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**TURKIYE URGES GREECE TO AVOID 'DISTORTING HISTORY' OVER PONTUS CLAIMS**

- 20.05.2026

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Anadolu Agency (19 May 2026)

(Merve Berker)

Türkiye on Tuesday criticized Greece over events and statements this Tuesday, May 19, related to the Pontus claims, urging Athens to avoid distorting history and instead pursue peaceful bilateral ties.

In a statement, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said that May 19 -- the day in 1919 when Republic of Türkiye founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk arrived in the city Samsun and launched the Turkish War of Independence against occupying forces, including Greece -- is celebrated by the Turkish nation as the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth, and Sports Day.

The ministry accused Greece of advancing groundless allegations against Türkiye through legislation adopted in 1994 over the Pontus claims, and said such narratives are unfortunately being taught in Greek schools.

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