

Odyssey Across the Aegean: The Refugee Movement of Greek Jews (1943 – 1944) and the Network of Actors Determining their Way

Abstract

The refugee movement of Greek Jews fleeing from Axis-occupied Greece to Turkey constitutes one of several migration movements unfolding in the Aegean as a result of the Second World War. During 1943 and 1944 approximately 1,500 Jews escaped to Turkey by boat, travelling from Evia to Çeşme and assisted by a range of actors at different levels (individual, corporate, collective). This presentation intertwines individual refugee experience with a meso perspective tracing the network(s) of actors determining the framework within which individuals acted. Hence, it situates specific experience within the sociopolitical and geopolitical structure that functioned as the framework of collective and individual agency.

Bio

Julia Fröhlich is a PhD-student of Turkish Studies at the department of Oriental Studies at Vienna University. In her thesis, she examines the refugee movement of Greek Jews fleeing across the Aegean to Turkey by intertwining a variety of perspectives, thereby focusing both on the individual and collective as well as corporate entities determining the external structures within which individuals acted. In addition to Turkish Studies, she graduated in English and History. Julia Fröhlich is editorial manager of the academic journal *Diyâr*, which deals with the Ottoman Empire and its successor states, Turkey, Central Asia, Iran, and the Caucasus. Up to now, she has published several contributions on Turkish-Jewish relations and the 'Türkei-Deutschen', the German (minority) group living in Turkey (esp. 19th – mid 20th century), and has presented parts of her research at conferences throughout Europe (including Italy, Poland, Turkey and the UK) and the US.