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A study of the evolution of property ownership status in Greece through historic maps- The case of Agios Mamas in Chalkidiki, Greece

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Summary: The forthcoming completion of the National Cadastre project in Greece has revealed several pathologies regarding land management and unresolved property ownership status issues in the country, since its liberation from the Ottoman Empire. The problems vary between different regions and are closely related to whether each area originally had a robust Greek population or displaced Greek refugees were installed there from other parts of the former Ottoman Empire particularly Asia Minor, under the terms of the Treaty of 30/01/1923 -regarding the mutual exchange of refugee population- and the Lausanne Treaty between Greece and Turkey. At the same time, the Greek State circa 1915 made the executive decision to respect the provisions of Ottoman Law of the 7th Ramazan 1274 (i.e. 1856) concerning the distinction of land and property -which had created a status quo regarding property ownership, particularly in the non-liberated parts of Northern Greece- but also to expropriate all property belonging to the exchanged Muslim population and redistribute it to the Greek refugees through various administrative acts (e.g. land consolidation). The present research focuses on the case of Agios Mamas district located in the regional unit of Chalkidiki, Northern Greece which used to be a Çiflik (Ottoman Feudal System), i.e. a mainly rural area owned by a rich family and farmed by the less privileged local population. Agios Mamas covers an area of approximately 32,000 hectares, borders the sea on two distinct fronts, and includes a small settlement, a rural area, and a lagoon which is currently a protected Natura 2000 site. Several historical property deeds and administrative acts, dating back to 1923, will be studied in chronological order along with their corresponding maps and diagrams to determine the ground truth regarding the historical evolution of the property regime in the area from its incorporation to the Greek State to the present time.

1. Introduction

World War I (1914-1918) created a new territorial reality in Europe, and particularly in the Balkans after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the establishment of modern Turkey, and the annexation of new territories in Greece, Yugoslavia, etc. The Lausanne Treaty of 1923, which was essentially a peace treaty between Greece, Turkey and other countries that fought in WWI, included several mutual agreements regarding the formation of the new states, including an exchange of population between Greece and Turkey. More specifically, this exchange was obligatory for Turkish citizens of Greek Orthodox religion that lived in Turkish territory and for Greek citizens of Muslim religion that lived in the recently annexed Greek territory. The Treaty, however, excluded the Greek population of Istanbul and the Muslim residents of Western Thrace. By 1925, more than 1,2 million Greek Orthodox citizens were displaced from their original settlements and more than 520,000 Muslims citizens departed from Greece, primarily from the areas of Macedonia (323,000 habitants), Crete (23,000 habitants), the island of Lesbos (7,500 habitants) and the region of Epirus (3,000 habitants) (Nastoula, 2009).

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The League of Nations in the so-called Nansen (1861-1930) Report -also entitled “The Settlement of Greek Refugees/ Scheme for an International Loan”- of 1922, described the arrival of more than 900,000 refugees of Greek and Armenian origin to the Greek Territories. Three hundred thousand were from Eastern Thrace, 30,000 were Armenian and the remaining population arrived from Asia Minor. The report made this distinction because refugees from Eastern Thrace managed to bring some of their possessions, including clothing, cattle, wagons, etc. Their principal occupation in agriculture also allowed for their easier settlement and adaptation in the vacant lands of Macedonia and Thrace. On the other hand, those from Asia Minor had left in such a heist that they only carried some pieces of clothes. As Dr. Nansen’s report stated, *“they urgently require not only shelter but also winter clothing and blankets to enable them to face the severity of the coming winter; they are also without any money with which to supply themselves with food.”* (Bank of Greece, 2021:7). Furthermore, these refugees came from major urban centers in Asia Minor and their adaptation to the new reality was far more difficult. The later general census of 1928 -the first after the disaster of Asia Minor- would state a total number of refugees of approximately 1,220,000 people originating from Turkey, Russia, Bulgaria, and other regions (Figure 1).

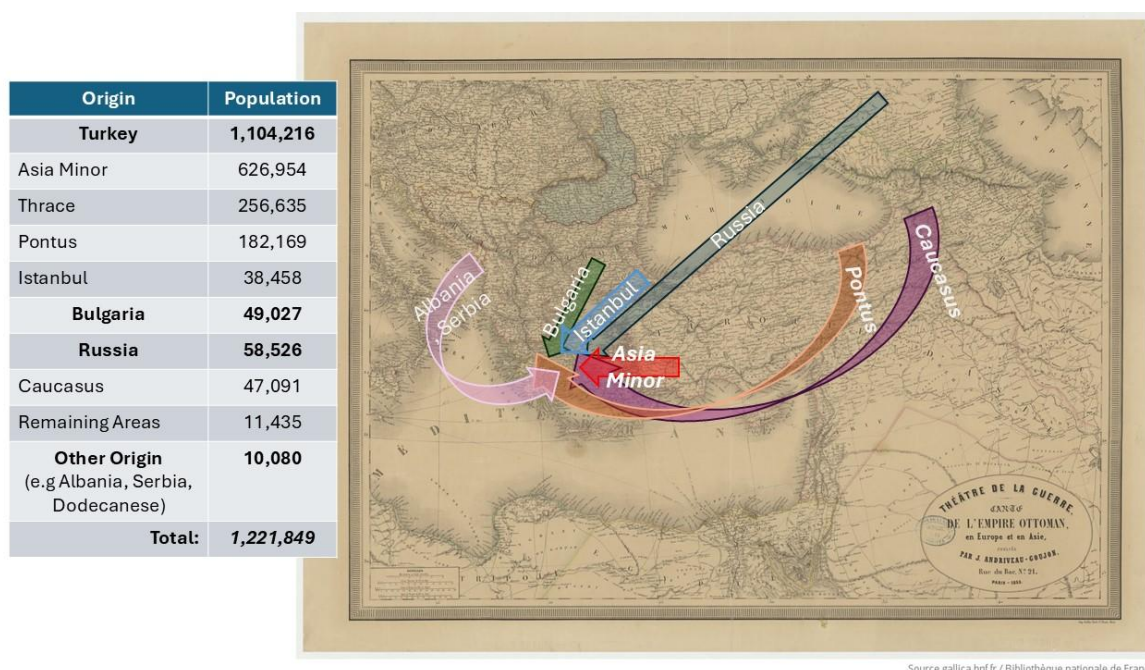


Figure 1. Map and Table showing the origin and number of Greek Orthodox refugees migrating to Greece after W.W I

In September 1923 the Refugees Settlement Commission (RSC) was established in Greece through a legislative act (Govt. Gazzette, 289/A/1923) and after the ratification of the Geneva Protocol, with the obligation to assist in the settlement of refugees by making available no less than 500,000 acres of land and the resources of the 13million British Pounds loan that the country was given for the specific cause. The personnel of this Commission were mainly from the Ministries of Agriculture, Social Care, Economy, and the National Bank of Greece. The settlement regarded the provision of both agricultural and urban land to the refugees. The 500,000 acres of land to be distributed to the refugees would originate from 6 distinct categories, namely land belonging to the Greek Republic, estates formerly belonging to Muslim citizens displaced after the exchange of populations according to the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, estates belonging to Bulgarian origin citizens displaced after the Neuilly Treaty of 1919, estates bought from Ottoman citizens (particularly in the area of Western

Thrace), expropriated land according to the Agricultural Legislation of the time, and land that was leased under multi-annual lease contracts by the Greek State (particularly land belonging to the Monastic Communities of Mount Athos). Besides the provision of land, the RSC had to attend to issues of socio-economic welfare of the refugees, e.g. ensure that people of the same origin (e.g. from Asia Minor, Pontus, Thrace, etc.) would be installed in each settlement to avoid potential conflicts of rivalries, assist in the construction of new housing units or repair existing buildings left behind by displaced Muslim and Bulgarian citizens of the former Ottoman Empire, build the necessary infrastructure including road and water supply networks, etc. Some statistical data reported by RSC as of 1926 can be found in Figures 2-3 (Bank of Greece, 2021).

