

supervising professor, is unmistakable. Aside from stylistic similarities to the abstract and highly formal writing of his mentor, Nakos's interpretation bears the mark of Pantazopoulos's thesis that Greek custom law and local traditions of self-government which survived the Turkish domination could have served as the basis for viable national institutions had foreign intervention not imposed alien and centralizing forms of rule which deflected Greek legal development from its true course.

One is not fully persuaded by the evidence presented that there existed a "genuine Greek political ideology" or "a collective will of the nation" during the chaotic war of independence. Too little consideration is given to the social and regional diversity, the political disharmonies and the continual internal strife which characterized this period. Against such a background, reliance upon formal documents is especially apt to produce a truncated and unreal image of political and social realities. Constitutions and resolutions appeared one after the other during the revolution, promoted by various interests. It is hazardous to maintain that any of them corresponded to the true convictions of the Greek people. The historiography of the War of Independence has advanced sufficiently to reveal the national movement as extremely complex with cross currents which defy one-dimensional interpretations.

Dr. Nakos has methodically scrutinized the major legal and administrative documents and offers an interpretation which places Othonian absolutism within the larger perspective of Greek constitutional development.

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Ξανθοπούλου - Παλαμά Χ., *Διπλωματικό τριπτυχό*, Αθήνας 1978 [Xanthopoulos Palamas Ch., *Diplomatic Triptych*], Athens 1978, pp. 298.

The late ambassador Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas belonged to the group of leading Greek diplomats and has carried out successfully very difficult assignments during his long career 1929-1973. His book deals with foreign policy in general, Greek foreign policy, impressions on some Greek statesmen and diplomats with whom the author had had the opportunity to collaborate, notes on Greek political developments, last but not least comments on Greek foreign policy and guidelines for its future. I knew rather well the author but of course did not often have the opportunity to discuss his ideas. In reading his book I understand some of his actions and have had the possibility to learn how the author tried and often succeeded to guide Greek foreign policy usefully for his country. I further learned about the barriers imposed on the foreign policy of a small country by its allies who, of course, consider exclusively their own interests. The author is very critical of the tendency of many of those who were in 1929-73 in charge of Greek foreign policy to abandon claims, to yield to foreign "allied" requests without securing concessions for their own country, to accept sacrifices which were not unavoidable. He mentions in this connections inter alia the granting of, let me say, colonial facilities to the United States' Mediterranean fleet in the Athens area, without any United States concession, the carelessness of the Greek authorities to avoid smuggling of alcoholic drinks from the United States' air base near Athens, to those selling same, in the city, the delay of the Greek Government in settling on an appropriate basis the relations with the Soviet Union and China, simply because this was agreeable to the United States, the latter's indifference to the Turkish threats against Greece.

In dealing with foreign policy, in general, Chr. Xanthopoulos Palamas is very keen to stress the importance of its support by public opinion which of course is unable to do so

when deprived of any information about the development and about the results of the foreign policy applied. Let me mention in this connection that the present Greek government is dealing since 1974 exactly in the way criticised by the author. He further stressed the necessity for flexibility of foreign policy and so gets the opportunity to note in this connection, and in others, of the genius of E. Venizelos. Particularly after World War II the author stressed that the reference to morale, and to international law is deprived of any importance whilst the accomplished fact has not to be underestimated. He got so the opportunity to criticize sharply sentimentality in foreign policy which is particularly noticed in Greece, leading often to blunders and the tendency to consider written agreements as of great value. According to the author they are important only if connected with vitality. The latter further stressed that, very often, those elected and assuming the leadership of foreign policy have neither the experience, nor the knowledge, nor the ability required to succeed. The particular characteristics of an ambassador are successfully analysed. His setbacks, connected with troubles within the country concerned, are not forgotten whilst the ambassadors and diplomats in general have not to forget that they serve their country and not the ruling party or even a dictatorship. The author believed that whenever problems concerning the country are negotiated by other authorities except the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this leads to unfavourable results. Let me add however that this is often the unavoidable consequence of the inability or the unwillingness of many diplomats to negotiate on various issues.

The author was connected for long years and on high positions with negotiations on Greek Turkish problems. He was perfectly right when stressing:

- a) Cyprus is one of them and especially the more important and cannot be settled separately,
- b) Greece and Turkey have to agree, which is impossible, when they do not trust each other and when they have the tendency to underestimate each other as this will lead to a war which will not settle anything,
- c) the withdrawal of the Greek division from Cyprus in December 1967 had been a blunder,
- d) the possibility of gradual settlement one by one,
- e) the Greek mission to save the Greek minority of Constantinople, the Greek population of Imbros and Tenedos, the settlement of the problems connected with the Patriarchate in Constantinople,
- f) Turkish landing in Cyprus 1974 has been a great mistake for which Turkey will have to pay in the future.

I cannot however agree with the author that it would be wise to conclude a new treaty with Turkey considering how little the latter applied those stipulations of the Lausanne treaty which its governments did not like.

The considerations of Christian Xanthopoulos Palamas on our relations with this Balkan neighbours and the Soviet Union are very considerable and show his knowledge, experience and ability. It is a pity he is no more alive to apply this policy or at least to influence those in charge decisively.

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Ariadna Camariano-Cioran, *Les Académies princières de Bucarest et de Jassy et leurs professeurs*. 830 p. + LXXIII pl. in 80, Institut for Balkan Studies, Thessalonique 1974.

Cet ouvrage volumineux s'impose aux yeux de tout spécialiste par son érudition, l'am-