

who participated, and the date each Ministry was assumed by the Ministers. The following countries are included:

*Bulgaria.* From the government of T. Burmov, 4/17.7.1879, until the government of K. Muraviev, 2.9.1944.

*Moldavia.* From the government of A. Sturdza, 1851, until the government of A. C. Moruzi, 5/17.10.1861.

*Wallachia.* From the government of G. Baleanu, 1841, until the government of D. Ghica, 19/31.7.1861.

*Romania.* From the government of B. Catargiu, 22.1/3.2.1862, until the government of 1944.

*Serbia.* From the government of 1856, until the government of N. Pašić, 3/16.11.1918.

It should be noted that the dates used for each country are those in which each country is presented in *Almanach de Gotha* comprehensively. The publication is also accompanied by a complete index of names, rendering it a useful tool for readers.

Unquestionably, this publication constitutes an important manual for those studying the history of the Balkan region, both because of the richness of the information given and the particular care taken in arranging it, and because of the long period of time it spans. For this reason, the publication of the second volume—which has already been announced—is expected impatiently; it will include the countries Albania, Greece, Montenegro, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia), and the countries which made a brief appearance on Yugoslav soil during World War II.

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ELEFThERIA MANDA

Vlavianos Haris, *Greece, 1941-49: From Resistance to Civil War*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992. pp. XVII+350, ISBN: 0-312-06573-6.

Haris Vlavianos is Professor of Political History at the American College of Greece. He has studied economics and philosophy at the University of Bristol and international relations at Trinity college, Oxford (Dphil). He has published many articles on the Greek Communist Party. He is a research fellow of the Greek Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Athens. Professor Vlavianos's *Greece' 1941-49: From Resistance to Civil War* is an

important book. At first glance, it may seem to resemble other one-volume histories of Greece of the 1940s. But Vlavianos's book is even more complete devoting its 350 pages to all aspects of the stormy decade of the 1940s in Greece.

In 1943 Compton Mackenzie in his book *Wind of Freedom* observed that the "full story of the sublime struggle of the Hellenic people against the new Barbarian cannot be told because the material is wanting" (p. ix). Indeed western historians have been struggling for decades to get into the archives of the Stalin period. In the early Eighties, before Gorbachev took office, scholars were granted very limited access. The real transformation came after the defeat of the August 1991 coup. Access to Russian archives and the opening of archival material in England, the United States and other countries have shed new light to our knowledge of events in Greece since the decade of the 1940s. Several scholarly publications including Professor Mark Mazower's *Inside Hitler's Greece* (1993), a scholarly account of the experience of occupation exploring the impact of the Nazi occupation upon the lives and values of ordinary people in wartime Greece, have already appeared. The previously inaccessible archival material now available have made possible a vast increase in our knowledge of recent Greek history. Indeed the further in time that the second world war and the cold war recedes, the more does evidence accumulate that challenges the accepted certainties — political, diplomatic, economic, social and operational.

In 1940 the Greek public was so engrossed in the war with Italy as to spare little attention to the threatening developments to the north. On April 6, 1941 Germany declared war on both Greece and Yugoslavia. By May 1941, following the German famous airborne invasion of Crete (the first predominantly airborne invasion in history), Greece came under Axis occupation. Soon the Greek resistance forces began to harass the Germans quite effectively. King George II carried on a government in exile, sometimes in London and sometimes in Cairo. The period of German occupation of Greece is a melancholy one with episodes, often cruel, which greatly influenced the political, economic and social institutions of the country. With the German occupation of Greece many Communist leaders, imprisoned by the Metaxas government, were released. They fled to the mountains to establish contacts with the underground forces to fight the enemy. Rival monarchist and communist groups maintained a guerilla war with the Germans from 1942 until the British liberated Athens in October 1944, when the two resistance groups started fighting each other as ardently as they fought the Germans. Bitter civil war lasted from May 1946 until October 1949. The struggle between the

Greek communists, the British and the Greek right, brought Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden to Athens to help bring a settlement to the tragic situation. Between January 1945 and April 1946, no less than eight governments succeeded each other, characteristic of the political instability that was troubling the country.