Type of Land	Macedonia	Thrace	Rest of Greece	Total
Public Land	332,293	262,762	25,760	620,815
Exchanged Land of the Muslim and Bulgarian Population	4,478,681	600,066	286,347.5	5,365,094.5
Expropriated Land	587,991.5	64,043	262,482.5	914,517
Leased Land	137,950	3,030	-	140,980
Other Categories	144,026.5	223,668	499	368,193.5
Total:	5,680,942	1,153,569	575,089	7,409,600

Origin	Number of Families
Asia Minor	46,307
Thrace	42,294
Pontus	39,485
Caucasus	10,942
Bulgaria	7,634
Other (Constantinople/Istanbul, Albania, Imvros, Tenedos, etc.)	1,089
Total:	147,751

Primary Occupation	Number of Families
Farmers, Cereal Farmers	121,304
Tobacco Farmers	7,644
Viticulturists	4,125
Arborists	111
Cattle Farmers	2,079
Farmers of Silkworms	962
Gardeners	577
Olive Cultivators	23
Fishermen or sailors	1,577
Commerce or Service Sector	8,749
Total:	147,751

Figure 2. Statistics on expropriated land for the settlement of refugees and the number of families that the RSC assisted.

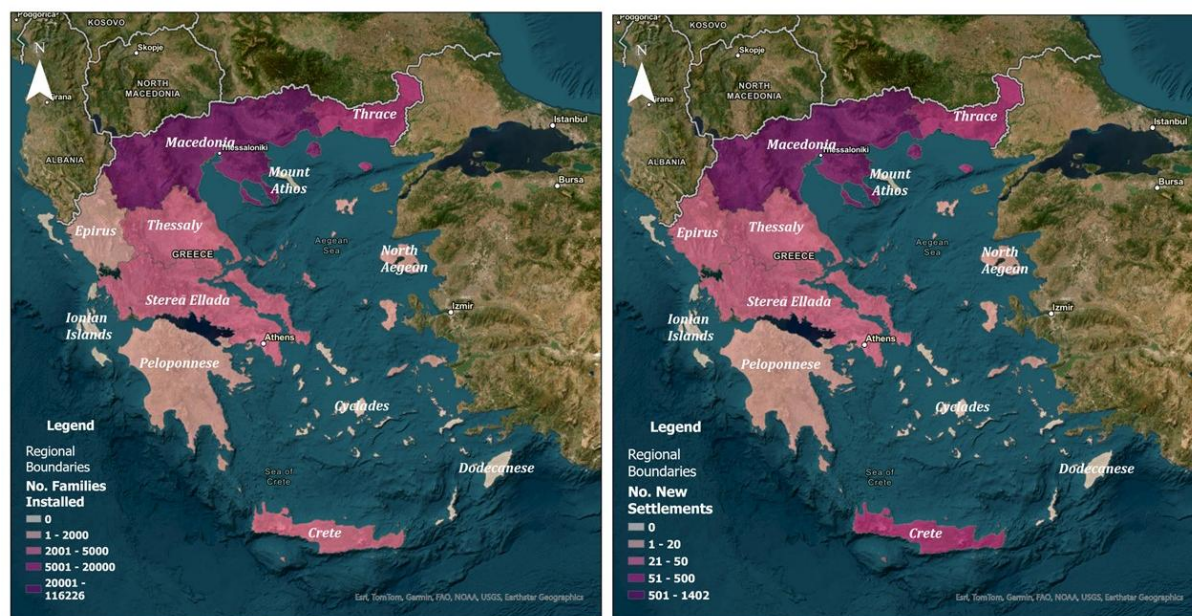


Figure 3. Thematic representation of the number of refugee families installed and the number of new settlements that were established across Greece.

At that point, the lack of a common and detailed cadastral and topographic map of the new country became evident. Twelve surveying teams assisted in measuring more than 500,000 acres in the region of Macedonia. Photogrammetric methods were later employed in some regions of Pella (toponym: Karatzova) in Macedonia to assist in speeding the process. Besides the lack of accurate topographic measurements and cartographic representation of its territory, particularly the recently annexed regions, the Greek State had to proceed to legislative acts and regulations regarding the administration of land belonging to displaced Muslim citizens but also to the former Ottoman Empire as the legal successor to the Ottoman territories. To do so, the legislators had to study the Ottoman Laws regarding land administration and make the necessary adaptations and modifications to the new ground truth and needs. The Ottoman Land Code of the 7th Ramazan 1274 (i.e. 1856) made a distinction among the following 5 main categories of land:

1. *Arazi Memluke*, i.e. property belonging to individuals that could be resold, inherited, etc., including private homes, vines, etc.
2. *Arazi Mirie*, i.e. state-owned property belonging to the Sultan including forests, meadows, and grassland upon which individuals could acquire the right of use or even in some cases perpetual lease.
3. *Arazi Mevkufe*, i.e. property dedicated to a noble cause or charity according to religious law.
4. *Arazi Metruke*, i.e. public and common land including roads, squares, etc.
5. *Arazi Mevat*, i.e. uncultivated and remote/abandoned land including mountainous and rocky grounds, etc. belonging to the State (Bantekas, 2015).

Two consequent laws of 1913 (L.4213/1913, Gvt. Gazette 229/A/14-11-1913) and 1914 (L.147/1914, Gvt. Gazette 25/A/01-02-1914) determined that the Greek State would respect existing property rights and official deeds issued by the Ottoman Empire according to the former land code but would also gradually introduce a new civil legislation regarding property transactions. The obligatory law 1909/1939 (Gvt. Gazette 335/A/22-08-1939) determined that the administration of the lands belonging to the exchanged Muslim population is the responsibility of the Greek State and more specifically of the Ministry of Finance that could decide to expropriate and redistribute it for various purposes. Various other land acts were introduced to determine the processes of acquiring land belonging to the Greek State or other public institutes, however, the country to this day pays a heavy price of not having a common cartographic and land registration basemap, maintaining different archives and legal procedures for public and private property, using various coordinating systems and not updating the existing topographic surveys, having a severe fragmentation of public services that manage land and whose archives are often scattered in different locations, etc. Land administration and registration pathologies became more evident after 1995, with the systematic effort to develop a modern cadastral system where private and public rights would be registered, for the first time, in a common geospatial infrastructure. Numerous cases of trespassing on public land were revealed, which led to counter actions by the State Authorities demanding proof of original land acquirement either by the Greek State, the former Ottoman Empire, or Greek Orthodox citizens before a region's annexation to Greece, especially in cases of land expropriation for major infrastructure works. In some geographical regions, particularly in Northern Greece, the conflicting deeds documented contradicting property rights claimed by private individuals, the Greek State, the Forest Services, Monastic Communities, etc.

