

# WORLD EDUCATION NEWS & REVIEWS

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## TRENDS

Hearing the midday Islamic call to prayer emanating from loudspeakers propped atop the minarets of the mosques of Istanbul, one immediately becomes aware of the pervasive influence of religion on the modern state of Turkey.

Although portraits of the secularist Western-oriented founder of the republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, continue to hang in offices, shops, and schools throughout the country, the solemn serenity of the cry, "*Allahu Akbar*", "God is great!" plays a greater part in Turkish culture than has perhaps previously been acknowledged by either the West, which Turkey has tried so earnestly to emulate, or by the Turks themselves.

More than seventy years ago, Atatürk, through a series of social, economic, political and cultural reforms, strived to build a modern Turkey divested of the remnants of the once omnipotent Ottoman Empire. The Arabic script in which Ottoman Turkish had been written for centuries was replaced with a Latinized alphabet, and a European code of law was adopted in lieu of the Islamic law which had been predominant in the empire for centuries.

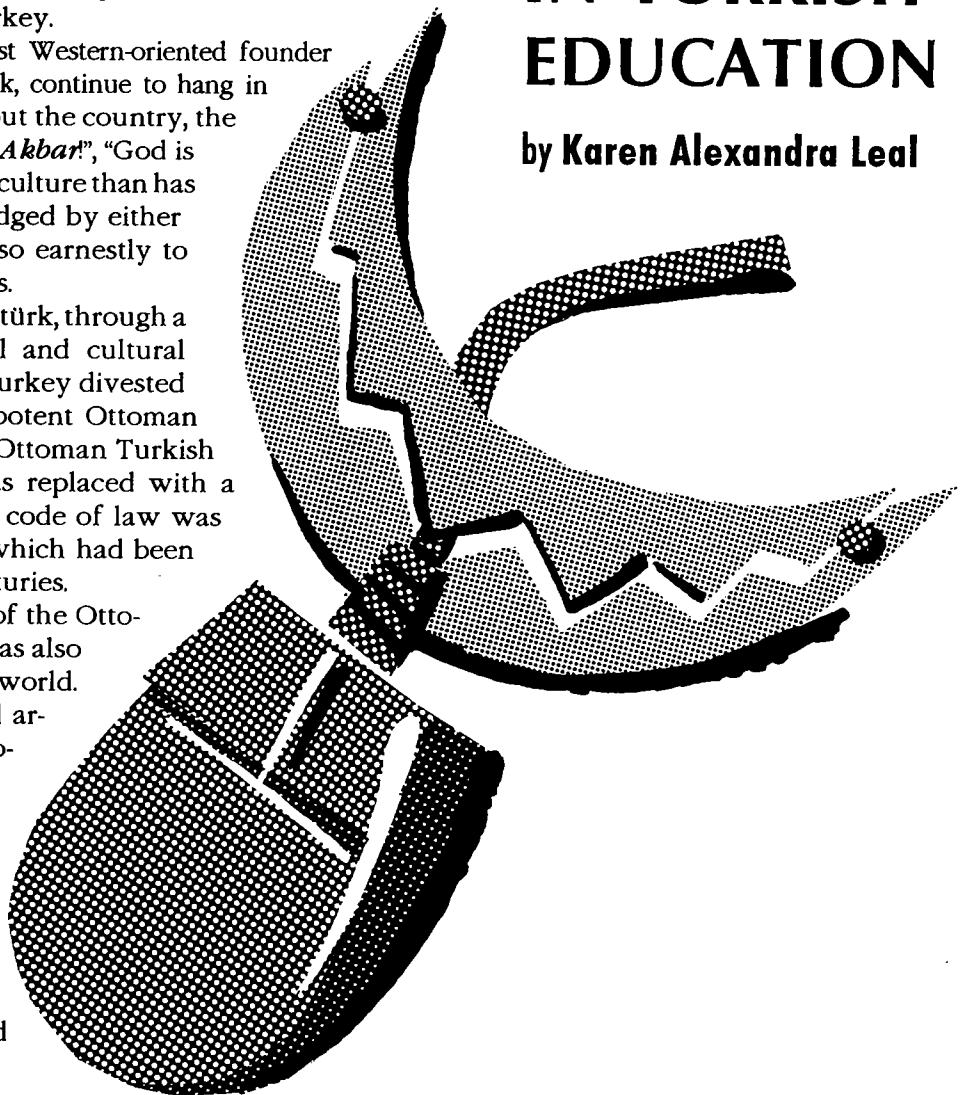
Throughout the final centuries of the Ottoman Empire (1299-1920), its sultan was also the *caliph*, or guardian of the Islamic world. At lower levels, particularly in rural areas, education was primarily the domain of the *imams*, local religious leaders. *Madrasas*, theological schools where law, philosophy, history, mathematics, and lan-

