

Roger E. Kasperson, *The Dodecanese: Diversity and Unity in Island Politics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1966 Pp. 184.

This is an unusually perceptive and original study of a Greek region well known for its tumultuous historical past and its present unique economic features. Kasperson's main contribution lies in demonstrating the interaction between various—in the author's phraseology—"development experiences" of the islands and the formation of political attitudes, and conversely, the impact of political events on these experiences.

The experiences are strictly economic in nature: agricultural development, the rise and decline of the sponge industry, the legacy of emigration and the expanding role of tourism. This leads Kasperson to writing what in effect is a compact economic history of the islands from the earliest period to the present.

The role various rulers played in shaping this economic history is well presented. Kasperson notes the Turkish indifference which allowed the expansion of the islands' shipping and sponge industries; the adverse effect of the Italian occupation on the latter together with the boost the Italians gave to the tourist trade; the efforts of the Greek government to develop agriculture and tourism and its failure to arrest emigration in the post World War II period.

One of the most interesting findings is that the islands in the Dodecanese where sponge fishing flourished in the past have demonstrated an unusually high degree of political independence and resistance to foreign rulers. Another characteristic, which need not be strictly limited to the Dodecanese but perhaps could be applied to other countries as well, is the alienation of the population from the government. This is evidenced in part by most inhabitants' assessment of government efforts entirely in terms of what the government can do for them, or, worse, how they can trick the government in order to enhance their welfare.

If the study has any faults, they tend to lie in the absence of any discussion of the question of whether the political attitudes of the Dodecanesians are in any way different from similar attitudes on the mainland of Greece. Some of the political developments of the Dodecanese, e.g. the Italian occupation, vary from the rest of Greece. However, the remainder were for the most part quite similar in general terms and the economic experiences of the mainland, aside from sponge fishing, do not differ greatly from those of the Dodecanese. Perhaps a larger effort

should have been directed in assessing whether the insularity of the Dodecanese islands led to different patterns of political behaviour from those exhibited on the mainland.

Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts

CONSTANTINE MICHALOPOULOS

Jane P. C. Carey and Andrew G. Carey, *The Web of Modern Greek Politics*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1968. Pp. X + 240.

Until recently the English-speaking layman interested in the politics of modern Greece had to wade through specialized and frequently dated tomes, seemingly complicating an already incredibly involved story. There appeared to be no brief and simplified but complete surveys of Greek political institutions and trends that were also good reading. Fortunately this situation is rapidly changing. *The Web of Modern Greek Politics* is a fine addition to several other such studies that have been published during the last few years which include C. M. Woodhouse's *The Story of Modern Greece*, reviewed in *Balkan Studies* IX, 2.

Andrew and Jane Carey have visited Greece repeatedly and some of their material on contemporary politics is based on their own research and observations. Their interest in the country is obviously deep and lasting: Mr. Carey, currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, is a trustee of the Near East Foundation and the American Farm School in Thessaloniki. Mrs. Carey is a director of the Foreign Policy Association and a trustee of Anatolia College also in Thessaloniki.

The Web of Modern Greek Politics begins with an excellent review of the country's political-economic-social ills that finally brought about the crisis of April 1967. This is a fair-minded synopsis, written with sympathy and understanding, carefully avoiding the many pitfalls of controversy that surround these events. In "The People and Their Background" the story of Greece from ancient times to independence is covered in masterfully brief and generally clear stages. Incidentally, the Slavic influence is recognized as negligible, and Thessaloniki receives deserved attention as a major center of Hellenism and of Byzantine culture. The gradual expansion of boundaries to their present location and minorities questions are described in "Growth of the Nation," followed by a chapter on the major political forces and leaders under