

*Who Destructed Christianity in Asia
Minor? An Overview of the Genocide
of Anatolian Christians by the
Ottoman and Kemalist Turks 1909-
1923, and American Sources*

version 10/25/23

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Christos Mantzios Visiting Scholar
Australia, October/November 2023**

Asia Minor Genocide by the Turks began in the 12th Century and continued until Its 20th Century Successful Conclusion.

- In 1971, Speros Vryonis Jr., published a detailed study on the Dehellenization of Asia Minor which showed that most of the Greek/Christian communities were destroyed. In fact, the first destruction of Smyrna took place in 1330 as the Muslim traveller Ibn Battuta described.
- U.S. Smyrna Consul George Horton called all of Ottoman history largely a history of massacres in his book *The Blight of Asia. Published in 1923.*
- I began my work specifically on Smyrna's 1922 destruction in the 1980's because for me, the subject is very personal, my mother and her entire family were there! Like many of you I heard about the Great Catastrophe from my family but did not know much about it. It has taken more than thirty years of research to discover what happened--which I will summarize for you tonight. What was my purpose? What did I discover?



AU NOM
DU GOUVERNEMENT
DU



ROYAUME DE GRÈCE



Βασί-
ς, καί
v έλεσ-
ογαίν
αγγίλας
w 5ή
qis va
ia, év

N^o 850

Signalement

Age cinquante 50 ans

Taille moyenne

Cheveux Noirs

Yeux chataignes

Nes nez fin

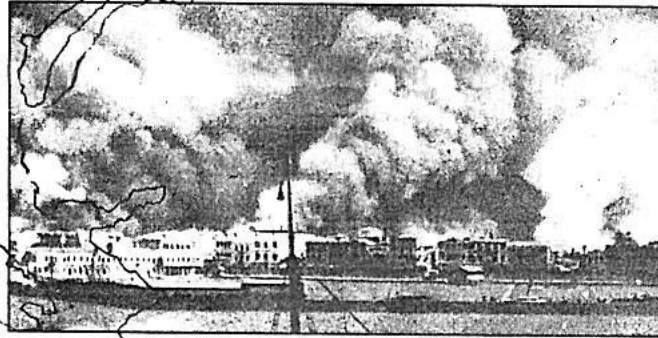
Bouche 77

Réquérons tous les officiers, civiles et militaires,
du Royaume de Grèce, et pions ceux des pays amis
de laisser passer librement Monsieur Dem. Linaiki et sa femme
de Smyrne avec des a femme et ses enfants.
Evangelia dans Maria 19 ans Jeanne 16 Vassilios
12 Nina 10 Constantin 5 et Eleni 2 ans
se rendant en Smyrne
pour rejoindre sa soeur Ag. Anagnostaki sans
qu'il soit empêché ni molesté par personne et de l'aider

THE Greek American

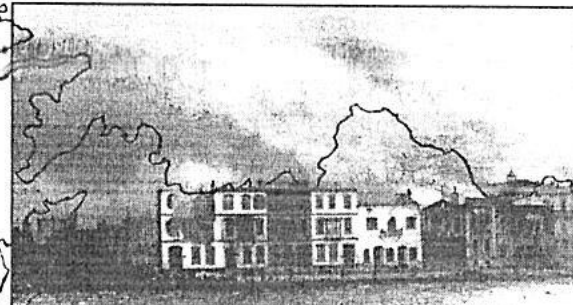
SEPTEMBER 20, 1997 Vol. 12 No. 36 \$1.00

THE ASIA MINOR CATASTROPHE:



A Personal Account

By Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou



pages
10 & 11

I Wanted to Find Out if the U. S. Govt. Archives could Show us who was responsible for burning Smyrna in 1922 and killing thousands of innocent Christians? And.. What did the U.S know and what did they do about it.

- As I will show you in more detail later--I discovered four US State Dept. originally classified secret key documents which prove that the Kemalist Turks burned the City as matter of policy and that the British Government and especially the United States Government including the President and the Congress, knew this shortly after the fire and kept it secret for economic and political reasons.
- I also discovered that for decades there was an elaborate government cover-up to hide the truth about what the Turks did, which partially continues until today. I published all of this in my two books in 2005 and 2022– and detailed articles.
- However, I also found that many individual Americans and the public in general were better than their government- and put, greed, politics and prejudice aside to save thousands of innocent Christian victims-“unauthorized acts of humanity”
- Now let me briefly turn to the history of how we got to this point in 1922...

**AMERICAN ACCOUNTS
DOCUMENTING
THE DESTRUCTION OF SMYRNA**
by the Kemalist Turkish Forces,
September 1922

Edited by
Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou



ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ Γ. ΧΑΤΖΗΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

Η ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΟΦΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ ΜΕΣΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΙΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΗΓΕΣ

Η ένοχή των κεμαλικών δυνάμεων για την πυρκαγιά και τις σφαγές σύμφωνα
με μαρτυρίες, δημοσιεύματα, επίσημες αναφορές και διαβαθμισμένα έγγραφα

