

Book Reviews

Richard Clogg, ed., *The Movement for Greek Independence 1770-1821. A Collection of Documents*, London, The MacMillan Press, 1976, pp. 232.

"The mere word Turk, induced in me queer spasme", writes Adamantios Korais, one of the leading figures of the Neohellenic enlightenment, in his autobiography. Further on, reflecting on his experiences at Montpellier where he studied medicine, he expresses similar anguish every time he thought of Ottoman rule over his fellow Greeks: "I spent here six ... years studying medicine, as far as a body weakened with past sorrows and continually weakened by the daily pains of study and from the continually gnawing thought that eventually I would have to return to a homeland tyrannised by the Turks, allowed". In the opinion of this reviewer, Korais can be described as the first modern "Greek intelligent" whose contribution to the Greek national movement in scope and intensity was unrivalled. His insightful autobiography, quoted above, is one of over fifty documents carefully selected and ably translated by Professor Richard Clogg in the volume under review.

The chief merit of this collection of documents is that it accomplishes precisely what the editor had in mind when he initiated the project: "to look at the Greek national movement from within rather than from without, to enable those without Greek to gain an insight into one of the most interesting of modern national movements". Both objective and result are refreshingly unique and we have a work which is indispensable reading not only for those interested in the origins of the Greek War of Independence but also for those generally interested in the intellectual and cultural history of modern Greece.

Indeed, this is the first attempt to bring together in English translation so many documents which reveal the temper of Greek Society during the crucial half century before independence. A succinct introduction by Professor Clogg, putting the documents in proper perspective, and an excellent glossary enhance the significance and usefulness of the volume.

The documents represent a great variety of sources for the period under consideration: European travel accounts of the Ottoman Empire (among them J.C. Hobhouse, Henry Holland, and W. M. Leake), reports of European representatives in the Levant; reports and writings of Greek merchants, intellectuals, hierarchs, revolutionaries and revolutionary sympathisers, residing either inside or outside "Ottoman Greece"; official proclamations; treatises and importantly enough folk ballads. Divided into two major sections, "Greek Society Before Independence" and "Revolutionary Crosscurrents", they touch on a variety of topics ranging from urban and rural life, the emergence of a commercial bourgeoisie, the status and role of the church, cultural life to the influence of the French Revolution and, of course, the *Philiki Etairia*.

Even more impressive, however, is the editor's success in making his selection of documents as balanced as possible thus presenting contrasting as well as complementary descriptions of conditions and institutions in the Ottoman Empire as well as political attitudes toward the Ottoman authorities. Having a proper appreciation of the attitude and role of the different social groups in this national movement is, after all, a matter of crucial importance. The latter is especially true in the case of certain élitist groups such as the Phanariotes and the hierarchy of the Orthodox Church who have most frequently been viewed as propagating continued submission to Ottoman rule by virtue of their official connections with what can be described as the "Ottoman Establishment". The "Paternal Exhortation" (*Patriki Didaskalia*) of the

Jerusalem Patriarch Anthimos in 1798 (pp. 56-64) and to a different degree the Ecumenical Patriarch's anathematisation of the *Philiki Etairia* in March 1821 (pp. 203-208), are examples of gestures by some leading hierarchs who cast their lot against the revolutionary movement. This kind of proclamation can easily be interpreted as evidence of opportunism within the church. But then we hear of other clergymen such as the Metropolitan Ignatios of Oungrovlakhia who defended the moral role and activity of the church, and about Athanasios of Smyrna who becomes a neomartyr in 1819 instead of betraying his faith (pp. 66-69).

The same applies to the Phanariotes and other Greek merchants within and without the Ottoman Empire and who for a number of personal reasons would presumably favor continuation of the status quo. Consciously or unconsciously, nevertheless, members of this group make worthwhile contributions to the surging rational movement through the support of Greek schools, printing presses, and the distribution of Greek books and revolutionary pamphlets. This is partly the context of the Greek intellectuals of the "Neohellenic enlightenment" who will struggle for national independence, either immediate as was the case with Rigas (represented in this collection with his "Revolutionary Proclamation", "The Rights of Man" and "The New Political Constitution of the Inhabitants of Rumeli, Asia Minor, the Archipelago, Moldavia and Wallachia"), or gradual as was the case with Korais who despite his unqualified hatred for the Turks, nevertheless advocated a form of nationalism based on education. Unfortunately, not included in the volume under review is Korais' *Adelphiki Didaskalia* or "Brotherly Constructions" the biting response to Patriarch Anthimos' *Patriki Didaskalia*.

In short, the documents are remarkably eloquent betraying the subtlety which characterized the relations of the various social groups and their attitudes toward the national movement. They also attest to the existence of a certain political humor and social criticism as reflected in the *Rossanggallos*, a satire against Greek élites or in the well-known Greek Monarchy, (mistyped as Manarchy in the volume under review), a *word about freedom* (pp. 96-117). After a careful reading of the documents, one emerges with a greater appreciation for the mobility, complexity and dynamism of Greek society on the eve of the 1821 Revolution, a phenomenon oftentimes ignored by historians who treat the Greek national movement as merely a detail in the international diplomacy of the Eastern Question.

The Movement for Greek Independence 1770-1821 will delight students of modern Greece. It is the hope of this reviewer that a similar companion volume, concentrating on the Greek War of Independence itself will soon follow.

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Smith, Peter C. and Walker, Edwin, *War in the Aegean*, London, William Kimber and Co., Ltd., 1974, pp. 304.

War in the Aegean is a study of Britain's unsuccessful 1943 campaign to seize the Dodecanese Islands. It explains how the Germans, after Italy's collapse in early September 1943 and despite growing Allied power, were able to continue their domination of the Aegean, thereby protecting their Balkan position and oil sources, discouraging Turkey from entering the war, and blocking Allied hopes of using the Straits supply route, all at small cost to Germany. The book does not avoid all the problems found commonly in military histories, but it combines effectively the discussion of strategic planning controversies and information on