

quite a few questions unanswered or they provoke questions regarding the geography of the region described. This volume, however, solves these as well as other problems with success<sup>3</sup>.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

XANTHIPPI KOTZAGEORGI

Angelomatis-Tsougarakis, Helen, *The Eve of the Greek Revival: British Travellers' Perceptions of Early Nineteenth Century Greece*, London, Routledge, 1990, pp. XVII+289, maps, index.

The author, a member of the Research Center of Medieval and Modern Greek Studies of the Academy of Athens, presents to the reader a critical overview, an exhaustive analysis and a personal interpretation of the published and some of the unpublished accounts of British travellers in "Greece" during the years 1800-1821. This carefully prepared study is, according to the author, "an adaptation" of the text presented at Oxford University, England, in 1986, as a partial requirement for the obtention of a doctoral degree.

This reviewer understands that the word "revival", used in the title, is not meant to evoke the much longer period which preceded the outbreak of the 1821 Revolution and that the word "Greece", used in the subtitle, has a rather dubious geographical application: even if we were to tolerate the anachronism and accept a definition of "Greece" within its present boundaries, we still do not see how to fit in it such cities as Constantinople, Smyrna, Kydonies and some others in Asia Minor, which come into the discussion.

The editing has been executed with care: misprints, misspellings and other uncorrected mistakes are rare. Among the exceptions, it may be pointed out that the two Rumanian reviews in French, which figure in the list of abbreviations, could have been printed correctly, that the abbreviation PHQ, used on pp. 214-5, could have been included in that list, and that the Turkish equivalent of Kydonies could have been either avoided or spelled in a more acceptable way. Moreover, Leake's lead, which causes Attica, Boeotia,

3. For those who are aware of Stephanos Yerasimos' recent excellent work, *Les voyageurs dans l'empire ottoman (XIVe-XVIe siècles). Bibliographie, itinéraires et inventaire des lieux habités*, Ankara 1991, allow me to note the following: that it covers a smaller time period than that of the research program dealt with here; that it was published while research was already being conducted by the Institute of Neohellenic Research and that the researchers of the Institute were aware of it. Finally, the publication of this book does not mitigate the value of the research program whose major task is, for the time being, the creation of a complete and informative computer information bank useful and accessible to all researchers.

Aitoliko, Vrakhori (modern Agrinio), and even Dervenokhoria, in the Megaris area, to be located in northern Greece (pp. 33-4, 36 and 68), will not be accepted by any modern reader.

In the first chapter (pp. 1-24), the author provides an excellent summary description of the nature of British travel literature, the basic element for the study. Then she proceeds to present a succinct preview of the recurrent themes as they emerge from the entire body of this material. In this first encounter with both author and topic, the reader will find more than general information about the nature, variety and validity of the sources, about tools and method of analysis, finally about the aims pursued in this study.

From what the reader is led to understand from this introductory text, he will expect from the author to go straight to the point, bring out the relevant from her sources, underline the important and place facts and figures in their proper context. Finally, we are promised a systematic analysis, to be followed by a critical evaluation and by a meaningful comparison. A critical reader will be left under the impression that this part of the book was composed after the main body of the thesis had been terminated and that the work of William St. Clair on Greece and Greek issues during the period under study here has not been consulted.

The second chapter, "The Country" (pp. 25-76), is illustrated by five maps showing forests, marshes, drainage points, land under cultivation, crops, population density, the road network, inns (hans) and the general direction of population movements. The author focuses her attention to those basic elements of physical and human geography, which are of interest to the historian: mountains, plains, islands, overland communications and transport in general, the demographic evidence on urban and rural settlements and the main directions of migrations. Each theme is treated on the basis of material extracted from the sources, presented in the previous chapter, and all pertinent information has been used in a meaningful manner. According to the author "the overall picture of rural Greece as it emerges from the travellers' description is one of misery and desolation" (p. 71). However, some omissions, inevitable in all cases, may be noticed here and there, as for instance the absence of any reference to the well-written published doctoral dissertation of Mrs H. K. Geannakopoulou on the exploitation of forest resources in Western Greece during the eighteenth century (Athens, 1987), a topic brought up in the discussion on pp. 27-33.

