



INVITATION

The War Archive is delighted to invite you to a presentation by **Vlassis Agtzidis** on **Saturday 26 May 2018 at 7.30 pm** on the topic

The historical end of the Ottoman Empire, the transformation of the Near East (1908-1923) and the issue of Genocide

The presentation will be in Greek

A brief introduction

Recently, the PM of Turkey Tayyip Erdogan , while on a pre-electoral campaign in Smyrna, referred to the burning of the city in 1922 by the retreating Greek army. Once again a relatively unknown page of the recent history of both Turkey and Greece resurfaced. Suffice to say that Erdogan's version of the destruction of the city has been refuted by the simple fact that the Greek Army had already escaped to Greece and that the Turkish army was in control of the city when Smyrna burned. The other version of these violent events which then become popular, was that the Armenians did it ! The truth, of course, is much nearer to the historic facts that the Turkish Army was the guilty party here, and that the burning of Smyrna and the attendant massacre of the population was part of a deliberate plan of ethnic cleansing.

The Greek authorities of the time were also culpable that this historic event was either pushed under the carpet or was just misinterpreted, as the Greek side also had its share of blame having participated in the triggering the whole tragic affair.

This presentation will try to put in perspective these events, as well as the much broader developments of WWI and of the Greek invasion of Asia Minor all leading to the transformation of the region.

The presenter

Vlasis Agtzidis was born in Salonica in 1956 and grew up in Athens. He studied in the Physics and Mathematics department of Athens University and holds a Ph.D in history from the department of History and Archaeology. His books and studies have received several state prizes including a prize from the Athens Academy on the history of the Greek diaspora of the Black Sea. He has published or edited 15 books and, since 1987, has been writing on history in various newspapers and magazines. He has also taught in various Greek University Departments and Schools.

He dedicates time to painting and sculpting and especially in abstract micropaintings.

The War Archive is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at afreeris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Archive 210-8676390 ,or mobile phone 69-98088220 by latest 24 /5/2018 as our space is limited.
