

ihre politische Haltung zu Lasten Polens. Die Österreicher fühlten sich gegen die französische Revolution nicht gesichert und hofften auf die Unterstützung Preußens und Rußlands. Sie hofften auch auf einen gegenseitigen Tausch österreichischen Gebiets auf den damaligen "Benelux-Ländern" mit Bayern. Schließlich eignete sich mit der kaiserlichen Thronbesteigung von Franz II. und der Ernennung des jungen unerfahrenen aber sachlichen Cobenzl zum Ministerpräsidenten in der Außenpolitik eine anspruchsvollere Rolle, so daß Polen in seinen politischen Wahlen ohne Unterstützung von außen blieb. Die Polen hatten ihrerseits immer auf die österreichische Hilfe gehofft und hatten trotz deutlicher Indizien die überraschende politische Veränderung der Österreicher im Mai des Jahres 1792 nicht bemerkt.

Weiterhin werden die militärischen Operationen des polnisch-russischen Krieges von 1792 sowie die erste Teilung des polnischen Gebiets von ihren Nachbarn kommentiert und schließlich werden auch die Ursachen dieser Katastrophe genannt, die folgende waren:

- a) Das Fehlen an Goldrücklage für die Unterstützung der 100.000 polnischen Soldaten und
- b) Der Einheitsmangel sowie auch die gemeinsame Aktion der Großgrundbesitzer.

Es werden außerdem der heftige Widerstand des polnischen Volkes gegen den Beitritt ihres Königs in der Regierungsform von Targowica und parallel die Handlung von Caché streng kritisiert, der die Polen mit niedriger Widerstandsmoral gegenüber ihren Feinden darstellte. Dies kann man in den Aufsätzen des österreichischen Gesandten erkennen, da er öfters Situationen voller Probleme und Kompromisse beschreibt.

Auch Kocójs kritische Ansicht bezüglich seiner Bemerkung, daß jemand fürs Verstehen der eintretenden zweiten Teilung Polens das "Geflecht" der preußisch-russischen und preußisch-österreichischen Beziehungen, das in den Aufsätzen Caché vielseitig und energisch vorkommt, ausführlich untersuchen muß, ist treffend.

Eine Frage läßt der preußische Forscher jedoch vielleicht absichtlich —bezüglich Cachés Informationsquellen von den Betrachtungen des großen Landtags— offen. Denn eine solche Aussage würde möglicherweise auch eine andere Norm des polnischen öffentlichen Lebens am Ende des achtzehnten Jahrhunderts demonstrieren.

Abschließend möchte ich sagen, daß auch dieses Werk von Professor Kocój in seiner Reihe wichtiger Monographien mit Thema: "Der große Landtag der Polen" —aus vielen Perspektiven gesehen— wahrheitsgetreu und gut geschrieben ist. Sein Ziel ist es, eine bis heute unsichtbare wesentliche Seite der polnischen Geschichte darzustellen, was ihm auch gelingt.

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Giannakopoulou Eleni K., *Γαλλοελληνική εκμετάλλευση δασῶν στη Δυτική Ελλάδα, 1710-1792: "Ένα εμπόριο με προεκτάσεις* (Franco - Greek Exploitation of Forest Resources in Western Greece, 1710-1792: A commercial enterprise and its extensions), S. Saripolos Library, No 56, National and Capodistrian University of Athens, Athens, 1987; 42+396 p., ill.

This is a doctoral dissertation, which has been carried out under the guidance of professor V. Sphyroeras and was presented on May 1982 at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University

of Athens. Its subtitle implies that the author intends to push her research beyond a mere description of the exploitation of the forest resources of western Greece in the 18th century. Indeed, as stated by herself, her main objective is to embrace the overall human activity, to select the proper data in a given time context, to observe the behavior of man in his natural environment and try to understand his reactions to the various stimuli: to put it plainly, Mrs Giannakopoulou wanted to study an unknown aspect of the economics of the Ottoman occupied Western Greece from 1710 to 1792.

