

# **THE GREEKS IN AMERICA**

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The Greeks in America by J. P. Xenides

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**J. P. XENIDES**

**THE GREEKS  
IN AMERICA**



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BY

J. P. XENIDES

LATE OF ANATOLIA COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY, MARSOVAN, ASIA MINOR, AND SEC-  
RETARY GREEK RELIEF COMMITTEE,  
NEW YORK

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
CHARLES HATCH SEARS

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA



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**THE GREEKS IN AMERICA. II**

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## INTRODUCTION

The New American Series consists of studies of the following racial groups, together with a study of the Eastern Orthodox Churches:

Albanian and Bulgarian, Armenian and Assyrian-Chaldean, Czecho-Slovak, Greek, Italian, Jewish, Jugo-Slav (Croatian, Servian, Slovenian), Magyar, Polish, Russian and Ruthenian, or Ukrainian, Spanish (Spaniards) and Portuguese, Syrian.

These studies, made under the auspices of the Interchurch World Movement, were undertaken to show, in brief outline, the social, economic and religious background, European or Asiatic, of each group and to present the experience—social, economic and religious—of the particular group in America, with special reference to the contact of the given people with religious institutions in America.

It was designed that the studies should be sympathetic but critical.

It is confidently believed that this series will help America to appreciate and appropriate the spiritual wealth represented by the vast body of New Americans, each group having its own peculiar heritage and potentialities; and will lead Christian America, so far as she will read them, to become a better lover of mankind.

The writer, in each case, is a kinsman or has had direct and intimate relationship with the people, or group of peoples, presented. First hand knowledge and the ability to study and write from a deeply

sympathetic and broadly Christian viewpoint were primary conditions in the selection of the authors.

The author of this volume, Rev. J. P. Xenides, was born of Greek parents in Cæsarea, Asia Minor. His preparatory education was obtained in Asia Minor and Greece, his college course in Marsovan and his theological training at New College, Edinburgh. He taught for 20 years in Anatolia College and Marsovan Theological Seminary. He has traveled extensively in Greece and Asia Minor. He is secretary of the Greek Relief Committee in New York. His nationality, education and work peculiarly fit him to write this book.

These manuscripts were published through the courtesy of the Interchurch World Movement with the coöperative aid of various denominational boards, through the Home Missions Council of America, and the Council of Women for Home Missions.

At this writing arrangements have been made for the publication of only six of the Series, namely: Czecho-Slovak, Greek, Italian, Magyar, Polish and Russian, but other manuscripts will be published as soon as funds or advance orders are secured.

A patient review of all manuscripts, together with a checking up of facts and figures, has been made by the Associate Editor, Dr. Frederic A. Gould, to whom we are largely indebted for statistical and verbal accuracy. The editor is responsible for the general plan and scope of the studies and for questions of policy in the execution of this work.

CHARLES HATCH SEARS.



## PREFACE

The subject of the present study is one dear to the writer's heart, and on which he has been brooding for years. Many statements express the outcome of his long experience as an educator and worker in the Greek Field in Asia Minor, Greece and the United States.

Valuable information was obtained from personal interviews and discussion of the topics treated here with prominent clergymen and laymen in the Greek communities in the United States. Among them, he would mention Archbishop Meletis of Athens; Bishop Alexander Rodostolou of New York; Rev. J. Alexopoulos of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Prof. Carrol Brown of the College of the City of New York; Prof. Theodore Ion, attorney and member of the Hellenic American Society, New York City; Mr. Frank W. Jackson, attorney and chairman of the Relief Committee for Greeks of Asia Minor; Rev. Thos. Lacey of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Prof. A. E. Phoutrides of Harvard University; Rev. D. Callimahos of Brooklyn, N. Y.; M. Geo. Caranicholas, New York City; Dr. R. Demos of Harvard; Dr. S. I. Paul, Springfield, Mass.; representatives of the prominent Greek papers, especially *Atlantis* and *National Herald*, and many other friends and acquaintances.

As a speaker of the Near East Relief, the writer visited several of the outstanding Greek communities of the country, such as Boston, Lowell, Haverhill, Springfield, Holyoke, and Pittsfield, Mass.; Newark, Trenton, and Orange, N. J.; Albany, Troy,

Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, N. Y.; Erie, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and S. Bethlehem, Pa.; Washington, D. C.; Canton, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown, Ohio; Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.; and Chicago, Ill. Local matters were observed and leaders interviewed at each place.

Questionnaires were sent out in the spring of 1920 to all the Priests, Greek Protestant pastors and other prominent Orthodox leaders in different parts of America. Those who responded to the request supplied valuable, suggestive and informing material.

Among the various books and articles consulted, the following should be mentioned with grateful acknowledgment: *Hellenism, or Greeks in America*, by S. G. Canoutas, New York; *Greek Immigration*, by Prof. H. P. Fairchild, of N. Y. University; *Greeks in America*, by Rev. Thomas Burgess. Much valuable information was derived from the *Atlantis* and *National Herald*, as both give daily important and interesting news about the Greeks in America.

The writer would take this opportunity to thank warmly all the friends who gave time and attention to answering his questions and giving valuable help. He begs specially to thank Rev. Thos. Burgess of New York, who kindly read the manuscript and made many helpful and valuable suggestions. The present work was prepared in the spring of 1920 for the Interchurch World Movement. Owing to the discontinuance of that organization, its printing was delayed. Meanwhile—between the summer of 1920 and the end of 1921—such significant events took place in Greece and the Near East as to affect greatly conditions in the Greek communities in America. Under the pressure of other duties the writer revised a number of paragraphs and added some new material to meet and explain the new conditions and changes.

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The work is incomplete and sketchy, as there was no time to make a complete survey of the entire field and all did not answer the questionnaire. Still the ground covered is representative of the whole field and throws light on the entire subject under discussion.

J. P. X.