

roots as a distinct nation deep into the distant past, but he cannot condone the artificial creation of any such root.

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, N. Y.

PETER CHARANIS

Erich Trapp, *Digenes Akrites: Synoptische Ausgabe der ältesten Versionen*. (Wiener byzantinistische Studien Band VIII, Vienna: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Kommission für Byzantinistik. Institut für Byzantinistik der Universität Wien. Wien 1971. Pp. 393.

Since the publication in 1875 of the Trebizond version of *Digenes Akrites* a number of studies have been devoted to that Byzantine epic. This was especially true for the period between the two great wars when men of the calibre of St. Kyriakides, Henri Grégoire and others made it an important objective of their investigations. In the meantime the other versions of the poem, including the Slavonic translation and the version in prose, were made available. Then in 1941 P. P. Kalonaros gave us a critical edition in two volumes of the Athens (Andros), Grottaferrata, and Escorial versions, plus a translation in modern Greek of the Slavonic version and a number of the Akritic songs.

In the preface to his edition Kalonaros writes: "The present edition of the texts of the Akrites epic is neither the perfect nor the definitive "synoptic" one which has been promised long ago and perhaps one day will be presented by more competent and knowledgeable scholars than the undersigned." Who was the scholar who had promised to bring out a "synoptic" edition of the Akrites epic Kalonaros does not say, but that promise has now been fulfilled by the appearance of Trapp's book.

Trapp's edition consists of a text, labeled Z, which is essentially the version of Athens; full references to the corresponding passages in the other versions, including Z when there is a repeat, and to the sources of the tale; and the presentation in full of the passages drawn from the other versions, notably the Escorial and the Grottaferrata which relate the tale more fully than is the case in Z. Trapp has thus produced an edition

which makes the task of comparing the various versions, and in general the study, of the Akrites poem much easier than it had been before.

Rutgers University

PETER CHARANIS

M. S. Anderson, Editor, *The Great Powers and the Near East, 1774-1923*. New York, St. Martin's Press, 1971; London, Edward Arnold, 1970. Pp. 182.

This brief volume is an item in the series of *Documents of Modern History*, under the general direction of Professors A. G. Dickens and Alun Davies. The editor is the author of *The Eastern Question, 1774-1923: A Study in International Relations* (1966), and, in many ways this is a complementary companion volume. As Dr. Anderson remarks in his preface, the volume attempts to cover "a very large and complex subject," and limitations of space have forced him to exclude much material bearing especially on the development and policies of the smaller Balkan States.

Following an interesting historical introduction to his documentary volume, the editor has presented his materials in eleven basic sections, which begin with selections from the treaty of Küçük Kaynarca (July 21, 1774) and close with excerpts from the treaty of Lausanne (July 24, 1923). Opening with the rise of Russian power and the French invasion of Egypt, the documents then illustrate the story of the Greek struggle for independence, the rise of Mehemet Ali, the struggle for internal reform in the Ottoman Empire, the Crimean War, the Eastern Crisis of 1875-1878, the Eastern Question during 1878-1914, European economic activity in the Ottoman Empire during the later Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries (the Suez Canal Concession (1856), the Baghdad Railway Concession (1903), the Growth of Nationalism, and World War I and the Peace Settlement (1914-1923).

There will always be differences of view as to the selection of materials for volumes of this kind. Generally speaking, however, Dr. Anderson appears to have chosen well. The documents illustrative of Russian policy relative to the Ottoman Empire and the question of the Turkish Straits appear to have been especially well selected and they well demonstrate the basic character of the policy and dispose of persistent myths. Students will find this brief volume very convenient, well supplementing other compendiums of documents.

American University
Washington D. C.

HARRY N. HOWARD