

IS THE TURK A WHITE MAN?

The American courts have barred from citizenship Chinese, Japanese, Burmese, and their half-breeds. Will they bar Turks? The United States Circuit Court in Cincinnati has been called upon to decide whether a Turkish citizen shall be naturalized as a white person. Only "to aliens being free white persons, and to aliens of African nativity and to persons of African descent," does the statute admitting to American citizenship apply. Few Turks migrate to this country, fewer settle here. But this case is of interest to the representatives of the Hunnish and Magyar peoples, whose stock is akin to the Turks, and who constitute a chief part of our immigrants.

The original Turks were of the yellow or Mongolian race. TIMUR and his Turkish-speaking descendants founded the Mogol or Mongol Empire in India. JENGHIZ Khan, a Mongolian, headed the invasions into Russia with hordes of Turkish-speaking soldiery, of Tartar or Manchu stock, from the central and western steppes of Asia. They swept down into Persia, overran Arabia and Egypt, and invaded Europe to Vienna. Before them came the plundering Huns, or Hiung-nu, as they were known in China.

But in their westward progress the Turks freely intermingled with the Caucasian races whom they subjugated. The Turks in Constantinople to-day are the descendants of Arabs, Kurds, Slavs, Albanians, and Greeks, and of foreign slave girls of more mixed ancestry. The deposed ABDUL shows unmistakably Semitic features. But Sir CHARLES ELIOT would not generalize from the physique of the Turks of Constantinople. In his book on "Turkey in Europe" he says:

In June, 1897, I saw many thousand Turkish soldiers together in Thessaly, collected from all parts of Anatolia, and was much impressed by the strongly non-Caucasian type of many.

And President GEORGE WASHBURN of Robert College has testified:

The Turkish mind does not work as ours, and it is very difficult, even for one who has lived in Constantinople for fifty years in close relations with the people, to predict from one day to another what is likely to happen.

They are a cruel and massacring people, and they have lost none of their ancient proclivities. But they are also Europeans, as much "white" people as the Huns, Finns, and Cossacks. A trace of negro blood, if only enough to stain the fingers about the nails, will bar a person from white society. But that is a distinction chiefly of caste, not really of race. Would so narrow a distinction, or even a broader one, prevent the Turk from being considered a white man?