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Sommario/riassunto	This study examines Turkey's early transition to democracy when its history and level of development did not suggest it to be likely. Noting modernisation theories assumed socioeconomic development preceded democratisation, it asks two questions: whether an underdeveloped society that adopts democratic rule can sustain it while achieving socioeconomic development, and whether democracy deepens and matures with such development. Tracing Turkey's democratisation, it argues that satisfactory socioeconomic development has been achieved, but democracy's deepening and maturing has proved difficult.