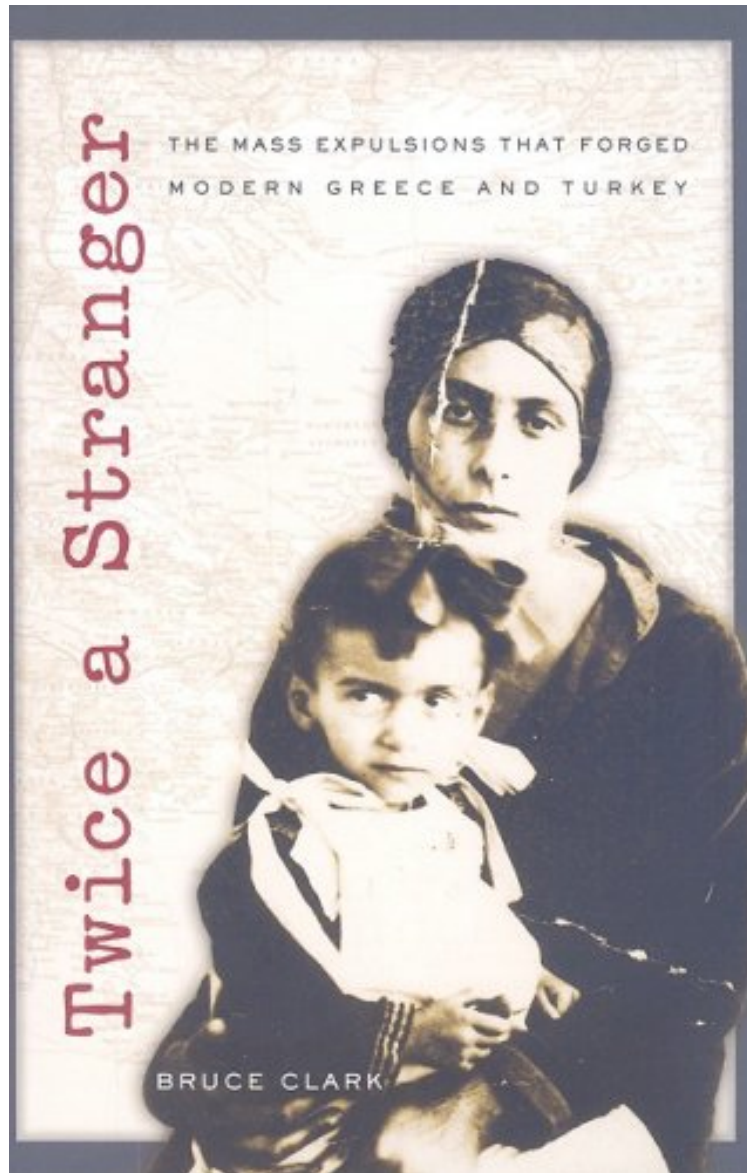


(Download pdf) Twice a Stranger: The Mass Expulsions that Forged Modern Greece and Turkey

