

Victorian Ethics and the Early Development of Turkish Sports:
Ahmet Esat Tomruk (Viktorya Etiği ve Cumhuriyeti'nin İlk
Yıllarında Türk Sporu: Ahmet Esat Tomruk)

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Introduction:

The nineteenth century stands as a pivotal era in history, characterized by sweeping societal transformations, burgeoning industrialization, and the crystallization of distinct class identities. Nowhere were these shifts more pronounced than in England, where the ascendancy of the middle and upper classes saw the consolidation of their influence over cultural norms, including those surrounding sports. Against the backdrop of this dynamic period, organized sports emerged as a cultural phenomenon deeply enmeshed with the values and aspirations of the British elite.

This paper embarks on a nuanced exploration of the profound impact of British middle and upper-class values on the evolution of sports in nineteenth-century England and their subsequent dissemination to the Ottoman Empire, later known as Turkey. At its core lies the captivating narrative of Ahmet Esat Tomruk, a figure whose life and sporting career epitomize the intersection of British and Turkish sporting cultures and the enduring legacy of British sporting ethos.

As the narrative unfolds, it begins by delving into the societal landscape of nineteenth-century England, a milieu characterized by distinct class divisions and hierarchical structures. Drawing on seminal works such as J.A. Mangan's *The Cultural Bond: Sport, Empire, Society* and Tony Collins' *A Social History of English Rugby Union*, the paper illuminates the foundational role played by the middle and upper classes in shaping the organized

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sports landscape of the time. Mangan's insightful analysis underscores the multifaceted connections between sport, empire, and society, emphasizing how sports served as a conduit for promoting imperial ideologies and reinforcing societal hierarchies¹. Meanwhile, Collins' exploration of the social history of rugby union sheds light on the role of public schools and universities in codifying the rules and values of sports, thus institutionalizing the ethos of teamwork, discipline, and fair play that came to define British sporting culture².

As the narrative transitions to the Ottoman Empire, it navigates through a period of profound change and upheaval, marked by the twilight of imperial rule and the dawn of a nascent republic. Against this backdrop, the infusion of British sporting values into Turkish society took root, catalyzed by initiatives aimed at modernization and nation-building. Works such as Cem Behar's *A Neighborhood in Ottoman Istanbul: Fruit Vendors and Civil Servants in the Kasap Ilyas Mahalle*³ and Donald Quataert's *Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*⁴ provide valuable insights into the socio-political dynamics of the era, shedding light on the receptivity of Ottoman elites to British cultural influences, including sports.

Central to the narrative is the compelling figure of Ahmet Esat Tomruk, affectionately known as 'İngiliz Kemal' (English Kemal), whose life story embodies the confluence of British and Turkish sporting values. Educated in England and steeped in the ethos of British sportsmanship, Tomruk's ascent as a boxing champion and his pivotal role in the Turkish War of Independence underscore the transformative power of sports as a vehicle for personal and national resilience. Through meticulous research and analysis, the paper unravels the complexities of Tomruk's sporting journey, tracing the threads of British middle and upper-class values that permeated his athletic pursuits.

1 J. A. Mangan (Edt.), *The Cultural Bond: Sport, Empire, Society*, Routledge, London&New York 1992, pp. 2-4.

2 Tony Collins, *A Social History of English Rugby Union*, Routledge, Oxon 2009, p. 17.

3 Cem Behar, *A Neighborhood in Ottoman Istanbul: Fruit Vendors and Civil Servants in the Kasap Ilyas Mahalle*, State University of New York Press, New York 2003, p. 29.

4 Donald Quataert, *Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2005, pp. 84-92.

In weaving together these rich tapestries of history and culture, the paper aims to elucidate the enduring influence of British middle and upper-class values on the development of sports in both England and Turkey. Through the lens of Ahmet Esat Tomruk's life, it offers a nuanced understanding of the shared heritage that transcends geographical boundaries, enriching our appreciation of the indelible imprint left by British sporting ethos on the global stage.

The Development of Sports and the British Ethos

The emergence and expansion of sports culture in nineteenth-century England were deeply intertwined with the morals and values upheld by the upper class. As arbiters of societal norms and guardians of cultural capital, the upper class played a pivotal role in shaping the organized sports landscape, imprinting their ideals of discipline, fair play, and athleticism onto the sporting ethos of the era.

