Late imperial expulsions: International law and the ends of Ottoman Empire Umut Özsu (Ottawa)

Abstract

Historians and sociologists have done much to enrich our understanding of the Ottoman Empire's disintegration over the course of its final decade. Yet comparatively little is known about the way this process of dissolution registered on the plane of international law. This talk will address some of the specifically legal dimensions of the Ottoman Empire's fragmentation, focusing in particular on the role played by international law (and international organizations like the League of Nations) in the compulsory 'population exchange' between Greece and post-Ottoman Turkey during the 1920s.

Bio

Umut Özsu is Associate Professor at the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. He is a scholar of public international law, the history and theory of international law, and Marxist critiques of law, rights, and the state. He is the author of Formalizing Displacement: International Law and Population Transfers (Oxford University Press, 2015), and is currently finalizing Completing Humanity: The International Law of Dpecolonization, 1960–82 (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). He is also co-editor of the Research Handbook on Law and Marxism (Edward Elgar, 2021) and The Extraterritoriality of Law: History, Theory, Politics (Routledge, 2019).