Twice a Stranger: The Mass Expulsions that Forged Modern Greece and Turkey

Bruce Clark

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Bruce Clark : Twice a Stranger: The Mass Expulsions that Forged Modern Greece and Turkey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twice a Stranger: The Mass Expulsions that Forged Modern Greece and Turkey:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Read this book. By Kostac
The problems that were created by zealous 19th century European nationalism are no less damaging today than 100 years hence. The poisonous notion of one majority, exclusive or favored ethnos per state continues to be played out. It has become acceptable and it is now considered "civilized" that differing religious, linguistic, tribal, or cultural groups be segregated and minorities relocated. This is the great shame of our era. Stirring up ethnic and religious passions is ever the lever for cheap civil and religious politicians to gain and maintain power. Whether it's Islamist or Zionist, National Fascist or Soviet Republic the result is the same and the agenda belongs to the autocrats and their aligned oligarchies. The "two-state" solutions that are ever proposed in the name of peace always are accompanied by human suffering and forced or economic population re-locations. The victims only get to vote with their feet, if they are fortunate enough to survive. TWICE A STRANGER illustrates not the first but perhaps the most unfortunate of the mutual ethnic cleansings of the twentieth century. I say most unfortunate not because others were less barbaric or less debilitating, but because Greek-Turkish population exchanging has legitimized the concept and it was agreed to by the world powers. It set a devastating precedent. TWICE A STRANGER obliquely illustrates what we lost when the leaders of these "nations" set out to homogenize and segregate the cultures of their co-religionists. Local custom, craft, and dialect even charming ambiguities fell victim to the schemes of the nation builder politicians. There was left small room for natural diversity. Even today, the Greek Orthodox label themselves the "homogenis" or "same race" while ostensibly adhering to a faith that recognizes "neither Jew nor Hellene" within their ranks. (Gal. 3:28) Islamic fundamentalism is flourishing in the erstwhile secular state of (some of) the Turks. 39 of 42 people found the following review helpful. The book I've been waiting for the last twenty years! By Alexandra A. Munroe
My maternal grandparents were Orthodox Christians from Cappadocia. As a child I was told I was Greek; they were Greek, yet they spoke mostly Turkish. I noticed the other Greeks I met in the community were different than my grandparents. When I got to high school, after having lived in Greece for a year, I began asking questions of my grandmother, who told me many details of their Christian lives in a small town outside of Kayseri, then of the march out of Cappadocia, the ship to Greece that ran out of food as they had nowhere to put the refugees, finally debarking and being housed on the floor of a church until the parishioners got angry. She told me they were lucky; her father got a job as a teacher in orphanage, as he was educated, a teacher certified by the patriarchate and so ended up on Evia at an American run orphanage. My grandfather and great uncle had escaped with false visas more than ten years earlier. I never fully understood why, based on my reading, the accounts of my grandfather and his brother having to escape at age 14. Now I do. Now I understand why the accounts that I've read from different regions of Anatolia are so different. I appreciated the author's methodology to get to every ethnic and regional group, and all the political parties that put their two cents in and influenced all these people who didn't want to go anywhere. I have read all the history books and personal accounts I could find but all were clearly heavily biased and didn't reflect all of my grandparents' accounts. My grandparents never spoke ill of the Turkish people, only the Turkish soldiers. I wondered why my grandmother constantly referenced clothing, music, food, or anything to being Turkish-like. I wondered how they came to be called Greeks when my grandfather's written family history shows them having lived in the same valley for at least three hundred years. His ancestors were Persian; my grandmother's were from one of the -stahn countries, southeast of the Caspian Sea. Their family photos looked Mongolian, not Greek. I once asked my grandmother how she could leave her home, her parents and siblings in Greece to marry a man she'd never met in the United States. (She never saw her parents again and didn't see her siblings for forty five years.) Her answers were forever etched in my mind. First: She didn't like the Greek "boys" and where they were living wasn't "home." The man she was to marry was from her own village, and although she didn't know him other than to have seen him at church he was their kind. Second was a lesson for my own marriage and a theme discussed in the book when refugee Christians moved into Muslim homes and shared their homes until the Muslims were deported. "Any two people can live together forever and be happy, if they both work at it." It seems that any two peoples can live together forever and be happy, if there are no politicians involved. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good first introduction By Cloud
This is the first book I read on this subject. It's a good introduction, in that instead of giving the higher level, abstracted view of what happened to the peoples involved, it gives first person accounts from the exchangees themselves. Thus it keeps the impact of political machinations on individuals, families and communities its focus. I believe that's a valuable perspective through which to assess and analyze any other accounts we read.

In the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire following World War I, nearly two million citizens in Turkey and Greece were expelled from homelands. The Lausanne treaty resulted in the deportation of Orthodox Christians from Turkey to Greece and of Muslims from Greece to Turkey. The transfer was hailed as a solution to the problem of minorities who could not coexist. Both governments saw the exchange as a chance to create societies of a single culture. The opinions and feelings of those uprooted from their native soil were never solicited. In an evocative book, Bruce Clark draws on new archival research in Turkey and Greece as well as interviews with surviving participants to examine this unprecedented exercise in ethnic engineering. He examines how the exchange was negotiated and how people on both sides came to terms with new lands and identities. Politically, the population exchange achieved its planners' goals, but

the enormous human suffering left shattered legacies. It colored relations between Turkey and Greece, and has been invoked as a solution by advocates of ethnic separation from the Balkans to South Asia to the Middle East. This thoughtful book is a timely reminder of the effects of grand policy on ordinary people and of the difficulties for modern nations in contested regions where people still identify strongly with their ethnic or religious community.

