.

Meanwhile, he overhears the conversation of the commanders who took part in the Balkan Wars. When one of them says that Turkish soldiers are no different from a herd of animals, but they know how to escape, he can't help himself saying that he is also a soldier, commanding the army, that if he sees a Turkish soldier fleeing, he should definitely look at the commander, who is probably fleeing. Since the commander he is addressing doesn't know him, he asks the people next to him who he is, and after the whispers silence falls.

The Seventh Army under His Command for the Second Time

Mustafa Kemal analyzes the circumstances in Nablus and is convinced that there is nothing left to do to prevent the coming disaster. Moreover, he gets ill again. After reading a report based on the testimony of a British prisoner, he realizes that the British army is planning to attack them on September 19. He gets out of bed, dresses and has the measures to be taken against the attack written. He sends the document to Group Commander Liman von Sanders. However, Liman von Sanders finds Mustafa Kemal's conclusion exaggerated and doesn't take him seriously.

Since Mustafa Kemal expects this, he calls Ismet Pasha and Ali Fuat Pasha, who are corps commanders, to ask whether they took the necessary measures or not. The moment he speaks with them on the phone, the enemy attacks. The army on Mustafa Kemal's right is captured, and the enemy raids Liman von Sanders' headquarters.

Mustafa Kemal brings his army to Damascus, overcoming great difficulties. Following the instruction of Liman von Sanders before leaving Damascus, he delivers his own soldiers to Cemal Pasha from Mersin and sets off to Rayak to take the uncommanded forces around Rayak under his command. He meets Liman von Sanders there. Liman von Sanders entrusts the forces in Rayak to him. Mustafa Kemal puts them in order, and then has the train station burned down. He wants to send the corps commander of an army who surrendered to the enemy to Baalbek, but the commander flees to Istanbul.

That evening, he orders all the soldiers in Damascus to move to the north under the command of Ismet Pasha and Ali Fuat Pasha in order to prevent disorder in the army. When an uprising breaks out among the soldiers upon this order, he goes to Baalbek and informs Ali Fuat Pasha that his order is still valid. Then, he departs for Homs, where Liman von Sanders is located. He informs him, too, that his decision is still to be implemented. But Liman von Sanders says that he is a foreigner and that only the real owners of the country can make the final decision. Mustafa Kemal insists on the implementation of his decision. So, Liman von Sanders tells him that they should get permission from Kazim Pasha from Diyarbakir, to whom he reports. Thus, they go up to Kazim Pasha together. After getting his approval, Mustafa Kemal gathers all the remaining soldiers in Aleppo.

But he gets ill again, so he receives treatment for a few days. When he returns to his hotel, he finds out that the city is occupied. He goes to the east with Tahsin Bey, the governor of Syria, and his aide, Cevat Abbas. His car drives into the attacking Bedouins, and he declares that he wants to meet with their leader. After they return to the headquarters in Aleppo, their leader, a sheikh comes visit him. Mustafa Kemal asks him what he wants from him. The sheikh wants a thousand gold, weapons, and ammunition. Mustafa Kemal delivers a thousand gold coins right away and promises to provide him with his other requests.

The next day, while he is resting, he realizes that there is a movement in the city. He goes out on the balcony and sees people hurrying toward the hotel where he is staying. He goes downstairs and disperses the crowd. The commander of Aleppo tells him that the city is under attack. After going out and walking on the street for a while, he sees planes drop bombs. He successfully handles street fighting and then informs the commander that he will withdraw his forces to fight the Arabs and British in the northwest of the city the next day. Everything goes as expected. When the Arabs and British, who think the forces have withdrawn, attack, they are easily defeated. After this victory, Mustafa Kemal orders the soldiers not to let the enemy go beyond this line. Later, the line becomes the national border.

A New Cabinet

He thinks that it is necessary replace the cabinet with a new one to save the country. He communicates this idea to the sultan in a telegram. He states that he wants to be war minister in the new cabinet to be established under the presidency of Izzet Pasha and recommends some trustworthy names for various ministries. In a short time, the cabinet of Talât Pasha resigns. A new cabinet is formed under the chairmanship of Izzet Pasha. The names he recommends are brought to various ministries.

