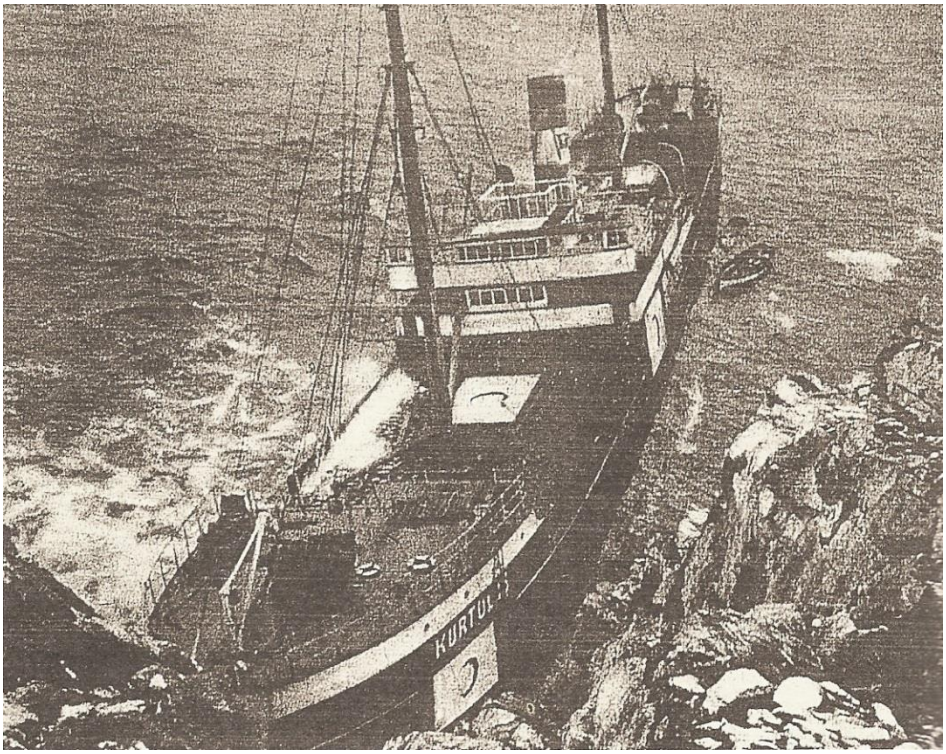
Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 17 January 2023, 6.00 pm (UK time)
Speaker: Elçin Macar
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register
Title: 'The Kurtuluş Ship's Story: The Turkish Humanitarian Aid to Greece in the World War 2'

Italy's attack on Greece in 1940 frightened Turkey. Greece became a buffer country for Turkey. For this reason, the Turkish Red Crescent started to send aid materials to the Greek army and Turkish Press had a pro-Greek policy. After that, the triple occupation of Greece, was a great danger for Turkey.
The occupation of Greece caused famine, especially in Athens and the Aegean islands. The British blockade prevented to aid from outside the Mediterranean to Greece. The Greek-Americans began to put pressure on the government in this regard. With the pressure of the US government to the UK, was found a way to aid without breaking the blockade. The solution was to buy the food from Turkey. Thus, a foreign ship would not enter to the Mediterranean.
Under the responsibility of the Turkish Red Crescent, food materials began to transport to the port of Piraeus with the steamship named *Kurtuluş* (liberation). After a while, this operation turned into a big aid campaign with the help of the Turkish press.
However, the *Kurtulus*, its in 6th voyage, sank due to bad weather conditions. It would be replaced by the *Dumlupınar* (a place name in Asia Minor), and this aid will last until the summer of 1942. With the difficulties in finding food in Turkey and the introduction of ships to the Mediterranean from outside, Turkey would stop sending food, and Greece would be better off.

Booking essential: https://elcin-macar-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk
Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk





Elçin Macar graduated from International Relations department of Istanbul University. He is holder MA and PhD from the same department. He is professor of political history in the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul. He is interested in religious minorities, secularism, church in Turkey and Greece, history of Turkish-Greek relations His books are, **Fener Patrikhanesi** (The Phanar Patriarchate, with Yorgo Benlisoy), **İstanbul'un Yokolmuş İki Cemaati: Doğu Ritli Katolik Rumlar ve Bulgarlar** (Two Disappeared Communities of Istanbul: Catholic Greeks and Bulgarians with Oriental Rite), **Cumhuriyet Döneminde İstanbul Rum Patrikhanesi** (The Ecumenical Patriarchate in the period of Turkish Republic), **Discussions and Recommendations on the Future of the Halki Seminary**, (with Mehmet Ali Gokactı, a pamphlet), **İşte Geliyor Kurtuluş: Türkiye'nin II. Dunya Savaşı'nda Yunanistan'a Yardımları (1940-1942)** (Turkish Aid to Greece in the Second World War 1940-1942) (Turkish and Greek versions in the same volume), **Beyaz Rus Ordusu Türkiye'de** (The White Russian Army in Turkey, with Oya Daglar Macar), **İmroz'dan İstanbul'a Patrik Bartholomeos** (From Imbros to Istanbul-Patriarch Bartolomew- biographical interview)

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