

WHY THE 1922 EXCHANGE OF POPULATION? TO FIND A RESPONSE FROM OTTOMAN PAST

Abstract

1922 Exchange of Population (Mübadele) has been known as the first exchange of population in the modern world. In fact, the Mübadele was not the first attempt in the Ottoman Empire.

Since 1840s, the Ottoman Empire sometimes came face to face this option/solution. To be a multi-identities empire during the nationalism era, it was inevitable to meet with this option. In the face of minorities' claim and the Great powers' oppression, the Ottoman governments produced various political response (military solution, demographic solution : forced migration and forced settlement etc.). Mübadele was always last solution, especially when the new political boundaries drawn and recognized, the Ottoman power proposed exchange of population to solve ethnic problems; i.e. Bulgarian in 1913, and Armenian in 1920s.

Actually for the first time, Mübadele was proposed by the Great powers in 1840s, in the aim to solve Lebanon crises. Besides examining historical background of Mübadele, this paper also aims to analyze the mental process, during which the Mübadele idea became a 'rational' solution by all parties, the Great Powers, Ottoman Empire and minorities.