

M. D. Petropoulos, *Νεοελληνικά ναυτικά θέματα* (Modern Greek Naval Matters), Athens 1983, Institute for Modern Greek Studies, no. 2.

This welcome publication by M. D. Petropoulos comprises a collection of articles concerning Modern Greek naval history, beginning with an unknown edition of the *Portolano*, a travel guide to ports which was first published in Venice in 1573. The author also mentions the various printed editions of this guide. The collection also includes an unpublished document of the Kapoudan Gazi Husein pasha from 1803, according to which, in order to build a ship it was necessary to obtain a special permit which had not been required previously. In his third article the author deals with research into the sources of the *Maritime Legislation* compiled by Nicholas Kefalas. In the fourth he brings to light a hitherto unknown bilingual "decree" (*decretto*) which was published on 29 July 1819 at Peran in Constantinople. This document concerns the Russian protection which was provided after the Treaty of Kiuçuk Kâinarci (1774) for Greek ships and also offers solutions to various questions (caulking etc.) arising from their freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Aegean.

Excerpts from various unpublished letters which the author has collected and reproduced in his fifth article concern naval events from the Revolution; these should be examined in the light of information we already possess in order to investigate whether or not they are creditable, what new information they have to offer, and whether or not they diverge from the known facts and comprise only rumours. In the sixth and last article the author gives a critical analysis of the *Examination ... concerning Navigation* by Nicholas Vryonis, Professor of "nautical science" at Syra.

By and large, these articles may be seen as valuable tesserae from the mosaic of Modern Greek naval history; they make a positive contribution to naval research and will undoubtedly spur scholars on to further investigation.

CONSTANTINE A. VACALOPOULOS

Miranda Paximadopoulou-Stavrinou, *The Rebellions of Cephalonia in the years of 1848 and 1849*, Athens: (Society of Cephalonia Historical Studies, vol. No. 1), 1980, pp. 290.

This book by M. Stavrinou is a good example of an exhaustive and fully documented work. It is based largely upon primary sources from the British and Greek archives and provides fresh evidence about the crucial revolutionary events which took place in Cephalonia in the years 1848 and 1849. The dialectical approach to the subject is the main characteristic of this work, as well as the attempted method to trace the political and socio-economic factors behind the increasing discontent of the Ionians and mainly the Cephalonians against the British Protectorate and the local allied gentry.

Cephalonia was in fact «a thorn in the body of the Protectorate» both from the political and the economic aspect. The particular conditions prevailing on the island favoured the emergence and the evolution of Radicalism to such an extent that Cephalonia became in 1848 the focus of the national-unionist and democratic movement of Radicalism and of intensified political agitation.

The liberal intellectuals of Cephalonia who studied in the universities of Italy and France, having lived in the emotionally charged atmosphere of the secret societies of that time and

of the July revolution in Paris, returned to the Islands as preachers of the national and democratic principles of that romantic and heroic era. Their preaching was very effective: the lack of a free press, the repressive government, the parody of the elections of the parliamentary representatives (see Chap. 2 p. 31, Part One), the arbitrary administration of the High Commissioners, and the exclusion of the Ionian liberals from the administration, caused the bitter criticism and the indignation of the Ionian intelligentsia.

Through a wide-ranging and illustrative analysis of the socio-economic and historical factors and attitudes inside the Ionian Islands, the author succeeds in demonstrating that the local uprisings of Cephalonia in 1848 and 1849 were not only the mere echo of the European revolutions, but the result of a long and emotional awakening of the lower classes: artisans, shop-keepers, small tenants in the cities and illiterate peasants in the country were united, in some cases with certain liberal figures of the local gentry, towards a conscious and purposeful movement under the leadership of the Rizospasti, H. Zervos Iakovatos, Joseph Momferratos, G. Livadas and others. Nevertheless, the coincidence of the external situation with the internal complex conditions helped their manifestation: the revolutionary turmoil of Europe, the economic deterioration combined with the nationalist excitement of Cephalonia undoubtedly precipitated the revolutionary process.

The book is divided into four Parts. The first Part is entitled «Factors of the popular discontent against the Anglo-Ionian government during the revolutions of 1848 and 1849». The second Part is entitled «The first nationalist manifestations», while the remaining two Parts of the book deal with the main subject: the armed revolts of 1848 and 1849. Chapter titles further suggest how M. Stavrinou marshals her evidence and succeeds in the particular synthesis of each Part.