From Publishers Weekly At the conclusion of a bloody war in 1923, Greece and Turkey agreed to a "population exchange" that sent over a million Turkish Orthodox Christians to Greece and nearly half a million Greek Muslims to Turkey. The result, argues this absorbing study, was a humanitarian nightmare that sheds light on the conundrums of religion, ethnicity and identity in the modern age. Drawing on archival research and (sometimes rambling) oral histories from aging survivors, journalist Clark recounts the political wranglings between two countries intent on ridding themselves of potentially troublesome minorities and consolidating a shaky sense of national unity. The author surveys the traumatic exoduses and revisits the cosmopolitan Ottoman communities where Christians and Muslims had coexisted for centuries that were torn apart by the expulsions. The story abounds with ironies, as Turkish-speaking Christians are uprooted and shipped overseas to assume an unfamiliar but supposedly truer Greek nationality, crossing paths along the way with Greek-speaking Muslims reluctantly on their way to take over the Christians' vacated Turkish homes. Clark contends that the mass expulsions were a model for similar, sometimes de facto, transfers after WWII in Europe, India and Palestine; his gripping, sensitive history highlights the costs of such expedient policies. 14 bw photos, 3 maps. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. At the conclusion of a bloody war in 1923, Greece and Turkey agreed to a "population exchange" that sent over a million Turkish Orthodox Christians to Greece and nearly half a million Greek Muslims to Turkey. The result, argues this absorbing study, was a humanitarian nightmare that sheds light on the conundrums of religion, ethnicity and identity in the modern age...Clark contends that the mass expulsions were a model for similar, sometimes de facto, transfers after WWII in Europe, India and Palestine; his gripping, sensitive history highlights the costs of such expedient policies. (Publishers Weekly 2006-06-05) In *Twice a Stranger: The Mass Expulsions that Forged Modern Greece and Turkey*, Bruce Clark, the international security editor of *The Economist*, explores...the population exchange that helped create modern-day Greece and Turkey. Weaving together a rich variety of sources--interviews with some of the last surviving eyewitnesses, documents and accounts from the time, research by local historians in Greece and Turkey--Clark tells both the diplomatic and human stories of the exchange. He shows how 20th-century nationalist ideology affected the lives of ordinary people caught in its wake, raising complicated issues of identity that transcended each side's claims about who was "Turkish" and who was "Greek." (Belinda Cooper *New York Times Book* 2006-09-17) A book about something that happened in the 1920s cannot always be expected to raise acute questions about the world today; the power of this book is the terrifying way that it does...Clark has tracked down nonagenarian Greeks and Turks who remember the pre-exchange world. These reminiscences, plus the story of the exchange, are judiciously intertwined to make for a pacy read, which also explains how the exchanges forged modern Greece and Turkey. (Tim Judah *The Observer* 2006-06-18) Bruce Clark's fascinating account of these turbulent events draws on new archival research in Greece and Turkey, and interviews with some of the surviving refugees, allowing them to speak for themselves for the first time. (*New Europe* 2006-01-08) While Greece and Turkey remain antagonistic, there lingers a deep cultural and emotional tie between them which is puzzling to outsiders, and which Clark's excellent book does much to explain...The story Clark tells is complex, but it reminds us that ethnic homogeneity--the dream of nationalists throughout the last century--is illusory. Multiculturalism is not new, it is a return to what was the normal state of affairs before the upheavals of the 20th century. (Andrew Crumey *Scotland on Sunday* 2006-03-05) A wise new book...Clark is particularly good on the human cost of the exchange, which he illustrates with first-hand testimony, much of it new, of almost unbearable poignancy. (Brendan Simms *Sunday Times* 2006-03-05) [A] brilliant book...Coming from Northern Ireland, Clark is well placed to comment on this riot of religious, ethnic, historical and political tensions. His analysis of the broad picture and the horse-trading at Lausanne is fair and unsentimental...*Twice a Stranger* is a book that needed to be written, and Bruce Clark has achieved it superbly. He has made a complex subject accessible. Anyone with an interest in Greece or Turkey ought to read it. (John de Falbe *Daily Telegraph* 2006-03-04) Absorbing and thorough...Clark's history is welcome for shedding light upon this 'giant divorce settlement,' an event that is barely known beyond the Aegean, largely because its architects were quick to close the book on a pitiless exercise in political expediency...With Turkey's ongoing interest in joining an insistently multicultural European Union, and the current state of relations between Muslims and the West, *Twice a Stranger* cannot fail to ring with topical resonance...This is a welcome and readable account of what it means to be twice a stranger: both in the place where you were born and in the place where you grow old. (Jeremy Seal *Sunday Telegraph* 2006-03-19) [An] excellent new book...The power of Clark's book lies not in its diplomatic history, which is concise and balanced, but in his sympathy for the communities and individuals wrenched from their real homes and dumped in alien 'homelands'...Clark finds abundant space for the complex communities whose religion, language and customs no longer fitted in a world re-ordered by the dreadful simplicity of nationalist ideology. (Daniel Howden *The Independent* 2006-04-05) [Clark] knows Greece and Turkey deeply and at first hand, and shows admirable fair-

