Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 9 November 2021, 6.00 pm (UK time)
Speaker: George Gawrych
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register
Title: 'Ataturk: The Soldier-Statesman in the War of Independence'

Mustafa Kemal – latterly and better known as Atatürk - is without doubt the most famous figure in modern Turkish history. But what was his path to power? And how did his early career as a soldier in the Ottoman army affect his later decisions as President?

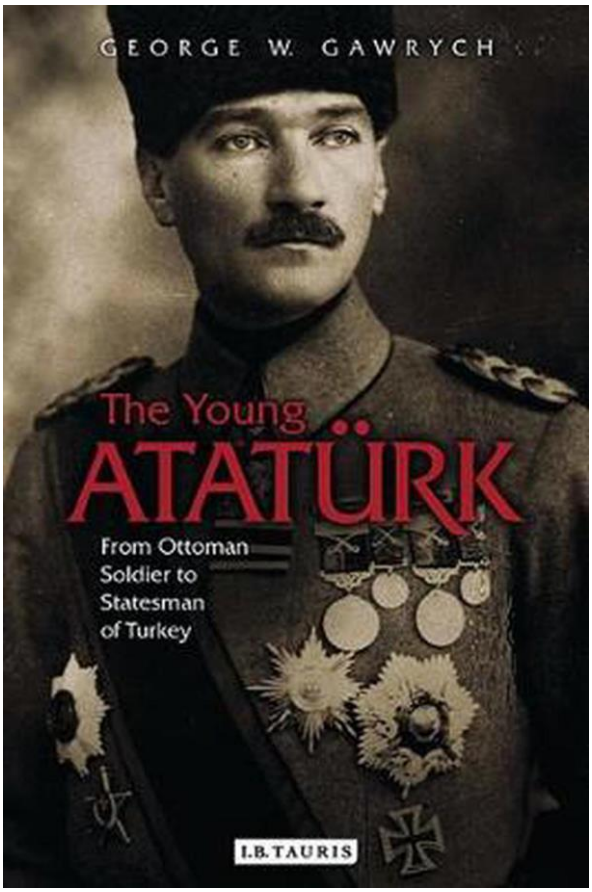
It is only by understanding Kemal's military career that one can fully comprehend how he evolved as one of the twentieth century's most extraordinary statesmen. This study has to include a systematic and critical analysis of his military writings, orders, actions, and letters as well as his political decisions, speeches, proclamations, and private correspondences.

Soldiering helped shape Kemal''s critical reasoning, personal values and emotional intelligence. His experiences as an officer and commander forced him to adjust theories to practices in order to solve problems and make decisions. But Kemal was a natural political leader and his broad intellectual interests and personal studies helped prepare him for political leadership. In the last year of the War of Independence Kemal excelled as both Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

In my research I have incorporated previously-unstudied Ottoman archival documents and I am the first Western scholar to conduct extensive research on Kemal in the military archives of the Turkish General Staff.

Booking essential: https://george-gawrych-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

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George G. Gawrych is Professor Emeritus of Modern Middle East and Military History, Baylor University. He is the author of *The Young Atatürk: From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey*. London: I. B. Tauris, 2013, amongst other works.

Current Project: book on Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as president of the Republic, 1923 to 1938.

PhD: Ottoman History, University of Michigan, May 1980.