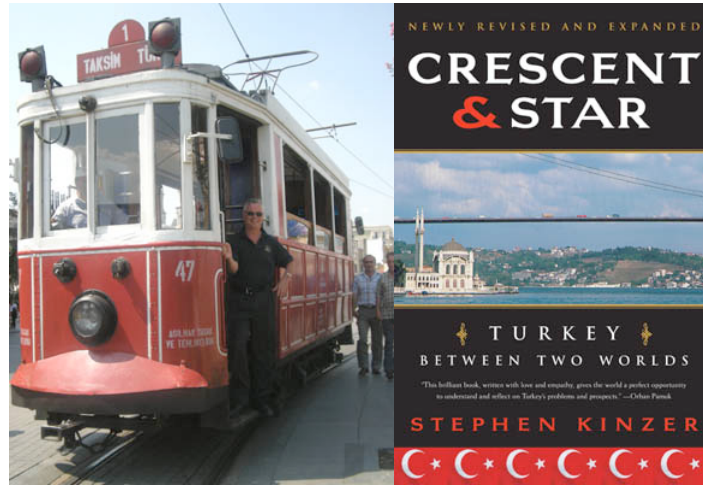


PARADE OF FACES:



WHO SPEAKS FOR TURKEY?

With

STEPHEN KINZER

A six part-series inspired by Stephen Kinzer's
"Crescent & Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds"



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Synopsis

To date, Turkey is the *only secular islamic democracy* in the Middle East. Its secularism and its location draw much attention from around the world. Throughout its global past, Turkey has been a center of the world history geographically. At present, it boasts a population nearly to 75 million people, the majority who are young. While typically admired as a home to some of the world's oldest civilizations and the place where the east meets the west, Turkey is also known for its many current and historical contradictions. **Stephen Kinzer's** book, ***Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*** explores these contradictions with passion, truthfulness and with the special perspective of a former resident.

Kinzer's work has received great acclaim from scores of international magazines and journals, from *The Economist* to the *Middle East Quarterly*. Earlier this decade *Business Week* wrote, "Turkey, with 65 million people and a strategic location between Europe and Asia, is an important country that's not well understood in the West." *Crescent & Star*, Stephen Kinzer's study of Turkey's history and politics, goes a good ways toward redressing that." Now, with all the recent events and change (including the 2007 elections and a new draft of its constitution proposed by the current government) that have occurred during the past couple of years in Turkey, the former Istanbul bureau chief for the *New York Times*, referred to by Turks simply as "Kinzer", goes back to his former home to investigate the current state of affairs in Turkey. Is what the West perceives what as going on in inside Turkey the reality from within? As Kinzer wrote in his first edition of *Crescent and Star*, Turkey is "a jewel of a country poised on the brink of greatness". The world watches and wonders: Will Turkey attain this greatness?

Stephen Kinzer and (a new edition of) his book will be the basis of a 6-part series, ***Parade of Faces***, that will examine Turkey's past, present, and future in an effort to explore whether this country will remain the jewel of the Middle East. The producer and director of ***Parade of Faces*** will be Bircan Ünver who is with the Light Millennium, a 501c3, multi-media and cultural organization. The series will be an in-depth of analysis of Turkey provided by Kinzer, during which the viewer is taken on a journey to modern Turkey to gain a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist there far beyond what tourists see when they visit. With the guidance of this gregarious expert, the documentary film takes a detailed look at six of the most dynamic and involved chapters of Kinzer's updated and re-released ***Crescent and Star*** (Fall 2008). In his book, Kinzer likens *ISTIKLAL*, which means *independence*, and is also the main boulevard of Istanbul, to a "**Parade of Faces**". It is "there" on Istiklal that Kinzer puts his hopes for a dynamic, energetic, and diverse Turkish Nation.

Parade of Faces addresses these topics through visual metaphors, acting as a bridge between inside Turkey and the Western world, which has shown great interest in Turkey in recent years. The film aims to transcend the typical dialogue about Turkey in order challenge viewers to think about the obstacles this middle-eastern secular democracy has faced and needs to face in the future, to achieve a greatness that can also act a model for other Islamic or even any developing countries.

