



GENERAL ARTICLE

Turkish Athletes in Olympics from The Republican Period

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Study Area: Erzurum, Turkey

Coordinates: 39°54'31"N; 41°16'37"E

Key words: Sports History, Turkish Players

Abstract

We examined the Turkish athletes who participated in the Olympics since the Republican era of Turkey, with relation to the factors such as period, branch and gender, and to provide determinations and suggestions in line with all these. Firstly, the number of medals, periods and branches of Turkish Athletes who participated in the Olympics between 1924 and 2016 were tabulated and secondly were examined by periods and lastly suggestions were offered to increase the number of medals and branch diversity that Turkey has won. This study is a compilation study. The information in the literature has been tried to be organized by organizing it systematically. Consequently, as a result of the sports policies made in Turkey, the increase in the number of medals and branch diversity in the Summer Olympics is only in the individual sports branches, and the education and training factors are made together. It has been determined that it is important and in this context, necessary studies for athletes at primary and secondary education levels are insufficient.

Introduction:

The origin of the Olympics, which is shown as one of the biggest sports organizations (mega-events) of the modern period, dates back to BC 776. Ancient Olympic Games from BC 776 until AD 392, each Olympics was held 292 times, four years between. While the organization period was limited to one day in BC 776 when it was first applied, by the year AD 352, this period was increased to five days (Secilmis, 2004; Ozbaydar, 1983). While the Ancient Olympics were held once every four years in the Zeus Temple in the region of Olympia (Olympos) in the province of Elis in Poloponez (Mora) peninsula, today Modern Olympics are held every four years in different countries and cities (Karakucuk, 1989).

The idea that the Olympics held in ancient times should be reorganized was first expressed by French Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1892 (Bingol, 2011). After certain stages, the Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece in 1896. The Olympic Games were held every four years, starting in 1896. But during the First World War in 1916 and World War II in 1940 and 1944, the Modern Olympic Games were canceled 3 times (Young, 1987; IOC). One of the most important turning points in the history of the Olympics is the fact that an Olympic Congress was organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1921, and the evaluation of the absence of

sports competitions specific to the snow and ice branch in this congress. At the end of the congress, it was decided to organize the Winter Olympic Games together with the Summer Olympics. Following this decision, the International Olympic Committee agreed to hold the first Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, France, and these first Winter Olympics lasted for 11 days. Until 1992, the Summer and Winter Olympic Games were held in the same year. With the decision to hold the first Winter Olympics after 1992 in 1994, the problem of coinciding with the Summer and Winter Olympics at the same time was eliminated (Silik, 2014).

This study aimed to examine the Turkish athletes who participated in the Olympics since the Republican period, taking into account the medals won, according to factors such as period, branch, and gender, and to present findings and suggestions in line with all these. In this context, the number of medals of the Turkish athletes who participated in the Olympics between 1924-2016, the period in which they won medals, and their branches were investigated.

The Republic of Turkey in Olympics:

Proving the own political existence to the entire world with the proclamation of the Republic, the Republic of Turkey wants to show that own size in the Olympics which one of the world's largest sports organizations. Turkey has

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participated in a total of 20 Olympics since the 1924 Paris Olympics, which was the first Olympics immediately after the proclamation of the republic, and has been winning medals in sports branches such as wrestling, athletics, boxing, weightlifting, taekwondo. Although Turkey has won the gold medal in only the wrestling branch until 1988, it has won gold, silver, and bronze medals in many different branches after 1988.

In this context, while this study investigates the Olympic history of the Republic of Turkey, it is divided into two titles as before and after based on the 1988.

Pre-1988 Republican Period Modern Olympics:

Turkey has experienced the first experience of the Olympics with the 1924 Paris Olympics. Until 1988, Turkey's most successful sport in which the branch has been wrestling. Before 1988, it has won a total of 42 medals, 23 gold, 12 silver and 7 bronze, in the wrestling branch. During this period, it was able to obtain a total of 3 bronzes, 1 bronze in the athletics branch in the 1948 Olympics and 2 bronze in the boxing branch in the 1984 Olympics.

In Table-1, the medals won by Turkey at the modern Olympics in the history of the Republic before 1988 are shown by classification by branches.

