



MINORITIES IN ZONGULDAK



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

For many years, the region remained uninterested. However, Zonguldak became an attraction by the discovery of hard coal in the 19th century.



After 1882, Zonguldak became the center of attention for foreign capital. The mines in the hard coal basin were operated by British, French, German, Belgian, Russian, Greek and domestic companies. Therefore, many different nations came to the region.

- ▶ Also, Croatian workers were employed in the mines.
- ▶ Thus, Zonguldak became a multi national place .

Among these nations, the traces of French culture could be seen most in Zonguldak.





- ▶ **The French first arrived at Zonguldak by Crimean War in 1854.**
- ▶ **Zonguldak coals were leased to the British Government by the Ottoman government. During the war, the coal produced by the British would be used for the need of the British and French navies.**
- ▶ **«La Chapelle», one of the French officers, resided in order to deal with the business of delivering the coal extracted in accordance with this agreement to the British and French navies.**



Besides the French, Italian and Russian capital even Greek capital tried to enter the region. For this, Italians and French even opened consulates in Zonguldak. They built industrial and social facilities in the district of Zonguldak in accordance with their own architecture.



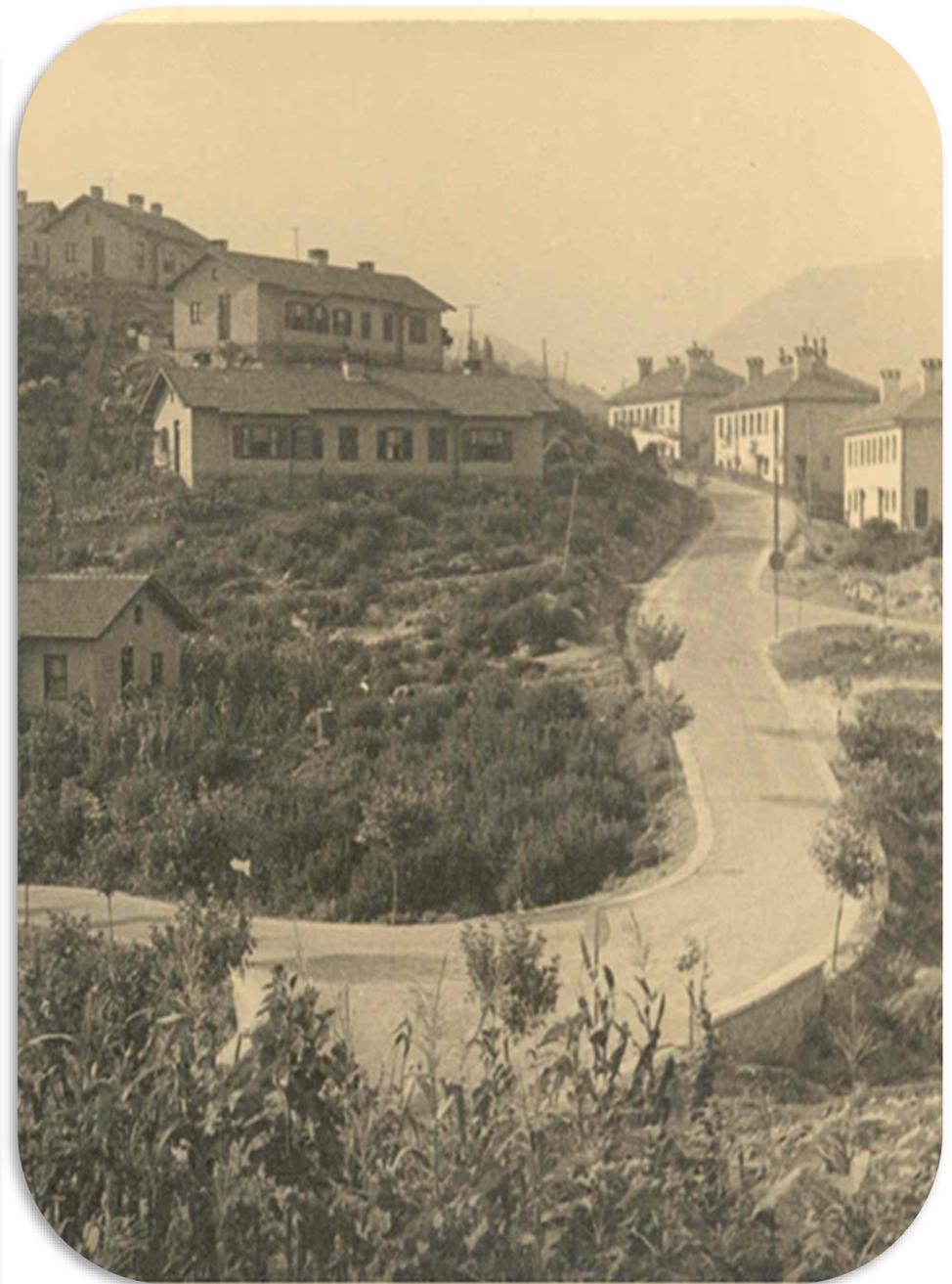
Souvenir de Zongouldak (MER NOIRE)

Old French Postcards.