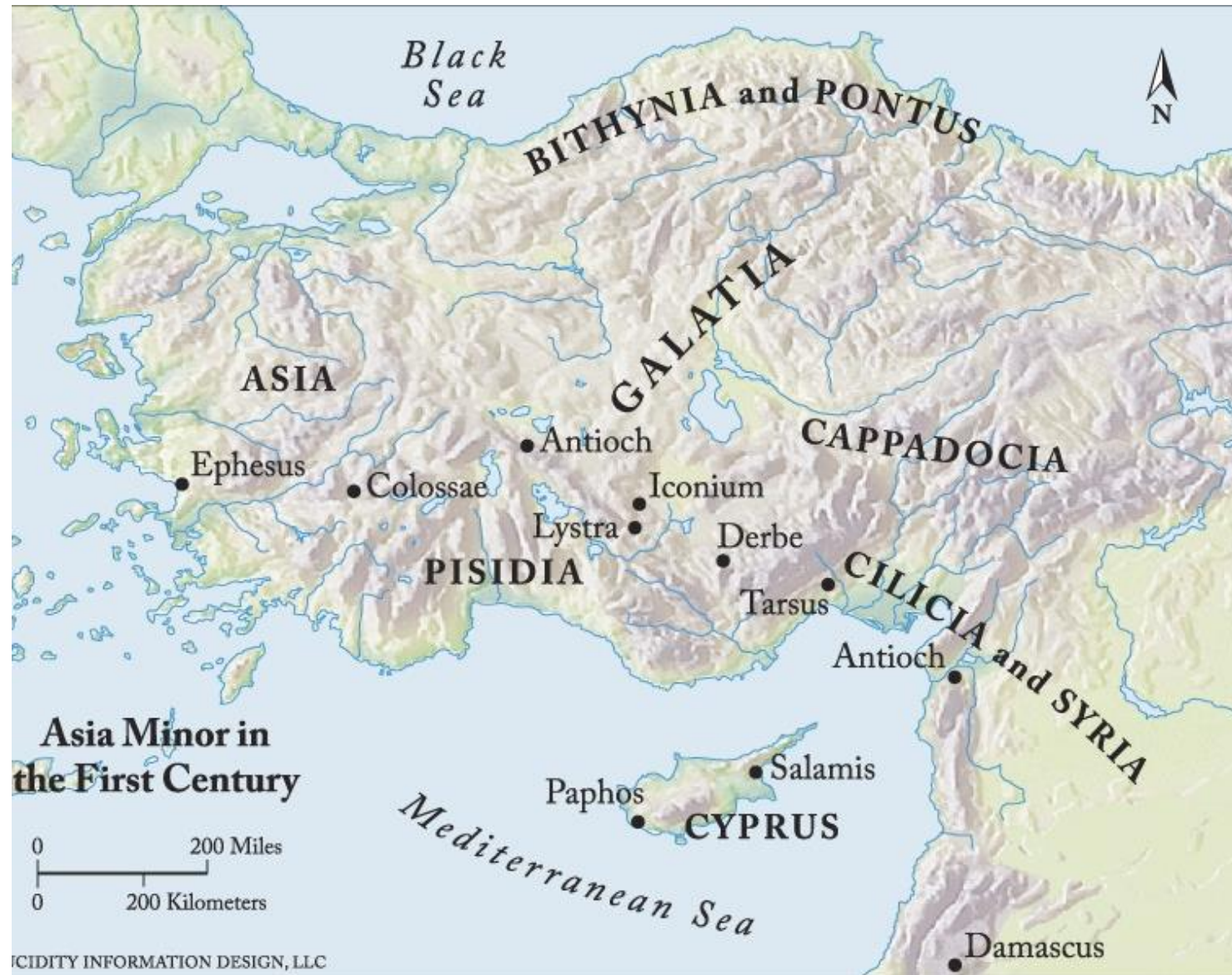
Μετάφραση:
Θελής Ν. Καραγιαννόπουλος



λαβύρινθος

1922/23 and Smyrna's Destruction was the final Phase of the Christian Genocide What Came Before?

- Ancient Assyrians, Greeks and Armenians had lived and built thriving civilizations in the geographic area of what is known as Asia Minor or Anatolia for thousands of years, long before Turkic peoples invaded the area during the middle ages.
- In fact, Asia Minor used to be home to numerous large Greek communities whose ruins are still visited today; and the history of Hellenism in the area goes back as early as the 9th century BC, with the establishment of Aeolian, Ionian and Dorian colonies.
- The Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians were among the first to adopt Christianity. In the first century A.D., Saint Paul introduced Christianity into Anatolia, where it becomes a recognized religion in the early fourth century. Armenia was a Christian state by 314 A.D. and Christianity was recognized as the official religion of all of Anatolia and imperial Byzantine territories in 380 A.D. ca.



For Centuries Christianity and Hellenism fought for survival against Islamic invaders

- Anatolia was one of the most important parts of the Byzantine empire with great cities and the Patriarchate of Antioch. Four ecumenical councils were held in Asia Minor.
- In the 8th Century the Arabs established the Abbasid caliphate which conquered sections Anatolia- followed by the Seljuks Turks, various Turkish Emirates and finally the Ottomans in about 1300.
- Thousands of Christians were forced to covert to Islam and hundreds of churches were destroyed or converted to mosques. The process forced Christians to choose between resistance, accommodation or flight.



The Ottomans reduce Christian communities throughout Asia Minor

- The Ottomans conquered Constantinople in 1453 and Trebizond in 1461 leading to the last phase of the Islamization, Turkification and de-Hellenization of thousands of the Christians in the region.
- The Byzantine elites were either killed, fled to the West or forced to convert. The Church became the most important institution.
- Christians survived as despised minorities which constantly had to deal with insecurity and pressure to convert to Islam.



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The Survival of Anatolian Christianity under Ottoman Rule 1453- 1900

- All non-Muslims were allowed to live if they paid a special head tax and followed strict restrictions that made them poor and insecure. Many lived like slaves. Local Christian elites were responsible for taxes and their behavior.
- The Patriarch of Constantinople became the head of all Orthodox Christians who lived in communities called millets. Most of the higher clergy from Asia Minor were eliminated or exiled. Many Churches became mosques.
- Christian children were forcibly taken and put into the Ottoman Janissary corps or harems.
- Massacres and forced conversions periodically took place. For example, during 1821 over 200,000 Anatolian Greeks were massacred.
- Some Christians collaborated and became part of the Ottoman elite-- i. e. Phanariots.



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The Decline of Ottoman Power Provides limited Opportunities

- Most Christian communities in Asia Minor only began to re-establish themselves and thrive during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- In the 18th century treaties with Western states called Capitulations enabled Ottoman Christians to travel and participate in international commerce.
- Ottoman rulers enable Christian leaders with special language and administrative skills to hold high positions and deal with the West on behalf for their masters.
- Certain islands and regions are also given local autonomy as long as they paid taxes and bribed Ottoman elites
-



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20th Century Genocide of Anatolian Christians

- In 1908/09, a group within the Ottoman empire known as the Young Turks staged a revolt and created a reform party called the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP). The Sultan was replaced by his brother.
- At first it looked like they wanted to implement reforms that would promote equality for Christians, democracy and a constitution. However, all this soon changed and new massacres take place especially targeting Armenians.
- In Greece, Eleutherios Venizelos become Prime Minister in 1910 and championed the Grand Idea (Megale Idea) to free all the Greeks still under Ottoman rule.
- Between 1912-1913, during the Balkan wars, Venizelos collaborates with the King and other Balkan states to liberate Epirus and most of northern Greece including Thessaloniki. Greatly increases Greece.



The Young Turks and the Rise of Turkish Nationalism.

- The victories of the Balkan Wars enrage the Turks and promote their nationalism— they want to purge the state of disloyal minorities and create a “Turkey for the Turks.”
- The Turks also feel that their disloyal minorities give the European powers opportunities to interfere in their internal affairs and take over their lands.
- Another factor was that many of the Christian minorities were prosperous and more modern, with better educations and commercial skills. The Turks wanted to take control over this wealth and promote Muslim progress. All schools were to be under Muslim control. Forced conversion or death becomes common again. Govt. propaganda is spread about Christian atrocities to promote religious hatred.



How Many Christians lived in Asia Minor at the start of the 20th Century and how many were killed? The numbers are controversial...

