

W. A. Heurtley, et. al., *A Short History of Greece From Early Times to 1964*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1965. Pp. viii + 202, 28 maps.

This concise and well-produced book fulfils most adequately its limited aim — that of giving a clear chronological survey of Greek history from prehistoric times to 1964. Within the space of some two hundred pages not a great deal can be expected, but the traveller and the general student will here find a well-written factual outline of the principal event in the history of the Greek people, the outline being made more easy to grasp by the inclusion of truly excellent maps and diagrams. Rather more space is given to Modern Greece (from 1821) than to the Ancient, Hellenistic, Byzantine, Frankish, and Venetian periods, and much less space is given to the Turcocracy. In the main, the treatment of these sections is political, with an occasional glance at economic and social conditions and with some emphasis on political geography. There is also a good section on Byzantine civilization by W. H. Plommer and S. J. Papastavrou, who is called upon again to supply a brief but informative section on Modern Greek Literature in a later chapter.

The chapters on Modern Greece from 1821 provide primarily a political narrative with the crowded events within the Greek national kingdom, with the impact on Greece of the wars and policies of the European powers, with the attempts of the Greeks to achieve their national aspirations and with their policies towards their Balkan neighbours and the Great Powers. Controversial events are mentioned (almost every event is a matter of controversy in Greece), but there is no attempt here (and there certainly is not the space) to enter into the controversies themselves. Nor is there space to give a really clear picture at different periods of what we might call the structure of Greek politics — that is to say, the social structure of the country, the way in which Greek political life takes its space and colouring from that structure and the basic ideas and motives of the citizens of Greece. (One might add in passing that much work needs to be done upon this aspect of Greek history before it can profitably be incorporated in an outline survey). Nor again, would it seem, is there room for the discussion of the vexed question of the continuity of Greek history or for a thorough examination of the place of the Church and the Patriarchate in the history of the Greeks.

It is not suggested that the authors of this work are unaware of these themes: they do indeed touch upon them from time to time; and they indicate in their select bibliography works in which these and

other matters are more fully dealt with. It would seem however that they have chosen (and in my opinion quite rightly) to make this introduction to Greek history primarily a chronological outline. From it the traveller will quickly find his historical bearings and the student of classical Greece will surely find much that he will want to know about the medieval and modern periods.

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Domna Dontas, *The Last Phase of the War of Independence in Western Greece, 1827-1829*. Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies, 1966. Pp. vii + 187.

It is sometimes argued by English historians that only the Battle of Navarino saved the Greek War of Independence from annihilating defeat. True, the military fortunes of the Greeks were at a very low ebb after the disasters at Athens in the early summer of 1827. But there was still an armed force in being under General Church, which was on its way across the northern Peloponnese with the declared intention of crossing the Gulf of Corinth into the western mainland at the very moment when Codrington precipitated the "untoward event." There was also the small but formidable naval squadron under Hastings — including the most modern ship in the Mediterranean — which the Turks had no prospect of putting out of action. Even without Navarino, it is certain that the Greeks would have fought on. The question studied in Domna Dontas' scholarly monograph is to what extent these forces contributed to the ultimate extension of the boundaries of Greece from the Peloponnese alone to the Arta-Volos line.

The author concludes that the operations in the area north of the Gulf and west of the Pindus range did contribute substantially towards ensuring that the area was not excluded from the new Greek kingdom. Certainly it was the crucial area — more crucial than the area east of the River Aspropotamos, which was to have been included in at least one of the intermediate plans. The reason why some members of the British government in particular wished to exclude the area west of the Aspropotamos was that they did not wish to have independent Greeks close to the dependent Greeks in the British protectorate of the Ionian Islands. In a purely colonialist sense they were right: they lost their case, and in due course they also lost the Ionian Islands. In a less limited perspective,