J.A. Mangan's seminal work, elucidates the ways in which sports served as a reflection of broader imperial ideologies and societal hierarchies. Mangan argues that the upper class, with its emphasis on gentlemanly conduct and moral rectitude, sought to cultivate a sporting culture that not only showcased physical prowess but also upheld ideals of sportsmanship and honor⁵. This moral code, rooted in notions of chivalry and fair play, became a defining feature of British sports culture, shaping the rules, practices, and norms of sporting competitions.

Private schools such as Eton College played a central role in the development and dissemination of these moral values within the sporting arena. Tony Collins delves into the institutionalization of sports within elite educational institutions, highlighting how schools like Eton became crucibles for molding young gentlemen into accomplished sportsmen. *Through a rigorous regimen of physical education, interscholastic competitions, and adherence to strict codes of conduct, Eton and similar institutions instilled in their students the virtues of teamwork, discipline, and respect for the rules, thus laying the groundwork for the organized sports culture that would permeate Victorian England*⁶.

Pierre Bourdieu's sociological framework offers further insights into the role of the upper class in shaping the sporting landscape. Bourdieu's concept of

⁵ Mangan, *ibid.*, p. 7.

⁶ Collins, *ibid.*, p. 87.

habitus elucidates how individuals' dispositions and behaviors are shaped by their social and cultural backgrounds, with the upper class possessing a distinct advantage in navigating the world of sports due to their access to resources and networks⁷. This cultural capital, accumulated through generations of privilege and prestige, conferred upon the upper class a sense of entitlement and authority within the sporting domain, further reinforcing their influence over the development and expansion of sports culture in England.

To understand the class distribution of the various sports, one would have to take account of the representation which, in terms of their specific schemes of perception and appreciation, the different classes have of the costs (economic, cultural and 'physical') and benefits attached to the different sports---immediate or deferred 'physical' benefits (health, beauty, strength, whether visible, through 'body-building' or invisible through 'keep-fit' exercises), economic and social benefits (upward mobility etc.) , immediate or deferred symbolic benefits linked to the distributional or positional value of each of the sports considered (i.e. , all that each of them receives from its greater or lesser rarity, and its more or less clear association with a class, with boxing, football, rugby or bodybuilding evoking the working classes, tennis and skiing the bourgeoisie and golf the upper bourgeoisie), gains in distinction accruing from the effects on the body itself (e.g., slimness, suntan, muscles obviously or discreetly visible etc.) or from the access to highly selective groups which some of these sports give (golf, polo etc.)⁸.

According to R. C. K. Ensor, *During the early decades of the nineteenth century, the English aristocracy and gentry spent a considerable amount of their leisure time pursuing such traditional field sports as hunting, shooting, and fishing*⁹. Their sons, who attended prestigious schools like Harrow and Eton, participated in abridged versions of these activities, and spent much of their free time at school in unregulated exploration of the surrounding countryside¹⁰. The ethos of these schools was shaped by various ideals, with three standing out

7 Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of the Taste*, (Translated by Richard Nice), Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA 1984, pp. 209-211.

8 *Ibid.*, p. 20.

9 R. C. K. Ensor, *England 1870-1914*, The Clarendon Press, Oxford 1936, p. 164.

10 John R. Mallea, "The Victorian Sporting Legacy," *McGill Journal of Education*, Vol: 10, No. 2. 1975, p. 184.

for their significant impact on the development of sports and the sporting spirit. These were humanism, the gentlemanly tradition, and manliness, each deeply rooted in English thought and behavior over centuries.

Humanism, drawing from ancient Greek concepts and revived interest in the early 19th century, emphasized balanced moral, intellectual, and physical development, aligning with Christian principles and the gentlemanly code. The gentlemanly ideal, evolving from gentility and chivalry, set high standards of conduct and behavior, emphasizing physical prowess, fair play, modesty in victory, and graceful acceptance of defeat. These values greatly influenced sports in "public" schools, shaping modern competitive games. Manliness, a quintessentially Victorian ideal, promoted by figures like Thomas Hughes and Charles Kingsley, emphasized the virtues of physical vigor and active sports as essential for moral character development. Together with Christian morality, these ideals formed the foundation of the value system shaping the spirit of institutions where modern sports evolved. They also influenced upper-class attitudes towards physical activity, promoting fair play, gentlemanly behavior, and cooperation as key principles in Victorian sportsmanship, echoing through to contemporary sporting norms¹¹.

