

## **Abstract:**

During the 1913 to 1918 period, the properties of two large Ottoman communities, Greeks and Armenians, were seized through special laws, known as the *Abandoned Properties Laws*, connected to a central policy, which removed these people from their homes. The policies carried out against each of them did have some differences. However, these dissimilarities were not formulated within the framework of ethnic and religious differences but were determined by the changing policies followed by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) government in different periods and circumstances. Careful distinctions were made not only between Greeks and Armenians, but also within each of these communities through laws and decrees.

In this work, *Abandoned Properties Laws* that were legislated between 1915-1923 and after 1923 for the administration of movable and immovable properties of Greek citizens of the Ottoman Empire who were subjected to the Deportation Law alongside Armenians (*Tehcir Kanunu*) on 27 May 1915 will be analyzed. The effects of this so-called legal legislation on changing hands of Greek properties will be demonstrated in detail.

In addition to that, laws, legal rules, decrees and regulations aiming at preventing Greek population--who wanted to return their places from the locations where they were deported after 1918-- from their returns and taking over their properties back will also be scrutinized.

At the final analysis, it will be argued that this dispossession process constituted by *Abandoned Properties Laws* reached its climax and thus was completed in to a large extent as a result of the Turkish-Greek Population Exchange in 1923. Legal applications and laws regarding Greek properties legislated between 1915-1922 and after 1923 are required to be unearthed in order to understand economic outcomes of the Turkish-Greek Population Exchange. In this respect, it will be claimed that the Turkish-Greek Population Exchange in 1923 has been continuation of dispossession process of non-Muslims that was carried out through law.

