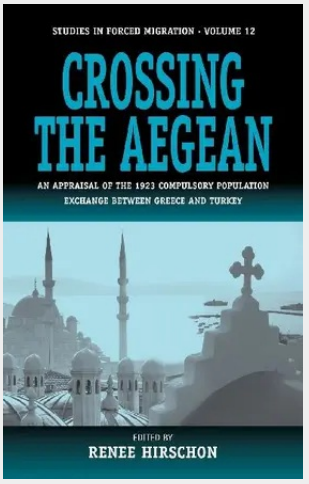
Hirschon

Crossing the Aegean

An Appraisal of the 1923 Compulsory Population Exchange between Greece and Turkey

Following the defeat of the Greek Army in 1922 by nationalist Turkish forces, the 1923 Lausanne Convention specified the first internationally ratified compulsory population exchange. It proved to be a watershed in the eastern Mediterranean, having far-reaching ramifications both for the new Turkish Republic, and for Greece which hadto absorb over a million refugees. Known as the Asia Minor Catastrophe by the Greeks, it marked the establishment of the independent nation state for the Turks. The consequences of this event have received surprisingly little attention despite the considerable relevance for the contemporary situation in the Balkans. This volume addresses the challenge of writing history from both sides of the Aegean and provides, for the first time, a forum for multidisciplinary dialogue across national boundaries.

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146,30 €
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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781571817679
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-57181-767-9
Verlag: Berghahn Books
Erscheinungstermin: 16.05.2003
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2003
Serie: Forced Migration
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 616 g
Seiten: 320
Format (B x H): 157 x 235 mm