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**IN THE FIRST YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC  
POPULATION EXCHANGE STORIES FROM CRETE TO *SÖKE***

**ABSTRACT**

The period after the Balkan Wars and during World War I was signified by more and more nationalization of the Balkans and Anatolia. After the Lausanne Treaty in 1923, hundred thousands of people had to migrate from Turkey or Greece where they were born and grown up, because of the obligatory population exchange that was signed by the governments; so they left their country behind. This migration was not their decision, but determined their future. This population exchange is the greatest one that Anatolia and Greece have ever witnessed just in a little time in history. With this change, both countries were more homogenized on a national basis. Amongst the immigrants, Cretans who settled in Söke, were so special that their cultural, economic and even linguistic characteristics were so different from the others. The Turkish immigrants faced a lot of difficulties before and after they arrived in Söke. The adaptation process of 1923 immigrants is coming to an end in both Greece and Turkey. After beginning with historical situation, the research is based on narrations of emigrants and second and third generations about socio-cultural and economical life before and especially just after the migration. Moreover, changes of cultural, social and economic values in the process of adaptation to new social environment after some time and after migration were studied in terms of historic techniques.

**KEYWORDS**

Turkey, Greece, population exchange, migration, Crete, Söke