*Continued on page 20*

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## ISLAM STILL A FORCE IN TURKISH EDUCATION

by Karen Alexandra Leal



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**COUNTRY  
UPDATES**



**AUSTRALIA**

**Misery Down Under as Budget Slashed**

The Australian government is to slash Aus\$1.8 billion from the higher education budget over the next three years and radically reshape the way students pay for their tuition in the first major cut in federal spending in 15 years.

Thousands of jobs are likely to be lost, despite universities being allowed for the first time to charge full fees to students who do not win a government-funded place.

Students enrolling next year face annual fee increases of between Aus\$850 and Aus\$3,050. They will also have to pay off their debts more quickly after they graduate.

Majors are being divided into three tiers, with the most expensive being those which cost the most to teach or which the government says potentially lead to the highest incomes. The cost of degrees in law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science will more than double, with a five-year degree costing more than Aus\$22,000. Students in education, nursing, the arts and humanities face a 35 percent increase.

Currently, students also incur a Higher Education Contribution Scheme/HECS debt of Aus\$2,500 a year. Graduates now must begin repaying their HECS debt when their annual salary reaches Aus\$28,500. Beginning from next July, the income threshold will fall to Aus\$20,700.

*The Times Higher 8/16/96*

**BARBADOS**

**Barbados Community College Agreement**

Barbados Community College has recently concluded a new articulation agreement with the University of the West Indies, which will enable graduates of an enhanced Associate Degree Program from the College to complete their bachelor's program at UWI in two years. Associate Degree graduates who transfer to universities in the US have been receiving credits/exemptions of up to two years towards a four-year degree program.

*Correspondence from Barbados Community College 7/96*

## BURUNDI

### Three-Year Campaign of Terror

The ethnic conflict in which tens of thousands of civilians have died over the past three years in this tiny central-African country has forced its way onto the campuses of the University of Burundi.

Fewer than 100 students from the Hutu community, 85 percent of the national population, are now studying there. The rest are Tutsis, members of the country's 14 percent minority, some of whom participated in what has been called a campaign of terror at the university.

On June 12, 1995, one Hutu student was stabbed to death in his dormitory in Mutanga, one of the university's four campuses. Another was chased onto a basketball court and murdered by Tutsi classmates. As night fell, a full-fledged attack broke out in which the government acknowledges that 13 people were killed. Hutus said that 50 of their number had been killed. Since the June 1995 killings, almost all Hutus have been forced to find off-campus accommodations. In April this year, a grenade was thrown into the room of one of the 14 Hutus who had returned to Mutanga. In July, on the Gitega campus, 28 students were killed. Of the 45 Hutus who were enrolled at the campus, none now remain.

Luc Ruckingama, rector of the University, said the institution was very far from being mono-ethnic. "The problem is not the youths, it's the politicians who try to mislead them...let's not get too emotional. The university is still alive."

*The Chronicle of Higher Education 8/16/96*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### National Library Still in Ruins

The burned ruins of Bosnia's national library have stood for the last four years in Sarajevo as a wrenching symbol of an attempt to destroy the city and its culture.

Now the gouged granite columns, the crumbling crenelated trim and the once resplendent copper cupola, shredded like lacework, stand for something else: the sluggishness of the reconstruction of Sarajevo.

"What is missing is money—there are lots of ideas but no money," said Enes Kujundzic, the energetic library director, who has shown scores of international dignitaries, experts and financiers through the ghostly interior where more than a million books and priceless manuscripts were reduced to ashes by Serb shells. "I say this is a top priority for a country coming out of war. They say with this money we could rebuild several factories, and then rebuild the library."

Much of the reluctance to invest is caused by uncertainty over how Bosnia will fare after September's na-

tional elections and by unease over whether the Bosnian Government could manage the funds.

