



Sabiha Gökçen was the first woman in her country to earn a pilot's license, and is believed to be the world's first female combat pilot. Gökçen was the adopted daughter of Turkey's first president, the eminent reformer Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and in the 1930s she became the symbol of a recently modernized Turkey and the new horizons offered to its female citizens.

In 1938 Gökçen made a historic flight around the Balkans that lasted five days until her plane was sidelined by mechanical problems. This was a well-publicized peace mission, and newspapers across Europe chronicled her stops in Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Romania.