

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.

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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.

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