Echoes from the past: Nationalism, treaties, minorities as background for the disastrous Istanbul events of 6-7 September 1955.

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E.MA Academic Year 2011/2012
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Much conflict could also be prevented if the rich cultural diversity within so many of our states were considered as an asset, rather than a threat, and allowed to flourish accordingly.

(United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, OSCE Istanbul Summit, 1999)
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank:

My supervisor PhD Alex André Andersen for his help, constructive guidance, encouragement and stimulating suggestions.

The Danish Institute of Human Rights and especially Eva Maria Lassen and Lone Groth – Rasmussen for providing substantial support and assistance in any matter.

The staff of the DCISM library and especially Charlotte Kristoffersen and Lars Mathiesen for their help.

All the ‘masterini’ for a wonderful year.

My parents for their moral support and inspiration.

My sister-in-law Christina for her useful support.
Abstract

Contrary to the famous Asia Minor Catastrophe, the disastrous events of 6-7 September 1955 in Istanbul are restricted to limited circles. This research aims to shed light on a rather unknown violent act that caused the diminishment of the Greek minority community in Istanbul. For the majority of the minorities, the 6-7 September episodes were proof that they would never be accepted as equal citizens of the Turkish state and would always be vulnerable for discrimination.

Using secondary sources in presenting the historical context of treaties, the nationalistic and the sociopolitical actors as background of the period between 1923-1955, the research foresees to capture attention and offer solid ground for providing a convincing answer as to why the events occurred. In parallel, after having examined the concepts of massacre, genocide, pogrom and ethnic riot, the research classifies the events.

Furthermore, by presenting a little-known atrocity, but not less important in the aspect of history and human rights, the present dissertation expects to contribute to a possible research collaboration on human rights studies in the South East European area.
List of Abbreviations

RPP : Republican People’s Party
DP : Democrat Party
K.T.C. : Kıbrıs Türktür Cemiyeti (Cyprus is Turkish Organisation)
U.S. : United States
UN : United Nations
ECHR : European Convention on Human Rights
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2012

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https://doi.org/20.500.11825/701

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