

## Quelle:

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN: WE SHOULD SET NEW CULTURAL GOALS FOR OURSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2023 VISION (MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 2017)<sup>1</sup>

Turkey is Heir to a Civilization that has Left its Mark on the History of Humanity

Expressing his wish that the cultural council yields favorable outcomes for the country and the people in terms of culture and arts, and congratulating Minister of Culture and Tourism Nabi Avcı and his team on their success to reconvene the council 28 years later at the beginning of his speech, President Erdoğan underlined: “Turkey is heir to a civilization which, having flourished with various cultures, has left its mark on the history of humanity.”

Pointing out that behind this great heritage, which incorporates very important works in every area of culture, from architecture and visual arts to music and literature, lie a specific vision of existence and world view, President Erdoğan said: “According to this view, the nature has been entrusted to us. The works of culture and arts, which we produce by making use of the nature, should serve the human being and help him/her reach maturity.”

“Every vision of culture entails a vision of civilization as well, and thus one must also make efforts to build and revive the civilization while thinking over the culture,” underscored President Erdoğan, and added: “We have to work more so as to duly live up to this great heritage. The responsibility on this issue doesn’t only belong to the state. As the society, the business world, NGOs, universities, people of arts and culture, we should join forces and make a better use of the means and resources we have.”

Turkish Culture Preserves its Place among the Most Valuable Cultures of the World

“Never forget that political power is obtained through ballot boxes, but we need to exert strenuous efforts, study hard and sweat blood to obtain cultural power,” stressed President Erdoğan, and continued: “We should rediscover and rebuild our national and cultural values, which reflect the native Turkish culture and arts, against cultural alienation and imperialism through a universal perspective. That a cultural product is in a native and national form never hinders it from bearing a universal meaning and message. In the final analysis, all cultures in fact emerge, develop and flourish within a certain society and specific geography. What renders it universal is the deepness and profundity of the message it gives. The most concrete evidence of this is the fact that wise poet Rumi is today read all around the world. The persons and organizations that feed on our own history and values should be engaged in a production process of high quality that originates from the native and flows towards the global. The Turkish culture enjoys an understanding which has no problem with incorporating what is beautiful, good and valuable into its own body and which considers merging them with what it already owns, whereby rising to a higher level, to be an achievement. Our culture encourages development, let alone hinder it. The humiliation campaign deliberately conducted for a period in the past against our culture and faith was aimed at erasing and eradicating this valuable asset of ours. Yet, the jewelry doesn’t lose its value just because it has mud splattered on it. Likewise, Turkish culture still preserves its place among the most valuable, oldest and profoundest cultures of the world. What falls on us is to revive and carry into future our culture by reinterpreting it in the light of the needs of our day. In this regard, we should do our part to conserve and improve our national culture with an approach that is based on improvement not submission.”

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<sup>1</sup> Quelle zum Essay: Ayhan Kaya, Oration of the Nation in Turkey: From Secularization to Re-Islamization, in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte, 2021, <[www.europa.clio-online.de/essay/id/fdae-113103](http://www.europa.clio-online.de/essay/id/fdae-113103)>.

We Enjoy the Power, Will and Ability to Build a New and Great Future for Ourselves

The President added: “We have a difference. We are a very different nation in terms of our civilization, history and state tradition. As the grandchildren of an ancestry that had closed an age and opened a new one, we enjoy the power, will and ability to build a new and great future for ourselves. That is why we say ‘great Turkey;’ that is why we say ‘strong Turkey;’ that is why we bequeath our youth a vision for 2053 and 2071; and that is why we are working to implement a new system of government through a constitutional amendment in our country. That is the reason why our policies and actions are centered on the national and the native. We should set new cultural goals for ourselves in accordance with the 2023 vision. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cultural Council, which we are holding today, is of great importance in this respect.”

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Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: We Should Set New Cultural Goals for Ourselves in Accordance with the 2023 Vision (March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017), in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte, 2021, <[www.europa.clio-online.de/quelle/id/q63-75001](http://www.europa.clio-online.de/quelle/id/q63-75001)>.

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