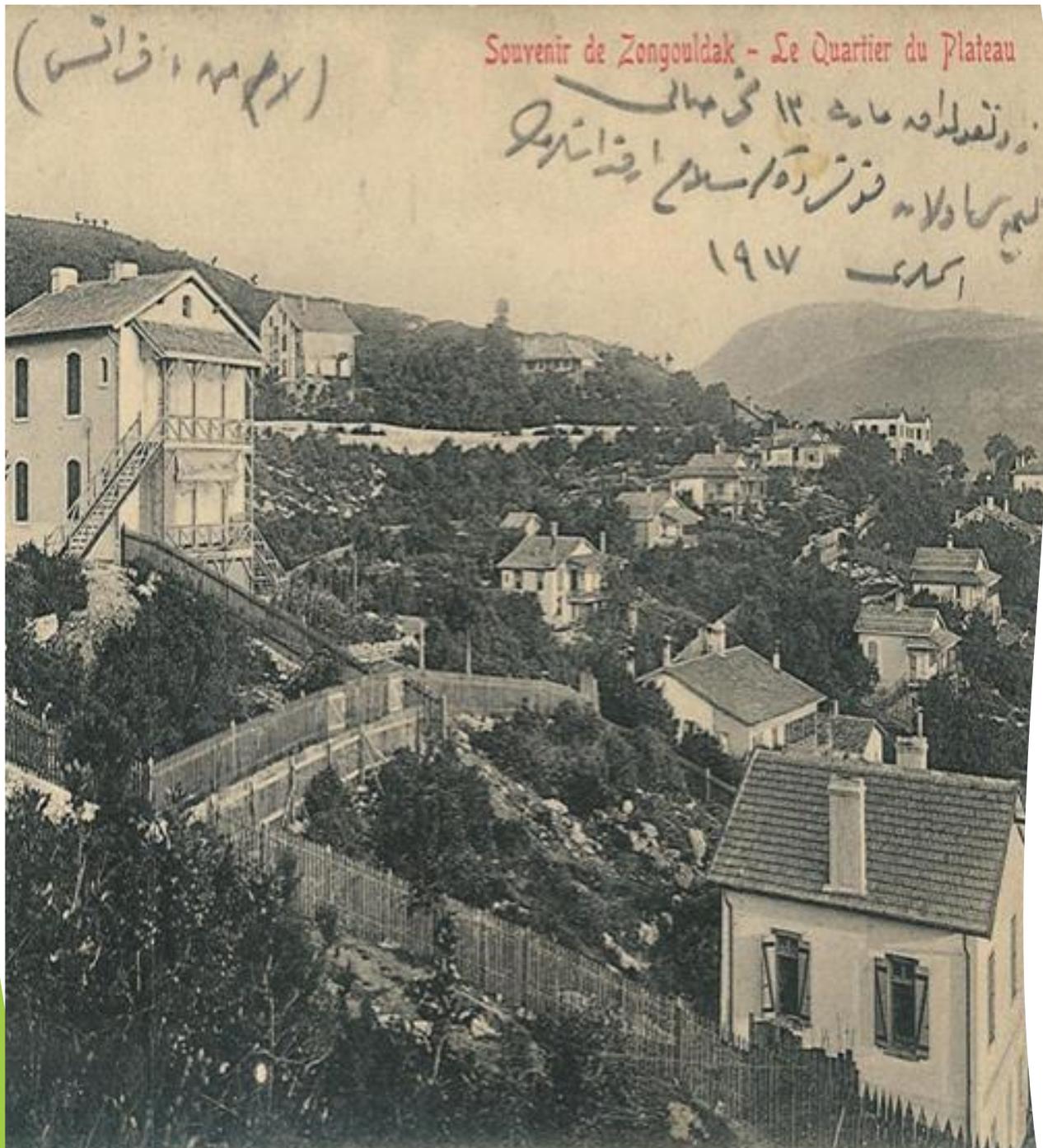
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SOCIÉTÉ OTTOMANE D'HÉRACLÉE
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- **The French-owned Ereğli company continued its existence in Zonguldak during the republic period until 1936. In 1936, it left the region by selling its assets to the Republic of Turkey. So, all the minorities left the region in 1936. A few French structures from the French that have survived to the present day still exist, while many of them have been demolished and become unusable.**



