



# DIASPORA: RESEARCH, REFLECTION AND RELATIONSHIP (About the life of the Greek diaspora in Uzbekistan)

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## ABSTRACT

*The article examines the process of resettlement of Greeks, expelled from their homeland as a result of World War II, the life of the Greek diaspora in Uzbekistan, gratuitous aid provided to Greeks, along with representatives of other nationalities, based on the principles of humanity, care and tolerance inherent in the people of Uzbekistan in the most difficult times.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Diaspora, global issues, World War II, democratic forces, persecution, humanity, caring, tolerance.*

## 1. RELEVANCE

Today, there are more than 200 countries in the world, and more than 3,000 nations and ethnic groups live in these countries. One of the peculiarities of human development is the migration processes of the world's population. This process became one of the global issues in the world by the twentieth century. In turn, these nations and peoples formed diasporas with different cultures, lifestyles and languages.

Diasporas are formed as a result of forced or voluntary migration of the population.

The rapid growth and deepening of immigration in the world has led to talk about the diaspora, to express opinions about them.

The world's leading scientific institutions are conducting research in priority areas of socio-economic and political life of the diaspora, including the emergence and prospects of the diaspora, the role of the diaspora in socio-economic development, political aspects of the life of the diaspora, the role of the diaspora in migration processes, the importance of transcultural and cross-border aspects in the formation of diasporas.

Currently, many researchers are studying the problems of diaspora, its origin, dynamics, the impact of diasporas on the demographic process of states, their role in the socio-political, economic and cultural life of countries, the problems associated with diasporaization.

Research on the history of the diaspora and its place in society is carried out by a number of researchers and scholars of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is a multinational state. Representatives of more than 130 nationalities and nationalities live on the territory of our country as a single family. The issue of preservation, further development and enrichment of national traditions and values of different nationalities and ethnic groups in the Republic is in the constant focus of our state. In addition, Article 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that "*the people of Uzbekistan, regardless of nationality, are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan*" [1]. Article 18 of the Constitution states that, "*In the Republic of Uzbekistan, all citizens have the same rights and freedoms and are equal before the law, regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personal and social status*" [2]. The reflection of this right in our Basic Law serves as the basis for ensuring freedom of conscience and religion for people of different nationalities living in our country.

On earth today, every nation and people live as a whole, or most of them, forming national diasporas in a particular region. The national and ethnic composition of Uzbekistan is also diverse. One of the more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country is the Greek nation with this ancient history. The study of the Greek diaspora, who were relocated to Uzbekistan as political migrants in the years following World War II, is also a topical issue today.

In the post-war years, the transition of the Uzbek economy to peaceful construction was difficult. After the war, the Uzbeks, who had made a



significant contribution to the victory over fascism, faced the difficult task of transforming the militarized economy into a peaceful one, bringing it to the pre-war level and developing it. Despite such difficult years, our people have shown zeal not only in the restoration of the national economy, but also in the generous humanitarian aid to the displaced Greeks who were deported to Uzbekistan. The horrors of World War II, which had the most devastating consequences in world history, were also felt by the Greek people throughout their lives. They will never forget the severe injuries and consequences of the war. In this regard, it is of scientific and practical importance to study that the Greeks who were resettled in our country were able to live in this country and find their place in society as a result of the tolerance, humanity and care of the people of Uzbekistan.

## 2. METHODS AND LEVEL OF STUDY

The article is based on the principles of generally accepted historical methods - historical, comparative and logical analysis, consistency, objectivity. It describes the socio-political changes that took place in Greece as a result of the Second World War, the situation of the representatives of this nation, who were expelled from their homeland due to the civil war and forced to seek refuge in other countries. In turn, as a result of the persecution, the Greeks were deported to Uzbekistan. The article also mentions the residence of representatives of this nation in our republic, in turn, their participation in the socio-political and spiritual processes of the country, as well as the role of the high qualities of the people of Uzbekistan in their lives.

The civil war in Greece, and the subsequent expulsion of some members of the democratic army from the country, is reflected in a number of works and articles by foreign researchers Edgar O'Ballance (1966), Govard Jons (1989), Major Frank J. Abbott (1994), T. Lomperis (1996), Jeykob Berkovich, Richard Jekson (1997), Jose Cristy (1999), Nikos Marantzidis, Giorgos Antonio (2004), Frank H. Zimmerman (2007), Michael B, O' Sullivan (2010), Katelyn Squires. Erisian Mysteries (2018), A.Kojanov (2014), S. Balashkin (2018) and others.

In many research works of W.Connor (1994), J.Clifford (1994), R.Cohen (1997), Mary Lodigiani (2015), G.Sheffer (2003), U.Safran (2004), M.A.Astvatsaturova (2002), V.I.Dyatlov (1999, 2015), T.S.Illarionova, Z.I.Levin (2001), A.V.Militarev (1999), T.V.Poloskova (1999), V.Д. Popkov (2003), V.A.Tishkov (2000), J.T.Toshenko (1996), T.I.Chaptikova (1996), A.Ataev (2015) and others, we see not only the interpretation of their views on a wide range of issues related to the diaspora, but also a lively debate.

