

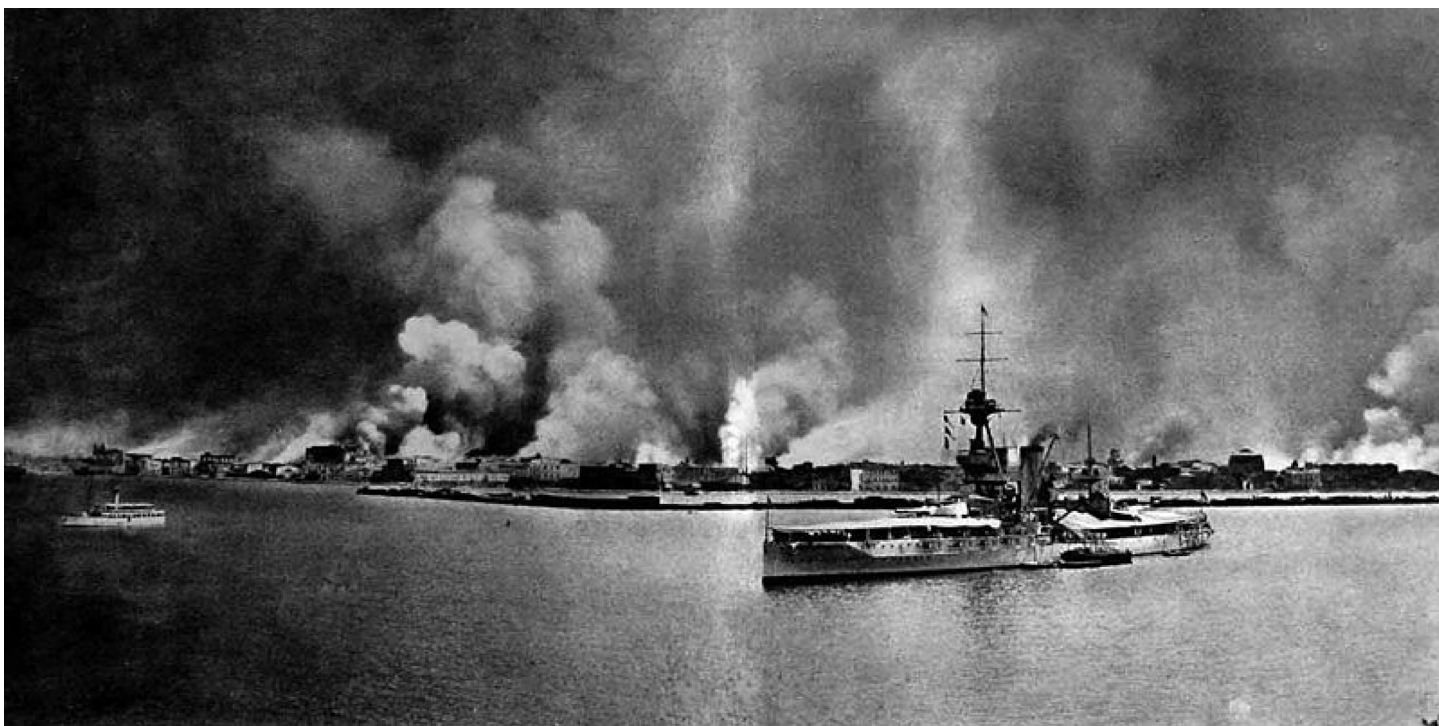


**ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER**

ONLINE & ON-SITE PROGRAM

100th Anniversary Commemoration

The Great Fire of Smyrna - The Genocide of Greeks in Asia Minor Remembered



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1:00 PM (CDT)

For thousands of years, Smyrna was the wealthiest of cities, located today on Turkey's Aegean coast. An elegant cosmopolitan city where Greeks, Armenians, Turks, Jews and others lived and worked together, Smyrna was a city known for religious tolerance.

But after the "Young Turks Revolution" and creation of a Nationalist government in 1919, a lethal campaign calling for the destruction and brutal persecution of the Christians of Asia Minor, Pontos, and East Thrace began.

The Great Fire of Smyrna started on September 13, 1922, after the Turkish armed forces entered Smyrna, a deliberate act by the Turkish government to destroy or expel Greeks and any other Christian population. The entire Greek and Armenian quarters of the city were destroyed, forcing the population to flee. Historians believe the number of victims was in the tens of thousands, while the number of refugees was over a million. Thousands of Greek and Armenian men were deported into the interior of Anatolia, where many died in brutal conditions. After the Smyrna Catastrophe, the Hellenic city, founded over 3,000 years before, a jewel of the Eastern Mediterranean, ceased to have a Hellenic community.

Join Illinois Holocaust Museum and the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center for an afternoon of discussion and presentations by renowned scholars and educators as they address one of the most tragic and major events in modern Greek history. Presenters will include:

George Shirinian, Author and Executive Director, Zoryan Institute

Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, Adjunct Assistant Professor at St. John's University and City University of New York

Dr. Paul Bartrop, Emeritus Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University

Kelley Szany, Senior Vice President of Education and Exhibitions, Illinois Holocaust Museum, and Co-Chair, Illinois Holocaust & Genocide Commission.

This commemoration is free to the public.

Register: <https://ihm.ec/smyrna2022>

Community Partners: The Chair for Pontic Studies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Hellenic American Leadership Council; The National Hellenic Museum; The Pan-Pontian Federation of USA and Canada; The UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture

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