The present research showcases an example of a complex case of consecutive and partially contradicting deeds and legal acts in the Municipal Unit of Agios Mamas, in Chalkidiki Greece. During the Ottoman reign the broader area used to be a Çiflik belonging to an Ottoman Bey, and as such was considered private property that could be inherited or resold. In the mid-1800s, the Çiflik was

sold to a Greek Orthodox estate owner from Serres, Greece named, Mihail Veis. His heirs would later sell a considerable portion of the estate to the local farmers who were gaining more power. The Greek state through the RSC and other authorities would subsequently expropriate the estate, respecting already existing legal transactions to redistribute land to refugees arriving in the broader area. This research documents the above-mentioned actions through the corresponding legal documents and topographic basemaps that were collected from various sources including the General Archives of Chalkidiki, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Hellenic Cadastre, etc. The identification and verification of the individual parts of land occurred through map georeferencing, legal documents' descriptions, and area/shape and land-use verifications.

2. Methodology

2.1 Area of Interest

The area of interest is located in the Regional Unit of Chalkidiki, Central Macedonia, Greece. More specifically, the former Çiflik of Agios Mamas covers more than 32,000 acres of land between the Gulfs of Thermaikos and Toroneos before the Kassandra Peninsula. The area used to have a small settlement with a primarily Greek population, occupied in the farming sector during the reign of the Ottoman Empire. The toponym “Agios Mamas” can be found in several historical maps (Figure 4) along that of “Portaria” which used to be the major settlement of the area.

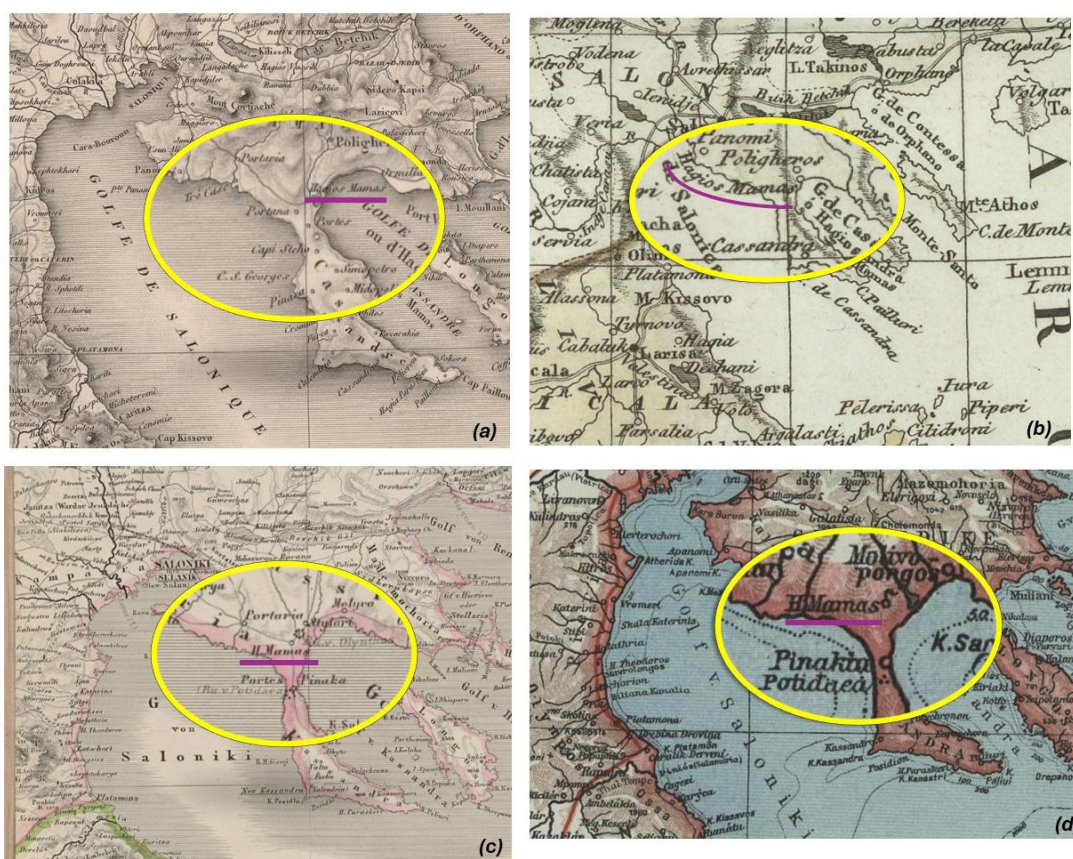


Figure 4. (a) Extract from: Lapie, Pierre: Carte générale de la Grèce moderne, 1:1,000,000, 1828, (source: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53060432q/f1.item>), (b) Extract from Alabern, Pablo: Turquía European y Grecia, 1835, (source: <https://bvpb.mcu.es/es/consulta/registro.do?id=463394>), (c) Extract from Kiepert, Heinrich: General Karte von der europäischen Türkei, 1:1,000,000, 1876 (source: <https://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/en/details/bsb00028541>), (d) Extract from Flemming, Carl: Karte von Griechenland, 1:1,100,000, 1914 (source: https://www.deutschefotothek.de/documents/obj/90053636/df_dk_0011677).

The representation of the area in the military map series of the Generalkarte produced by the Third Austro-Hungarian Mapping Campaign in the second half of the 19th century (scale 1:200,000) (Livieratos, 2003, Koussoulakou et al., 2011) is far more detailed. In the Bulgarian edition of the Chalkidiki Map Sheet (1941), which is essentially an updated version of the Generalkarte of 1901, the location is referenced as “Çiflik Ajo Mama”. Furthermore, the map refers to several areas belonging to different monastic communities of Mount Athos (e.g. Vatopedion in the case of Agios Mamas, Simonopetra, Stavronikitas, Dionisiou, etc.) and settlements that either pre-existed (e.g. Portaria/Portarja, Miriofiton) or were created for the installment of refugees (e.g. Nea Moudania, Nea Plagia, Nea Flogita, etc.) (Figure 5).

