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**Greece in the 1923 Lausanne Conference**

In the aftermath of the Greco-Turkish War and World War I, the Kingdom of Greece, along with the allied powers of Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Romania have gathered at Lausanne to discuss and ratify a treaty concerning several aspects of the future of the Ottoman Republic (to be dissolved), the new independent and sovereign modern state of Turkey, its borders, the area ceded by the Ottoman empire, and the protection and exchange of minority populations currently living in both Greece and Turkey respectively.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Subsequently these conflicts, the Kingdom of Greece is concerned with what it sees as unfair terms for the payment of war reparations and with the fate of the persecuted ethnic Greek population residing outside the Kingdom of Greece in Ottoman territory. During World War I, from 1913 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire instigated a systematic ethnic cleaning against the Orthodox Christian Greek population living within the empire.[[2]](#footnote-3) By the end of 1922, and Greece’s defeat in the Greco-Turkish war, around 900,000 Greeks had fled the genocide in Turkey and relocated in Greece. There are currently around 600,000 more Orthodox Greeks within Turkey that Greece would like to see relocated.**[[3]](#footnote-4)** Greece also has a large (around 500,000) Muslim Turkish population living within the country, largely in Eastern Thrace and the North of Greece that the Ottoman Empire, now formally known as the Republic of Turkey,would like to have relocated within its new boarders. The Turks are intolerant to the minority populations living within their country and the Kingdom of Greece finds it in their interest to protect those Orthodox minorities that face prosecution in Turkey. Turkey has refused to play any part in the fight of the Western World to uphold democratic ideals, claiming "neutrality." Greeks in Turkey between 18 and 45 years of age have been mobilized and, subsequently, deported to special labor camps within the former Ottoman Empire.[[4]](#footnote-5)

The Kingdom of Greece is interested in protecting ethnic Greeks that have been subject to persecution under Ottoman rule by providing these newly propertyless Greek refugees with land and resources within their ethnic homeland.For Greece, regarding the issue of mutual exchange of populations, it is particularly important to define the case as ‘exchangeable’.[[5]](#footnote-6)Greece has been experiencing a mass influx of Orthodox Greek refugees fleeing from the genocide in Turkey. An exchange of minority populations within the two countries would provide land, homes, and resources for the million Greeks destitute of resources in their home country and vice versa for the minority Turkish population.[[6]](#footnote-7)

Greece is also concerned with the question of paying war reparations with the understanding that due to lack of funds Greece cannot pay these debts in cash. Greece is prepared to go to war with Turkey over the issue of war reparations. Instead it is proposed that the Turks should accept the town of Karagach from the Greeks in lieu of reparations[[7]](#footnote-8), and the Allied powers should support Greece in these negotiations having supported the Greek offensive previously.

Greece is interested in the development of a treaty with the new Turkish republic to negotiate the exchange of minority populations between Greece and Turkey. The goal of this treaty is to create a set of political and legal foundations for a new era of evolving friendly relations and détente between Greece and Turkey. To accomplish this, the Kingdom of Greece suggests that 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 and that the populations being ‘expelled’ would have no right to return to their homeland without the permission of their respective governments.[[8]](#footnote-9) The agreements relating to the exchange of the Greek and Turkish populations will not be applied to the Moslem inhabitants of the islands of Imbros and Tenedos or the Orthodox Greek inhabitants of Constantinople.[[9]](#footnote-10)

Finally, in agreeing to an exchange of the minorities populations and to the acquisition of Karagach in lieu of the cash payment of war reparations, the Kingdom of Greece seeks encourage good relations with the newly formed Republic of Turkey, with the larger goal of promoting and maintaining peace worldwide.

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