Table-1: Modern Olympics in the republican period after 1988

Olympics	Gold Medal & Branches	Silver Medal & Branches	Bronze Medal & Branches	Total Medals
1936 Berlin	1: Wrestling	–	1: Wrestling	2
1940 & 1944	Postponed Due To World War II.			
1948 London	6: Wrestling	4: Wrestling	1: Wrestling	12
			1: Athletics	
1952 Helsinki	2: Wrestling	--	1: Wrestling	3
1956 Melbourne	3: Wrestling	2: Wrestling	2: Wrestling	7
1960 Rome	7: Wrestling	2: Wrestling	--	9
1964 Tokyo	2: Wrestling	3: Wrestling	1: Wrestling	6
1968 Mexico	2: Wrestling	--	--	2
1972 Munich	--	1: Wrestling	--	1
1976 Montreal	--	--	--	-
1980 Moscow	Turkey Did Not Participate			
1984 Los-Angeles	--	--	1: Wrestling 2: Boxing	3

Note: Turkey does not have a medal at the Winter Olympics, it is not added to the table. Source: Turkish National Olympic Committee

In the year 1924, 1928 and 1976 Olympics in which Turkey joined was completed without winning a medal. Turkey has won the first medal of the 1936 Berlin Olympics with Yasar Erkan in wrestling. Pre-1988, Turkey has won the most medals in the 1948 London Olympics with a total of 12 medals (6 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze). Turkey the most gold medals with 7 gold has gained 1960 Olympics in Rome.

Year 1988 and Post-1988 Modern Olympics:

1988 Olympics poses a special importance for Turkey. Because the first time outside of wrestling until that day in weightlifting as a different branch has won the Olympic

gold medal. This success was followed by gold medals in judo, athletics and taekwondo.

Table-2: Modern Olympics in the republican period after 1988

Olympics	Gold Medal & Branches	Silver Medal & Branches	Bronze Medal & Branches	Total Medals
1988 Seoul	1: Weightlift.	1: Wrestling	–	2
1992 Barcelona	1: Weightlift. 1: Wrestling	2: Wrestling	1: Wrestling 1: Judo	6
1996 Atlanta	2: Weightlift. 2: Wrestling	1: Boxing	1: Wrestling	6
2000 Sydney	1: Judo 1: Weightlift. 1: Wrestling	--	1: Taekwondo	5
2004 Athens	3: Weightlift	1: Boxing 1: Wrestling 1: Taekwondo	1: Wrestling 1: Athletic. 2: Weightlift.	11
2008 Beijing	1: Wrestling	1: Athletics. 1: Taekwondo	1: Taekwondo 1: Wrestling 1: Boxing	7
2012 London	1: Athletic. 1: Taekwondo	1: Athletics 1: Taekwondo	1: Wrestling	5
2016 Rio	1: Wrestling	1: Weightlift. 2: Wrestling	2: Wrestling 1: Athletic. 1: Taekwondo	8

Note: Turkey does not have a medal at the Winter Olympics, it is not added to the table. Source: Turkish National Olympic Committee

Turkey, the first gold medal in weightlifting at the 1988 Seoul Olympics was achieved by Naim Süleymanoğlu. Naim Süleymanoğlu repeated this success in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, and won three consecutive gold medals in weightlifting at the Olympics and made his name written in history. Another athlete, Halil Mutlu has won the gold medal in weightlifting in 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Halil Mutlu by winning three Olympic gold medals in weightlifting has contributed success by gained Turkey's fifth Olympic gold medal in weightlifting. In 1992 Olympics in judo branch, Hülya Şenyurt, on behalf of the Republic of Turkey gained the title of the first female athletes who obtained the gold medal.

While Turkey with Huseyin Ozkan has won the gold medal in judo at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, with Servet Tazegül has won the gold medal in Tae-kwon-do at the London Olympics in 2012.

While creating the above tables (Table1 & Table2), only the Summer Olympics are taken as a basis. Because, unfortunately, our country has not yet succeeded in winning a medal in the Winter Olympics.

Turkish Athletes in the Olympics:

Turkey could not attend the first time 1932 in Los Angeles Olympics. Turkey could not participate in the Los Angeles Olympics due to the high costs and long-distance The 1940 and 1944 Olympics were not held due to the II. World War and the organizations were cancelled. Finally, in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, 33 countries, including our country, did not participate in the games by boycotting the Olympics due to the Soviet Union's entry into Afghanistan.

The Republic of Turkey participated without its

GENERAL ARTICLE

women athletes to the 1924 Paris Olympics. On the basis of the Summer Olympics, our first female athletes participating in the Olympics are Suat Fetgeri Aseni and Halet Çambel. These athletes participated in the 1936 Berlin Olympics with the branch of fencing. In addition, these athletes are the first Muslim women in the history of the Olympics. In the following years, this number has increased and even as of the 2010s, the number of female and male athletes participating in the Olympics has become equivalent.