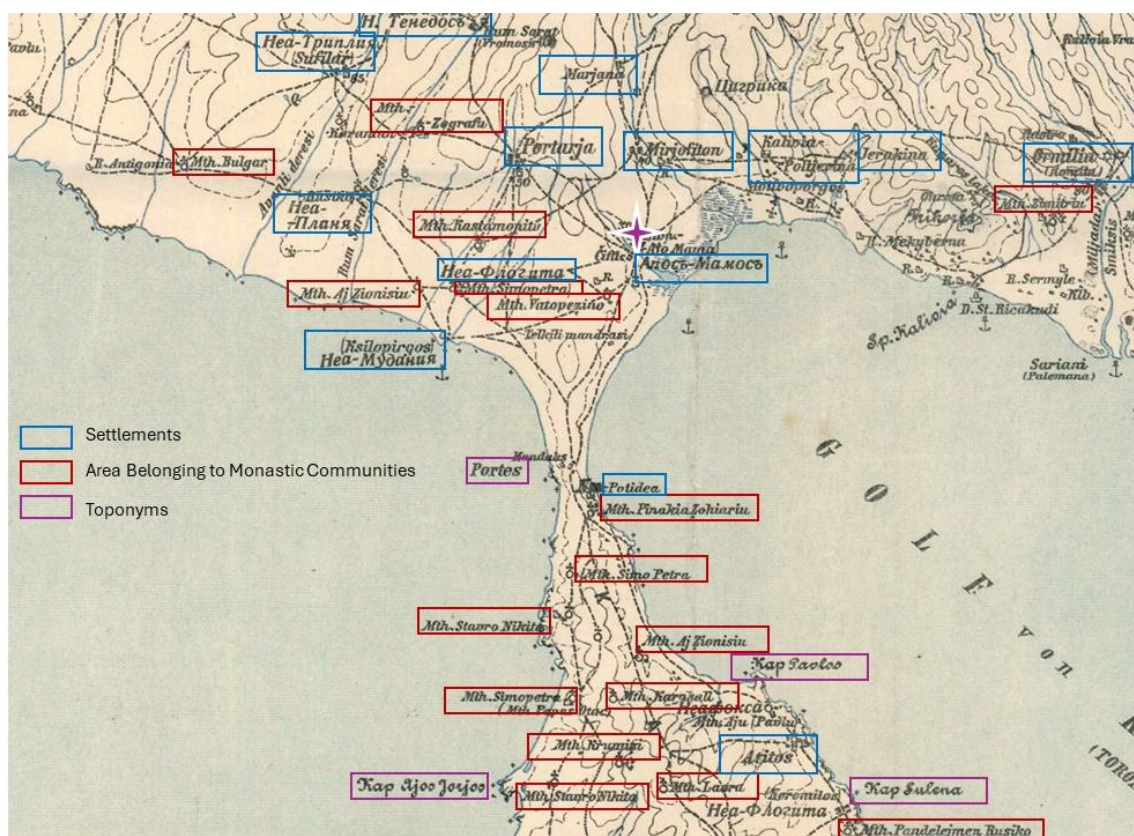


Figure 5. Extract from the Bulgarian edition of the Generalkarte in the broader area of Agios Mamas depicting the existing settlements, rural areas belonging to Monastic Communities, and various Toponyms.

The Region of Chalkidiki was officially annexed to Greece through the Treaty of Bucharest (1913) after the Second Balkan War. After the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 and according to the statistics report of the RSC (1929), the commission assisted in installing 3,346 families comprised of 11,621 individuals in the broader area of Chalkidiki, until 1928 (Bank of Greece, 2021). Several of these refugees were settled in the nearby locations of Olynthos, Nea Potidea (near existing ancient settlements in both cases), and Nea Moudania where a new settlement was gradually formed. From 1918 to 1926, Agios Mamas was part of a larger administrative unit along with other nearby villages including Portaria, Karkara (Simatra), Miriofiton (Olynthos), Kara-tepe (Nea Tenedos), Souflar (Nea Triglia), Vromosyrta (Agios Panteleimonas), Emertzeli, Pazarlo, and Mariana, the majority of which also appear in the Generalkarte. Today, the area has a permanent population of approximately 1,000 residents which however more than doubles during the summer months, as Agios Mamas is a popular resort close to the second largest city of the country, Thessaloniki. More im-

portantly, since 1996 it has hosted a Natura 2000 site (GR1270004) in its lagoon facing the Toroneos Gulf, covering an area of around 626 hectares, protected under both Birds and Habitats Directives with 9 significant habitats (e.g. Mediterranean salt meadows, Mediterranean and thermos-Atlantic halophilous scrubs, etc.) and 45 protected species (e.g. Levant Sparrowhawk, Grey Heron, etc.) (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The designated NATURA 2000 site of Agios Mamas Lagoon.

2.2 Documenting the Property Ownership Status through historic deeds, administrative acts, and maps.

To identify the boundaries of the former Çiflik of Agios Mamas as well as its gradual transformation to individual properties distributed by the Greek State to the local population and refugees arriving in the area from Turkey, three main sources of data were used namely, historic deeds/contracts with their corresponding maps where applicable, administrative acts of the time regarding the expropriation and redistribution of land with their corresponding maps, and secondary sources of information (e.g. historic orthophotos provided by the Hellenic Cadastre, and 1:5,000 scale maps of the Hellenic Military Geographical Service). The documents of the historical deeds and administrative acts were retrieved from a historical and folklore book study written by a resident of Agios Mamas, Lieutenant General (retired) Kyrimis Stylianos (Kyrimis, 2007). The cartographic/topographic base maps were retrieved from various sources including the State Archives Office of Chalkidiki in Poligiros.

As mentioned, the Çiflik was bought by Mihail Veis in the mid-1800s covering a total area of approximately 32,000 acres, bordering the sea (Thermaikos and Toroneos Gulf) in its Southern part and other Çifliks (e.g. Hatzi-Osman's) in the North. The property was later transferred to his son Nikolaos Veis who, via contract, rendered as heirs his two sons Mihail and Alexandros Veis in 1918 (Contract No. 4123/1918 Notary Georgios Kassavetis). The gradual annexation of new land to the country coincided with a robust labor movement which caused local revolts against large landownership, particularly in more rural/farming locations (e.g. Thessaly). In that spectrum, the Veis brothers decided to sell a significant part of the estate (approximately 23,000 acres) to the local farmers

to reassure them and avoid potential conflicts (Kyrimis, 2007). The transfer occurred in two discrete stages, via a preliminary contract in 1923 and a final contract in 1924 which had to be approved by the Greek Authorities (as represented by the Ministry of Agriculture) before signing. Both contracts were accompanied by two versions of the same map which was -theoretically- based on a detailed topographic survey carried out in the area for the specific purpose, on a scale of 1:10,000 with no assigned coordinate reference system. The map was retrieved from the State Archives Office for the Region of Chalkidiki and presents some damage in its central folding parts. Through a rough georeference process to correct the scale and orientation of the map, it can be verified that the area of interest borders the sea in its Eastern and Western parts at a length of approximately 7.4km and 6.7km. Its southern border was the existing channel of Potidea that connects the mainland Chalkidiki to the Kassandra peninsula. The broader area before the channel is known by the toponym “Portes” which also appears in the Generalkarte. On its north and southwestern sides, its natural border is a stream, and the existing road connects the area to the nearby settlement of Gerakini leading up to the settlement of Agios Mamas. The contract described the western boundaries of the property as following the coastline from the position “Portes” to the location “Kargi Limani” which refers to the refugee settlement that was to be named “Nea Moudania”. The map and its legend describe several distinct polygons e.g. the transferred area of 12,500 acres described as cropland (polygon Z), the lagoon also referred to as lake (polygon G, area: 2,359.372 acres), the sandy areas on the Toroneos Gulf (polygon D, area: 1,568.022 acres), Agios Mamas settlement (polygon E, area: 243.127 acres), land owned by the Monastery of Vatopedion (21 polygons, area: 2,255.357 acres) and land owned by a private individual (4 polygons, area: 85.485 acres). The contract also mentions some remaining 11 acres that would be transferred to other individuals and do not appear on the map. Finally, the contract mentions an area referring to the toponym “Lichnida”, not depicted on the map that remains in the ownership of the Veis brothers. The particular survey depicted only the area that was to be transferred to the local farmers and not the entire property of the Çiflik.