Mr. Kujundzic says his plan is simple and practical. He wants to start giving basic library services to the people of Sarajevo, who were starved intellectually and deprived professionally during the fighting. The city has lent him an unused military barracks in which to get a temporary library going again. So Mr. Kujundzic's first need, he said, is financing to start on-line services, open research sites and begin a new book, periodical and archival collection.

The more romantic idea of restoring the fabulous century-old structure that fuses Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian architectural styles should be deferred. Hasty patching to insure that the ruins do not crumble completely from exposure will be finished before the winter.

The library in Sarajevo served the University of Sarajevo, and was a national



repository of Bosnia. When Serb artillery bombarded the library in August 1992, flames engulfed almost 50,000 feet of wooden bookshelves and burned a central atrium, richly carved staircases and the ceremonial auditoriums of the structure, built in 1896 as the town hall. Books, original manuscripts, the archives of Serb, Croat, Bosnian and Jewish writers, the entire catalog system, microfilm, computers and photo labs were all destroyed.

"Those Stone Age people who destroyed the library destroyed their heritage too," said Tatjana Lorkovic, curator of Slavic and East European collections at Yale University Library, who is organizing a bibliographic record of Bosnia with the goal of eventually building one of the world's most modern library services in Sarajevo.

*The New York Times 8/12/96*

## CHINA

### Free Higher Education Era Ending

The end of the former Soviet Union's model of "free higher education" is fast approaching. With many exceptions, self-funded and state-funded students will be merged

into one fee-paying system. The exceptions will be students in agricultural, forestry, nautical, and teacher training fields, ethnic minority and physical culture colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities of hydraulic engineering, geological mining, police training, meteorology and topography have been asked by the government to keep tuition fees very low or to waive them.

The average annual tuition is expected to be about 1,500 yuan (\$181). Other expenses can push the cost to about 5,500 yuan (\$663). In comparison, the average urban worker earns about 1,220 yuan (\$147) a year, while rural workers earn only 200 yuan (\$24).

Many companies, organizations, and local governments have stepped in to fund education for poor students. Students also are finding ways to help themselves by finding off-campus work. As a last resort, poor students can enroll in normal (teacher training institutions) or military academies, which are free.

Tuition charges have been phased in since 1994, when 50 universities initiated the reform. In 1995, about 257 colleges and universities across China charged tuition. According to the latest State Education Commission plan, about half of China's 1,054 higher institutions will charge freshmen tuition fees beginning this fall.

*China Daily 4/4/96*

## Doctorate Degrees to be Standardized

The Academic Degrees Committee/ADC under the State Council will issue a regulation late this year to standardize the appraisal system of doctorate degrees.

ADC will authorize experts to regularly assess universities and research institutions that are authorized to offer doctorate degree courses in hopes of upgrading the quality of the country's doctorate students.

ADC set forth appraisal standards in 1981 when the country began the academic degree system. Institutions offering doctoral programs must have at least three doctorate tutors; three long-term State, ministry or provincial-level research projects; sufficient research funds; and updated teaching facilities. Institutions also are required to produce important research results within five years.

At present, China has a total of 2,500 doctoral programs.

Earlier this year, ADC inspected 259 doctoral programs in mathematics, chemistry, mechanics, electronics, and computer sciences. More than 240 doctoral programs passed the ADC standards. But 15 institutions failed and are no longer authorized to issue doctorate degrees or to recruit students. Included among these are the Software Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai University, and Beijing Normal University. These institutions must improve their standards and can reapply for authorization in two years.

*China Daily 7/15/96*

## Sino-US MBA Program Starts

Twenty-four Chinese left for New York in July to attend a 15-month business administration training course at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute/RPI. The program is a joint venture of the East China Zhejiang University and RPI, and will continue with four months of additional education at the University after training in the US is completed.

When the program was first announced in June, more than 1,000 people expressed interest. The final group was selected from nearly 100 candidates. All have been active in management for at least two years—some as managers of large State-run companies and others as owners of their own businesses; some have graduate degrees.

"High-level managers with a Chinese background, who also have received training in the United States, are badly needed as more and more US companies begin to have trade or investment relations with China," said Xu Shubai, director of the Sino-US MBA Training Program.