Izzet Pasha states in a telegram that he hopes to work with him after peace is achieved. However, Mustafa Kemal replies that it is hard to achieve peace, and that he wants this position because he wants to be useful to his country in these difficult times. Otherwise, there are people who can fulfill the duty much better than him after peace is restored.

Ali Cenani's Memory

While Mustafa Kemal is telling his memories to Falih Rifki, Minister of Commerce Ali Cenani, who is with them, intervenes to tell a memory. While Ali Cenani is on his way from Istanbul to Gaziantep, he comes across Mustafa Kemal at a station. Mustafa Kemal asks where he is going. He says that the looters attack everywhere in Antep, that after the army moves to Adana, his family is to fall into the hands of the enemy, so he is going to Antep to move them all to Maras. Thereupon, Mustafa Kemal states that they must defend themselves. Ali Cenani asks how. He says that if they are willing to organize, he can provide them with weapons and then does what he says.

Commander of the Thunderbolt Army

As soon as Mustafa Kemal gets the information that he is appointed to the command of the Thunderbolt Army, he assigns Ali Fuat Pasha to be his deputy and moves to Adana. In Adana, Liman von Sanders voices that he is relieved as he transfers his authority to him. Afterward, they sit opposite each other and drink cigarettes and coffee without saying anything. At the moment, Mustafa Kemal thinks of what happened in the Dardanelles Campaign.

Returning to Istanbul

After examining the articles of the armistice, Mustafa Kemal concludes that the state not only leaves the country unconditionally to the enemies but also it promises to help them invade the country. He communicates his thoughts to the authorities, pointing out that the invaders will eventually take over the whole place and even determine the cabinet. He strongly opposes that the British want to take advantage of Iskenderun to feed their armies around Aleppo. But he is always objected.

When Grand Vizier Izzet Pasha asks him to come back because he resigned, he returns to Istanbul. The army he commands is now abolished. As he learns that Izzet Pasha's resignation is due to a personal disagreement, he expresses that he doesn't find this decision right. He proposes to prevent

Tevfik Pasha, the new grand vizier, from forming a new government. Izzet Pasha accepts this, and then Mustafa Kemal meets with the deputies he knows and tries to persuade them.

He goes to the parliament on the day of the vote of confidence. Despite the agreement with many deputies, Tevfik Pasha's cabinet is given a vote of confidence. Surprised by the result, he concludes that the assembly has such an unpredictability that a soldier cannot comprehend. Then, he tells Naci Pasha, who is now the sultan's aide, that he wants to meet with Vahdettin, but Vahdettin communicates that they can only meet after the Friday prayer. He desperately waits until Friday.

On Friday, Vahdettin tells Mustafa Kemal that he is a well-respected name in the army and asks if he can give him assurance that no harm will come to him from the army. Mustafa Kemal asks if he has any information about the army preparing to take a stand against him. Vahdettin closes his eyes and repeats the same question. Mustafa Kemal voices that the army has no reason to take a stand against him. This time, Vahdettin emphasizes that he is not talking about the present day. Upon this, Mustafa Kemal suspects that Vahdettin has a plan to disturb some names in the army. Meanwhile, Vahdettin opens his eyes, stands up and tells him that he is a clever commander and that he believes he will do his best to enlighten and appease the inexperienced soldiers. The meeting ends in this way. When Mustafa Kemal goes out, he encounters the curious glances of people waiting for their meeting to end.

Within days, the parliament is dissolved. Then, rumors spread that he demanded Vahdettin to dissolve the parliament during this head-to-head meeting. But, Mustafa Kemal doesn't want to waste his time with the rumors, as he sees warships anchored in the Bosphorus and people who are afraid to go out in order not to run into the Allied Forces. He believes that there is neither a sultanate nor a government anymore.