In the third chapter (pp. 77-117), the author deals with the Greeks and other ethnic groups, as observed and described by the travellers in their rambling tours through "Greece". Naturally, the Greeks figure prominently in these accounts, with the Turks, Albanians, Vlaxhs and Jews following in that

order. More numerous than all the others taken together and being native to the country, the Greeks had the advantage of claiming to be descendants of those who had created the monuments and works of art which were of prime interest to the travellers.

Some of the *lacunae* in the sources, as for example the lack of information about Greek political and social institutions at the municipal level, or even about self-identity, are filled in by information drawn from some posterior writers, who wrote well after 1821. Such are the cases of D. Urquhart, J.-Ph. Fallmerayer —a German— and G. Finlay, the first of whom is considered a source whereas the other two are not. In this case, this reviewer does not know what were the criteria for making the distinction between primary and secondary sources. It could have been preferable to state simply that the British travellers under study were not interested in this or that aspect of Greek society, or even that they thought this or that way about the “natives” they met and leave it there.

We understand that the numerous references to the works of non-British sources of the time, such as F. Beaujour and F. Pouqueville, are due to the fact that the British travellers had no scruples in lifting information from them and using it, sometimes without even acknowledging their sources. We also understand that the opinions on the Greeks held by several travellers before visiting the country and the views which were expressed in writing on the same topic after having the experience, before or after 1821, could not but reflect the prevailing attitudes at home.

At the beginning of the previous chapter we have read that “for the travellers the country itself was more important than its inhabitants” (p. 25), which is a correct reading of most travel literature of the time. This becomes self-evident when the author presents a general idea of the state of their own mind as they jot down their notes in evaluating the character of the Greeks, or in describing their institutions which they dislike without knowing them. Naturally, they have no such problem when they come to describe other ethnic minorities, which were lucky in not having behind them a glorious past or any ruins of their own to show.

But at this point we enter into the slippery terrain of the formation and evolution of concepts such as that of the national consciousness of the authors, their unavowed but no less real attachment to class interest and their class consciousness, their contribution to the formation of public opinion and of public images at home, presumably all in line with their own interests.

In the fourth chapter, the author deals with such issues as Greek education and culture as perceived, registered and transmitted by the same travellers during the same years (pp. 118-145). It appears that those well-

educated young gentlemen, steeped into the spirit of the classics, when making their comparisons with what they met on the field, found contemporary Greeks to be by far inferior to their ancestors and it is, perhaps, this evident inferiority which gave credibility to the theory of the discontinuity of the race later on.

In evaluating their testimony on the state of education and culture in Turkish dominated Greek society during the years 1800-1821, we must recall what has been stated in the introduction, namely that travelling was slow and tedious, that travellers were usually young men belonging to the higher ranks of society, that the average traveller remained in the Levant —and Greece was only part of it— between one and two years, that they were usually ignorant of the spoken languages of the countries they were visiting and, finally, that they were “culturally unprepared to comprehend and accept whatever was strange to their culture and standards” (p. 14). But there were notable exceptions, too. W. Leake, for example, continues to be an inexhaustible source of reliable information on a variety of topics for that period.

On education, a topic on which so much work has been accomplished by Greek scholarship for over a century and about which so much is known by now, the testimony of these travellers seems to have been handicapped not only by ignorance of the prevailing conditions in the Ottoman Empire but also by their own prejudice against the Greek clergy. In fact, they could not understand that, though liable to ransom at any moment by a ruthless and rapacious overlord belonging to a different religion, Greek clergymen were nevertheless deeply implicated in the process of transmitting knowledge, even scientific knowledge, and succeeded in creating an impressive network of educational establishments, which made possible the so-called modern Greek “revival”. The other topic which is presented in this chapter is a critical evaluation of the state of culture as it emerges from the writings of these travelling gentlemen. Since education (παιδεία) has been presented and analyzed at the outset, its equation with culture, on p. 188, makes no sense and could better have been avoided.

Though they had in common an inquisitive mind and were open to all pursuits of the intellect, they were ill prepared to understand and evaluate properly what they saw in Greek society. Their vision of reality —at least for the vast majority of them— was that of a well educated tourist of the time: some of them demonstrated an interest in the domains of the arts and the letters, in manuscripts to buy, in books in circulation, in municipal and private libraries, in the spoken language, in written and oral literature and poetry, even in music and painting, but they had to move on to other places and come up to different objects of interest. At this point the reader will learn more

about the state of the mind of the writers themselves than about Greek education and culture of the time.