M. Stavrinou's first chapter (Part one) presents a good example of her approach to analysing the social and economic situation of the Islands up to 1848, which the British did not make any particular effort to improve during their thirty years' administration. On the contrary, British rulers (concerned with their colonial interests) had rather favoured social conflict resulting from the heavily unequal taxation imposed on the rural population. The second Chapter starts by describing the political system of Heptanissos, which, according to the author, constituted another motive of popular hostility against the Anglo-Ionian administration. The third chapter underlines the awakening of the national consciousness of the Ionians and much emphasis is put on the fact that the British never sank their roots deeply enough in the Ionian Islands nor gained the sympathy of the natives.

The first Chapter (Part Two) discusses the overwhelming effect of the European revolutionary events on the Rizospasti leaders of Cephalonia, and it is followed by an analysis of their nationalist-political ideas and the first steps of the opposition, which, since 1840, had addressed memoranda to the Colonial Office, asking for constitutional reforms. The celebration of the anniversary of the Greek Revolution, in 1848, is presented in the second chapter, while the political significance of this demonstration and the Greek orientation of the Cephalonia people are duly stressed. The third chapter describes the events of Good Friday (9/21 April 1848) which took place in Argostoli; the furious resistance of the people against the police (contadini), the arrests of citizens and the political character of this organised and massive protest against the local authorities are sufficiently emphasized.

All the chapters of Part Three trace the insurrectionary preparations of the Rizospasti supporters and militants in the two cities and the country of the island, from May to September, while the events of the disturbance of 14/26 September 1848 and the oppressive measures imposed consequently by the government on the people, are extensively described and

examined. The author concludes that this rebellion of 14/26 September had a purely national character and that it was instigated by the Rizospasti, who were greatly inspired by the revolutionary ideals of the nineteenth century and the principles of the French revolution, in their struggle for independence and union with Greece.

Part four deals with the journalistic activity of the Rizospasti, (after the law conceding freedom of the press was ratified by the British Crown at the end of 1848 and granted as a liberal reform to the Ionians) and demonstrates how far they succeeded through the channel of the press, in propounding their ideas to the masses, thus contributing to the nationalist orientation of the people, notwithstanding their persecution by the government, which exiled the two eminent leaders, H. Zervos Iakovatos and Joseph Momferratos for their subversive articles. Lastly, the rebellion of Scala (15/27 August 1849) and the causes which led up to it are examined and fully documented. According to M. Stavrinou, this rebellion had a twofold character. It was both nationalist and social: nationalist, because of the peasant's armed resistance to the British troops, and social, because of their atrocities against the land-lords of that area.

In conclusion, it could be argued that M. Stavrinou has succeeded in mastering her extensive and often contradictory material. In her analysis, she duly emphasizes the social and nationalist aspects and skilfully describes the insurrections of Cephalonia within the wider framework of the socio-political reality of Heptanissos. She reconsiders the European historical scene, and specifically the revolutionary 1848 and its ideological effects which were felt in the remote corner of the Ionian Islands. She also underlines the peculiar condition of Cephalonia (as the focus of Radicalism) largely due to the economic crisis of these years, which was so painful to both the peasants and the land-lords who were incapable of paying off their debts.

In her Dissertation, M. Stavrinou reasserts the role of certain British and Ionians in the events of 1848 and 1849, who tried to undermine the constitutional reforms of High Commissioner Seaton. Here the Dissertation offers new and valuable evidence, mainly from the British records, which assert the essentially nationalist and social character of the rebellions of Cephalonia.

Unreservedly, we come to the conclusion that, irrespective the numerous studies dealing with the same subject, the work of M. Stavrinou provides abundant new evidence relating to the revolutionary events of 1848-1849 in the greatest detail, and, at the same time, it surpasses all the previous studies, published sources and newspapers of the period (Heptanisian, Greek and British) and makes use of rich unpublished material from the British and Greek Archives.

Thus the completeness of this study, in its treatment of the subject and the richness of the new elements, in its perfect synthesis and, as we have repeatedly underlined, in its use of new archive material, constitutes not only its value towards scientific work but also its particular originality.

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