The Allied Forces In Front of the Door

As Mustafa Kemal is at his mother's house, Italian soldiers knock at the door. He goes downstairs and asks them what he should do to get them out of his house. The soldiers respond that he must bring an order from their commander. Then, since there is no phone at home, he goes to the house of Kazim Pasha from Diyarbakir and calls the Italian representative. He is asked to bring the head of the soldiers to the phone. The soldier speaks to the representative and then leaves the house with the other soldiers. The next day, the Italian commander in the Sisli region sends a card that reads, "No one can break into this house." However, a few days later, other non-Italian forces break into the house. Since Mustafa Kemal is not at home, the people in the house show the card to the soldiers, but they tear it and then search the whole house.

What to Do?

Mustafa Kemal often meets with his friend Fethi Bey to talk about what to do to save the country. Finally, Fethi Bey and his four friends decide to form a secret organization. But one of them wants to break up with them by promising to keep their secrets, because he doesn't want to face danger. Upon this, Mustafa Kemal declares that an organization their friend doesn't prefer to join would not be reasonable, so he dissolves it. After their friend leaves, they re-establish it.

However, Mustafa Kemal's desire is to go to Anatolia. He believes that nothing will change as long as the Allied Forces stay in Istanbul, even if the sultan changes. One day, he invites Ismet Bey to his home. When Ismet asks why he wants to see him again, Mustafa Kemal asks him to open a map of Turkey on the table. Ismet Bey opens the map and takes out his drafting compass that he always carries with him. Mustafa Kemal says that there is no need for a drafting compass yet and then asks him which way is the most appropriate to go to Anatolia and organize the people. Then some guests arrive. After they leave, they are alone again. Ismet asks what he is planning. Mustafa Kemal answers that he will tell him when the time comes. He doesn't want to make a decision without thinking in detail and feel the guilt of choosing the wrong way when another way is possible.

With the Occupying Forces in Istanbul

Ali Fuat Pasha, who is preparing to take charge in Ankara as the corps commander, comes visit him when he has an ear infection. Mustafa Kemal advises him to keep on good terms with people in Ankara and gain their trust.

After a while, a hotel manager he knows tells him that he is on good terms with foreigners in Istanbul and that one of them wants to meet him. Mustafa Kemal accepts this offer. When he meets with the person in question, the person mentions that the Committee of Union and Progress caused great harm to the country. Mustafa Kemal asks if he summoned him to talk about the Committee of Union and Progress. The person says that he must first accept the murders they have committed. Then, Mustafa Kemal states that he is not their representative. In the end, he states that the CUP is a patriotic organization despite all its faults. However, he can't understand why this person wanted to meet with him.

Later, an Italian demands a meeting with him. He and Fethi Bey meet with the person. The Italian man questions whether there are people who aspire to rule the country. Thereupon, Mustafa Kemal realizes that the Allied Forces are trying to understand whether there is an organization that can rule the whole country. Later, he figures out that the Italians are trying to prevent the Greeks from seizing Izmir and its surroundings. Moreover, the leader they believe can organize the people to achieve this is himself.

Afterward, he goes to a meeting at the request of Italian High Commissioner Carlo Sforza. He doesn't know what to say when he is told that the Italian Embassy is at his disposal if he encounters any problem. He wants to say that he is not an Italian subject but tries not to show his objection by swallowing his words. He asks the real reason for the invitation. When Sforza says that his friends demanded this meeting, he gets up and leaves immediately. While leaving, he thinks that if the spirit of a nation is captured, everyone from that nation is worth nothing.

Visiting Fethi

Many people are arrested. One of them is Fethi Bey. He is released on his first arrest but not on the second. When Mustafa Kemal goes to the police department to see him, he remembers that the chief of police is the person he mistreated during World War I due to his incompetence. Fearing that he may arrest him, he greets and chats with every gendarme he sees. As he reaches the top floor, he sees many great statesmen and journalists are imprisoned in small rooms. He knows that there are people among them who must be held accountable for their deeds, but he is overwhelmed by the fact that those bring them to account are the enemies. He has a little chat with Fethi Bey and then leaves.

