

Georgios Streit and Emmanouil Emmanouilidis on the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne

Markos Carelos (Newcastle/Zürich)

Abstract

Two Greek politicians, Georgios Streit (1868–1948) and Emmanouil Emmanouilidis (1867–1943), and their perspectives on the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the compulsory population exchange are the focus of this lecture. Their respective intellectual trajectories are traced and their radically different criticisms towards the treaty are characterised through their writings and the discussion of their activities.

Streit, of Saxonian descent, was Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1914 and Professor of International Law in Athens. A proponent of Greek neutrality in World War I and accused of Germanophilia, Streit took a leading role in Greek Royalist propaganda efforts in the Swiss exile of ousted King Constantine I following the National Schism. A member of numerous international bodies, and also the League of Nations, Streit remained in Switzerland until the mid-1920s and did not witness the developments in Greece in person. He came to view the compulsory population exchange as irreconcilable with international law while remaining duty bound to a specific narrative of the fate of Greece's monarchy during World War I.

The Cappadocian Emmanouilidis practiced law while active as a journalist, quickly became involved in local politics in İzmir/Smyrna after 1900, and ardently supported the 1908 Young Turk Revolution and Ottomanism. He was then elected into parliament for the Committee of Union and Progress, exposing himself to harsh criticism by Ottoman Greeks and held his seat until the end of World War I. Emmanouilidis voiced his opposition to the population exchange from an early point. He continued his political career in post-Lausanne Greece, eventually became a Minister under Venizelos' 1928-1932 government and advocated for relief and compensation of the up to 1.2 million exchangees and refugees.

The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the attached convention specifying the conditions for the compulsory exchange of minority populations between Greece and Turkey have remained politically and historiographically controversial. A side by side rather than a comparison, the analysis of the Streit's and Emmanouilidis' trajectories and perspectives, both marginalised for different reasons, offers insights into facets of contemporary Greek political thought on the Treaty of Lausanne.

Bio

Markos P. Carelos, born in Athens in 1986, studied Literature and History at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, in 2006-2016. In 2012-2015 he worked as a research assistant at the Chair for History of Technology at ETH Zurich. Markos has been enrolled at both the University of Newcastle, Australia, and the University of Zurich in a Dual Award Doctoral Degree since 2017. In his thesis, he examines two Greek politicians and intellectuals, Georgios Streit and Emmanouil Emmanouilidis, and their views on the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. Apart from late Ottoman history, Markos' research interests include nationalism studies and the history of science/technology.