Each episode of ***Parade of Faces*** will provide the viewer with a multi-layered experience where issues and topics explored are not as black and white as perhaps initially perceived. Episodes will look at topics that Kinzer writes about such as: ***Perceptions of the West, The Origin of Cultural Diversity, Five Power Struggles & Contradictions in Life & Politics, Seeking Unity in Diversity, Turkish Entrepreneurs Conquer the World, and Who Speaks for Turkey?*** Within these general context, each episode will explore and reflect a rich spectrum of Turkey from politic, government, military, Kurds, media, New Draft Turkish Constitution (2008) point of view to the education, Turkish daily social, cultural, traditional life from the local point of view to the Turkish population at-large.

Episode#1: *Perceptions of the West:*

The first episode will bring in both negative and positive opinions about the people of Turkey and the Turkish Republic from the Ottoman period prior to the Republic of Turkey(1923), and Modern Turkey as well as changing views prior a visit to Turkey and after from professional, politic, cultural, media, business and military perspectives. This episode will also give background information from WWI to the formation of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Episode#2: *The Origin of Cultural Diversity* Anatolian land has been a passage to the West from the East since pre-historic times. It represents the origin of cultural diversity and is situated at the northern edge of the "Cradle of Civilization". This historical fact will be linked with today's world as Turkey's ties with East and West are now again a passage for business - both political and social. This episode will also bring in the most well known archeological sites - both the well-protected and some that are not such as Zeugma, Ephesus, Alaca Höyük, and Hattusa.

Episode#3: *Turkish Entrepreneurs Conquer the World*

This episode will focus on the enormous dynamism that has powered the Turkish economy in recent years. From large family holdings to dynamic young entrepreneurs to small business people, Turkey and especially Anatolia has surged to a level of economic power that would have been unthinkable even a decade ago. This episode will focus on the achievements of Turkish business within the country and abroad, and also show how Turkey has become an "energy bridge" Between East and West.

Episode#4: *Five Power Struggles & Contradictions in Life & Politics*

This episode explores the military coups in Turkey, including the "soft ones," which changed the governments and closed political parties. The discussion will be done in the context of the New Draft Turkish Constitution. Additionally, it based its Amendments of the existing "1981 Constitution" in conjunction with the long-lasting problems such as "restriction of freedom of expression" as well as its rich potentials as the following:

- > Contradictions within the political system, military, constitutions, National Security Council, Media, changing women and social life in the context of reshaping of Turkey to a much more Islamic approach rather than secular!
- > Women, youth, contrast and contradictions between west and east within
- > the country, youth, education, women, youth, potentials and
- > obstacles from human perspectives to major power struggles and demand for economic and social development and sustainability..

Episode#5: *Seeking Unity in Diversity*

As Turkey becomes steadily more democratic, the question of group rights and identity politics has remained unresolved. Tension over issues of free speech and civil rights runs through political life. Conflict with Kurdish nationalists has cost 30,000 lives and a reported \$200 billion. This episode will explore the challenges Turkey faces as it seeks to move from developing democracy to fully functioning democracy.

Episode#6: *Who Speaks for Turkey?*

This episode looks at some of the recent obstacles that Turkey has overcome in recent years in becoming a global player and also identifies further challenges that Turkey must overcome in the future to continue its path forward. In this episode we will get perspectives from the UN, the World Bank, and Amnesty International to name a few, as the project addresses some of the successes and lack of successes that Turkey has had up to this point and how the country might proceed in the future. Overall, as the last episode of the series, Turkey will be examined from the current global context as well as where it might be in 25 or 50 years.

-More detailed outlines of these episodes will emerge as the project moves forward.

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**@2008 "Parade of Faces: Who Speaks for Turkey? With Stephen Kinzer" - Synopsis & Definition of the six episodes. A Media Project of Light Millennium, 501-c-3 – <http://lightmillennium.org>
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