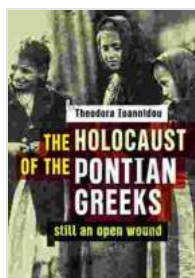


The Holocaust Of The Pontian Greeks: A Hidden Tragedy Revealed

Prelude to a Nightmare

Nestled along the southeastern shores of the Black Sea, the vibrant Greek community of Pontus had thrived for centuries. However, with the outbreak of World War I, their idyllic existence came crashing down. As the Ottoman Empire crumbled, ethnic tensions flared, and the Pontian Greeks became targets of a systematic campaign of persecution and violence.

In the aftermath of the war, the Treaty of Lausanne (1923) forged a new political landscape, placing Pontus under Turkish control. This drastic shift ushered in a dark era for the region's Greek population, as they faced a wave of discrimination, oppression, and violence.



The Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks: Still an open wound by Theodora Ioannidou

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 70891 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 354 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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The Horrors Unfold

In 1914, the Ottoman government initiated a series of mass deportations of Pontian Greeks, sending them far from their homes and into the inhospitable interior of Anatolia. These deportations were often carried out with brutal force, accompanied by massacres and atrocities.

As the war progressed, the violence escalated. In 1916, the infamous "Cheti Committees," bands of irregulars led by Turkish nationalists, launched a ruthless campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Pontian Greeks. Villages were razed, civilians slaughtered, and women and children subjected to unspeakable horrors.

The Turkish government, far from intervening, tacitly supported and even encouraged these atrocities. The goal was clear: to eliminate the Greek presence from Pontus and secure the region for Turkish hegemony.

Enduring Legacies

The Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks culminated in the deaths of an estimated 353,000 people, a staggering loss of a vibrant and ancient culture. The survivors, scarred by the horrors they had witnessed, were forced to flee their ancestral lands and seek refuge in neighboring countries and around the world.

The legacy of this tragedy lives on. The Pontian Greek diaspora, scattered across the globe, carries the memories of their lost loved ones and their determination to keep their history alive.

Resilience and Remembrance

Despite the unimaginable suffering they endured, the Pontian Greeks have shown remarkable resilience. They have rebuilt their lives, established new

communities, and preserved their rich cultural heritage.

Commemoration of the Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks is crucial. It serves as a reminder of the darkest chapters of human history and highlights the importance of fighting intolerance, discrimination, and violence.

Seeking Justice and Recognition

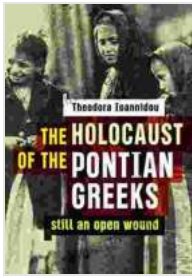
For decades, the Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks remained largely unrecognized by the international community. However, in recent years, there has been a growing movement to bring this hidden tragedy to light.

In 1994, the Greek parliament officially recognized the Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks as a genocide. Other countries, including Armenia, Cyprus, and Sweden, have also acknowledged this historical crime.

The struggle for justice and recognition continues. Pontian Greek organizations worldwide are working to raise awareness, educate the public, and advocate for the establishment of an international memorial and the acknowledgment of the genocide by the Turkish government.

The Holocaust of the Pontian Greeks is a sobering reminder of the human capacity for cruelty and the devastating consequences of ethnic hatred. It is a story of unspeakable suffering, resilience, and the enduring power of memory.

By shedding light on this hidden tragedy, we honor the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, and commit ourselves to building a world free from such horrors.



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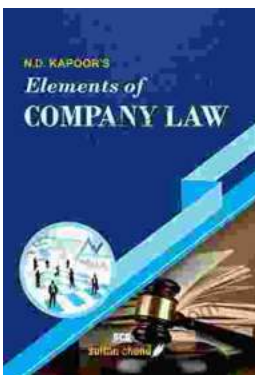
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