

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

RECENT AND OLDER BOOKS ON THE STRUGGLE IN MACEDONIA

A.

The Institute for Balkan Studies, continuing its effort to study the fight of the Balkan nationalities in Macedonia at the beginning of this century (see this periodical, 1st issue, pp. 129 - 142), has recently published in Greek another three volumes, which are outlined in short below :

1. 'Ο Μακεδονικός Αγών, ἀναμνήσεις, [*The Macedonian Struggle, Recollections*], by Mr. Alexandros Zannas, Thessalonike, 1961, 96 pp., No. 40 in the series of the Institute's publications.

Mr. Zannas, who took an active part in the fight, gives a vivid account of events in Thessalonike from the year 1902, and, more precisely, from the time of the arrival of the international gendarmerie officers provided by the Mürzteg programme, till the year 1904. He devotes part of his book to his personal impressions of the activities of a number of Macedonian fighters (Kapetan Matapas, Papatzaneteas, Ambrassoglou, Ramnialis, Antoniadis, Prassas and Aivaliotis) and to the attitude of the Kutsovallachs in Central Macedonia during the fight. A quite interesting part of the book is the revelation of how Mr. Zannas, still a school-boy at that time, intercepted important Bulgarian documents and conferences held at the Bulgarian Agency (Consulate) of Thessalonike through a love-affair he developed with a girl working at the Agency. The last two chapters of the book contain the writer's recollections on the Young Turkish revolution and the liberation of Katerini and Thessalonike by the Greek Army in 1912.

2. 'Ο Ίων Δραγούμης καὶ ὁ Μακεδονικός Αγών. [*Ion Draghoumis and the Macedonian Struggle*], by Mr. Dimitrios Evrygenis, Assistant Professor at the University of Thessalonike, Thessalonike, 1961, 23 pp., No. 41 in the series of the Institute's publications.

This book contains a lecture sponsored by the Institute and delivered in Thessalonike (30.3.60), Veria (8.5.60) and Florina (15.5.60), and is an excellent essay placing the great personality of Ion Draghoumis (see this periodical, 1st issue, pp. 133 and 140 n. 46), as a theoretician and a fighter, within the framework of the Macedonian struggle, and the struggle itself, as a historical event, within Greek national history. The writer suggests that this fight, having at a time inflamed the whole of Macedonia, marks for the Greeks a turn in their history, being the event which led from a disaster (the unhappy war of 1897) to a national rising (the revolution of 1909 and the successful wars of 1912 - 1913). Draghoumis, of Macedonian origin, son of a Greek prime-

minister and brother-in-law of the hero Pavlos Melas (see this periodical, 1st issue, p. 134), one of the most prominent and active men during the fight, is together with Souliotis - Nikolaidis (this periodical, 1st issue, pp. 138-139) the theoreticians who stressed by their writings the ideals inspiring the fighting; a romantic novelist and essayist in his early youth he became, after he spent a few years in Turkish-occupied Macedonia, a man of action and a iron-leader. He firstly (1902) was appointed vice-consul in Monastir and served successively in Serres, Pyrgos, Philipoupolis and Dedeagatsh, touring at the same time all over Macedonia, which he used to call "school of freedom". Mr Evrygenis does not fail to note that Draghoumis, as a statesman, was one of the first to foresee an inevitable differentiation in Greek foreign policy: Turkey, the centuries-long foe of the Greek nation, gives her place to the newly appearing in the north Bulgarian enemy tending to expand against Greek territories.

3. *Τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν Ἰνίκον Προξενεῖον τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης, (1903-1908)*, [*The Greek Consulate General of Thessalonike (1903-1908)*], by Mr. Basil Laourdas, Director of the Institute, Thessalonike, 1961, pp. 32, No. 42 in the series of the Institute's publications.

This book is also a lecture sponsored by the Institute and delivered in Thessalonike in February 18th, 1960. It contains a general outline of the ideas prevailing in the Greek Consulate of this town during the time of the struggle in Macedonia and describes the policy followed by two consuls, namely, Evgenios Evgeniadis and Lambros Koromelas, and, respectively, by the Kingdom of Greece, in two different stages of the fight over the disputed area. Evgeniadis, as the author states, was a typical old-school diplomat, striving to keep good relations with the Turkish authorities and to avoid anything which would expose his country, even if that was detrimental to the position of the suffering and unarmed Greek population of Central Macedonia, already severely attacked by the commitadjis. Needless to say that Evgeniadis represented Free Greece's policy of that time. On the contrary, Lambros Koromelas, (see this periodical, 1st issue, p. 134), a man of action, saw immediately, after he took over (1904), the inevitable need to encourage the Greek counter-attack, and, aided by Greek Army officers disguised as members of the Consulate staff, converted his office into the headquarters of the Greek fighting forces. His arrival in Thessalonike marked the beginning of the second stage of the fighting, a fact which compelled the Turks, who were strongly pressed by the Russian Embassy in Constantinople, to demand his revocation in 1907. Mr. Laourdas approaching, as always, his subject with precision in thought and critical mind, stresses Koromelas' personality and ideas with regard to the position of Free Greece towards the fighting in Macedonia as much as with regard to Greek foreign policy in general. Koromelas was also a warm advocate for an approach between Greece and Turkey in view of the Bulgarian tendencies against both countries.