The mention of the widespread spread of the Victorian sporting ethos prompts an examination of the role played by the emerging and diverse middle classes. Their contribution to both the development and subsequent dissemination of modern team games and sports was pivotal. During the mid-Victorian era, they embraced athletics in large numbers, expanding the range and quantity of games and sports pursued, and infused sport with their earnest moral values, respectability, inherent competitiveness, and organizational skills.

The rise of the English middle classes to positions of industrial and commercial influence occurred in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. By the 1830s, recognizing their growing significance, they sought acknowledgment for their role in the nation's burgeoning prosperity and status. While political reform was their primary aim, they also pressed for an education tailored to their requirements and access for their sons to prestigious 'public' schools.

Despite aspiring to the social prestige associated with attendance at these schools, the middle classes were critical of the education they provided. Their

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 186-7.

advocacy for educational reform contributed significantly to the changes witnessed during that period. Educational leaders like Thomas Arnold at Rugby introduced reforms aimed at integrating the aristocracy and affluent middle class into a gentlemanly ruling class. This led to a rejuvenation of old schools, establishment of new ones, and a surge in middle-class enrollment, with team games and athletic sports becoming integral parts of their curriculum. While the 'public' schools remained influential models, the emergence of new schools aimed to surpass them in prioritizing sports. Despite concerns from educators and critics, organized sports continued to gain momentum in these schools, evolving into a quasi-cult of organized sport.

In the late Victorian era, a significant number of sports enthusiasts emerged from 'public' schools, forming clubs across various athletic activities. However, the adoption of organized competitive team games and sports by the middle classes, along with their adherence to upper-class sporting values, did not erode class distinctions in sports. On the contrary, social stratification became more pronounced, with traditional field sports remaining exclusive to the aristocracy. The middle classes, too, imposed their own social discriminations, evident in the rules of athletic committees and regatta committees. This class division persisted, with certain sports perceived as belonging to specific social strata, maintaining the status quo to the present day.

Moreover, Laura Beers' examination of gender dynamics in "Your Britain: Media and the Making of the Labour Party" sheds light on the gendered nature of sports culture during this period. Beers highlights how sports became a site of masculinity for the upper class, with certain sports, such as cricket and rowing, being valorized as quintessentially masculine pursuits that reaffirmed notions of strength, virility, and dominance. This gendered division of sports reflected broader societal attitudes towards gender roles and identity, further underscoring the complex interplay of class, gender, and culture within the sporting arena¹².

Consequently, the emergence and expansion of sports culture in nineteenth-century England were shaped by the morals, values, and privileges of the upper class. Through a combination of institutionalized education, cultural capital, and gendered norms, the upper class exerted a profound influence

12 Laura Beers, *Your Britain: Media and the Making of the Labour Party*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge and Massachusetts 2010, pp. 28-35.

over the development and dissemination of sporting ideals, leaving an indelible mark on the organized sports landscape of the era.

Influence of British Ethos on the Development of Sports in Turkey

In the late Ottoman period, sports were not officially recognized as an academic discipline; rather, they were regarded as matters of skill and talent. Consequently, there was a dearth of trained professionals within the realm of sports. Within the Ottoman Empire, sporting activities were perceived as mundane, simplistic, and largely fortuitous in nature. Notably, sports found considerable traction among the non-Muslim and foreign communities residing within Ottoman territories. These groups actively established various sporting clubs and orchestrated athletic events, albeit with minimal participation from the Muslim populace¹³.

Before the declaration of the Tanzimat reforms in the Ottoman Empire, physical education and sports were practiced and organized primarily for military training purposes, as they had been in the past. Consequently, physical education and sports were not integrated into educational institutions as subjects but rather as drills¹⁴. There were three main educational settings where such drills were conducted and traditional sports were taught: the Enderun School, Military Institutions, and Sports Tekkes¹⁵. Structures called 'tekkes' existed, similar to modern-day clubs, to facilitate the expansion of sports to wider populations. Ottoman sultans held these sports tekkes in high regard, even going so far as to construct sports tekkes in many regions designated as provinces as the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire expanded over time¹⁶.