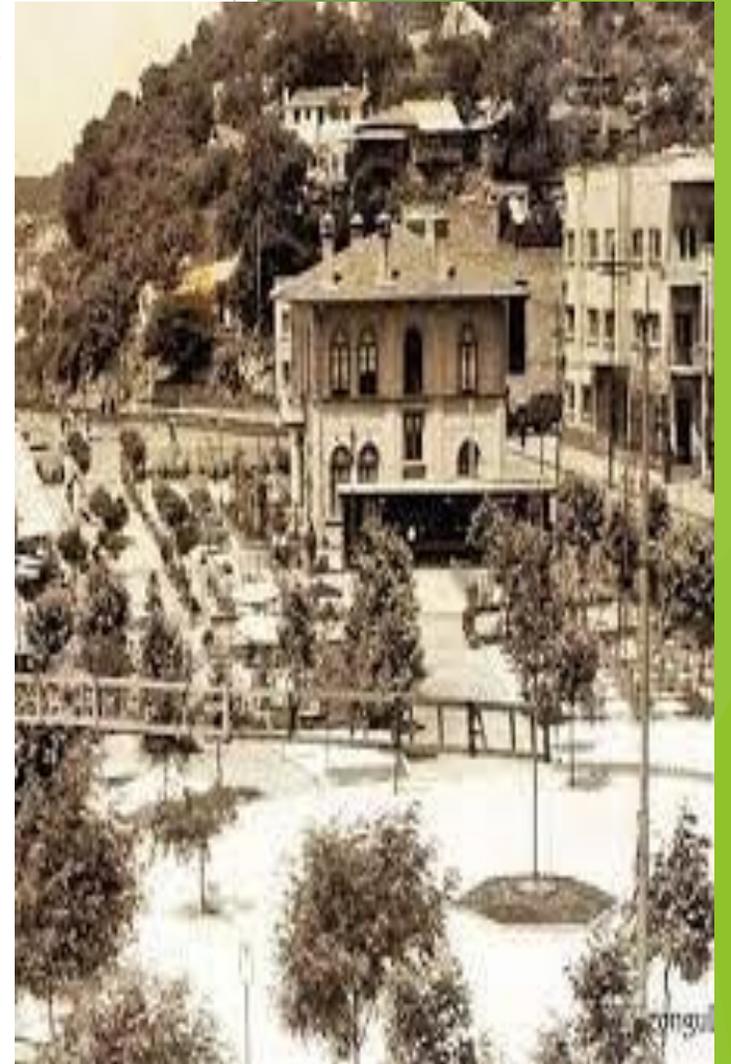




French heritage in Zonguldak

- ▶ Zonguldak is the first city in Anatolia to meet dance-music entertainment days and balls by cultural effect of French people in the region.

- **Since the Ottoman period, foreigners and non-Muslims continue their lives with their own culture and traditions. This situation lead the people of Zonguldak to face with the lifestyle of foreign cultures. People of Zonguldak met with dance meetings and balls, foreign music, special days, foreign men's and women's fashion, home life, furniture and various sports branches even in the Ottoman period.**



- ▶ Christian minorities in and around Zonguldak with French, Italian and other foreign nations who came to the basin for mining activities or various reasons celebrate the “Santa Barbara Feast” with music and dance in memory of Saint Santa Barbara, who is considered to be the protector of the miners according to their own culture.





- ▶ The feasts organized in memory of St. Barbara, known as the protector of miners by the Christian world, turn into a "coal festival" event in the 1920s, which was gradually attended by Muslims and celebrated with dance meetings and balls.

► After the Republic, the Santa Barbara celebrations continue with the participation of Turks from Zonguldak. According to some opinions, this situation means accepting a foreign, Christian culture. Nowadays, this date is celebrated as miners day in Zonguldak.



- Since the Ottoman period, most people from other nations came Zonguldak for working in coal mines. Nowadays, coal mines do not have as many workers as in the past. So, there are not many migrant people comparing old times.
- Nowadays there are 1777 migrant people (Iraqi, Afghan, and Syrian) in Zonguldak according to recent numbers taken from Directorate of Migration Management. Most of them are escaping from wars in their hometowns.