

villages "who joined up less in response to political ideals than because life at home in their parental households had become unbearable" (p. 66). Yugoslavia, the only other country to generate a widespread guerrilla resistance movement in the early years of the war, similarly shared with Greece the presence of food-deficit mountain villages and heroic tradition.

In "Village Experiences" the author focuses on changes observed in his visits to four villages over thirty years and to two other settlements over twenty years. Life in these small villages scattered across Greece shifted fundamentally from 1946 routines as local isolation withered away and old-fashioned peasant patterns of behavior adjusted in response to new urban-based national and international currents. Although each of the selected villages had a different experience, it is generally concluded that the peasants required little urging to alter old methods of cultivation, if it could be demonstrated that financial advantages would follow.

Rapid urbanization, the most striking facet of Greek society since World War II, is analyzed in "The Texture of Life in Greek Cities". McNeill offers two reasons for the relatively smooth transition from rural to urban life. First, market-oriented peasants were prepared for city life where market relations were even more critical than in the villages. Second, the tight-knit nuclear family units of the countryside facilitated the transition from village to city with very little internal adjustment of family behavior. "Individual lives, accordingly, suffer less disorientation, and signs of social disruption are fewer in Greece or among the new diasporas of the 1960s and 1970s, than would have been the case without the Greek village background" (p. 210). It is also conjectured that Marxism has not been more popular because many Greeks, even poorly paid factory workers, nurture the hope of breaking away from demeaning dependency implicit in wage-earning status. Having cited a list of special characteristics in Greece's modernization process, McNeill dismisses as invalid the assumption that modernization is an essentially identical worldwide process.

The above summation hits on only a few of the many provocative generalizations found within this unique book. There have been numerous other attempts by scholars, journalists and popular writers to provide hints, clues and formulas for understanding the seemingly mysterious and non-Western nature of modern Greek society. In qualitative terms, however, McNeill's contribution distinguishes itself from other efforts with its sounder observations and conceptualizations. There are also few of the clichés on Greek character so frequently present in the writings of Western European and American authors. Nevertheless, because McNeill perhaps too casually crosses the methodological boundaries of the several social sciences, because he provides few footnotes in his broad, sweeping commentary, because he has drawn many conclusions from his study of only six small villages—scholarly critics will be tempted to attack this book. Marxists, in particular, will be distressed by McNeill's non-orthodox analysis of class roles and development in Greece. The intellectual challenge for the formation of effective rebuttals will be formidable. The result should be healthy debate and still further insights for comprehending this traditional society in transition.

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S. VICTOR PAPACOSMA

S. Victor Papacosma, *The Military in Greek Politics: The 1909 Coup d'Etat*, Kent State University Press, 1978, pp. 242.

Despite the voluminous literature, both theoretical and empirical, on the military particularly in developing societies, scholars have paid little attention to the role of the Greek military in modern Greece. However, the recent military dictatorship (1967-1974) in a European

country ostensibly part of the "West" seems to have stimulated academic interest. It is to be hoped that probing analytic studies on the Greek military will be forthcoming.

Papacosma's study is one such effort to fill the existing vacuum, particularly in the English language. Unfortunately, *The Military in Greek Politics; the 1909 Coup d'Etat*, is of limited value, particularly for those who are familiar with Greek sources. It is a detailed, descriptive, historical account of the events that transpired prior to, during and subsequent to the intervention of a group of military officers — The Military League — in Greek politics in 1909. In that sense the book is quite informative. The account however is not presented within any kind of analytic framework; it does not have a focus or a central theme. Whatever significant points the author makes are imbedded in the details, and are well known for the most part to Greek experts; e.g. except for a minority the Military League did not aspire to direct political rule; the military rule was precipitated by dissatisfaction with the disastrous military defeat of 1897, the continued inadequacy of the Greek military and the failure of Greece's political leaders to further the goals of the Megali Idea; the coup enabled the rise to political leadership of "new men" in particular Eleftherios Venizelos.

Missing from this study is any analysis of the interconnection or interrelationship between the actions of the Military League and / or its members and the society at large. Thus although the author discusses at length dealings among the League, the civilian political leaders and the monarchy, absent is the socio-economic context within which all these events took place. Papacosma alludes frequently to "the people" and to the extent of their support for the Military League at various stages. But he does not define "the people" nor indicate on what evidence he judges their attitude toward the Military League. Periodically, reference is also made to trade associations and labor groups, but the reader is left guessing as to the links between them and the military. The early twentieth century was a time when an incipient bourgeoisie and a labor movement were emerging. The impact of these developments on the military coup and its policies needs further elaboration. It is insufficient to merely assert that Venizelos whom the League brought to the fore was perceived as a liberal by contrast to the traditional conservative leaders.

In the preface Papacosma states that he has used diplomatic archives in Great Britain, Germany and Austria. One would expect that use of this new material would provide additional insights or a new perspective on the military coup. Except for an occasional quotation from diplomatic correspondence, little new knowledge has been added. If one were to look for a more extensive elaboration of the role of the foreign powers during those years than that which has hitherto been available, which this reader did, he/she would be disappointed.

It is difficult to write on the military without using one or another of the prevailing theories of the military as a reference point. Papacosma is not subject to any such constraints. As a consequence he has provided the reader with a historical sequence free of any overall theoretical or conceptual framework. As a history of the events of the military coup, from which the reader can surmise his/her own generalizations, the book is useful.

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George P. Nakos, *Τὸ Πολιτειακὸν Καθεστῶς τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἐπὶ Ὀθωνος μέχρι τοῦ Συντάγματος τοῦ 1844* — *Ἐκ τῶν Δημοκρατικῶν Ἰδεωδῶν τῆς Ἐπαναστάσεως τοῦ 1821 εἰς τὴν Ἀπόλυτον Μοναρχίαν* [The Governmental Regime in Greece under Otho until the Constitution of 1844. From the Democratic Ideals of the Re-