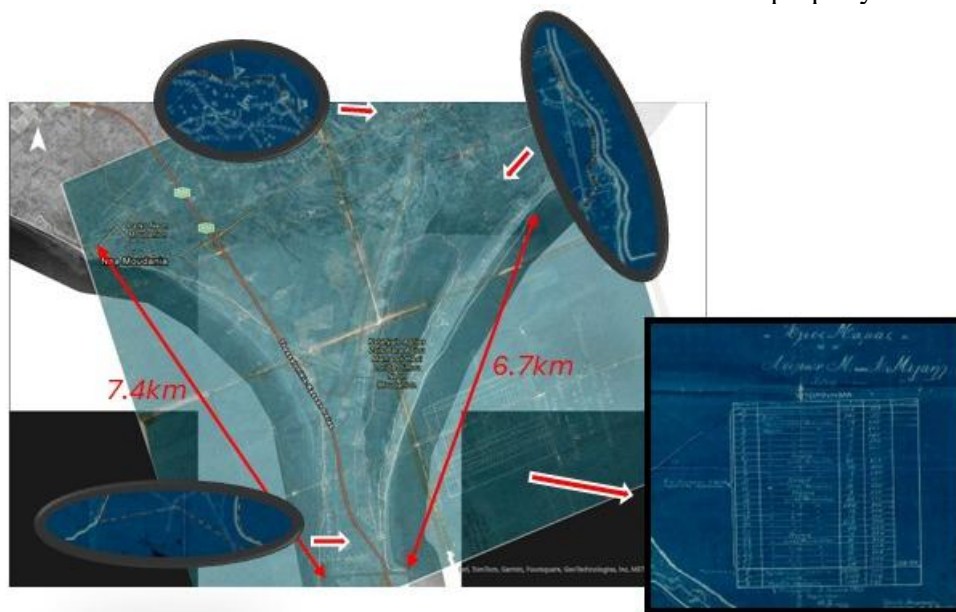


Figure 7. Georeference of the Topographic Survey/Map depicting the area transferred by the Veis brothers to the local farmers on historic orthophotos of 1945-1960

In 1924, the Ministry of Agriculture - responsible for the redistribution of land in the area- approved the preliminary contract agreement which essentially involved the transfer of 12,500 acres of land to 119 families of local farmers. The Public Property Office of Chalkidiki marked the area in the

existing topographic map using a red dotted line. The final contract (Contract No. 2519/1924 Notary Georgios Marinos) describes the boundaries of the transferred area exactly as in the pre-contract, adding however an important detail, that is that part of the Çiflik had already been expropriated by the State for the new refugee settlement of Nea Moudania. However, no detailed description of the expropriated land is given in the contract or any administrative act. What is provided is a description of the land use and total area per land use category of the expropriated land which assisted in making an educated guess of the boundaries based on the historic orthophotos, the artificial and natural boundaries depicted on them, and the historical generic description of the Çiflik's boundaries (Figure 8). Finally, in the same contract, the description of the transferred area's boundaries mentions that the stream ending in the Toroneos Gulf which is the natural border of the transferred area is also the boundary between the locations bearing the toponyms "Mpara" and "Lichnida".

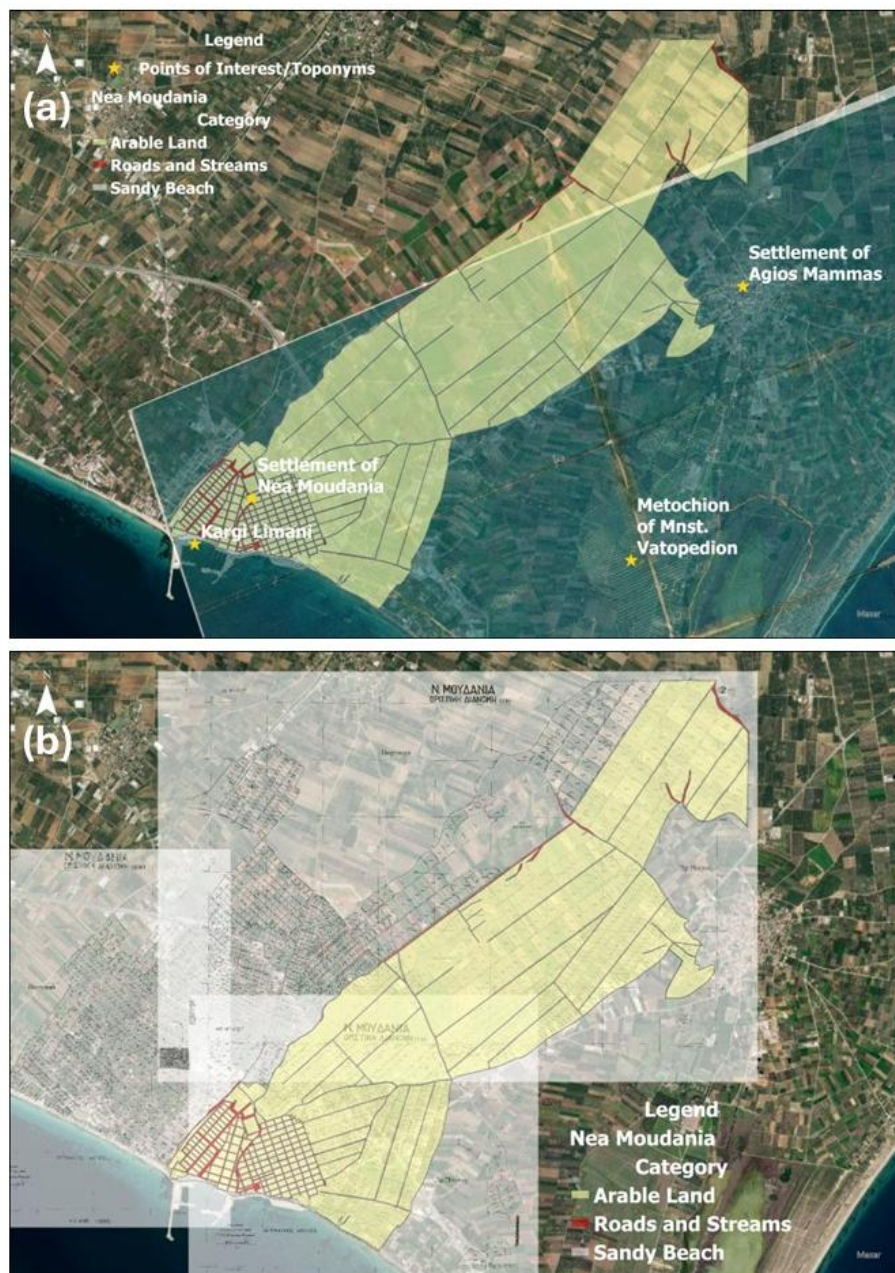


Figure 8. Land Uses on the part of the Çiflik that was expropriated for the settlement of refugees in the area of Nea Moudania having as basemap the topographic map of 1918-1921 (a) and the land distribution maps of the Ministry of Agriculture (1930) (b)

At that time, in a parallel administrative process, the State through the RSC and the Ministry of Agriculture began to expropriate significant parts of the former Çiflik. For example, 500 acres of the land previously transferred by the Veis' brothers to the local farmers were expropriated by the State to be distributed to the refugees settling in the nearby settlement of Nea Potidea (Decision No. 6969/29-11-1924). In this case, the identification of the expropriated land was easier as the map produced for the Land Distribution Act clearly depicted the area of concern which was also delimited by the channel of Potidea (Figure 10).