- According to the Ottoman census of 1906/07 the total population of the Ottoman empire was approximately 20,884, 630; with 5,122,442 Christians.
- The Greek population was approximately, 2,823,063 including European Turkey.
- These figures indicate that more than 3.5 million Anatolian Christians were massacred between 1907 and 1923.
- Today the genocide is complete. There are no significant numbers of Anatolian Christians who live in 21st Century Asia Minor. Also, only a small number of Greeks live in Constantinople.



Post-Balkan Wars

TOTAL POPULATION FIGURES FOR THE OTTOMAN GREEKS OF ANATOLIA^[53]

| | Greek census (1910–1912) | Ottoman census (1914) | Soteriades (1918) ^[54] |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Hüdavendigâr</u> (Prousa) | 262,319 | 184,424 | 278,421 |
| <u>Konya</u> (Ikonio) | 74,539 | 65,054 | 66,895 |
| <u>Trabzon</u> (Trebizond) | 298,183 | 260,313 | 353,533 |
| <u>Ankara</u> (Angora) | 85,242 | 77,530 | 66,194 |
| <u>Aydin</u> | 495,936 | 319,079 | 622,810 |
| <u>Kastamonu</u> | 24,349 | 26,104 | 24,937 |
| <u>Sivas</u> | 74,632 | 75,324 | 99,376 |
| <u>İzmit</u> (Nicomedia) | 52,742 | 40,048 | 73,134 |
| <u>Biga</u> (Dardanelles) | 31,165 | 8,541 | 32,830 |
| Total | 1,399,107 | 1,056,357 | 1,618,130 |

Common Ottoman Methods of Genocide 1915-1922

- In 1915, large numbers of Christian males between the ages of 15- 20 were put into military units called Labor Battalions; where they were given hard labor in remote areas with little food or support. Thousands died of disease and the hardships they suffered.
- Deportations of Christian elderly, women and children from hundreds of towns, villages and areas in cities where they lived into remote areas of Turkey during the winter without food, proper clothing or any shelter. Thousands died on the roads, and many young girls and children were taken, enslaved and converted to Islam. Turkish soldiers and brigands robbed and killed many on the way.
- Outright massacres by Turks under secret orders. Many Christians were burned alive in churches and in their homes. Priests were often crucified and tortured.
- Turkey joined Germany and the Central powers in 1914 and used WWI to accelerate its policy of Christian deportations and massacres as part of its war effort.



U.S. Diplomats Report On Systematic Massacres

- July 28 1915, a US diplomat reported that:

“...the persecutions of the Greeks is assuming unexpected proportions.... The poor Greeks are obliged to leave their homes, often with any notice compelled to march night and day without food or water, and when they cry for this, their Turkish guards point to the mosque and tell them the highroad to the comforts of life lies in Islam..”

- Similarly U.S. Ambassador Morgenthau reports that: “Greek girls, just like Armenian girls were stolen and taken to Turkish harems and Greek boys were kidnapped and placed in Muslim households...” Even so-called orphanages for the children of survivors whose parents were killed were used to force conversion and the Turkification of Christians.



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American Reports of Genocide Murders

- U.S. Consul Leslie Davis witnessed the slaughter of Christians between 1915-17, and smuggled out a report and pictures. Published in 1989 as a book called *The Slaughterhouse Province*.
- U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau received hundreds of reports of Christian deportations and massacres from American consuls and missionaries between 1914 and 1916, helped found what became the Near East Relief, which raised millions of dollars to aid the victims. He protested against the atrocities and later wrote a book about his experiences.
- American naval logs and diaries that record atrocities were published in 2020.
- American missionary teachers described what was going on– for example we have the first-hand accounts from Anatolia College, an American College in Merzifon about the atrocities committed there.



George White, President of Anatolia College 1917

The slaughter of all the Armenian Faculty members of Anatolia College, Marsovan, Northern Asia Minor, with 1,200 others, by Turkish peasants, whose pay for the work was the privilege of stripping the clothing off their victims' bodies, was described by the Rev. George E. White, President of the college, upon his return to the United States in the autumn of 1917. The massacres were committed at night by the order of the Turkish Government, he said, the Armenians being sent out in lots of hundred or two hundred to their doom and their bodies rolled into prepared burial trenches....

..The men were sent out in lots of one or two hundred in night "deportations" to the mountains where trenches had been prepared. Course peasants, who were employed to do what was done, said it was a pity to waste bullets and they used axes..

Thousands of women and children were swept away. Where? Nowhere.. Girls and young women were snatched away at every turn of the journey and sold.. I know because I was able to ransom three girls for \$4.40...The misery, the agony, the suffering are beyond the power of words to express...

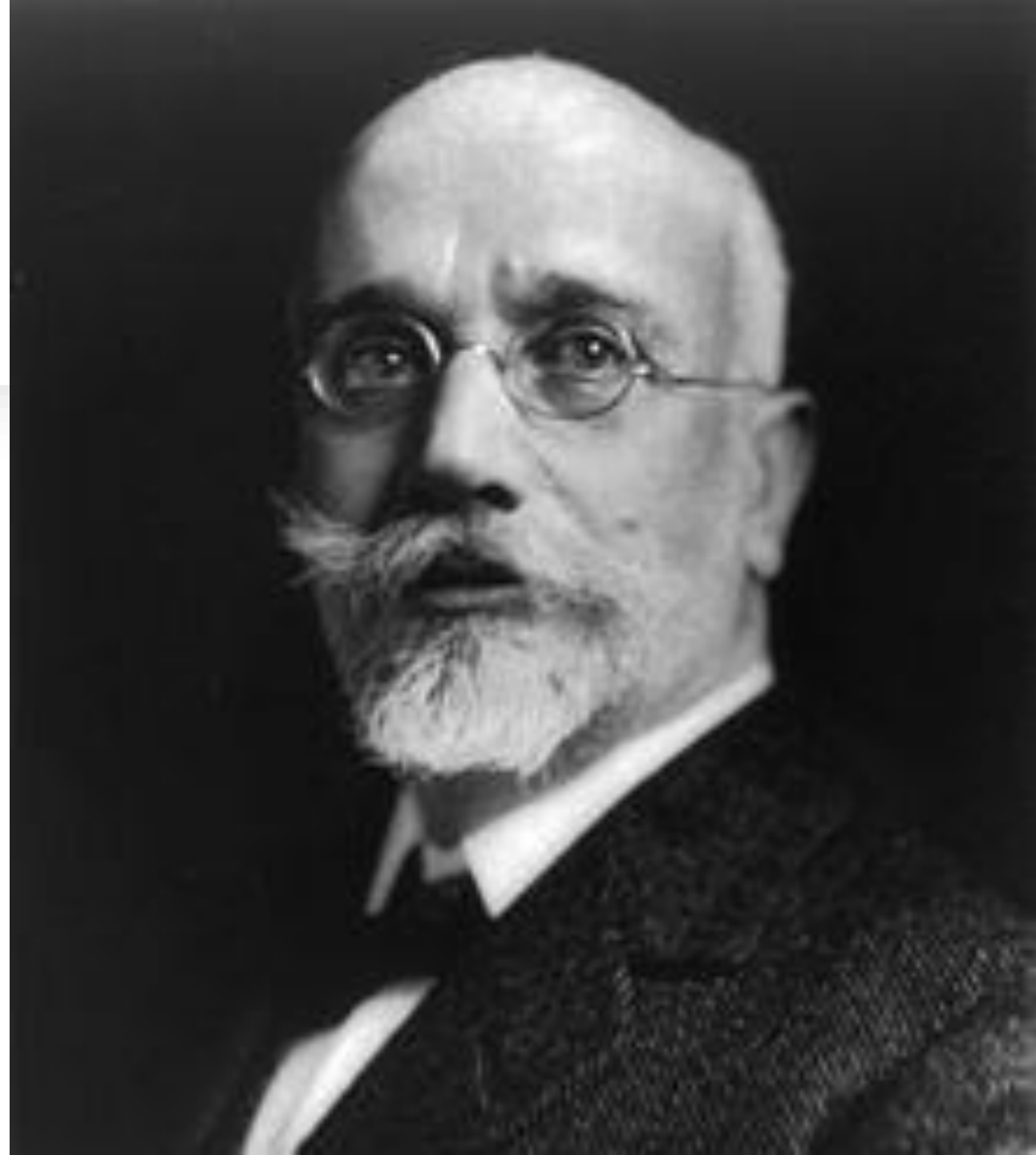
From: NYT current history section November 1917

