

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Evan Vlachos, *Modern Greek Society: Continuity and Change. An Annotated Classification of Selected Sources*. Boulder, Colorado: Colorado State University (Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology), 1969. Pp. 117.

As the scholarly literature on contemporary Greece continues to grow, it is useful to take stock of the situation to see what ground has been covered and what remains essentially unexplored. Evan Vlachos' bibliographical study serves this purpose remarkably well. It also contains a promise that a much more substantial work entitled "Materials for the Study of Modern Greek Society" may soon follow, focusing on the impact on Greece of rapid urbanization and industrialization.

The present study is an attempt to compile an extensive bibliography of "sociologically" significant books, articles, theses, etc., to organize them under certain carefully chosen chapters, and to offer brief critical comments on each of these chapters. The author, Associate Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University, confesses to a "definite bias towards works in English and Greek," and has for the most part confined himself to the classification of material which appeared after 1950. Since, as he points out, genuinely sociological literature on Greece is extremely limited, he has wisely chosen a broad spectrum in deciding what works shed light on Greek society and culture. On the other hand, he has excluded from his study "historical treatises, works on ancient and Byzantine Greece, memoirs, travel guides, novels and general fiction, and descriptive studies of Greek linguistics."

In organizing this bibliography Vlachos has chosen the following major headings: I. The Sociological Perspective in the Study of Modern Greek Society (Sociology and Social Sciences in Greece; the background of the on-going transformation; Attempted socio-economic approaches). II. The Greek People (Geographical and ecological background; Bio-social factors and physical anthropology; Population structure and vital processes). III. Form and Extent of Groupings in Greece (The spatial organization; Social groupings and aggregates). IV. Culture and Personality (Social interaction and communication; The Greek culture; The

individual and the group). V. Nature and Characteristics of Greek Institutions (Family and kinship; Religion; Education; Economics; Politics). VI. Social Change and Development. VII Conformity, Deviance, and Social Disorganization.

Any attempt to categorize such a great variety of works is bound to involve some degree of arbitrariness, which in turn lends itself to criticism. The neglect of relevant material in languages other than Greek and English, and the exclusion of "some non-sociological" publications, leave gaps that will have to be filled. Nevertheless, whether or not one agrees completely with his frame of reference and analytical scheme, there can be no question that Vlachos' study is of great value to the student of contemporary Greek society.

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Jeanne Tsatsos, *The Sword's Fierce Edge. A Journal of the Occupation of Greece, 1941-1944*. Nashville, Tennessee: Vanderbilt University Press, 1969. Pp. XI+131. Translated from the Greek by Jean Demos.

With the passage of time the shattering impact of World War II on Greece as on other countries has become the subject matter of study by the professional historian who strives to be scrupulously objective and clinically impersonal. If this deliberate detachment contributes to the writing of more accurate and therefore more durable historical records, it also obscures much of the human dimension of this terrible conflict: war tends to become a matter of high-level planning by famous leaders, of impressive logistics and great victories. The story of the defenseless civilians, especially in countries overrun by a merciless enemy, is rarely if ever told.

It is this story that the war-time diary of Ioanna Tsatsos (published in Greek in 1965 under the title *Φύλλα Κατοχής*) tells in short entries filled with horror, mental anguish, compassion, national pride, and spiritual strength. In these few pages she captures the heights and the depths of the mood of occupied Greece.

This is not, of course, the journal of an ordinary woman: both by birth and marriage Mrs. Tsatsos belongs to Greece's aristocracy of letters, higher education, and service to the state. During the occupation