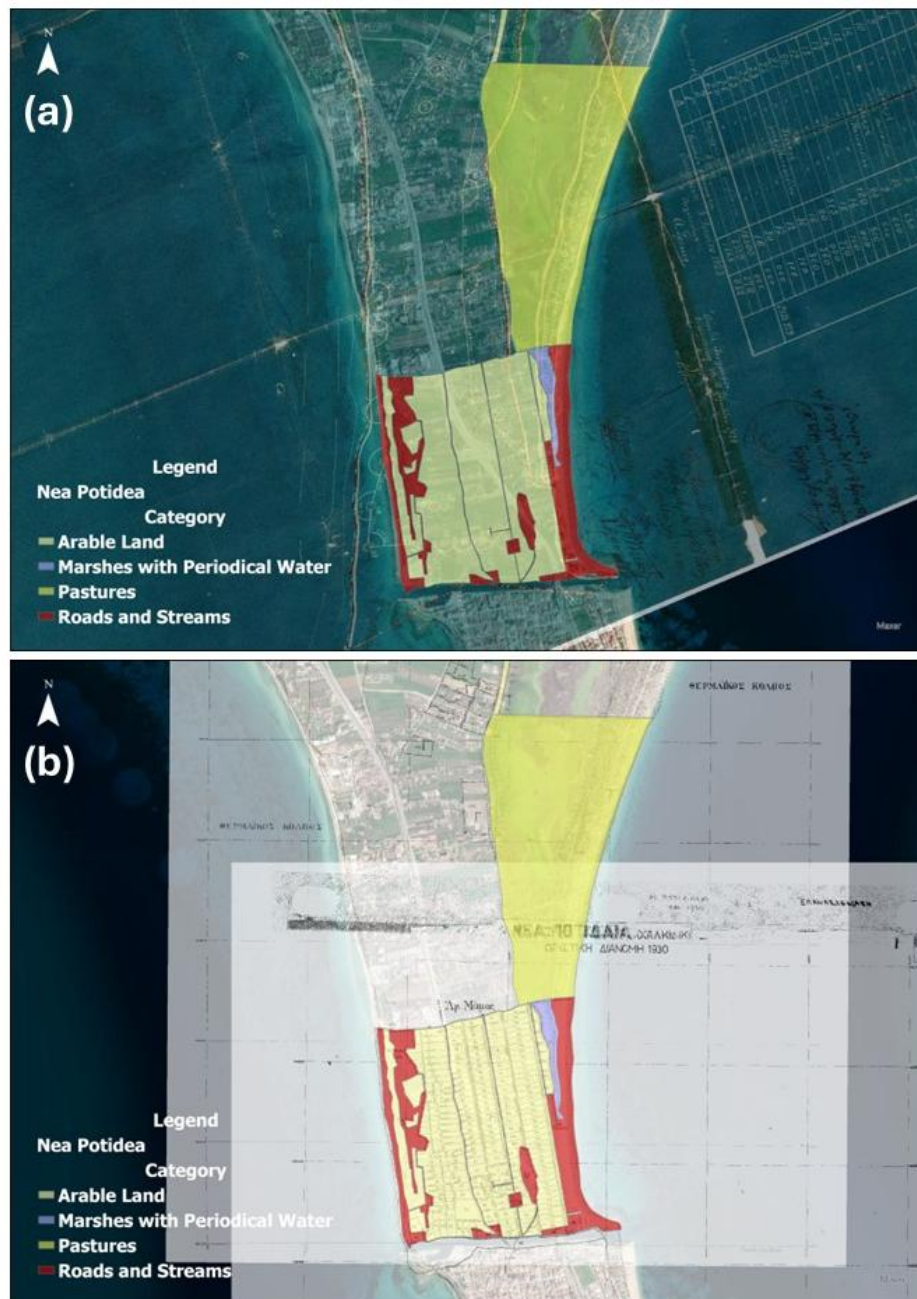


Figure 9. Land Uses on the part of the Çiflik that was expropriated for the settlement of refugees in the area of Nea Potidea having as basemap the topographic map of 1918-1921 (a) and the land distribution maps of the Ministry of Agriculture (1930) (b)

In 1928, the Ministry of Agriculture declared the expropriation of the entire Çiflik to form smaller pieces of land and distribute them to local farmers. This process lasted for 3 years -followed by

consecutive acts that included for example the expropriation of the land owned by the Monastery of Vatopedion- and was accompanied by more detailed topographic field surveys to determine the boundaries and areas to be distributed per land use and property status (Figure 10). According to the Agricultural Law of the time (Law 2052/1920) the expropriation committee decided to exclude from the redistribution process the 12,000 acres already transferred to the farmers and the olive groves, vines, vegetable garden, and home of the Veis family.

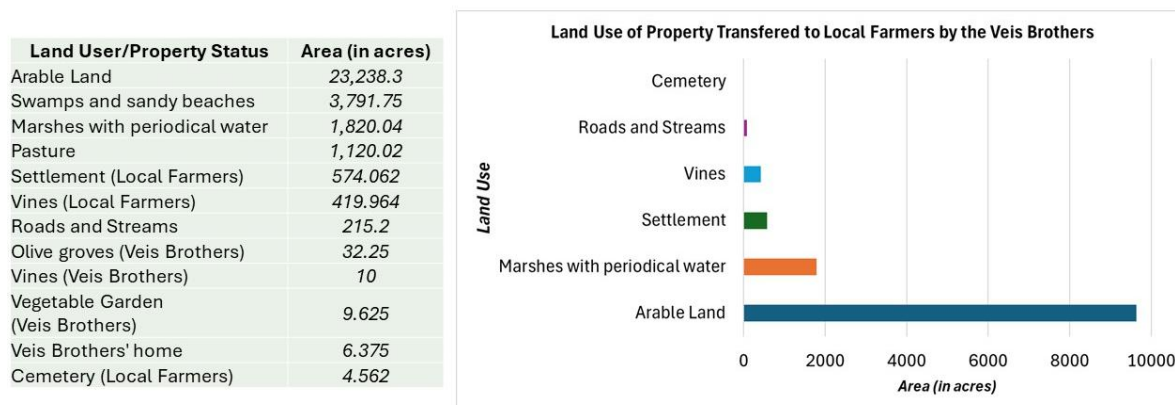


Figure 10. Categorization of Land in the Çiflik based on its use and ownership status

Based on the original topographic survey of 1923, the consecutive land distribution acts and their accompanying topographic base maps, as well as the manuscripts' description of the various pieces of land that formed the Çiflik we were able to recreate the boundaries of the property that was transferred to the local farmers and the actual land that remained in the Veis family. As can be seen in Figure 11, the property of the Veis family was limited to the Northern Part of the settlement and on the left side of the existing at the time provincial road leading to the village of Gerakini up to the stream which is its natural boundary.