After WWI the College opened again until 1921 when the Kemalists committed new massacres and forced it to close.



Eleftherios Venizelos is Prime Minister in 1916- and Enables Greece to Occupy Smyrna in 1919

- During WWI, between 1914 and 1917 Pro German King Constantine wants neutrality, while Venizelos is pro-Entente (England, France, Italy, Russia). Feels they will win the war.
- This Conflict became known as the National Schism. America is neutral during WWI until April 1917. Schism was felt in the diaspora as well.
- The Entente needs Greece to join WWI against Germany and Turkey. *British offer Venizelos the region in and around Smyrna in Asia Minor if Greece joins the war in January 1915.*
- King Constantine refuses to join the Entente and dismisses Venizelos. Oct. 1915- France and England land troops in Thessaloniki with Venizelos's support. He forms provisional govt. in August 1916. King Constantine is forced into exile and his son Alexander becomes King in 1917.
- Greece enters the war. The US. under President Wilson had joined the Entente in April 1917.



Venizelos' Diplomacy at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919

- The negotiations were very complicated and led to many changes based on economic, political, and territorial interests which had a major impact on Europe and the Middle East. Experts argued that the Greeks of Asia Minor were not dominant in any region and fewer in number than Venizelos argued. Venizelos presented alternate numbers that prevailed.
- England's Lloyd George supported the Greek claims more than France and Italy. Venizelos won over Wilson which was decisive, because he based his position on self-determination for minorities, and their security from Turkish misrule based on one of U.S. President's famous ***Fourteen Points***.
- U.S. President Wilson knew about the Christian massacres and was sympathetic to the argument that they needed protection.



Venizelos Receives permission to Occupy Smyrna Area May 1919

- Christian massacres had been taking place all over Asia Minor since during the war. American missionaries continued to report them to the press and public outrage put pressure on the powers to do something. Evidence of Ottoman massacres were also presented in Constantinople at genocide trials that anticipated those after WWII.
- At the same time, a new Turkish leader, Kemal, lands in Samsun (Pontus) and creates a Turkish nationalist movement which refuses to accept the Ottoman defeat, and the Greek occupation of Smyrna. He builds an army, and supports new, extensive Christian massacres.



Although Greek troops secure Smyrna the Kemalists continue massacres

- Christians view the Greeks as liberators but the Turks are outraged.
- The Turks sign the Treaty of Sevres in August 1920 giving Greece control for five years when a vote would take place.. But it was never ratified
- The massacres however not only continue but expand in every area still under Kemalist Turkish control.
- Venizelos present evidence to his western allies that the Turks want to exterminate all of the Christians in Asia Minor, but by this time each one was pursuing its own interests in Asia Minor.



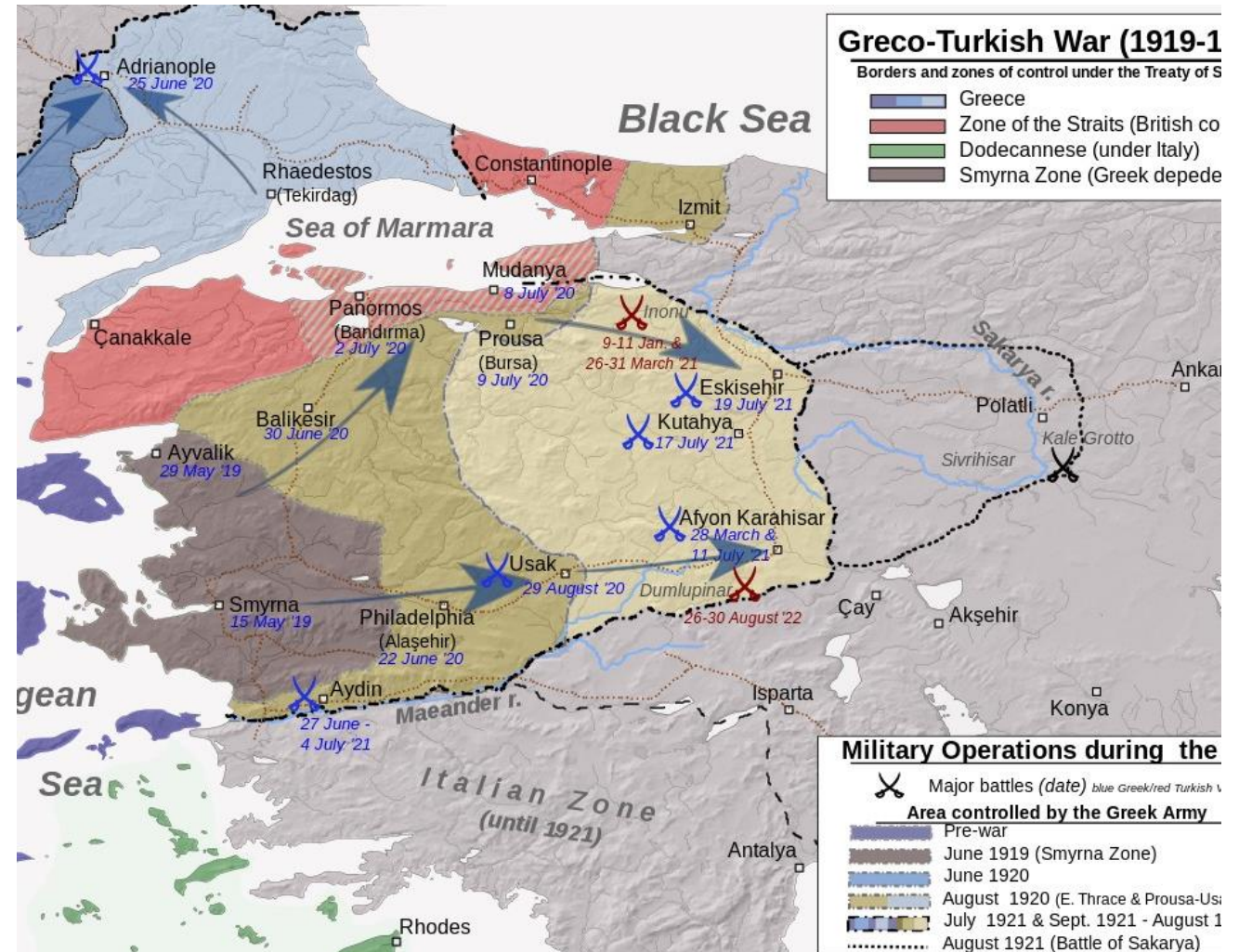
Christian massacres along the Black Sea 1919-1922 in Pontus

