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

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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)

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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

Table of contents

1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Research questions and aim.....	9
1.2 Literature.....	11
1.3 Methodology.....	13
1.4 Structure.....	13
2. DEFINITION OF TERMS	15
2.1 Massacre.....	15
2.2 Genocide.....	16
2.3 Ethnic Riot.....	18
2.4 Pogrom.....	20
2.5 Nationalism.....	22
2.5.1 Greek Nationalism.....	25
2.5.2 Turkish Nationalism.....	26
2.6 Minorities.....	30
3. TREATIES	34
3.1 Treaty of Sèvres.....	34
3.2 Treaty of Lausanne.....	35
3.3 Ankara Convention of 1930.....	39
3.4 Convention of establishment, commerce and navigation.....	42
3.5 Balkan Pact.....	44
3.6 Truman Doctrine.....	47
3.7 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).....	48
3.8 Treaty of friendship and cooperation 1953-1954.....	49

Conclusion.....	50
-----------------	----

4. ANALYSIS.....52

4.1 The Greek minority in Turkey.....	52
---------------------------------------	----

4.2 <i>Varlık Vergisi</i> (Capital tax levy).....	56
---	----

4.3 The Tripartite Conference in London for the Cyprus issue.....	61
---	----

4.4 The events of 6-7 September 1955.....	64
---	----

4.5 Damages.....	68
------------------	----

4.6 The responsibility.....	70
-----------------------------	----

5. CONCLUSION.....74

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Rates of capital taxation between large firms.....	59
---	----

Table 2: Lists of Professions and amounts of tax claimed from Hellenes and Turks.....	60
--	----

Table 3: Estimation of Damages.....	69
-------------------------------------	----

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....77

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Treaty of Lausanne. Section III. Protection of Minorities.....	94
--	----

ANNEX 2: 6-7 September 1955 Damage Index.....	98
--	----

ANNEX 3: Total damage to Greek property according to the report of Vyron Theodoropoulos.....	99
--	----