

Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC)

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October 27, 2006

Letter to the Editor, The following is in response to Michael Rubin's October 19 critique of the Islamist movement in Turkey. Although Mr. Rubin is correctly fearful of Turkey's future, much of his analysis is propagandistic and derives from a vision of a Turkish state that has never existed. Mr. Rubin laments the attempt of Islamists to establish an Islamic State, but Mr. Erdogan and his movement could not have succeeded save for the failure and collapse of Mustafa Kemal's Revolution. Mr. Rubin completely ignores the Kemalist establishment's repression of Turkish dissidents Ragip Zarakolu and Orhan Pamuk. Furthermore, the distorted view of history promoted by Mr. Rubin fails to discuss the systematic genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Greek Orthodox minority under various Turkish leaderships over the decades. The notorious anti-Greek pogroms of 1955, the systematic deportations of Armenians, Jews, and Greeks into Anatolian labor camps during the Second World War, and the genocide of Christian Greeks, Armenians, and Assyrians that paved the way for Mustafa Kemal's dictatorship are all conveniently ignored by Mr. Rubin. It is the systematic acquiescence to Turkish atrocities by American officials and writers such as Mr. Rubin that protected the Turkish paramilitary State over many decades, thus destroying democracy and allowing Islamic militancy to emerge as the main opposition against Kemalist authoritarianism.

Islamic militants are not the only terrorists in Turkey. Turkish security forces have been openly supporting the Grey Wolves. In 1996, these notorious fascists slaughtered four Greek Cypriots.

Recent US reports shed light on the fate of the missing Greek Cypriots and mainland Greeks captured during the Turkish invasions of Cyprus in 1974 -- they perished in labs used to develop weapons of mass destruction, victims of Turkish experimentation with chemical and biological weapons for use against the Kurds and in any subsequent action against Greek Cypriots. The ethnic cleansing of the Greek majority from occupied Cyprus, the flight of the majority of Turkish Cypriots from the occupied territory, and subsequent colonization by Turkish settlers are not only

indicative of Turkish brutality, but the ongoing occupation, acquiesced to by the U.S., is resulting in

the Islamicization of the island, evidenced by the destruction of Greek Orthodox Churches and construction

of Islamic mosques. Mr. Rubin and other Turkish apologists have conveniently ignored the role of the Turkish

military and other nationalist elements in the systematic repression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the

encouragement of extremists who have bombed the First Throne of Eastern Orthodoxy four times

between 1994 and 2004. If Mr. Rubin and other Turkish apologists cared to examine Turkey's genocidal policies toward

Christians, they would not be surprised that Islamic fundamentalists are faring well today.

Secular Turkish leaders have long made use of Islamists when convenient to do so. This was the case during the anti-Greek pogroms of 1955, and in Cyprus where Islamic Mosques are replacing Byzantine Churches.

On behalf of Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC) [www.greece.org](http://www.greece.org)

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Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC) is a non-profit US organization with international membership. HEC was incorporated in the state of Delaware in 1995