- The *Los Angeles Times*, August 9, 1921
- On May 15, 1921, thousands of irregular Turkish troops surrounded the village, forming seven rings around it. At 7:30 PM they gathered all of the inhabitants. They murdered some of them outright. They forced the rest into houses, poured fuel oil on the houses, and set them on fire. They shot those attempting to flee and threw them back into the fire... They had so much rage against the Greeks that they even burned the babies' cribs...
- U.S. Consul George Horton returned to Smyrna right after the Greek landing and reported to Washington on atrocities. But by then the political situation had changed in the United States. Wilson was replaced by President Harding in 1920.
- Venizelos was forced to expand the Greek zone in order to protect Christians from genocide and stop the Kemalists from trying to turn the WWI defeat into victory



Venizelos ignores military advice on the conditions needed to defeat Kemal and sustain the Grand Idea in Asia Minor.

- General Metaxas had advised Venizelos not to undertake the Asia Minor campaign unless he had the strong military and economic support of England, France and the United States and the benign neutrality of Italy and Russia.
- These conditions were not met, and the Greek Army becomes involved in an extended war beyond the Smyrna zone to defend Christians and stop the Kemalists from expanding.
- October 1920, King Alexander dies from a pet monkey bite and Venizelos calls for elections the following month which he loses. He leaves Greece for Paris.
- In Dec. 1920 King Constantine returns and the Royalists now the govt. continue and extend the war.



Kemal defeats the Greek Army and they leave Asia Minor

- Even without foreign aid, the Greeks achieved a series of stunning victories in July-August 1921 but failed to occupy Ankara the Kemalist capital which would have been decisive. Stalemate results.
- In the meantime, like Venizelos, U.S. President Wilson was no longer in power. Warren Harding became president in 1921.
- The Greek army was defeated in August 1922 and retreated with chaos to Smyrna for evacuation with thousands of civilians.
- The Greek govt. falls and the Venizelists revolt and take over under Plastrias and Gonatas.



From: *The Adelaide Chronicle* June 26, 1922

“...There can be no question to-day that the persecution of the Christian Minorities on Turkish soil is being carried out....and that unless the Turks are speedily compelled to desist, the day is not far distant when the Christians will be as extinct as the dodo in Asia Minor... Mr. Chamberlain’s statement in the House of Commons last Monday makes this fact clear, .. The Kemalists are carrying out a resolute organized policy of extermination directed, in particular against the Greeks.....

“..The evidence in the possession of our own Government may be accepted as entirely trustworthy... American workers tell tales of ghastly barbarities perpetuated under their eyes– which make the blood boil and run ice-cold in turn....”



I also published An Account that Even Americans were being killed by the Kemalists

- ***New York Times September 7, 1922*** HEADLINE: “Reports The Turks Killing Americans. Murders Every Day, Says S.R. Harlow, With Our Government Inactive

“The Rev. S. Harlow, Professor of History and Sociology in the American College at Smyrna, arrived in New York yesterday full of indignation at the cruelties and massacres of the Turks, which he said could be stopped in a moment if the Allies were not so interested in their commercial interests as to overlook their obligations to humanity. They are killing Americans there every day, and nothing is done. Some of my best friends have been murdered. Harry Holbrook, head of the Manual Training School, was shot and killed a short time ago, and it is impossible to do anything about it....”

“...The Turks are so pleased with their slaughter [of Christians] that they even have official pictures taken of the tortures and massacres. I had a lot of these official pictures which I gave to an American Consul to send to Washington. They show the Turkish Governor of a province, a Turkish General and their high priests and other officials, dressed in their best, smiling and looking on at the executioner performing his tortures below them...”