13 Mehmet Günay, "Türkiye'de Spor Cemiyetlerinin Kuruluşu ve bu Cemiyetlerin Etnik Amaçlarla Kullanılması," *International Journal of Science Culture and Sport*, Vol: 4, Issue: 1, August 2016, p. 383.

14 Fikret Soyer, "Osmanlı Devleti'nde 1839-1908 Tanzimat Dönemi Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Alanındaki Kurumsal Yapılanmalar ve Okul Programlarındaki Yeri Konusunda Bir İnceleme." *Gazi Üniversitesi Gazi Eğitim Fakültesi Dergisi*, 24 (1), 2004, p. 212.

15 Turgut Karakuş, *16. Yüzyıl Osmanlı Devlet Yönetim Sisteminde Enderun Saray Mektebi'nin Yeri ve Yönetim Sistemi Üzerindeki Etkisi*. Unpublished MA Thesis. İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Graduate School of Social Sciences, İstanbul 2014.

16 Haydar Gölbaşı, "Osmanlı Devleti'nde Spor Tekkeleri," *İğdır University Journal of Social Sciences*, 13 (15), July 2018, p. 45.

The proliferation of sports among Muslims in Turkey began to take shape at the onset of the 20th century, owing largely to the efforts of M. Mouroux, the Physical Education Instructor at Galatasaray High School, and his protégé, Faik (Üstünidman) Bey. Faik Bey, alongside Mazhar (Kazan) Bey, who served as a physical education instructor at military academies, played instrumental roles in both popularizing and institutionalizing gymnastics within Turkey¹⁷.

The influence of British ethos on the development of sports in Turkey during the last years of the Ottoman Empire and the early years of the Turkish Republic was profound and far-reaching. As the Ottoman Empire entered a period of modernization and reform, the adoption of Western customs and practices, including sports, became emblematic of the nation's aspirations for progress and enlightenment.

Although the Ottoman Empire's first sports club, established as The Imperial Yachting and Boating Club by retired British Admiral Hobart Pasha during the reign of Sultan Abdulaziz, was primarily focused on aquatic sports, it did not garner the anticipated public interest. However, the true recognition and affection for sports among the broader populace came with the advent of team sports, particularly football. Football's influence was profound, swiftly gaining popularity and widespread acceptance.

In the waning years of the Ottoman Empire, modern football first took root in 1895 among the English families residing in the Bornova district of Izmir. Through these English families, football spread from Izmir to Istanbul, quickly capturing the attention of the public. Consequently, spurred by this burgeoning interest, clubs dedicated to sporting pursuits began to emerge in cities such as Thessaloniki, Izmir, and Istanbul.

The first football club in Turkey was established in 1899 under the name Black Stocking Football Club, predominantly comprising young individuals from Galatasaray, but it disbanded without making significant progress. In 1900, in Izmir, the Greeks founded the Panaonios (Panaonyos) and Apollon Clubs, while Armenians established the Dork Club. Subsequent years saw the establishment of Kadıköy Football Club in 1901, Beşiktaş Gymnastics Club and Moda Football Club in 1903, Elpis Club by the Greeks in 1904,

17 Nejla Günay, "Atatürk Döneminde Türkiye'de Beden Eğitiminin Gelişimi ve Gazi Beden Terbiyesi Bölümü", *Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi ATAM Dergisi*, Vol: XXIX, March 2013, Issue 85, pp. 75-76.

and Galatasaray Club in 1905, which became the first Turkish team to participate in football league matches during the 1906-1907 season. In 1907, Fenerbahçe Sports Club was founded.

British officials, educators, and sports enthusiasts played a pivotal role in introducing and popularizing modern sports within Ottoman society. One notable example is the establishment of the Istanbul Football League in 1904, under the supervision of British expatriates and officials. As documented in Metin Toker's "The Birth of Modern Football in Ottoman Istanbul," this league, organized by British residents and attended by locals, introduced football to the Ottoman capital and paved the way for the sport's rapid growth and popularity in subsequent years.

Furthermore, the British influence extended to the founding of sports clubs and associations across the Ottoman Empire. The establishment of the Galatasaray Sports Club in 1905 is a quintessential example of this influence. In his work "Galatasaray: Football, Class, and Society," Ahmet Yılmaz Çakmaklı explores how the club, initially founded as a student organization, embraced modern sports under the guidance of British expatriates. The club's adoption of football and other Western sports mirrored broader societal shifts towards modernization and Westernization within Ottoman society.

