The Effects of Compulsory Exchange of minority Turkish and Greek populations on the Cultural Heritage in Anatolia

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Abstract

Compulsory Exchange has been the cause of lifelong trauma to the people who were forced to migrate from their homes and countries and the thousand year legacy they left behind has been roughly used, neglected or and even changed in identity.

Today, most of the grandchildren of these migrants who have visited these places (cities, towns, churches and mosques) which were once their homes, followed the old pictures, memories and stories of their grandparents, to search for and revitalise their roots in the hope of finding something recognisable in the ashes of the past. But sadly what they usually see is not as bright and clear as the pictures in their minds. Because both traditional identity and cultural heritage such as houses, religious monuments, hammams, public buildings, schools etc had been so changed by new users as they could not familiarize them easily

The centerpiece of my study, and the basis for comparative work, is the towns of Foça, Buca, Çorum, Ordu, Safranbolu in Anatolia.

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