The Great Catastrophe

Smyrna, September 1922

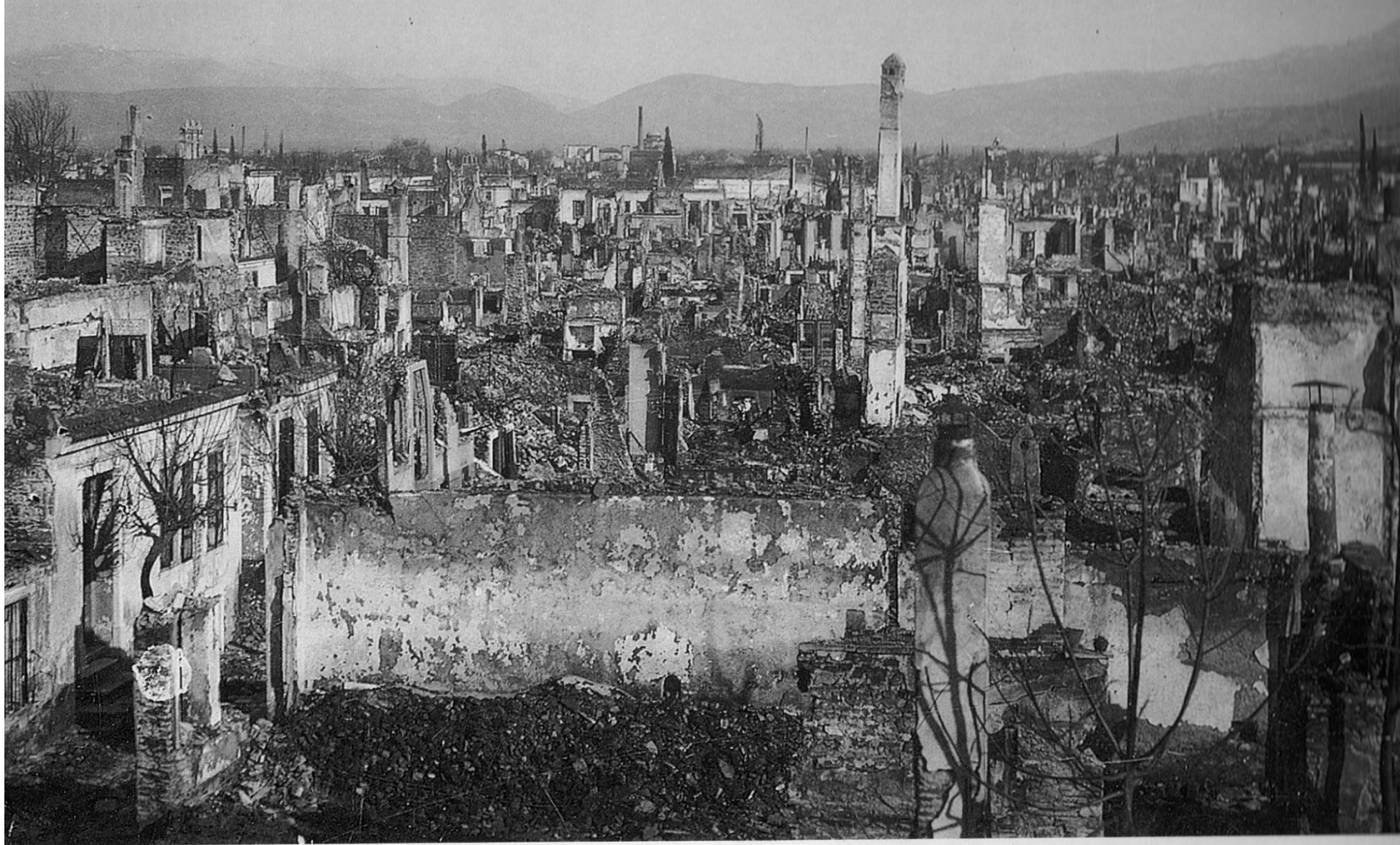
- 200,000 refugees from all over Asia Minor fled to Smyrna with the hope that the western ships would protect them and help them leave if they wished to go.
- Kemal and his troops took control on September 9th and the murder, rape and loot the Christian sections of the city. All males above age fifteen were put into concentration camps and eventually massacred.
- Archbishop Chrysostomos, was tortured and then torn to pieces by a Turkish mob.
- Kemal relaxed in a mansion in the suburbs while his troops and the Turks of Smyrna took vengeance on the Christians.
- On September 13th a great fire broke out which devastated the Christian parts of Smyrna. The Turks blamed the Greeks and the Armenians for the fire.





**Οι φλόγες, μαζί με την όμορφη πόλη, αποτέφρωσαν και τα όνειρα
του ελληνισμού στη μικρασιατική Γη.**

The flames devoured both the lovely city and the dreams of the Greeks in Asia Minor.

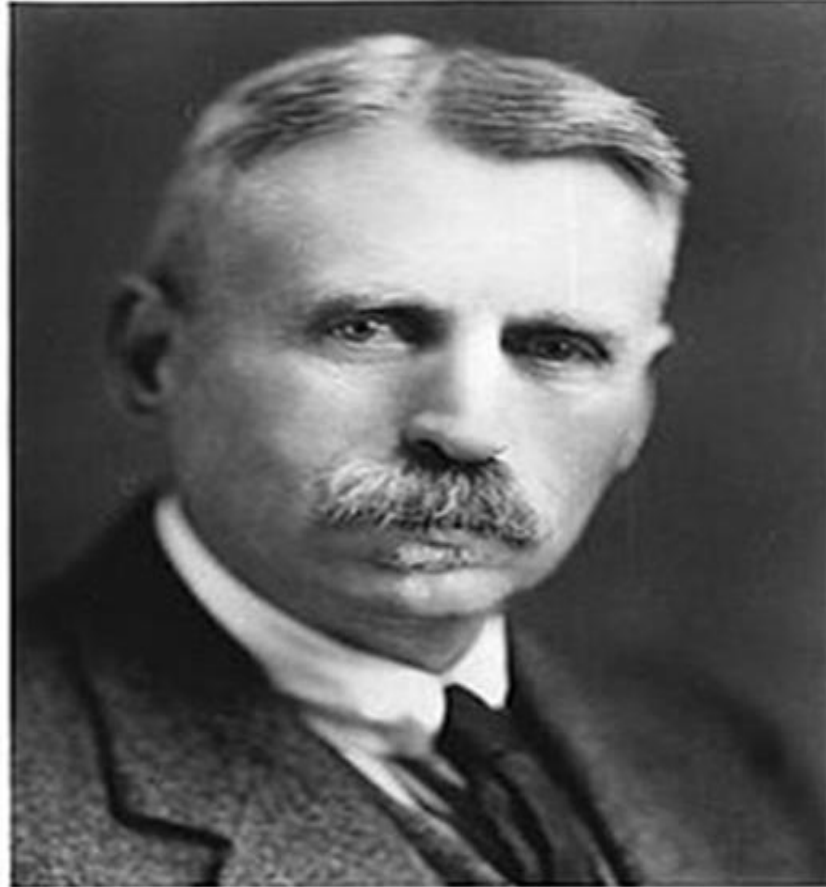


Η πυρκαγιά εξαπλώθηκε στις χριστιανικές συνοικίες και αποτέφρωσε 55.000 σπίτια και 5.000 καταστήματα.

The fire spread to the Christian districts and burned 55,000 homes and 5,000 shops.

Two Factors in U.S. Policy in Smyrna- *One Was, Consul George Horton*

- He had previously served as U.S. in Athens and Thessaloniki
- ***On September 5th 1922, he asked Washington for permission to arbitrate between Turkey and Greece to prevent a massacre– President Harding said no!***
- He was married to a Greek but even Bristol his opponent- declared him to be 'fair and Square." Spoke Greek & Turkish
- He was a scholar, accomplished journalist and writer of fiction and non-fiction.
- His reports to Washington predicted the catastrophe and provided many details of Turkish atrocities– the US kept secret.
- After retirement he published a book which gathered together many American eyewitness accounts.
- He testified before a Congressional Committee about Turkish Responsibility



The Second Factor in US Policy was Admiral Mark L. Bristol not someone like Morgenthau

- U.S. High Commissioner in Constantinople who distorted information going to Washington about Asia Minor.
- In charge of the American fleet in the region **and ordered his ships to maintain strict neutrality despite Turkish atrocities**. Only Americans were to be protected.
- Colleague and friend of Alan Dulles, Head of the Near Eastern Desk at the State Department- **Future CIA head**.
- Ties to Standard Oil and American business interests. The Harding administration was corrupt: Teapot Dome scandal.
- He was Pro-Kemalist Turkey and biased against Greeks and Armenians—emphasized Greek atrocities on Turks.
- Did not trust Horton and opposed his views.
- Did not trust American missionaries who reported on Turkish atrocities and minimized them.
- Founding member of the American Friends of Turkey



