Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to probe into the social restructuring of the city of Thessaloniki between 1900 to 1950. The aim of this research paper is to pin-point the following: firstly, the placement of the social and cultural immigrant population into the urban region of Thessaloniki and secondly, the change and the realignment of these social groups with the already existing population in the course of these fifty years.

From the end of the 19th century until 1950 tremendous changes have taken place in the city of Thessaloniki. In the dawn of the 20th century the city was multicultural, the Jewish culture was dominant in the Ottoman Empire and both commerce and industry were well under development as infrastructure was new and interventions many (demolition of the walls, the use of the tram, the use of the harbour and the railway). The first districts, outside the walls of the city, were also built. In 1950 Thessaloniki was clearly and solely a Greek city. It was the second biggest city in Greece and it stretched out, enormously, to almost twice its original size. This paper probes into the development of the urban cluster of the city, and examines its economic, political and social changes, the two world wars and the civil war, the city’s accession to Greece, the great fire of 1917 and the arrival of the refugees. The evolution of the phenomena aforementioned, which are under scrutiny, are also under analysis as are the imprints of the maps. More specifically this paper probes into the distribution of the Jewish, the Muslim and the Christian population in the area after the great fire of 1917, and the consequences this had upon the general social and ethnological composition or structure of the city center. The composition of the population of the city is also scrutinized upon especially after the arrival of the refugees in Thessaloniki. Last but not least, reference is made to the population of the city during and after the end of the Second World War.