National Humiliation

General Allenby meets the war minister and the deputy chief of staff. Taking out a notebook from his pocket, he shuts up them and says he is there to order some things, not to exchange views, and recommends that Mustafa Kemal be appointed to the command of the Sixth Army. Mustafa Kemal rejects this. After a while, he is informed that his car and his aide are taken from him. He protests this with a petition written by Ismet Pasha.

The press humiliates commanders on all occasions. When an article about Mustafa Kemal is published, he writes a letter to the minister of war stating that they should protect the honor of the army. However, this letter itself is also published in the newspaper. After a while, he is sued for insulting the journalists. Fearing that his plan to cross into Anatolia can be prevented, he asks his lawyer, Sadettin Ferit Bey, to lengthen the proceeding as long as he can.

Some Meetings

Among those who want to meet him and even win his friendship are people from the Freedom and Accord Party, as they position him as the opponent of the Committee of Union and Progress. For example, Minister of Interior Mehmet Ali visits him at home several times. He invites him out for lunch once. One day, Minister of the Navy Avni Pasha takes him to his office and shares his lunch with him. Mustafa Kemal doesn't object to anything as much as possible in order to understand what is going on. For example, when Avni Pasha says that they are trying to come to terms with the British, he doesn't show disapproval.

President of the Assembly of Notables Ahmet Riza Bey sends a message to him that he wants to meet with him secretly. Then, one night, Mustafa Kemal goes to see him in the parliament. Ahmet Riza Bey asks him what to do if the sultan offers him the grand viziership. Mustafa Kemal thinks that this offer has already been made to him, and he is trying to foresee the consequences of his grand viziership. In response, Mustafa Kemal asks him whether he is satisfied with the cabinet. Ahmet Riza Bey says he

is not. This time, he asks why the sultan doesn't like the cabinet and then says that if his own cabinet is to have the opposite characteristics of the current cabinet, he should not doubt that he will be successful. But Ahmet Riza Bey doesn't become grand vizier.

Fevzi Cakmak's Support

During the armistice years, in one of the cabinets that change constantly, Cevat Pasha becomes the minister of war and then appoints Fevzi Pasha the chief of staff. When Cevat Pasha has to resign from his office, he advises Fevzi Pasha to stay in his place no matter what. Thus, Fevzi Pasha makes it easier to deliver the weapons and ammunition to the national fighters. For example, while the weapons and ammunition in Diyarbakir is to be brought to Istanbul by train, they are brought to Samsun via Sivas. Again, he has the ammunition in Istanbul shipped to the chosen places without anyone noticing. This way, Mustafa Kemal can also access ammo.

Sending Mustafa Kemal from Istanbul

In the cabinet are those who want to win Mustafa Kemal's friendship as well as those who think he is an unreliable character, and eventually they decide that he should be sent from Istanbul.

One day, Minister of War Sakir Pasha invites him to his office and asks him to read a file on the Greek villages in Samsun. It is written that these villages are attacked by the Turks. Sakir Pasha informs him that he decided to send him to Samsun to investigate whether this is true or not, and that this was approved by Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha the Groom. Mustafa Kemal states that he needs a title for this post and asks permission to consult Fevzi Pasha about it.