Four Official Key Documents that Prove That the Turks Burned Smyrna in the US Govt. Archives ALL Originally classified as Secret

- 1) A **wire telegraph** from Lieutenant A. S. Merrill, Bristol's intelligence officer dated 9/14 the day after the fire started which says the Turks burned the city to solve their minority problem.
- 2) We have a **summary document of reports** given to Secretary of State Hughes dated Sept. 15th which specifically states that based on many official reports the Turks deliberately burned the city as part of a plan to solve their minority problem. **This was also shared with the President.**
- 3) Merrill **kept a diary that became part of the official record** and was put into the State Department archives. In it he recorded that two American sailors that were stationed ashore, reported to him that they had seen Turkish soldiers throwing rags soaked in oil into homes to spread the fire; and elsewhere repeated his opinion that he believed the Turks burned the city as a matter of policy to prevent the Christians from returning.
- 4) *A lengthy confidential British document* sent to the State Department which indicates that *based on numerous reports they received* they had determined that the Turks had systematically burned the city as part of a deliberate policy---and also asked if the United States had similar information.
- 5) *These are part of numerous other non-Greek and Armenian sources I published as part of the 2005 book and the 2012 detailed article. We also have the text of Congressional Committee*

ing work in making American archival evidence available relating to earlier massacres. This is a model that the Greek-American scholars and community should emulate.³³

In order to illustrate their importance I will reproduce two heretofore unpublished documents from the National Archives that relate directly to the question of who was responsible for the fire that destroyed the Christian sections of Smyrna:

767.68/321³⁴

Telegram Received

Constantinople

Dated September 15, 1922

Rec'd 3 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

185. September 15, noon.

Following from Smyrna: "Fourteenth. Am convinced Turks burned Smyrna except Turkish section conforming with definite plan to solve Christian minority problem by forcing allies evacuate Christian minorities. Believe that they will now prepare for an attack on Constantinople Merrill."

BRISTOL

WSB

[Stamped: Department of State, September 16, 1922, Division of Near Eastern Affairs]

Depart

Government

Secstate

U.S.S. *Maryland*

No. 50 for Hughes

My/44, September/1

Situation/in/Near/I

complications/which will
with/Turkey./....

[from page 3 of docun

Confidential/reports/

/and British Foreign Offi
conformity with/definite/

lem/by/forcing/the evacu
eral/hundred thousand t

made/impossible/by the
retreating/ Greeks/as well

[continues on page 4 o
advancing Turks.

Reports/indicate/hea

Native Americans are all
ing/missing/naturalized c

still/in Smyrna/assisting/

Secstate U.S.S. Maryland No. 50 for Hughes
My/44, September/15,/3p.m.

Situation in Near East extremely acute, with possibility of complications which will involve Great Britain and Allies in war with Turkey....

..... Confidential reports received from our many officials at Smyrna, and British Foreign Office, indicate that Turks burned the city in conformity with definite plan to solve the Christian minority problem by forcing the evacuation of the minorities. The return of several hundred thousand Christians to their homes is apparently made impossible by the wholesale destruction of villages by retreating Greeks as well as by advancing Turks.

Reports indicate heavy loss of American property in Smyrna. Native Americans are all safe. No further details received regarding missing naturalized citizens. Three American destroyers are still in Smyrna assisting relief workers and protecting the American property which escaped the fire.....

Two entries in **Lieutenant Merrill's diary**, sent to Washington as part of a collection of first-hand accounts dispatched by Bristol on September 21st 1922: The entry for **September 14th** reads:

All morning the glow and then the flames burning Smyrna could be seen. We arrived about an hour before dawn and the scene was indescribable. The entire city was ablaze and the harbor was light as day. Thousands of homeless refugees were surging back and forth on the blistering quay—panic stricken [sic] to the point of insanity. The heartrending shrieks of women and children were painful to hear... We had two men ashore from the LAWRENCE acting as chauffeurs... I located the two sailors in their cars. Their stories were identical. They both stated that they had seen Turks spreading the fire. The Turks used rags soaked in oil, which they threw in windows as they ran down the narrow streets in the Armenian quarter...

Merrill's entry for September 16th reads:

The Turks say the fire was set by the Armenians and that 22 of the guilty parties confessed. That the Turks only burned houses fighting the fire with fire. The French pretend to believe this. I am convinced in my own mind that the Turks burned the town. They burned it to force the Allies to evacuate the non-moslems [sic]. Their slogan is "Turkey for the Turks." They consider that all their troubles during the last 40 years can be attributed to the propaganda spread by Christian minorities and that the only solution is to remove these Minorities....

767.68

ackd
11/16/22
THE
November 17, 1922

His Majesty's Ambassador is instructed

to communicate unofficially to the United States Government the accompanying copy of a preliminary report on the sacking of Smyrna from His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople.

It will be observed that the evidence contained therein all points to the conclusion that the European and native Christian quarters were systematically destroyed by the Turks as a part of a deliberate policy.

If the United States Government are prepared to communicate in the same way any reports which may have reached them upon this subject, His Majesty's Government will be glad to receive them.

767.68/517

The U.S. Government Cover-Up: “Smyrnagate”

- Instead of sending the British the documents we have reviewed or any of U.S. Consul Horton’s reports – the State Department sent the British a report by Vice Consul Barnes which minimized Turkish responsibility and the loss of life.
- The State Dept. lied to Congress: this is how they responded in 2/1923 to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge’s inquiry about the fire and who burned the U.S. Consulate:
- “...As the Consulate building was destroyed in the general conflagration it was not possible to attribute the destruction of this particular building to the individual act of any person or persons. As far as the Department is informed the authors of the fires, apparently of incendiary origin, which brought on the Smyrna conflagration have never been apprehended, nor their identity discovered. On this point conflicting evidence has been received by the Department and the various antagonistic racial groups in Smyrna have each ascribed the origin of the fire to the other..”
- This response ignored an official report that even Vice Consul Barnes and Clifton Davis of the Red Cross had observed the Turks spreading petrol on the consulate steps and spreading the fire!!

November 8, 1922.UNDER SECRETARY,
NOV 8 1922
DEPT. OF STATE.
*File 13.**✓*
Mr. Phillips*November 17, 1922*

With reference to the British Embassy's inquiry for information as to reports we have received regarding the burning of Smyrna, I feel that it is a question of policy as to how far we should go in furnishing the desired information. The attached despatch from Barnes gives the most comprehensive statement of the Smyrna disaster which we have received and, while it contains information which we might not desire to make public, I do not know that there is anything that we could not appropriately communicate to the British Government on the understanding that it should be kept confidential.