Scientific articles, monographs and works of R.H.Murtazaeva (2010, 2016, 2019), A.S.Sagdullaev (2018), K.Saipova (2018), J.N.Abduraxmanova (2018), B.Haynazarov (2018), A.Odilov (2019) ), D.Inoyatova (2019) and a number of other researchers cover the diasporas in Uzbekistan, the tolerance, care, humanity of the people of Uzbekistan towards the minority in our country, the conditions created for them in our country.

In turn, along with the representatives of other nationalities living in Uzbekistan, the Greek diaspora, the history of this diaspora and its current state is one of the most important topics for researchers to study.

## 3. RESEARCH RESULTS

If we look at the history of the resettlement of Greeks in Uzbekistan, we can see the direct impact of World War II.

After the outbreak of World War II, Greece, along with other European countries, fell into the whirlpool of fascism. On October 28, 1940, Italian troops invaded Greece[3]. The Greek people fought against the Italian troops and drove them out of the country in November. However, although the Greeks struck the Italian troops and drove them out of the country, they did not escape the onslaught of the fascist invaders.

On April 6, 1941, Hitler's German army invaded the country, and on June 2, they completely occupied Greece[4]. At that time, the authorities in the country tried to save their lives by compromising with the enemy. The liberal Greek people began to fight for freedom.

The National Liberation Front was formed on September 27, 1941 by patriotic forces to fight the invaders in the country. By December 1941, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was formed. [5]. The liberation forces fought the Nazis. As a result of these struggles, by the summer of 1944, 2/3 of the country had been liberated from the invaders. However, at a time when the struggle against fascism was going on in Greece, a government called "National Solidarity" was formed abroad in May 1944 to seize power and this government will enter Athens in October of this year with the help of British troops to suppress the anti-fascist movement in the country. They are trying to disarm the People's Liberation Army. On February 12, 1945, the Varkiz Agreement was signed between the government and the National Liberation Front[6]. The agreement promised to abolish martial law, declare a general amnesty (amnesty), disband all armed forces, hold a plebiscite on the state system and take other measures. The National Liberation Front kept its promise to disarm the People's Liberation Army (PLA). But the government did not keep its promise. Elections were held by the government in March 1946, and a plebiscite in September 1946 [7]. However, both this



election and the plebiscite were rigged, held in an atmosphere of terror, and the monarchy was restored in the country. After the restoration of the monarchy, the government tried to destroy the democratic forces in the country. As a result, a civil war broke out in Greece. In October 1946, a democratic army was formed by progressive forces [8]. This army fought for three years for national independence, democracy and social development. Eventually, the army liberated part of the country and a democratic interim government was formed. However, the protracted war had put the democratic forces in a difficult position. In 1949, the Provisional Government decided to abandon large-scale military operations and to continue the struggle of the workers with economic and political demands [9]. In October 1949, the defeated Democratic Army stopped the armed resistance [10]. The civil war in Greece ended with the complete victory of the monarchy.

The defeated forces were forced to leave their country and seek refuge and refuge in neighboring states. Some of the Greeks who came to the former Soviet Union were deported to Uzbekistan in 1949. In October-November this year, 12,000 Greek political migrants arrived in Uzbekistan. Of these, 8,571 were men, 3,401 were women, and 28 were young children [11]. These people, expelled from their homeland and having lost their homeland, thanks to the humanity, care and tolerance of the Uzbek people, were able to survive, get a job and education in Uzbekistan. As a result, the Greeks got jobs in factories and plants, and also received shelter. Although the Uzbek people went through difficult times after the war, they gifted their generous assistance to these migrants. Some funds were allocated for the evacuees, and various courses were organized for them to get an education and acquire a profession. Now they continued to work not only in schools in their chosen specialty, but also in secondary special education institutions and higher education institutions. According to sources, in the 1954–1955 school year, 600 Greek children graduated from 7th grade and 65 from 10th grade [12]. In the following years, their number increased even more. For example, in the 1972–1973 academic year, 3,050 young Greeks were enrolled in general secondary schools, specialized secondary schools, technical colleges and universities in the country [13].

By 1975, the monarchy in Greece was overthrown. A favorable political situation began to emerge in the country. The situation improved, and exiled Greek immigrants were given the opportunity to return to their homeland. As a result, most Greeks in Uzbekistan were able to return home. Some of them stayed in Uzbekistan without returning to Greece.

During the years of independence, the qualities of interethnic harmony and tolerance of our

people have further increased. Thanks to the stable policy pursued in our country, interethnic relations have further improved.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The noble qualities of the people of Uzbekistan towards minorities were also manifested in the difficult years after the Second World War. As a result of the tragic consequences of World War II, the Greeks were expelled from their homeland and came to Uzbekistan as migrants, and our people helped them live in this country, get used to social life, find their place and directly participate in the economy.

Even in the most difficult years of the Uzbek people, when Soviet ideology prevailed, in the tragic years of the war against fascism, in the difficult post-war years, the best traditions of Eastern spirituality were observed and took care of those who lost their homeland. In turn, we can see the noble qualities of our people, such as humanity and tolerance.

Thanks to the reforms aimed at ensuring interethnic harmony and freedom of religion, 16 religious denominations, more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups live in peace in our country. In addition, a wide range of opportunities has been created for them in the country, as a result of which national cultural centers of all nationalities have been established, today, along with more than 140 national cultural centers, the Society of Greek Culture, founded on March 4, 1997 in Tashkent, also operates.

Today, the policy of our state aimed at ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance has reached a new level.

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