

Abstracts

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THE GHOST OF ATHENS IN BYZANTINE AND OTTOMAN TIMES

Among early Byzantines the history of the Athenians retained some interest for the history of education and the last phase of the performance of pagan religious ceremonies. After the reign of Justinian even this restricted history disappears, and Athens lives on as a kind of mythic survival of the Byzantine literary cult of ancient Hellenism. Still the use of both forms of the Greek language (learned, popular) continued as is evidenced by the Parthenon inscriptions and the writings of Byzantine classicizing bureaucrats. This “ghost” of classical Athens became even more diluted in Ottoman times. It was in the writing of two historical memories by two Athenians that the Ghost of Athens and its actual contemporary history were reunited at a time of the influence of the European Enlightenment and the expansion of capitalist institutions (maritime commerce). The two authors were the Athenians Benizelos and Skouzes, the former a classicizing teacher and the latter a merchant marine captain.