



## Editorial Introduction

*Dan Georgakas*

A new administration has arrived in Washington during a perilous time in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey is rapidly moving toward a dictatorial government while simultaneously questioning legally established borders. President Trump's appointment of Michael Flynn as national security advisor was ominous. Flynn's history includes working directly for the Turkish government and publishing an essay on election day stating that the United States needed to comply with various Turkish demands as soon as possible. Flynn's forced resignation after just thirty-four days due to his irregular interactions with Russian officials is a relief, but whether a new national security advisor will have a decidedly more critical view of Turkey is unknown. The challenges remain: the intransigence of an authoritarian Turkey, the continuing refugee crisis, the political quagmires in Syria and Iraq, the possibility of a Kurdish state, the persecution of non-Muslims in much of the Arab world, and jihadists able to mount terrorist actions in the West as well as in the Middle East.

The Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean, a special section of this issue, addresses these problems. Nick Larigakis, the president of AHL, dissects the actions of Turkey and finds them dangerous to American interests. Ambassador Karolos Gadi writes of the hypocrisy involved in Turkey's attempt to join the EU. Hannibal Travis renders in detail the Greek Genocide begun by the Ottomans and continued by the Turkish republic. How Turkey's denial of its genocidal history complicates the need to stabilize the region is the theme of an essay by Constantine Hatzidimitriou. The widespread assault on Christians throughout the Middle East is analyzed by Alon Ben-Meir, an expert on conflict resolution, and George Mavropoulos brings specific attention to the persecution of the Greeks of the Pontus.

Five feature essays take on another spectrum of Hellenic concerns. Nicholas Karambelas shows why the Greek claims against Germany regarding Nazi Occupation loans are valid. Georgea Polizos responds to recent attempts to dismiss the FYROM name issue as ethnic discrimination. Leonidas Petrakis offers three suggestions on how contemporary Greek Americans can positively advance specific and general Hellenic

values. A longer view of Hellenism with reference to recent exhibitions in Greece is the focus of Despina Lalaki's "From Plato to NATO." A combination of doing contemporary public relations while adding to the annals of Greek communities in America distinguishes Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos's comparison of the experiences of Ioannina Jews in America with those of Christians from Ioannina. She also brings attention to the small museum operated by Ioannian Jews in New York City. That museum hosts a flow of New York tourists who often hadn't realized there are Greek Jews or the extent of Greek resistance to the Nazi Occupation of World War II.

Our Emerging Voices of Greek America section provides a forum for a young generation of Greek Americans to discuss what they are thinking and doing. Michael Boosalis (George Washington University) and fellow student Chris Kennard write of their efforts to aid refugees stranded in Greece. Ruth Helen Vallis (U of Pennsylvania Law School) discusses the controversial gay rights legislation recently passed in Greece. Melina Dunham (Barnard College) underscores why recognition by nation states of the Pontian and Armenian Genocides has practical as well as emotional impact.

Our book review section considers two titles dealing with ongoing major issues affecting Greece and Cyprus. Peter Bratsis evaluates what James Galbraith has written about the economic planning of the Tsipras government during its first year in power. Chris Deliso reviews a book dealing with the role of the British and American governments during the invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

Political essays, as Aristotle noted two millennia ago, need to be judged on the merits of their logic and their factual evidence, not the author's reputation. That said, our Contributor's section spotlights the considerable scholarly and/or activist credentials of our writers.

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