On the other hand, the local farmers received the majority of the land of what is known today as the Municipal Unit of Agios Mamas, with some gaps that regard land expropriated by the Greek State from the Monastery of Vatopedion or land that was also transferred before the liberation of the area (Figure 12). It is also worth noting that the local farmers obtained an additional area of approximately 3,000 acres (besides the original 12,500 acres) from the Veis brothers that were characterized as "Marshes and Sandy Beach" near the Toroneos Gulf based on a preliminary contract agreement, that was validated by the Greek State.

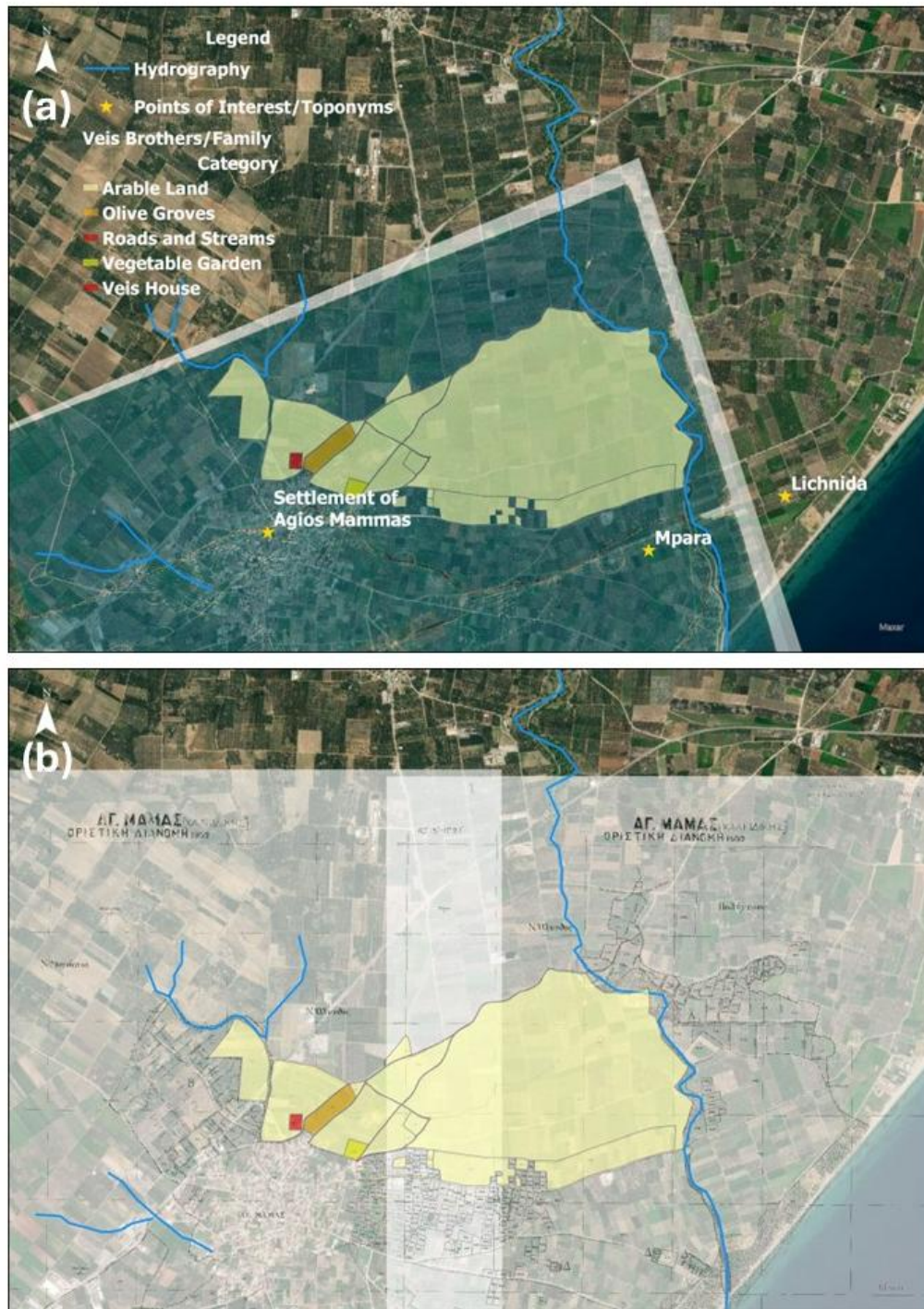


Figure 11. Land Uses on the part of the Çiflik that belonged to the Veis Family after the expropriation procedures having as basemap the topographic map of 1918-1921 (a) and the land distribution maps of the Ministry of Agriculture (1952) (b)