Table-3: Turkish Athletes taking part in the Summer Olympic Games

Olympics	Number of Female Athletes	Number of Male Athletes	Total Athletes
1924 Paris	-	40	40
1928 Amsterdam	-	40	40
1932 Los Angeles	Turkey Did Not Participate		
1936 Berlin	2	57	59
1940 and 1944	Postponed Due To World War II.		
1948 London	1	67	68
1952 Helsinki	-	56	56
1956 Melbourne	-	14	14
1960 Rome	3	53	56
1964 Tokyo	-	23	23
1968 Mexico City	-	29	29
1972 Munich	1	46	47
1976 Montreal	1	29	30
1980 Moscow	Turkey Did Not Participate		
1984 Los Angeles	2	46	48
1988 Seoul	6	44	50
1992 Barcelona	8	39	47
1996 Atlanta	10	44	54
2000 Sydney	15	44	59
2004 Atina	21	45	66
2008 Beijing	19	49	68
2012 London	66	48	114
2016 Rio	48	55	103

Source: Turkish National Olympic Committee

As can be seen in the table above, male superiority is clearly seen in Turkish athletes participating in the Summer Olympics. Only in the 2012 London Olympics, there are more female athletes than male athletes.

Since Turkey cannot participate in the Winter Olympics every year and steadily, only the Olympics that have been participated are included in the table above. Turkish women athletes participated in the Winter Olympics for the first time at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics. Based on the Winter Olympics, the first female athlete to participate in the Olympics is the word Aydin Çetinkaya and participated in the ski running industry. Only the number of Turkish female athletes competing at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics exceeds the number of male athletes.

As important as the number of athletes sent to the Olympics is, the achievements of these athletes at the Olympics are just as important. Table 6 shows the total

number of Turkish athletes participating in the Olympics held in the history of the Republic of Turkey and the total number of medals obtained by these athletes at the Olympics.

Table-4: Turkish athletes participated in the Winter Olympic

Olympics	Number of Female Athletes	Number of Male Athletes	Total Athletes
1936 Garmisch			
Parten-Kirchen	-	6	6
1948 Saint Moritz	-	6	6
1956 Cortina D'Ampezzo	-	6	6
1960 Squaw Valley	-	2	2
1964 Innsbruck	-	5	5
1968 Grenoble	-	12	12
1976 Innsbruck	-	9	9
1984 Sareyev	-	7	7
1988 Calgary	-	8	8
1992 Albertville	-	8	8
1994 Lillehammer	-	1	1
1998 Nagano	-	1	1
2002 Salt Lake	1	2	3
2006 Torino	3	3	6
2010 Vancouver	3	2	5
2014 Sochi	3	3	6
2018 PyeongChang	3	5	8

Source: Turkish National Olympic Committee

Table-5: Gender based Proportion of Medals won at Olympics

Gender	a	b	c
Male	954	83	%8
Female	226	12	%9
Total	1.180	95	%8

a- Total number of athletes participating in the Olympics; b- Total medals won at the Olympics; c- Medal winning percentage of athletes participating in the Olympics

Source: Created by researchers in the light of information obtained from the Turkish National Olympic Committee

Turkey sent a total of 1,180 athletes to the summer and Winter Olympics since the date of the Republic. Of these Turkish athletes, 954 were male athletes and only 226 were female athletes. The number of medals won by Turkish male athletes was 83, while the number of medals won by Turkish female athletes was 12. A total of 95 medals at the summer and Winter Olympics since the history of the Republic. The result obtained by dividing the number of medals won by the athletes participating in the Olympics was seen as 8% of Turkish male athletes participating in the Olympics can win medals, while 9% of female athletes won medals. Although a very low difference, the medal-winning rate of Turkish women athletes was higher than the medal-winning rate of Turkish male athletes.

Discussion:

This review was conducted in order to examine the Turkish athletes participating in the Olympics, which took place during the Republican period of Turkey, according to

factors such as period and branch in the light of the medals won, and to provide determinations and recommendations in accordance with all these.

The research was the subject of the Olympic Games held between 1924 and 2016, in which the Republic of Turkey participated. For the purpose of the course and layout of the research, the Summer Olympics were examined in two parts before and after 1988. In this case, while there was no branch diversity in the number of medals won in the period before 1988, we can explain this as a relatively branch diversity in the medals obtained in the periods before 1988 and after.

Among the main reasons for this situation are the sports policies followed by the Republic of Turkey. If you look at the history of sports of the Republic of Turkey, a number of changes have occurred in sports policies since 1980. At the beginning of these, there are efforts by athletes of Turkish origin to be called up and won the national team. First, during the period of Prime Minister Turgut Özal, athletes of Turkish origin were identified, brought to the national team and this situation was emphasized. Naim Suleymanoglu is an example of this situation. Until Naim Suleymanoglu's gold medal in weightlifting, Turkey has no other gold medals other than Olympic level wrestling. However, Naim Suleymanoglu, Halil Mutlu (an immigrant from Bulgaria), Huseyin Ozkan (Chechen origin), Servet Tazegul (German-born Azerbaijani origin), Elvan Abeyegesse (of Ethiopian origin), Daniyar Ismailiylov (Turkmen), Copella your yasme Escobar (Cuban), reused such as athletes, together with wrestling in the Olympics, the success of the industry in different sports branches in Turkey are obtained. But this success was limited only to individual sports. Before the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Qatar made 8 athletes of the Bulgarian weightlifting team its own citizens for more than \$ 1 million in order to achieve success at the Olympics. But only one of these athletes was able to win a bronze medal at The Sydney Olympics (Kozłowska & Traywick, 2014). To explain this situation through Turkey, it is seen that there are a total of 75 dev⁹irme athletes representing Turkey since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, and only 7 of these athletes have won medals on behalf of turkey at the Olympics (Altunsöz & Koçak, 2017). But the success achieved at the Olympic level by bringing talented athletes to the national team is not a sustainable success.

