

The Smyrna timeline

Dear friends,

I am happy to present you my Smyrna timeline. It is a list of events that are related to the history of Smyrna. It began as a companion for me in order to chronologically organize my research material and it soon grew out of proportions! I chose to start it from the Middle Ages, since Smyrna is much more often mentioned after this threshold. I will probably add antiquity later on. I also deliberately added 'global' milestones that may appear not have a direct link to Smyrna but seriously affected its history. The end for me is 1922. This is a decision that I intend to stick with because my Smyrna and many others' I suppose, ended then, only to be succeeded by something new and vivid but also so strange.

The themes

One can easily figure out why the themes were introduced. Perhaps it is not so obvious though, why the particular ones were chosen. I simply followed the rule "how would I prefer to sort the events". So far, it has been proven convenient but I am still open to your suggestions. For instance, 'Levantine' are missing but well, I am sure you agree that the term is so rich in content that intersects almost all of the existing ones.

Apologies

The list has been translated from Greek so inevitably there are several errors, especially in the names' spelling. Another thing that I would like to apologize for is the vast majority of events listed are about the Greeks of Smyrna, when compared to the other communities. This happened mainly for two reasons: my access to Greek references and my language skills. Just to let you know, apart from Greek, I speak English fluently, and I read French, German and Turkish with the help of a dictionary. However, it has never been my intention to narrow its perspective. Finally, I noticed that too many wars and diseases are in it. I am sorry but I have come to realize that these happen to be one of the driving forces of mankind that make history and that writers find noteworthy.....

How you could contribute

So if you share the same interests, this is where you can join this project. You can either propose a change in an existing record or create a brand new one, by mentioning the source that you found it and a theme for it. Speaking of the source, ideally I would like to include a primary source for every entry but that was not an easy task to begin with. I promise to return and add as many as possible.

What is next?

My wish is to watch the timeline grow, through the addition of more events that best reflect the history and evolution of all aspects of life of Smyrna, including the Levantine community of course. So, please send me your entries and I will happily add them. After all the hard work that you have done, I certainly trust your instincts, objectivity and your sense of what is important for us and others to see in such a list.

Achilleas Chatziconstantinou, 2011