However, Fevzi Pasha doesn't go out on the pretext of illness, as he doesn't get along with the war minister, who ordered him to welcome General Allenby when he came to Istanbul. Mustafa Kemal finds Kazim Pasha, the deputy chief of the staff, in his place and tells him about his plan to go to Anatolia and that this new post is an opportunity for this. Kazim Pasha replies that they can send him to Anatolia as an inspector. Mustafa Kemal states that it doesn't matter what title he goes by and asks him to learn from Sakir Pasha what his real purpose is. Kazim Pasha talks to Sakir Pasha and sees that they want to send him to Anatolia to punish the Turks who torture the Greeks and eliminate the national organizations. When they are alone again, Mustafa Kemal asks him to prepare a mission order enabling him to use his authority in as many places as possible. Kazim Pasha does what he is told, but Sakir Pasha says that Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha doesn't want to sign the document, and he doesn't want to sign it either, but he can have his seal. Mustafa Kemal, thinking that this is enough, asks Kazim Pasha to add another article permitting him to contact the grand vizier when necessary. Although there is no such article in the document Kazim Pasha read to Sakir Pasha, Kazim Pasha does what he asks and then seals the document on behalf of Sakir Pasha. Mustafa Kemal takes one of the copies with him and leaves the other to Kazim Pasha. When he gets out, he feels free like a bird.

Inspector of the Ninth Army

Mustafa Kemal visits Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha the Groom after receiving his post. Ferit Pasha expresses how much he trusts him. Afterward, Sakir Pasha says he wants to introduce him to the interior minister. Mustafa Kemal accepts this without revealing that he already knows Mehmet Ali Bey. They go to Mehmet Ali Bey's office together. Mehmet Ali Bey states that he appreciates Mustafa Kemal and will do his best to make his job easier.

Mustafa Kemal meets with Ismet Pasha at his home, shares his plan with him, says that he wants to see him in Anatolia when the time comes, and asks him not to appear with him in Istanbul. Then, he visits Fethi Bey in Bekiraga Squadron, to where he is transferred with other detainees. The chief of police, Ali Bey, who was the regimental commander that Mustafa Kemal suspended for misinforming him at the front due to the incomplete information provided by his commander, promises to come to Anatolia whenever he is needed.

At the House of Ferit Pasha the Groom

Shortly before the Greeks invade Izmir, he is invited to dinner at the house of Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha the Groom. However, Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha is very different from the day they met; he is cold and reserved. After Cevat Pasha joins them, they have dinner. But again, no one makes a sound. At the

end of the meal, Ferit Pasha has a map opened on a table and asks Mustafa Kemal to explain what he is to do in Anatolia. Mustafa Kemal expresses that he refrains from making comments without examining the situation himself. The grand vizier asks Cevat Pasha's opinion, and Cevat Pasha agrees with Mustafa Kemal. This time, the grand vizier asks which cities his authority covers. Mustafa Kemal looking at Cevat Pasha's face says that it is a small area. Cevat Pasha walks away from the table, implying that the post doesn't give Mustafa Kemal much authority. The grand vizier relaxes a bit, and then they sit on the armchairs and start drinking coffee. At the end of the night, when he and Cevat Pasha leave the grand vizier's house, Cevat Pasha asks him, "Are you going to do something, Kemal?" He replies, "Yes, pasha, I will do something." Cevat Pasha says, "May God bless you."

Farewell to Istanbul

While the ship to Samsun is waiting at the Galata dock, Mustafa Kemal visits Fevzi Pasha to say goodbye. However, Fevzi Pasha is dismissed because he thinks that military intervention is necessary against the Greeks building up troops on the islands of the Aegean. Since Cevat Pasha is to replace him, Mustafa Kemal can see both of them on the same day. Fevzi Pasha voices his anger at the sultanate, who sacrifices the whole country for the sake of those living in Istanbul. Cevat Pasha doesn't think differently from him and promises Mustafa Kemal to work together.

He goes to the Sublime Porte because he couldn't find other statesmen in their offices. He finds the interior minister complaining about the Greeks landing troops in Izmir and acts as if he were surprised. He asks what they are planning to do. The interior minister says they will protest. Upon this answer, he implies that he doubts that this can deter the Greeks and the British. He states that there is a need for more drastic measures. The interior minister says that if they attempt to do such a thing, bad things will happen to them. Mustafa Kemal doesn't want to stay there any longer and throws himself outside.

At the request of Ferit Pasha, he goes to Yildiz Palace to see Vahdettin. While talking to Vahdettin, his eyes are fixed on the warships anchored in the Bosphorus facing the palace. Vahdettin, on the other hand, mentions that it is necessary to please the Allied Forces dominating Istanbul and states that he can save the state by acting accordingly. Mustafa Kemal reassures him and leaves the palace.