The program, which has been approved by the State Education Commission, is receiving financial aid and other support from business giants in the US, including IBM, General Electric and Boeing. *China Daily 7/18/96*

## Vocational Education to be Upgraded

Traditionally, education in China has focused on preparing students for college entrance. In the current economic climate, however, attending college has become an almost impossible goal except for a small minority of middle school graduates, while the growing economy increasingly demands skilled workers. In response to these realities, the new Vocational Education Law announced in May will divert 60 to 70 percent of junior middle school graduates to vocational education by the year 2000, as compared to about 50 percent now.

To stress the importance of vocational education, the government is introducing a professional certificate system, putting it on an equally important level as college diplomas. There will be five levels of skill: primary, middle- and high-level workers, technicians and senior technicians. Senior technician certificates will be equal to college diplomas. The Government will set skill standards for each profession and set up testing departments across the nation to evaluate students in each category.

Vocational education is hampered by a lack of teachers with practical skills as well as a dearth of equipment. The government is calling on industries to invest in technical schools.

By 1995, there were 17,000 mid-level vocational schools enrolling 9.4 million students, as well as 400,000 training centers and schools for adults and employees. More schools are being established. *China Daily 7/22/96*

## EGYPT

### Private Universities Get Go-ahead

Four private universities are to open in October: The Egyptian International University in Ismailiya, and the Egypt University for Science and Technology, Sixth of October University, and October University for Modern Letters and Sciences—all in Sixth of October City. The latter is to be affiliated with Sheffield University in the UK.

The four universities, which will include more than 30 faculties and institutes, will be free to impose their own admissions regulations and set fees without intervention from the Ministry of Education.

leading posts without ministry approval. In addition, private universities are to be indirectly supervised by the Supreme Council for Universities, which is responsible for monitoring standards to ensure that graduation certificates from state and private universities represent an equal educational level.

Opponents of private universities say their establishment violates the principles of the 1971 Constitution, which calls for equal opportunities in education for all citizens. Critics say only the rich will have the chance for a distinguished higher education.

*Al-Abrum Weekly 8/1-7-96*

## GREECE

### Panhellenic Exam Era Ends

The selection of university students will alter radically from 1999 if draft legislation put before parliament by education secretary George Papandreou is approved.

The gradual abolition of the Panhellenic entrance examinations, which represents a shift in secondary school curriculum and more freedom for universities to select their students, are the most important proposals in the legislation.

The examinations will be abolished from 1999. Students will be selected for university on the basis of their performance in the last two years of high school, for which they would be awarded a National Certificate of Education.

In the penultimate year, they will be examined in five compulsory subjects: Greek language and literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and English. These represent 20 percent of their grades towards a National Certificate of Education.

In the final year they will be examined in the same five compulsory subjects plus an optional three for which they will receive 80 percent of the total required.

College and university departments will set the grades and specialty subjects they want, and students can apply for courses for which they have an aptitude.

There was a lukewarm reaction to the proposals from parents, students, teachers and academics. They welcomed the abolition of the much-disliked entrance examinations but criticized the failure to curb private schools, which prepare students for the exams, and the various liberal studies centers that call themselves "private universities."

Mr. Papandreou said his measures strengthened education at the secondary level and smoothed the way to higher education for the majority of students.

*The Times Higher 7/23/96*

## INDIA

### Technology-oriented Tezpur University Opened

Tezpur University was opened by the government in the state of Assam in January 1994. Its permanent campus will be located at Napam, just north of Tezpur.

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Admission standards for The October University for Modern Sciences and Arts will include the International General Certificate of Secondary Education/IGCSE or the Egyptian *thanaueya amma*; an annual fee of LE15,000 will be charged.

Prime Minister Kamal El-Ganzouri said private universities would open the way for competition between the state and private education sector in a way which would serve Egyptian education as a whole, and would also ease the burden on state universities, which are unable to handle the number of students now admitted to higher education.

Latest statistics show that only 19.8 percent of Egypt's young people enter higher education. This compares with 26.6 percent in Jordan, 34 percent in Israel and 59.6 percent in the United States

The move towards private higher education began in 1992, when the People's Assembly passed Law 101 allowing the establishment of private universities. The Law set forth various regulations to exert a minimal level of government control. For example, the appointment of university presidents must be approved by the Minister of Education, and non-Egyptians cannot occupy

