

## **Beyond 'hereditary enmity': Greek-Turkish Relations in the Interwar Period**

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### **Abstract**

The perception of Greek-Turkish relations in terms of a hereditary enmity has become today a true commonplace in public consciousness. It refers historically to irredentist antagonism in the “long” 19th century culminating in the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-22, as well as to entangled conflicts in the second half of the 20th century (Cyprus, Aegean, Minorities), and seems to be confirmed by the current tensions between the two countries about economic exploitation rights in the Eastern Mediterranean and, not the least, the refugee- and migration-crisis. However, this is only one side of historical reality, and the interwar period poses a clear counterpoint to the narrative of a hereditary enmity. It was characterized by a strong rapprochement between the two countries that culminated even in an official pact of friendship signed in 1930 between Venizelos and Kemal. The lecture will analyze the preconditions and intentions, as well as the implications and perspectives of this Greek-Turkish rapprochement in the regional context of Southeast European politics.

### **Bio**

Ioannis Zelepos is a historian and cultural scientist. He studied General History, Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek Philology in Hamburg and Thessaloniki, holds a PhD in Eastern European History from the FU Berlin and a Venia in Southeast European History and Modern Greek Studies from the University of Vienna. He is currently working at the Center for Mediterranean Studies of the Ruhr-University of Bochum. His research interests focus i.a. on Greece and Cyprus in the 19th and 20th centuries, history of Greek migration, and early modern religious identities, enlightenment and nationalism in Southeast Europe.