The content of this book is presented in three parts, followed by a conclusion in both Greek and French, as well as by a wide range of statistical tables, diagrams, maps, illustrations, documents and two indexes, one for the proper names, the other for special terms used in the text but not always explained. In the first part, the author presents the potential of Western Greece for the export of high quality, wood fit for shipbuilding and the manifestation of French interest for its exploitation and this despite the fact that the Ottoman government forbade the cutting and export of oak wood from its territories. In the second part the author describes the prevailing conditions both in the area under study and the conditions under which international trade was carried out in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire in the 18th century. Finally, in the last part of her study, she examines the actual operations on the field of action where French smuggler — entrepreneurs rub shoulders with corrupt Ottoman administrators, Italian competitors, Greek merchants and contractors, Jewish money — lenders, and local woodcutters and bandits. Profits from all these activities are shared by all the above, though it is not clear in what proportion each of the participants gets his share. To the credit of Mrs Giannakopoulou, nothing is advanced which is not founded upon first — hand documentary evidence, and even this is often verified by comparison with other sources of equal importance. The general conclusion, as is the table of contents, is conveniently presented in both Greek and French.

Without precluding bureaucratic mechanisms, the author focuses her attention to all those conditions, on local, Ottoman, and international level, which determined the nature of the trade under study. Her starting point coincides with the most critical phase of the struggle for naval supremacy in the West, namely France and the recently created (1707) United Kingdom of Great Britain: as we know, the actual outcome of this confrontation determined future developments on a world scale and there is no particular need to underline the relevance of this topic to world history. Indeed, after the treaty of Utrecht (1713) and the capture by the British of the forest resources of Eastern Canada (Acadia), it was only natural that the French should turn elsewhere for alternative sources and this explains their interest in the wood supplies of Western Greece. This commerce reached a high point during the period 1770-1785 and died out in 1792, again through British interference against French trade, this time in the Mediterranean. Therefore, the chronological limits of this study are well justified.

The research for this study was carried out systematically and painstakingly, from archive to archive and from library to library for six years, with three more years devoted to its composition. Among the primary sources exploited, French, Greek, and Italian, or rather Venetian, are the most important and in that order. The French archives, which this reviewer knows best, have been used extensively with the sole exception of those of the Quai d'Orsay, perhaps on the false assumption that they contain information of political nature alone. An eleven page international bibliography indicates that the author is familiar with most aspects directly related to her topic.

Throughout this very interesting book we are presented with a fairly good and well

documented idea as to how the officially forbidden export of oak wood, so important for ship-building in the 18th century, was conducted in the most western provinces of the Ottoman empire during this period of decline: unfair business practices by almost all those engaged against all others, the Ottoman officials exploiting everybody and being cheated in their turn by everybody, the French bribing their way through and ending up by paying high prices, the Greek intermediaries cheating everyone, fighting each other and ending up as losers, or driven out of business by those who were supposed to collaborate with them, eg. J.B. Lasalle versus Papachristou (p.p. 183-4).

The case of the François and Jean Baptiste Lasalle company is indicative of the natural tendency of big money to eliminate competition by creating a situation favorable to a monopoly, thus fixing prices and salaries and raising profits (p. 250). It is also indicative of the natural reaction which develops when one person concentrates in his hands too much power, driving his own partners into opposition and into the arms of his Venetian and Greek rivals. Coming at the end of the book, the assassination of J.B. Lasalle symbolizes the end of an era in the exploitation of the forest resources of Western Greece by the French, who, by that time, had much more serious problems closer at home to look after. The symbolism applies equally to the general history of the times.

Even if Greek merchants sometimes appear to be more successful than their French or Italian competitors, the fact is that they all ruined each other. Indeed, it has been shown eloquently in the text that the tendency of the French marchants to do away with the Greek intermediaries altogether, replacing them with their own nationals, at a time when French expansionism met stiff opposition from the British in the Mediterranean itself (p. 238) coincides with the worsening of the Franco - Greek relations: this made much more difficult the export of Greek wood for shipbuilding to Toulon. So, it comes as no surprise that, by the time of the early stages of the French revolution, this business, burdened with so many handicaps and operating under such unfavorable conditions, gave way under the pressure of superior external causes.

Once published, this dissertation is no longer addressed to the specialist alone and for this reason this reader would have appreciated some help from the author in reading it properly. More precisely, a good glossary of the specialized terminology, namely of Turkish words such as *hass*, *arpalik*, *timar*, *ziamet* and suchlike, would have been very helpful: the index of specialized terms is not a substitute for it. In a similar vein, this reader must confess that he was unable to locate on any of the six maps annexed to the text many of the place names mentioned by the author: just one good general map of the area, for the period under study, would have been much more useful. However, all those minor defects do not diminish the so many positive aspects in this definitive study of the question of the Franco - Greek exploitation of forest resources in Western Greece in the 18th Century.

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