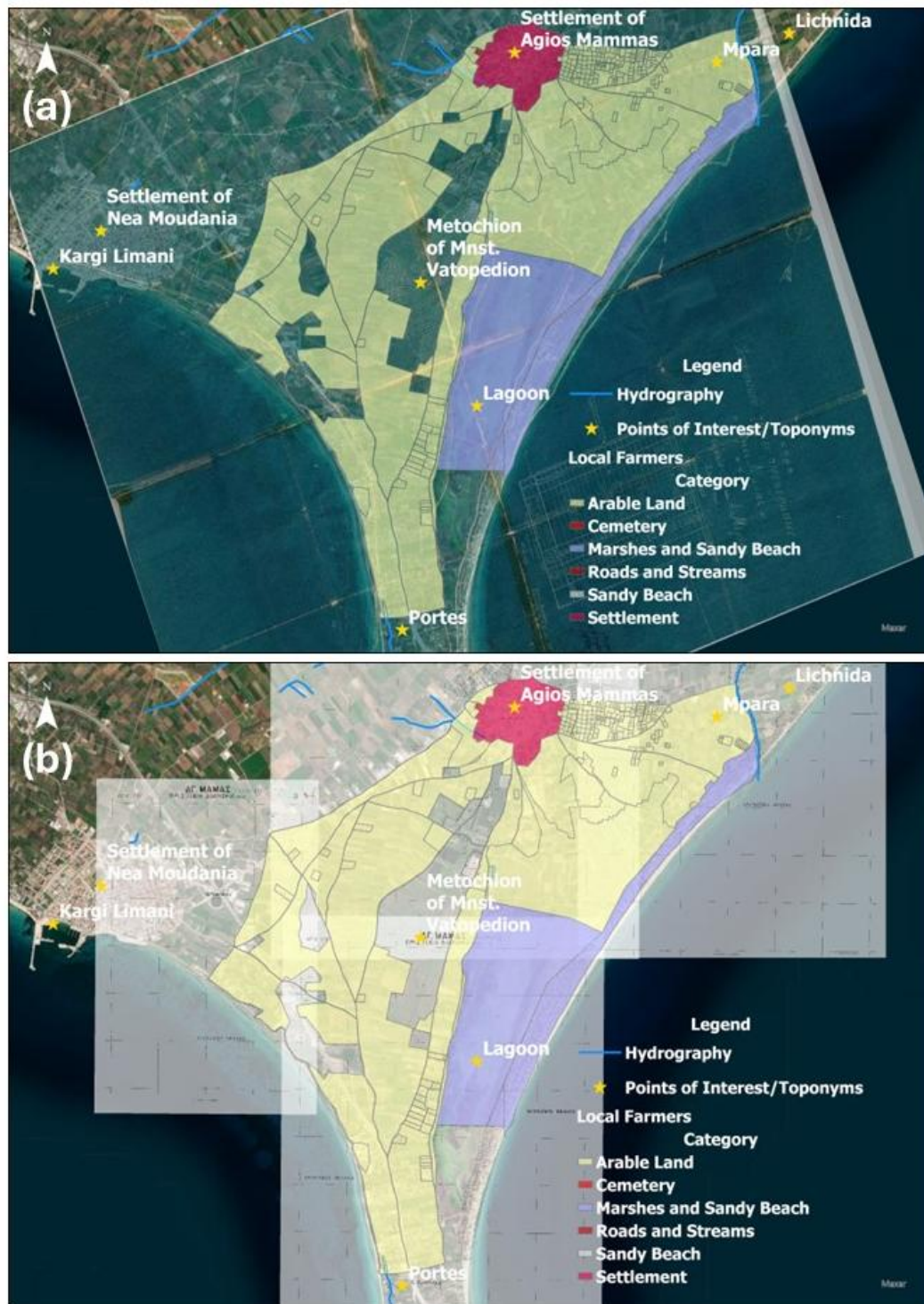


Figure 12. Land Uses on the part of the Çiflik that was transferred to the local farmers having as basemap the topographic map of 1918-1921 (a) and the land distribution maps of the Ministry of Agriculture (1952) (b)

Finally, the Expropriation Act of 1928 in its concluding remarks categorizes the expropriated and non-expropriated land of the Çiflik into several categories depending on their location, land use, and property status (Table 1). The Land Distribution maps produced by the Topographic Service of the Ministry of Agriculture were used to identify the remaining pieces of land and verify their assigned area, thus allowing for the cartographic recreation of the entire Çiflik (Figure 13).

Land Category	Nea Moudania	Nea Potidea	Nea Olynthos	Kalivia Poligirou	Agios Mamas (SAAK)
Arable Land	8,408	862	3,125	632	586
Sandy Beaches	38				
Roads and Streams	28		23		
Pastures		753			
Marshes with periodical water		23			

Table 1. Categorization and Area of expropriated land (in acres) from the Çiflik to nearby settlements and locations based on land use

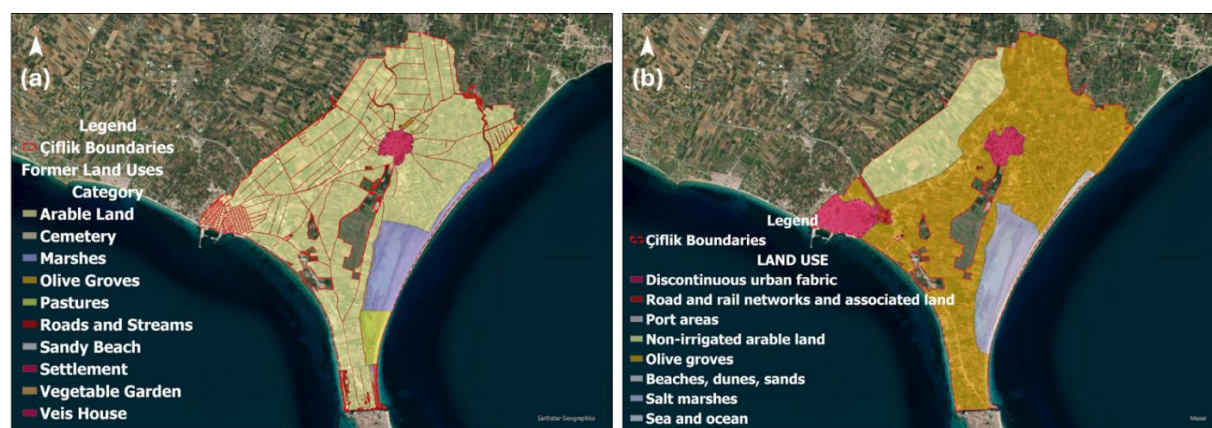


Figure 13. Changes in Land Use from 1918-1921 to 2018 according to the descriptions of the former contract and administrative acts (a) and the Corine Land Cover dataset of 2018 (b).

3. Discussion

The issue of land management and succession of land ownership in Greece after its liberation from the Ottoman Empire has been a long-standing problem for the country, which almost a hundred years later is back in the spotlight as the project of the National Cadastral Registry will be completed shortly. In the framework of the project and in several cases where the Greek State -through its various agencies- thought that trespass of its property had occurred by private individuals, demanded to review the historic succession of their property deeds, going backward even before the liberation of the country. This research would verify whether the land was granted to the individuals by the State itself (i.e. an archival blunder of the agency), or that unknowingly the current owner had acquired land that was never private, and thus could not be transferred. The scale of this problem is not the same for the whole country. In Northern Greece, for example, which is the location of the current research study area, solving this riddle appears simpler as the end of World War I and the Lausanne Treaty left the liberated land tabula rasa in the hands of the Greek State which through various administrative acts redistributed most of its lowland and semi-mountainous area to Greek-Orthodox Refugees.

In some cases, however, as in Agios Mamas, the State found an established ground truth according to the Ottoman Land Law which had to be respected and taken into consideration for its future actions, as there already existed a local Greek population in the area. The archives describing the modus operandi and the administrative decisions that were taken at the time are currently scattered into different agencies some of which are in Poligiros (capital of the Regional Unit of Chalkidiki) or even Thessaloniki and Athens. These State Acts were rarely accompanied by a cartographic/topographic representation. In some cases, the accompanying cartographic/topographic documentation was published more than two decades later and could not be directly correlated with the original act

as it used different code numbers or even toponyms. Furthermore, the topographic surveys that accompany legal deeds regarding individuals can only be retrieved upon request from the former land registry office upon request. In the case of Agios Mamas, all the land that was transferred to the local farmers (more than 12,000 acres) as well as the land that remained in the Veis family appears in the land distribution maps of 1952 onwards as property of unknown ownership even though the Greek State at the time, validated the transfer contracts between the Veis family and the farmers. That has led to a series of legal and bureaucratic problems as in some cases the State demands proof of ownership by the current owners who are legal heirs of the farmers or bought the property from the farmers and the Veis family. Technically, the property ownership status of the former Çiflik has been cleared by the Greek State for almost a hundred years now, however, the archives of the time were divided into different agencies, and no common cartographic basemap was ever created to illustrate the historic succession of the property status in the area.

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