B.

Among the Institute's older publications the three following volumes are more or less concerned with the Macedonian question, in general, or the Macedonian struggle, in particular, and have their place in the bibliography of the subject under consideration. Two of them have been published in English and are, therefore, most valuable to the non-Greek speaking students of Balkan history.

1. *The Paris Peace Conference of 1946 and the Greek-Bulgarian Relations*, by Mr. Dimitri S. Constantopoulos, former Professor of the University of Hamburg (Germany) and now Professor of International Law at the University of Thessalonike, Thessalonike, 1956, 46 pp., No. 11 in the series of the Institute's publications (in English).

Professor Constantopoulos, taking the opportunity from the peace treaty with Bulgaria of 1947, deals in the first chapter of his book with the history of the Greek-Bulgarian relations from the time of those two countries' independence up to the signature of the treaty (pp. 7-16), including, of course, the period of their antagonism over Macedonia. Most revealing is the use of Bulgarian and other official documents relating especially to the time of the Second World War and the Bulgarian occupation of Greek Macedonia, when they tried to "bulgarize" it. The writer, further, discusses the right of Greece to security with respect to her northern border (pp. 17-21) in connection with the relative debate at the Peace Conference, a right which has always and recently been denied by Russian and Soviet policy, the exit of Bulgaria to the Aegean sea through the Greek territory of Western Thrace, as this had been presented at the Conference by Bulgaria (pp. 22-26) in spite of the lack of any ethnological or other title, and, finally, Professor Constantopoulos outlines in a clear-cut way the connection between communist world ideology and panslavism (pp. 27-30) in the policy formulated for the Balkan space and, especially, towards Greece.

The book, supplemented by an abundance of notes, with references to a very extensive bibliography, statistics and official papers, is a short, but comprehensive and safe guide to the diplomatic history of Greek-Bulgarian relations, the best study of this subject that has appeared up to date.

2. *The Macedonian Controversy*, by George Zotiades, M. A. (Michigan), Thessalonike, 1961, 128 pp., 2nd edition, No. 3 in the series of the Institute's publications (in English).

A very interesting monograph containing in its first part (pp. 1-26) a survey of the Macedonian question by the examination of its origin and causes, its place in Balkan power politics, the various aspects (geopolitical, geographical, ethnographical and economic) of the problem, the invention of the so-called "Macedonian nationality", and the solution the author offers.

In the second part the writer deals with the Macedonian problem in the period 1940-1960, and the attitude shown towards it by Communist Bulgaria and Tito's Yugoslavia before and after the split between Tito and Cominform.

The book is supplemented by an appendix containing a chronology of the most important events in the history of the Macedonian question and, as its first edition is out of print, a revised one appeared this year.

3. *Ἡ συμβολὴ τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ τῆς Πελαγονίας εἰς τὴν ἱστορίαν τῆς νεωτέρας Ἑλλάδος*, [The Contribution of Pelagonia's Hellenism to the History of Modern Greece], by Mr. Constantinos Vavouskos, Assistant Professor at the University of Thessalonike, Thessalonike, 1959, 34 pp., No. 30 in the series of the Institute's publications.

This book, a lecture delivered in March 22nd, 1959, in Thessalonike, is also an essay dealing in general with the Greek element of the area of Pelagonia, which has been lost to Greece, and devoting a considerable portion of it to the participation of that part of Macedonia in the fight at the beginning of this century. Supplemented by unpublished valuable information with regard to unknown details of the Macedonian struggle in Monastir, Kruchovo, Megarovo, Nisopolis, etc. and containing old photographs in an appendix, makes it a very important contribution to the study of those troubled times.

MICHAEL G. PAPACONSTANTINOU

Ciro Giannelli - A. Vaillant, *Un Lexique Macédonien du XVI siècle*, Paris, Institut d'Études Slaves de l'Université de Paris, 1958, p. p. 69.

Habent sua fata libelli! A 16th century Greek from Macedonia, passing through slav-speaking villages of Western Macedonia and motivated by purely practical considerations, wrote down some of the slavonic words he heard spoken in that region. At that time he could not perceive that his notes would offer present-day slavologists with the oldest lexicon of a slavonic dialect. Neither could he imagine that four centuries thence, he himself would become an important figure on account of the fact that that unimportant dialect has in our days been elevated to the rank of an individual slavonic language side by side with the Bulgarian and Serbian.

In 1940 Cardinal Giovanni Mercati discovered in the library of St. Peter in Rome, a Greek codex (C 152) of 14 notebooks written toward the end of the 15th century and containing various texts, such as comedies by Aristofanes, the *Theogonia* by Hisiodos and a book in Greek with a Turkish translation in Greek characters, *De fide Christianorum Ad Turcos*. This codex was presented, along with six other codices, to the Basilica of St. Peter by its owner Sylvestros, who was Grand protosyngelos of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, an Orthodox,