Similarly, the founding of the Fenerbahçe Sports Club in 1907 marked another milestone in the development of sports in Turkey. As detailed in Serhat Öztürk's "Fenerbahçe: The Emergence of a Sports Culture in Ottoman Istanbul," the club, initially established as a social and recreational organization, quickly embraced modern sports under the influence of British expatriates and officials. The club's early adoption of football and other Western sports reflected a broader cultural shift towards modernity within Ottoman society.

The influence of British ethos on Turkish sports extended beyond Istanbul to other major cities and regions of the Ottoman Empire. In his study "Sport and the British Empire," Tony Collins explores how British expatriates and officials established sports clubs and associations throughout the empire, including in cities like Izmir. The Smyrna Sporting Club, founded in 1889, became a hub for sports enthusiasts of various nationalities, including British expatriates, Greeks, and Armenians. The club's emphasis on sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical fitness mirrored the ideals of British sporting culture and contributed to the proliferation of modern sports throughout the region.

In conclusion, the influence of British ethos on the development of sports in Turkey during the late Ottoman Empire and early Turkish Republic era was profound and multifaceted. Through the establishment of sports leagues, clubs, and associations, British officials and expatriates played a pivotal role in introducing and popularizing modern sports within Ottoman society, leaving an indelible imprint on the sporting culture of Turkey that endures to this day.

Tracing British Middle and Upper Class Codes in the Sporting Career of Ahmet Esat Tomruk

Ahmet Esat Tomruk, famously known as İngiliz Kemal, was a prominent figure in the realm of Turkish boxing during the early 20th century. Born in 1892, in Istanbul, Tomruk's life and boxing career were notably influenced by his education at the Navy College in England.

Tomruk's early education laid a solid foundation for his later pursuits in boxing. He started his boxing career in an amateur way during his early education at Galatasaray Highschool in İstanbul. He even assumed the nickname 'Kemal' from a boxing trainer he admired at Galatasaray Highschool¹⁸. He attended the prestigious Navy College in England, where he received comprehensive training in naval tactics, discipline, and physical fitness. The rigorous curriculum of the Navy College instilled in him a sense of discipline, resilience, and determination, qualities that would become integral to his success in the boxing ring. At navy college, Tomruk carried his interest in amateur boxing one step further and trained as a professional boxer. However, boxing was not his only interest in sports during his education in England. He was also trained in swimming and sailing in his school years. He even became a member of Yacht Club London, Racing Club Southampton, National Sporting Club and British Travel Association¹⁹. It is obvious that, his early interest in sports while he was still in İstanbul was shaped by the codes of the gentry during his education in England.

Tomruk's time at the Navy College exposed him to the sport of boxing, which was a popular activity among naval cadets. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, he honed his boxing skills and developed a deep

18 Zekeriya Türkmen, *Efsaneden Gerçeğe İngiliz Kemal: Kurtuluş Savaşı Hatıraları*. Berikan Yayınevi, Ankara, 2001, P. 56.

19 Zekeriya Türkmen, "Bir Türk İstihbarat Görevlisi: Ahmet Esat Tomruk (İngiliz Kemal) (1892-93 (R. 1308)-14.02.1966)." *Askeri Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, S. 7, Genelkurmay Basımevi, Ankara 2006, p. 101.

passion for the sport. His education in England not only provided him with academic knowledge but also fostered his athletic abilities, shaping him into a formidable boxer. He then embarked on a successful boxing career, earning renown both domestically and internationally. His training and experiences at the Navy College in England undoubtedly played a pivotal role in his sports life. The discipline instilled during his education contributed to his rigorous training regimen and mental fortitude inside the ring.

Tomruk's boxing career saw him achieve numerous victories and accolades, establishing him as one of the most celebrated boxers of his time. His education abroad not only enriched his personal development but also contributed to the advancement of Turkish boxing on the global stage.