mindfulness as well as the clever manner of presentation which you have to have if these complicated matters are to be explained to a foreign readership...Bruce Clark brings up the factual baggage-train, and good for him. (Norman Stone Literary 2006-04-01)[A] meticulously researched and balanced account...This book is an important piece of history, for Clark has captured some of the memories of the last, nonagerian, survivors of the expulsion. His knowledge of Greek brings alive recollections that will soon go to the grave. (Marcus Tanner The Tablet 2006-03-25)[A] thoughtful and deeply moving book. (Michael Kerrigan The Scotsman 2006-04-01)In this marvellous book, Bruce Clark contrives to interleaf the macro (or megallo) story with the micro one. He presents a lucid summary of the events that led to this state-sponsored deportation...Clark has a real sympathy for his subjects as well as his subject, he has a true facility in Greek dialects and he manages to evoke a genuine melancholy while avoiding the sentimental...In Bosnia and in Kosovo most recently, international statecraft has been concerned more with redressing previous cleansings than with cementing or confirming them, and the Lausanne precedent is often cited as the negative one. Bruce Clark's book furnishes ghostly and ghastly evidence that for all its difficulties this policy is probably more practical as well as more ethical. I must add that he writes in that almost invisibly good and clear English that I thought had begun to die out of our journalism. (Christopher Hitchens The Spectator 2006-04-08)Clark's book is a timely reminder not only of man's inhumanity to man, and of our duty to avoid it, but also of the fact that throughout most of modern history it was considered right and natural that war and conflict should be ended by treaty, and that unless and until someone was able and willing to reverse the situation on the ground, the treaty would normally follow the maxim 'what you have you hold' (uti possidetis). While making explicit the price that had to be paid for peace between Greece and Turkey, Bruce Clark does not shirk from what he calls 'a truth that is awkward from a liberal, modern point of view'--the fact that the price was not wasted. He has written a book that can be read, not with pleasure, but with interest, and certainly with profit. (Andrew Mango Times Literary Supplement 2006-06-02)[Clark's] fascinating and moving account of those turbulent times--with first-hand testimony from those involved--sheds new light and meaning on an enormous exercise in ethnic engineering...[An] important new book. (Keith Richmond The Tribune 2006-03-31)A compellingly educational, yet shocking read. (Natalie Hoare Geographical)The story of this 'population exchange' and its ramifications is evocatively told by Bruce Clark...[He] blends the personal histories of refugees and their descendants with an astute account of the larger diplomatic forces that shaped their lives...The scars of this population exchange are still visible in Greece and Turkey today--in ruined and abandoned churches and mosques, and also in familial ties that span the Aegean...Clark warns us that ethnic resettlement, even with a transparent veneer of respectability bestowed by the international community, is a tragedy with repercussions that last long after families are transplanted and borders redrawn. (Michael Petrou Maclean's 2006-05-29)Clark's impressive work leads us through the negotiations, agreements and aftermath of the 1923 Lausanne Convention...Bruce Clark tells his history with compelling clarity and doesn't neglect the human side. The book's sympathies lie with the ordinary people of all communities, uprooted by forces beyond their control. (Jimmy Roussounis Ham and High 2006-03-17)Clark's refugees are a valuable corrective to the policymakers' fondness for organizing other people's lives, and... the tinge of nostalgia which permeates this lucid analysis offers its own message for the future. (Mark Mazower London of Books 2006-08-03)Clark treats brilliantly both the macrohistory of the war and diplomacy leading to the expulsions and the several local histories of those different communities uprooted in order to become Turks living in Turkey and Greeks living in Greece. (L. Carl Brown Foreign Affairs 2007-01-01)Clark presents a nicely written, journalistic narrative history of the 1923 Greek-Turkish population exchange that followed WW I. He discusses in an engaging and often poignant style the deportation of the nearly two million citizens--Orthodox Christians from Turkey and Muslims from Greece--that was overseen by a recently formulated international community and implemented by the postwar Turkish and Greek governments. Clark does an excellent job of bringing readers into the story at the levels of both what he calls "high politics" and the "lives of ordinary people." (R. A. Miller Choice 2007-07-01)Twice a Stranger never loses sight of the painful experience of losing homes and homelands. Clark skilfully presents many poignant firsthand accounts of the population exchange. He draws on both his own interviews with Greeks and Turks and work by local historians such as Iskender zsoy, a journalist from the town of Tuzla on the Sea of Marmara. zsoy regrets that his work did not start even sooner; but Clark, zsoy, and others fortunately did not wait until it was too late altogether. Clark, for his part, has compiled a remarkable body of testimony about the heavy human cost of forced migration...Twice a Stranger is a fascinating book that should be read. (Ben Lieberman Journal of Genocide Research 2007-01-01)Read Bruce Clark's excellent Twice a Stranger on the effects of the Lausanne population exchange and the psyche of modern Greece. (Roger Cohen New York Times online 2011-06-20)About the AuthorBruce Clark is the international security editor of The Economist. He was formerly diplomatic correspondent of the Financial Times and Reuters Athens correspondent.