While he is at home and getting ready to go to the ferry, a friend of him informs him that he heard that his departure is not going to be allowed, or otherwise, his ship will sink off the Black Sea. Immediately after that, a soldier with whom he worked before reports that he received the same news. Mustafa Kemal stays alone for a moment and thinks. For him, being caught, imprisoned, and exiled all mean death. After deciding this, he immediately jumps into his car and goes to the ship.

He is finally on board the ship. A few minutes later, the Allied Forces search the ship. Mustafa Kemal gets bored, wondering if this is a plot. But, the ship sails again eventually. When they reach the Black Sea, the captain says that he doesn't know this sea very well and that his compass is broken, too. Upon this, Mustafa Kemal asks the captain to follow the shores as much as possible. Thus, they arrive in Sinop. Since they reach a piece of land, he inquires whether there is a way to Samsun from there, but he has to get on the ship again and finally reaches Samsun.

THEMES

Self-esteem The people around Mustafa Kemal love their country and want to save it from the oppressive regime of Abdulhamid. However, they all believe that it is necessary to be a great man to save the country, and that the great man is like Cemal Pasha. Mustafa Kemal finds it strange that a person who wants to save his country should take someone as an example. He thinks that such a person cannot discover his own methods. One of the biggest reasons why Mustafa Kemal thinks differently from the people around him is that he doesn't doubt his own self-worth and the change he can create. Therefore, when Cemal Pasha shows him his article published in a newspaper, he advises Cemal Pasha not to act on the praise or insults of others.

Deceit Enver Pasha, with whom Mustafa Kemal never gets along, deceives him by appointing him as the commander of a division that does not exist after he wants to serve in World War I. He then has Vahdettin reassign Mustafa Kemal to the Command of the Seventh Army, which he resigned from. He does all of this not by thinking about the good of the country but for protecting his personal interests. However, Mustafa Kemal continues on his path successfully.

Integrity Although Mustafa Kemal accepts the chests full of gold sent to him by General Falkenhayn on his own behalf, he delivers them to the army with an official record. Although he doesn't have the money to buy a train ticket to return to Istanbul from Aleppo, he doesn't touch these chests. Like him, Cemal Pasha doesn't keep the three thousand gold coins he earns by reselling the horses he bought from Mustafa Kemal. Thus, both show that they are genuine military characters, not commercial.

Self-confidence The primary reason why Mustafa Kemal is so sure of his steps is his self-confidence. Other people's attitude toward him never causes him to doubt his own worth. As an example, when he visits the minister of foreign affairs to discuss the country's situation, the minister makes him wait. In response, he keeps the minister waiting. He knows to demand what he deserves.

Prudence Mustafa Kemal calculates the side effects of the decisions taken by the government until the armistice is signed, including sharing all the secrets of the army with the German commanders. He always conveys his reservations to the authorities. However, after the armistice is signed, he stops communicating his analysis to the statesmen. Anticipating that the Allied Forces in Istanbul are to invade the whole country, he secretly organizes the people he trusts. The indifference of the statesmen to the occupation of Izmir indicates his ability to see how things will work out in the future.

Leadership Mustafa Kemal is a character who gives himself the authority to intervene in anything he thinks is wrong, regardless of the people around him thinking otherwise, and knows how to take the initiative. He tells Vahdettin that it is impossible for him to dominate the country without taking control of the army. He shares his analyses with statesmen. When he despairs of them, he organizes reliable people at different levels and takes action himself. To this end, he doesn't hesitate to be manipulative. For example, when he is sent to Anatolia as an army inspector, he expands his realm of authority without notifying the minister. He deceives Sultan Vahdettin, Grand Vizier Ferit Pasha the Groom and other members of the cabinet with his moderate stance. But what governs his actions is his conscience, as he feels an obligation to do the right thing for his country.

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