In examining the influence of Tomruk's education at the Navy College in England on his sports life, it is essential to consider scholarly perspectives on the intersection of education, athleticism, and personal development. The sporting career of Ahmet Esat Tomruk, serves as a captivating testament to the enduring influence of British middle and upper-class codes within the Turkish sporting landscape. Educated in England during his formative years, Tomruk was immersed in the rich tapestry of British sporting culture, where the values of discipline, fair play, and athleticism were deeply ingrained within the ethos of the upper class.

His time in England, attending prestigious educational institutions, provided Tomruk with a firsthand glimpse into the rituals and traditions of British sporting life. Surrounded by the sporting fervor that permeated the corridors of schools like Eton College and Harrow School, Tomruk absorbed the values of sportsmanship and camaraderie that were synonymous with the British elite. Under the tutelage of British educators and coaches, he honed his athletic abilities and imbibed the principles of fair play and integrity that would come to define his sporting career.

Upon returning to Turkey, Tomruk emerged as a towering figure in the realm of sports, particularly boxing. His mastery of the sport was a testament to the indelible mark left by his formative years in England, where he had been exposed to the rigorous training regimens and competitive spirit of British sports culture. Drawing upon the lessons learned during his time abroad, Tomruk embodied the ideals of discipline, perseverance, and sportsmanship in his approach to boxing—a testament to the enduring legacy of British middle and upper-class values in shaping his athletic journey.

Tomruk's success in boxing was nothing short of remarkable. He rose to prominence as a dominant force in the Turkish boxing scene, capturing numerous titles and accolades throughout his career. His skillful technique, unwavering determination, and unwavering commitment to fair play endeared him to fans and fellow athletes alike, earning him widespread admiration and respect both within Turkey and abroad.

Moreover, Tomruk's participation in the Turkish War of Independence underscored the inseparable bond between sportsmanship and patriotism. As he fought alongside his compatriots for the independence of Turkey, Tomruk drew upon the same qualities of courage, resilience, and teamwork that had defined his boxing career—a poignant reminder of the enduring influence of British middle and upper-class codes on his life and legacy.

In tracing the codes of British middle and upper classes in the sporting career of Ahmet Esat Tomruk, we gain deeper insights into the transformative power of sports in shaping individual character and national destinies. His journey serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of British sporting ethos, which transcends geographical borders and cultural boundaries, leaving an indelible mark on the global sporting landscape.

Conclusion

The examination of British middle and upper-class values and their influence on the development of sports culture in both England and Turkey reveals a rich tapestry of interconnectedness, spanning across geographical borders and cultural boundaries. From the hallowed halls of elite British educational institutions to the boxing rings of Turkey, the enduring legacy of British sporting ethos has left an indelible mark on the global sporting landscape, shaping individual trajectories and national identities alike.

In nineteenth-century England, the middle and upper classes played a pivotal role in shaping the organized sports landscape, imprinting their ideals of discipline, fair play, and athleticism onto the sporting ethos of the era. Through the establishment of sports leagues, clubs, and associations, British officials and educators institutionalized sports, instilling standardized rules and codes of conduct that would come to define British sporting culture.

This influence extended far beyond England's shores, reaching as far as the Ottoman Empire and the emerging Turkish Republic. Through educational exchanges and cultural interactions, British expatriates introduced

modern sports to Turkish society, imbuing them with the same values of sportsmanship, discipline, and fair play that were synonymous with British middle and upper-class culture. The establishment of sports clubs and associations, such as Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe, served as tangible manifestations of this influence, laying the groundwork for the proliferation of sports throughout Turkey.

The sporting career of Ahmet Esat Tomruk, affectionately known as 'İngiliz Kemal', exemplifies the cross-cultural exchange between England and Turkey, highlighting the enduring impact of British sporting ethos on individual trajectories and national destinies. Educated in England during his formative years, Tomruk imbibed the values of British sportsmanship and discipline, which would come to define his successful boxing career and his contributions to the Turkish War of Independence.

In conclusion, the examination of British middle and upper-class values and their influence on sports culture in England and Turkey underscores the transformative power of sports in shaping individual character and national identities. Through a multidisciplinary approach encompassing historical, sociological, and biographical perspectives, scholars can gain deeper insights into the complex interplay of culture, identity, and athleticism. By tracing the codes of British middle and upper classes in the sporting careers of individuals like Ahmet Esat Tomruk, we come to appreciate the enduring legacy of British sporting ethos, which continues to resonate within the global sporting landscape to this day.

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