

was certainly aggravated by the war. Its aftermath casts even greater doubt about the wisdom of the decision to bomb. A counter-terrorism still in progress against the dwindling Kosovar Serb minority, Serbia's crippled economy, the irredentist campaign of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA-UCK) and its shady networks in the neighboring states and Kosovo's reliance on western aid and administration, make the prospects of the region bleak.

Coll points out the inconsistencies in American behavior when addressing human rights violations, or in the US choice of ad hoc military courts to try war criminals (p. 148). His argument however that NATO had lawful authority in this undertaking (pp. 136-138) is less convincing. During the cold war era NATO had displayed little concern for human rights violations among its own members (Portugal, Greece, Turkey) and was therefore probably not the appropriate institution for waging a humanitarian war. Coll's contention that "NATO had lawful authority because it was sufficiently impartial" (p. 137), is seriously contested by Charles Boyd's (Deputy Commander in Chief of US European Command in Bosnia) "Making Peace With the Guilty" (*Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 1995, pp. 22-38).

Despite its lack of familiarity with regional sources, this collection constitutes an important addition to the multifaceted debate on the war in Kosovo. Of the many interesting views that appear in *War Over Kosovo*, this reviewer would like to end with that of James Kurth: "The Kosovo War was the first US war of the global era. But it will not be the last. It should however be the last US war fought to enlarge an international organization (NATO). It should be the last US war justified as being a purely humanitarian war" (p. 93).

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Alexandre Ypsilanti, Correspondance inédite 1816-1928. Publiée par Gregori Ars et Constantin Svolopoulos. Institute for Balkan Studies 268, Thessaloniki 1999.

In the framework of its collaboration with various scholarly institutions that share its own interests and objectives, in the last decade the Institute for Balkan Studies developed a wide programme of close collaboration with the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Slavonic and Balkan Studies. The ties between the two institutes were strengthened when Constantin Svolopoulos, now a professor of modern history in the University of Athens, was

director of IMXA. One of the reasons for forging these ties was to conduct research in archives for data relating to Greek history; and one of the fruits of that research is this book, which contains unpublished correspondence of one of the prime movers in the Greek War of Independence of 1821, Alexander Ypsilandis. The publication of this hitherto unknown correspondence of that great Greek patriot, who was a distinguished officer in the Russian army, is due to Professor Gregory Arsh and the aforementioned Professor Svolopoulos, who now offer us these writings that tell us so much about the history of the leading light of the Greek War of Independence in the Romanian Principalities. It was Professor Arsh who discovered the correspondence. Professor Svolopoulos wrote the preface and transcribed the letters, while Professor Arsh wrote the detailed introduction.

In the preface, Professor Svolopoulos elegantly introduces the reader to the general subject of Alexander Ypsilandis. This is followed by Professor Arsh's lengthy introduction, in which he undertakes a detailed discussion of the data arising out of the published archival material. There follows a very detailed and very useful list of the fifty principal documents, ten of which carry an attachment. The information given includes the place and date of writing, the names of the recipients, a brief summary of each document, and the page on which it is found. The letters are all written in French, which should not surprise us, because not only was French the official language of diplomacy in the nineteenth century, but at that time a large segment of the Russian aristocracy used it for everyday communication and indeed knew French better than Russian. The book is illustrated with portraits of Tsar Alexander I, Ypsilandis, Capodistrias, and other major figures in the Russian state and diplomatic hierarchy. This very interesting publication closes with a very useful index of people mentioned in the letters, with a brief biographical note for each. So much for the outward features of the book.

We must start by recalling some details of Ypsilandis's life. The scion of an aristocratic Greek family, he was born in 1792 in Constantinople. His father, Constantine, was a dragoman of the Sublime Porte and was later appointed ruler of Moldavia and then of Wallachia. In 1806 he lost this position and moved to St Petersburg, where he and his family lived under the protection of Tsar Alexander I. It was here that his eldest son, Alexander, was educated, joined the army, and attained the rank of general at a very young age. Alexander Ypsilandis took part in the heroic war of 1812 against Napoleon, in which he lost his entire right arm. His father died in 1816, leaving the family with numerous unresolved financial problems, such as debts and also claims, most notably the Ypsilandis family's litigation with the Sublime

Porte over financial matters. Some of the letters published here refer to precisely this issue, notably Ypsilandis's mother's pleas to Tsar Alexander to intervene on the family's behalf. The letters cover the period between 1816 and 1828 and reveal some completely unknown aspects of the life of the Ypsilandis family, especially of Alexander, whose biographical details have always been incomplete and only partially known.

Ypsilandis's letters to important figures, such as Tsar Alexander I, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Capodistrias, and Baron Stroganov, the Russian Ambassador to Constantinople, and the appeals of local luminaries of the War of Independence to the Tsar clearly convey the feverish urgency of those tragic times and the profound anguish that possessed them. This correspondence certainly reveals the prestige which the Ypsilandis family enjoyed in Russian society, as also the Tsar's personal concern for its members, although that concern, owing to ideological and international constraints, could not be overtly displayed.

The dry words of this presentation cannot even begin to convey the sensitivity and emotion of the letters of Alexander Ypsilandis and his mother, Princess Elisabeth. A passionate yearning for freedom, a loud cry for justice, a mother's pain, patriotic fervour, obedient submission to the Russian Tsar, and the discreet responses of the Tsar and the Russian noble officials all find expression in this correspondence in a French language of an elegance and grace that have long since vanished from our own age. We should be truly grateful to Professor Arsh and Professor Svolopoulos for this splendid offering, which transports us to the finest hour of the Hellenic nation and of Greek-Russian relations.

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