

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Hariton Korisis, *Die politischen Parteien Griechenlands. Ein neuer Staat auf dem Weg zur Demokratie, 1821-1910*, Karl Pfeiffer, Herbrück/Nürnberg, 1966. Pp. VIII+230.

Here is an excellent and readable book in which Mr. Korisis shows the political side of Greek life and history from the outbreak of the War of Independence in 1821 to the rise of Eleftherios Venizelos in 1910, through the methods of political sciences. The author presents in his principal theme the consolidation of constitutional monarchy based on democratic ideals. The process towards this consolidation appeared rather smoother in Greece just-emancipated than in other European countries under oligarchic régimes. In the first years of the Greek Revolution (1821-1825), in spite of the existence of political rivalries, no distinct parties were formed, as these rivalries concerned local interests, antagonism between military and political leadership, and conflicts between foreign ideas and local tradition. Yet there can be mention of two main political groups: the one composed of the followers of Alex. Mavrokordatos, the leader of the enlightened people by ideas from outside; and the other was formed by the chieftains under Theod. Kolokotronis, who derived their power from the people themselves. By 1825, the first political entities emerged as personal factions, faced with competing interests and having foreign support. One faction was pro-English because at the time its enemies happened to be pro-Russian or pro-French; and an intrigue on the part of one faction to secure the assistance of foreign power provoked other factions either to compete for that assistance or to set going rival intrigues with the other powers of Europe. Broadly speaking the pro-English party emerged as a reaction to a French intrigue, and this intrigue itself was a reaction against another movement which was supposed to be a pro-Russian manoeuvre. The result was that constant foreign interference in the general administration of the country became an important factor during the reign of King Otho (1833-1862), as Mr. Korisis shows. The powers were rarely, if ever, prompted by unanimous good-will for the benefit of

Greece; more often than not they acted from a consideration of their own national interest; while their intense rivalries always left considerable scope for the Greeks to carry on intrigues with one power or another. Hence, the powers could cause the fall of Greek Governments, or they could rouse public feeling for or against a political leader, or even against the throne. Otho often resented this interference and during the Crimean War, he endeavoured to break away from the protectorate of the Great Powers. The final result was that Greece eventually ceased to be a protectorate; but, at the same time, Otho's absolute reign ended. The Greeks had by then matured and demanded the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. Indeed, with the advent of another dynasty a new political life began for them.

The political parties with which King George was confronted were five in number, as Mr. Korisis writes. These parties were "personal parties" and failed to make the transition to parties based on principles. The chief ambition of the leaders was to be in office prior to a general election so as to be able to employ government patronage in order to secure a victory at the polls. But since 1882, the five party system was reduced to two party system, the main leaders of which were Charilaos Tricoupis and Theodor Deliyannis. Those two leaders achieved, in spite of the traditional scene of stormy party politics, a better organization of the parties and thus completed the establishment of Greece on modern political bases. As Mr. Korisis states, in 1910, with the rise of Venizelos, the Greeks had appeared to be greatly aware of parliamentary democracy.

Parallel with this improvement in Greece's political life went an amelioration of her economic and social situation. From farmers they were in the prerevolutionary years, the Greeks moved into industry and commerce during the early reign of King George I. From 1882, Greece established greater industrial enterprises, and she encouraged the import of foreign capital. With the development of industry the people began to move from the country to the cities. By 1910, as Mr. Korisis shows in his informative and concise table "*Parallele Wege von Gesellschaft und Politik*," Greece had developed into a modern state with large industrial cities and good communications. During this period under consideration, although the Greek political parties were endlessly divided on domestic issues, on the ultimate aims of Greek policy they displayed unanimity—the desire to achieve the "Great Idea," that is to say, the redemption of all Greeks who still remained under Turkish rule. "*Die Megali Idea*," Mr. Korisis writes, "*war während der ganzen*

Zeitspanne von 1821-1910 der Kern des ideologischen Inhalts des Griechentums."

The general conclusions reached by Mr. Korisis are convincing, as, for the first time, facts about the main characteristics of the political psychology of the Modern Greeks are given. But what makes this book important is not so much the final conclusions as the masterly fashion in which they were reached and the concise and well-documented information imparted in the process. What Mr. Korisis has done, while working out this particular theme, is that he has provided the student with a scholarly account of the political and social development of Modern Greece. His brilliant book serves a double purpose: it is a book for the historian since it deals with an aspect of the political and social Greek History hitherto not thoroughly studied: it is also a book for the general reader, for it provides a concise and well-documented account of a new state on its way to democracy. It makes available to historians information from numerous Greek and other sources which are set out in the excellent bibliography. Particularly valuable too are the Tables (pp. 49, 85, 112-119, 138-139 and 204-205) of statistical data referring to population, general elections, parliaments, and governments, as well as the parallel data of social and political development illustrating various portions of the text. It is therefore a book which should possess an important place in the bibliography of Modern Greek Studies.

Athens

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James Barros, *The Corfu Incident of 1923*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965. Pp. 340.

As soon as Mussolini seized power in his October 28 march on Rome in 1922, he started to try building up his new regime's prestige through actions in the realm of international politics. At Lausanne, however, he failed to reopen the question of the mandates, and at the London and Paris conferences he was not successful in his efforts to act as a mediator between Britain and France in the matter of German reparations. After these diplomatic setbacks, he redirected his desire to assert himself in the international arena toward a weaker sector in the international environment, and those in charge of his naval instruments of coercion began contemplating using techniques of power and force