The election of March 1946 brought to power a monarchist government, and the plebiscite of September 1946 recalled King George II to return to Greece. However, the ideological differences between the two ends of the political spectrum—the Right and the Left—were chiasmatic and “irreconcilable”. Thus Greeks experienced another face of the civil war and a “bloody exercise in tragic determinism”. Alas, the Greek civil war was one of the bloodiest of modern times: it cost the lives of more than 600,000 people out of a population of 7 million. Professor Angelos Angelopoulos, the distinguished economist and member of the Academy of Athens, in his recently published book *Από την Κατοχή στον Εμφύλιο: Η Μεγάλη Ευθύνη των Συμμάχων* (1994), [The Greek Resistance during the Second World War 1940-1945], provides an important account of the Greek civil war and observes that its impact on Greek political, social and economic developments could be traced to the present. The period of the Nazi occupation and the liberation that followed, professor Angelopoulos writes, “is an epoch that was to have a decisive impact on the subsequent course of Greek affairs since its various consequences have been felt right down to the present day”. A coalition of Rightists parties formed a new government in January 1947. In April, King George died and was succeeded by his brother Paul. In the meantime, the communist guerrillas, assisted from Yugoslavia, formed a “Provisional Democratic” government up in the mountains and continued their struggle with the government in Athens. The prospects for Greece and the Greeks were not promising. The British, who hoped to continue as a major power in Greece, found themselves unable to continue to carry the economic and military burden after March 1947. At this critical point, the United States entered Greece’s world by taking over in the momentous Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. With massive military and economic assistance from the United States (more than \$ 2 billion by 1953), in August 1949 the Greek army launched an all-out offensive which destroyed the guerrilla forces and brought an end to the civil war.

*Greece, 1941-49* is a study “of the policies and strategies of the Greek Communist party (KKE) during the period 1941-7, with particular emphasis of the period 1945-7. It examines the policy of the KKE during the Resistance and the immediate post-liberation period” offering a “post-revisionist inter-

pretation of the causes of the Greek Civil War". The book is divided into seven chapters: part I, "The Greek Communist Party: Resistance or Revolution?", part 2, "Varkiza: Capitulation to the British?", part 3, "From Varkiza to the Seventh Congress", part 4, "The Elections of March 1946: Pandora's Box", part 5, "The Second Plenum: Textbook Revolution", part 6, "The Decision to Abstain: 'Tactical Error' or 'Decisive'", and part 7, "From Limited Self-Defence to Civil War".

The book includes a useful conclusion, chronological table, index section and bibliography. "The history of the Greek Civil War, as we have interpreted it in this book" writes Professor Vlavianos, "is the history of errors, of petty malice, of vicious intentions, of high-sounding objectives sometimes masking the lowest of motives". *Greece, 1941-49* is well written and thoroughly researched. It is a most important contribution to our knowledge and understanding of a tragic epoch in recent Greek history. The decade of the 1940 is of great importance to political, social and economic developments in Greece during the following decades. It is a period that deserves more books. Books that bring together the thinking, experiences, plans, and frustrations of all protagonists in the drama of the Greek Civil War. Professor Haris Vlavianos is to be commended for his highly significant book.

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Christofis H. Economides, *Demythologizing the History of Cyprus in the Last 50 Years* (in Greek), Nicosia, 1993.

A review of a book on the historical developments in Cyprus is a welcome opportunity for the reader to comment on the Cyprus dilemma and to offer another perspective on the problem afflicting the people of that island Republic. Christofis Economides' book "Demythologizing the History of Cyprus in the Last 50 Years" is an attempt to deal with the historical events in Cyprus. The book includes the following: essays, studies, commentary; the author's correspondence on important developments, especially with leading political leaders and personalities; and a series of documents, speeches, and revelations on the major historical junctures during the anti-colonial struggles and the events surrounding the independence period, up to the present. Much of this historiography is familiar to the student of Cyprus history and politics.