It is necessary for Turkey to train its own athletes for sustainable success in the Olympics. As a priority for this situation, it is necessary to correctly determine the age at which talented athletes start their branch and develop policies that can continue the education and training of athletes together with the age at which they start. Elementary and secondary education at the level required given the lack of high schools of physical education and sports proficiency at the level of families, set back from the course in a professional context because they think it'll want to send their children in sports, sport and the state does not

provide an adequate level of encouragement and support necessary for athletes our athletes are some of their deficiencies in their rearing country. In the field of training athletes to primary institutions, secondary education institutions (Sports High Schools, etc.), and our universities (Faculties of Sports Sciences, vocational schools of Physical Education and sports, etc.) a very large role falls. In this context, the coordinated work of the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Youth and sports, and the chairmanship of the Higher Education Council is of great importance. A talented athlete in a particular branch should complete his/her primary and secondary education while receiving his/her education in a professional context. It is an important consideration that athletes at the undergraduate level should not stay behind from undergraduate education due to the long time they spend in their camps, continue their education during the camp, and do not stay behind from other students.

In addition, great jobs fall on the educators (teachers in Primary, Secondary, Higher Education), coaches, and managers who train them as well as the athletes in demonstrating high-level success as a country in a mega-sports organization such as the Olympics. At this point, first of all, the perspectives of educators on sports are very important. If educators are made up of modern and sports-conscious people, the first step of success in sports can be created. The next step consists of coaches who are directly interested in athlete training. Coaches should be formed from people who have received the necessary undergraduate and graduate education, as well as from athletes' backgrounds, and who operate their programs and studies on a scientific basis. The managers in the third and top ranks should consist of professional sports managers who come from within the sport in order to show the expected reflex against any situation. In order for success to be fully achieved, a model of sports management is needed, "democratically organized from the athlete to the top, and functioning from top to bottom free of bureaucrats and centrism" (Fisek, 1998).

From popular sports (football, basketball, volleyball, etc.) rather, athletes interested in different branches have future concerns in our country. Among these concerns are issues such as the inability to have the necessary level of income, having an income and a job until a certain age or period. The state must guarantee the future of these athletes. Athletes who cannot see such a guarantee by the state are no longer practicing this sport due to future concerns, leaving the sport and moving to areas such as coaching and teaching. The State plays a key role in supporting athletes in this process. 59 of the Constitution. In the article state, see the state. "The state takes measures to improve the physical and mental health of Turkish citizens of all ages and encourages the spread of sports to the masses. The state protects the successful athlete." he

GENERAL ARTICLE

determined the protection of the successful athlete as his homework. The phrase “the state protects the successful athlete” in this article means supporting the athlete financially and spiritually. But no clarity has been made about the process of forming a successful athlete here. For this reason, it is essential that the education systems of successful countries in sports be analyzed and determined how successful athletes are won, and that this be modified to our own education system or that a new model be created taking into account our own country dynamics. In this way, it seems more possible for individuals who will be directed to sports at a young age to continue their Sports lives at a professional level, supported by the state. It is also a prerequisite for these individuals to receive family support so that they can continue their active sports lives. Here, the most important source of stress for families and athletes is future anxiety. The state should establish an employment policy for those who continue their Sports life under the system it has created when they quit sports in the future or when their Sports life ends prematurely as a result of any injury/discomfort. It is believed that eliminating the problem of future anxiety will be very effective in the sports performance of athletes.

An important role in training athletes also belongs to federations. Apart from the Turkish Football Federation, our other federations are semi-autonomous. This shows that federations need the support of the state, especially financially. But even if the state transfers the necessary financial support to the federations, it should establish a control panel on the federations to see that this support is effective and adequate.

In light of all these considerations, successful athletes in the Olympics for our country to go forward with a momentum able to continue with the training and teaching of sports and athletes, such as guaranteeing its future and develop policies to provide support to the institutions of the state work in a coordinated manner when developing these policies and all these is controlled by a control mechanism and finally certain.

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