



Editorial Foreword

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The policy journal of the American Hellenic Institute is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. This particular issue probes recent developments in Cyprus, the historical atrocities committed by Turkey, and the dynamics of Greek America. Our contributors do not propose prescriptive agendas for others to follow but perspectives to be considered when planning activities regarding the foreign and domestic policies most relevant to Greek Americans.

Our issue begins with Van Coufoudakis examining the current “unity” talks between Cyprus and the government in the Turkish-occupied zone. He argues that the terms under discussion are just a new version of the Annan Plan already rejected by Cypriots as unfair and inadequate. A cultural look at Cyprus is offered by Vicki Yiannias’ review of a book on Cypriot cinema. Among her conclusions is that knowledge of Cyprus would be enriched if more Cypriot films were included in Greek film festivals mounted in America.

Many of us were amazed by a statement last December by Nikos Fillis, Greek Minister of Education, that the Turkish actions against Greeks early in the twentieth-century were not genocidal, but a matter of ethnic cleansing. This more or less supports the Turkish view that the slaughter/expulsions of millions of Greeks was due to the fog of ethnic war, not state policy. This view is lambasted by Panayiotis Diamadis in his “Governmental and Parliamentary Recognition of the Genocides of the Armenians, Assyrians and Hellenes.” Diamadis demonstrates that by all standard criteria the treatment of Greeks must be legally defined as genocide. He also offers a close up of how the Turkish state aggressively denies that reality even in a nation as distant from the Near East as Australia. Diamadis offers a long list of political bodies that have officially recognized the Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian genocide.

To give a sense of the horrors of Smyrna in 1922, we are pleased to reprint the prologue to Lou Ureneck's *The Greek Fire* whose subtitle is *One Man's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide*. The man referred to is Asa Jennings, an American, and the genocide is the whole range of atrocities directed against Greeks, Armenians, and Assyrians. Rather than expressing remorse for past actions, Turkish President Erdogan recently expressed his admiration for the government of Adolph Hitler. Steve Bowman's review of Stefan Ihrig's *Atatürk in the Nazi Imagination* demonstrates the mutual admiration of these authoritarian regimes is long-standing.

A disheartening aspect of the Smyrna tragedy is that for some time, the numerous vessels of the Great Powers only rescued their own nationals. The one exception was a Japanese cargo ship. Some scholars have written that no such ship existed. Stavros Stavridis refutes this view by presenting contemporary citations regarding its existence. He also speculates on its name and why it may have been in Smyrna, an unscheduled stop.

The future of Greek America is the focus of my own essay which emphasizes the challenges we face and plausible responses. Elaine Thomopoulos reviews the third edition of *Greek Americans: Struggle and Success* with attention to the views of Peter Moskos on the future course of Greek America. Vassilis Lambropoulos outlines how Greek American topics are dealt with in courses taught at the University of Michigan.

Our Emerging Voices of Greek America section reflects three different aspects of Hellenic culture. Antonis Mikalis (Drexel University) writes how his Hellenism has roots in the Greek Orthodox Church and studying in Greece. Elias Gerasoulis (University of Penn.) discusses Classical Hellenic influences and values. Kristen Pitou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) is a homeland Greek who writes passionately of why studying Greek American history is important for Greeks and why Greek Americans need to retain their special relationship to the "old country."

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