I should, however, be glad to have your instructions on this point before proceeding to answer the British note.

✓

F.W. 767.68/517

THE UNDERSECRETARY

Mr. S.

Mr. Dulles

*Please prepare reply
to British note
accordingly.*

WJH

H. G. P.

*No more British
stuff, but no more
accusations of his witnessing
killing of Americans.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE SECRETARY

U

Mr. Dulles

The Secretary

*proves
approves*

WJH

1/8/22

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDERSECRETARY

Mr. S.

Mr. Secretary

*I recommend that
we send a copy of
Vice Consul Barnes'
dep. (attached) to
the British for
their confidential
information*

WJH

WJH

ADMISSION OF NEAR EAST REFUGEES

HEARINGS

BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FOURTH SESSION**

ON

H. R. 13269

DECEMBER 15, 16, AND 19, 1922

Serial 1-C



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1923

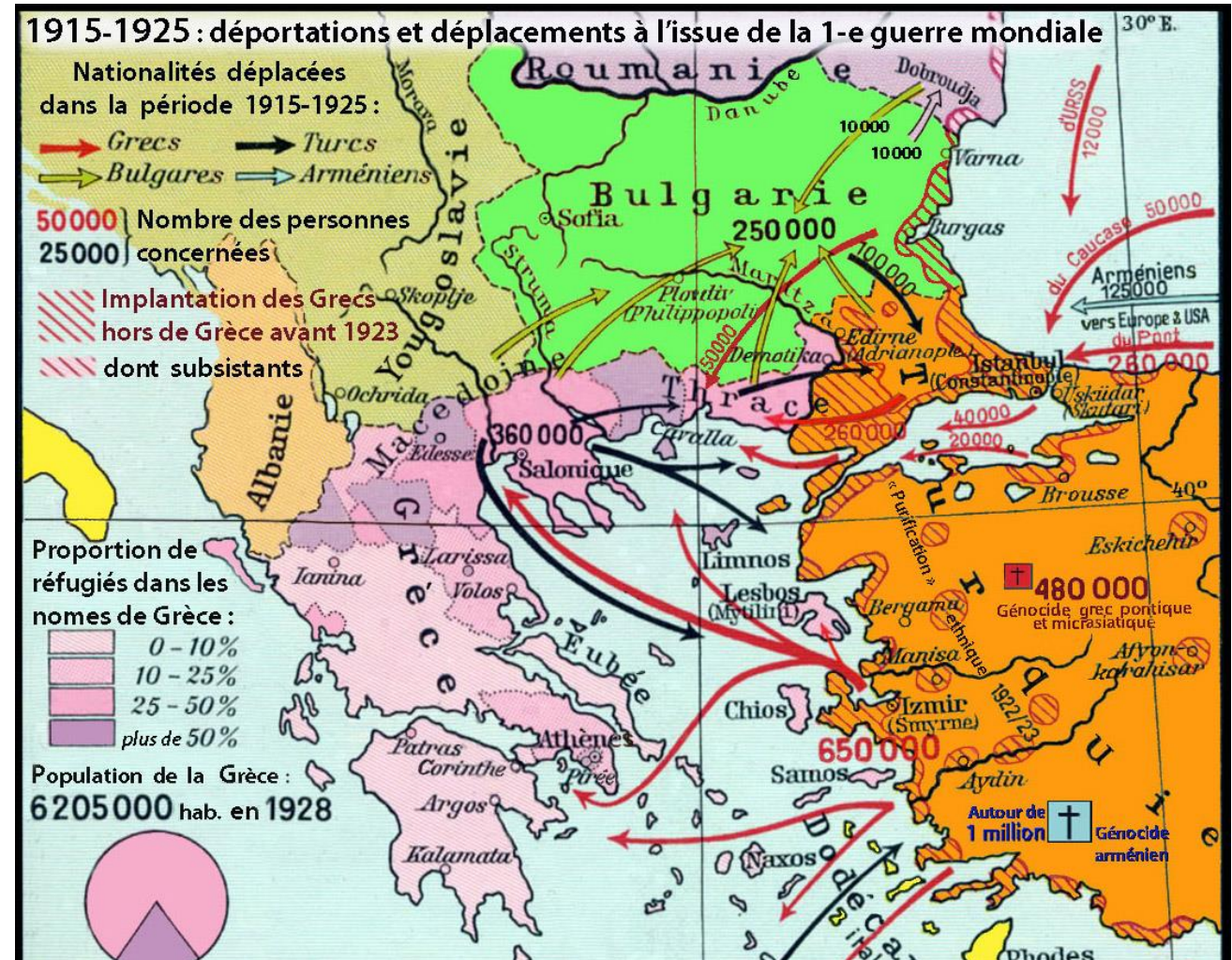
I also published secret US State Department documents about the *Great Betrayal Book Which to Government Tried to Block*.

- In 1924 Edward Hale Bierstadt, the Executive Secretary for Near East Refugees published a book which argued that the U.S. allowed the Kemalist Turks to massacre the Christians and burn the city for US economic gain. He wrote that: the *Lausanne treaty signed with the blood of Christians*.
- Nevertheless, heroic American missionaries, teachers, diplomats, and social workers risked their lives and went against government policy to perform “unauthorized acts of humanity.” An American YMCA man, Asa Jennings, collaborated with others to save over 200,000 Christians after the great fire. Public pressure forced Bristol to send American ships to help evacuate survivors from all over Asia Minor— and religious and other philanthropic organizations sent aid to help the victims both before and after 1922.
- A series of secret State Department documents by Alan Dulles, Bristol and others outline how they systematically tried to suppress the information about what the Turks did and tragically even recruited YMCA hero, Jennings to help them. They blocked heroes like Consul Horton with threats and pressure.
- The documents summarized here however, speak for themselves. The Turks burned the city and massacred thousands of Christians all over Asia Minor, and the U.S knew it and systematically covered this up. I am sure that there are many other documents which will show that all western governments knew this as well and kept it quiet for his own reasons. By 1924, the genocide of Anatolian Christianity was complete. The Turks succeeded in creating a “Turkey for the Turks,” and continue to deny how this came about up till today.
- But now we have official documents that show us the truth!! There is no question!

Treaty of Lausanne 1923-

4 Legalized the Genocide

- The Treaty gave a legal appearance to the fact that approximately 1.5 million Greeks had survived the genocide and took refuge in Greece.
- It took decades for these refugees to be integrated into Greek society.
- The treaty also allowed about 90,000 Ottoman Greeks to remain in Constantinople and a few thousand more on the islands of Imbros and Tenedos. Today, these communities have been decimated and barely exist.
- The Deconstruction of Hellenism and Christianity in Asia Minor is complete. There are no Christian communities there anymore. There is also no question who is responsible despite the cover up of the US and Great Britain.
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



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