

The Greek Turkish Population Exchange



1923-1924



The Twentieth Century

- Wars in the Balkans ended the 19th century and continued in the 20th.
- Bulgaria gained independence; Greece took Crete
- Balkan wars nibbled away at the Ottoman Empire
- Many Greek speaking Muslims were in Greece
- Many Turkish speaking Christians were in Anatolia

It Wasn't Really a Problem....

- The Ottoman Empire had never been particularly harsh on forcing religious conformity as long as the outsiders paid their taxes.



The situation

- WWI was over
- The Ottoman Empire had crumbled
- Turkey had emerged as a nation
- Greece was evicted from Turkey after bitter warfare and fears of more violence and reprisals



It was complicated....

- European powers, led by Lord Curzon wanted to create a situation in the Middle East that would lead to stability and advantage for England and France
- It was believed that no newly independent nation would survive if there were multiple or hostile religious groups



HELLENISM IN THE NEAR EAST

An ethnological map compiled
from the latest statistics by
Professor George Soteriadis
of the University of Athens.

REFERENCE.

— Boundaries of States
— of Northern Europe
— Russian Line (1911)
— Railways
Scale: 1: 2,355,000.
English Miles
Kilometers
N. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.

MONTENEGRO

BULGARIA

ASIA

MINOR

GREEK MACEDONIA.

Distribution of various Nationalities E. of January 1916.



REFERENCE TO COLORS

Yellow Greeks
Green Macedonians (Salonica)
Red Bulgarians
Blue Macedonian Slavs
Dark Green Albanians
Dark Blue Romanians

Notes: - Statistics in above indicated for 1910-1911, and studies 1911-1912. (Mileage in miles and kilometers.)





The Agreement

- The Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Greek Government have agreed upon the following provisions: **Article 1**
- As from the 1st May, 1923, there shall take place a compulsory exchange of Turkish nationals of the Greek Orthodox religion established in Turkish territory, and of Greek nationals of the Moslem religion established in Greek territory.
- These persons shall not return to live in Turkey or Greece respectively without the authorisation of the Turkish Government or of the Greek Government respectively.

Who Was Included

- **Article 2**
- The following persons shall not be included in the exchange provided for in [Article 1](#):
 - (a) The Greek inhabitants of Constantinople.
 - (b) The Moslem inhabitants of Western Thrace.
- All Greeks who were already established before the 30th October, 1918, within the areas under the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople, as defined by the law of 1912, shall be considered as Greek inhabitants of Constantinople.
- All Moslems established in the region to the east of the frontier line laid down in 1913 by the Treaty of Bucharest shall be considered as Moslem inhabitants of Western Thrace.

The First Wave

- **Article 4**
- All able-bodied men belonging to the Greek population, whose families have already left Turkish territory, and who are now detained in Turkey, shall constitute the first installment of Greeks sent to Greece in accordance with the present Convention.

Assets and Monday

- **Article 5**
- Subject to the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the present Convention, the rights of property and monetary assets of Greeks in Turkey or Moslems in Greece shall not be prejudiced in consequence of the exchange to be carried out under the present Convention

Nationality

- **Article 7**
- The emigrants will lose the nationality of the country which they are leaving, and will acquire the nationality of the country of their destination, upon their arrival in the territory of the latter country.

Property

- **Article 14**
- The Commission shall transmit to the owner concerned a declaration stating the sum due to him in respect of the property of which he has been dispossessed, and such property shall remain at the disposal of the Government on whose territory it is situated.
- The total sums due on the basis of these declarations shall constitute a Government debt from the country where the liquidation takes place to the Government of the country to which the emigrant belongs. The emigrant shall in principle be entitled to receive in the country to which he emigrates, as representing the sums due to him, property of a value equal to and of the same nature as that which he has left behind.

The Real Impact

- About half a million Greeks left Turkey
- About a million Turks left Greece



The Impact

- The million Greeks who left Turkey were the entrepreneurial middle class for the most part
 - Middle class businessmen, professionals
- The Turks who left Greece were mostly peasant farmers
- The imbalance became quickly obvious
- Turkey's development was significantly slowed

The Human Impact

- Thousands of dislocated families
- Enhanced hatred between the nations
- Heightened nationalism
- Lost productivity



Long Term Impact

- Continued struggles and unrest to the present day
- A pattern was set for such other population relocations and partitions as India and Pakistan and Palestine
- Religious and political tension