In the fifth and last chapter, under the general heading "The Economy" (pp. 147-206), are presented such themes as land tenure, the expansion of the *çiftliks*, taxation—including the extortion practices of the local authorities—, money in circulation, problems in the exchange, currency devaluations, commodity prices, the role of the Greek merchant in Ottoman economy, pastoral and other economic activities, such as manufacturing on the highlands, and, finally, the Greek marchant marine. In this part of her thesis the author offers very useful information for the economic historian for the period under study.

It is certainly a welcome addition to the small number of analytical studies which have been published by other historians in Greek and in French. From the methodological point of view, the collection and analysis of economic data is both thorough and systematic.

It is well known that all sources have their limits and this becomes evident in this series of travel testimonies. Travellers are not expected to do more than just register and transmit faithfully what they see and hear during their travelling experiences. So, we cannot follow the author's critical hint that "the travellers principally dealt with isolated facts which were only rarely brought together to establish an overall view" (p. 186). We know that their often impressionistic and kaleidoscopic views of reality, when taken at face value and in isolation, may lead the reader far astray.

In the first place, we should keep in mind that the travellers under study here ignored how Ottoman institutions came about, how they functioned and what were their effects upon the social and economic institutions of the Greek *reayah*: they had no knowledge of the deep causes which produced the conditions to which they were witness and which they described and often deplored. Then we should also remember that these travelling gentlemen were writing for people of their own class and condition. Their background and their ingrained ideas on the role of economics in their own society were decisive when they were gathering, sifting, retaining and evaluating whatever economic and social fact they considered worth retaining for transmission.

In her four-page conclusion the author sums up briefly but concisely the main ideas of her analysis of the body of literature examined. The picture of "Greece" and of its inhabitants of the first twenty years of the 19th century, as it emerges from the testimonies registered in these travel books, seems to be reasonably clear, accurate in detail and faithful to reality. It is obvious that all useful information has been squeezed out of the sources and cast into an organic whole which is free of repetition and of unnecessary verbiage. It is a definitive study of the question and will certainly be used with profit for the

purpose it was written. Finally, it will be an important tool for a better understanding of the history of the old British-Greek relationship as well as for the writing of the history of the Greek people on the eve of the 1821 Revolution.

*Ionian University*

B. SPIRIDONAKIS

Robert Frazier, *Anglo-American Relations with Greece. The Coming of the Cold War, 1942-47* (MacMillan, London-Hong Kong, 1991).

When, back in 1963, the Institute for Balkan Studies published the late Professor Xydis' book on *Greece and the Great Powers 1944-1947*, one hardly suspected the flow of titles which, from a variety of perspectives, was to wash over the subject during the following three decades. All principal authorities on the origins of the Cold War have, at some point, dipped into the Greek crisis, the British or/and American intervention and such a celebrated topic of post-war history as the Truman Doctrine. Many have contributed major monographs and articles, enriching not only the bibliography of the subject but also the great debate on the origins of the Cold War, which has long divided the pertinent scholarship on the other side of the Atlantic between "traditionalists", "revisionists" and "post-revisionists"<sup>1</sup>. And yet it is often acknowledged that there is still scope for a fresh approach, a different point of view; this feeling is rather validated by Robert Frazier's study.

To be sure, the author adopts a rather straightforward diplomatic historian's perspective, in the sense that he primarily relies on the diplomatic records of two of the major powers involved, Great Britain and the United States. Even this, however, is no small a task, given the sheer volume of the material available. Apparently, this study is at its best while attempting to juxtapose and reconstruct the decision-making processes in the ranks of the respective powers. In doing this, it does not miss, as it is in fact the author's stated purpose, the conflicting assessments and attitudes noticeable in both cases. It amply shows how the diverging views and varied degrees of knowledge and interest of the political leaders of the two powers and their respective diplomatic and military services can explain the twists and turns of

1. See H. R. Jones - R. B. Woods, "The Origins of the Cold War in Europe and the Near East: Recent Historiography and the National Security Imperative", *Diplomatic History*, 17, 2 (1993), 251-276.