

Abstracts

**FROM PONTOS TO THE GREAT SEA:
PHILOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES**

Stavros Christodoulou

The ancient name of Black Sea “Euxeinos Pontos” can be attributed to the Greek word Pontos, denoting the sea. Like the Hellespont and the Propontis, the Black Sea retained the meaning of the “difficult passage” at the end of the 5th century B.C. It got the name Pontos because of its complex geographical location, its dimension, as it is surrounded by ocean. The adjective “Black” by translation or spelling, is a phonetic copy of an Indo-Iranian name of the northern Black Sea, as opposed to the southern “Red” sea, borrowed from a geochromatic representation of the world. However, both of the above names, with the passage of time, lost their primary importance in the Greek language. In this article we will try to present the different opinions of the most important Historians, Geographers and Lexicographers of the antiquity, regarding the different interpretations given to the name Black Sea.

**THESSALIANS IN THE GREEK CONFRATERNITY OF VENICE
(16th-19th CENTURY)**

Athina G. Miliou

The presence of Greeks permanently settled in Venice dates back to the 14th century, at a time when the East was increasingly threatened by the spread of the Ottoman Turks, and after the fall of Constantinople (1453), the influx of Greeks in Venice was so great that they constituted its most powerful foreign element. In 1498 they even succeeded in organizing themselves into a Confraternity. Among the members of the latter were several Greeks from various regions of Thessaly and mainly from Trikala.

For their presence in Venice, we draw data mainly from the registry books (marriages, baptisms and deaths) of the Greek Confraternity, which have either been published or are included in the Digitized Archive of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice. These were mainly merchants who lived either entirely in Venice or who moved back and forth between Greece and Venice, such as Lanthos Mondanos from Trikala. Other merchants lived in Thessaly and traded with Greek merchants in Ven-

ice, such as Selekis and Lambros from Ioannina. There was no lack of young people going there to study, mainly at the University of Padua. Among the Thessalians, two benefactors of the Confraternity stand out with their bequests: Constantine of ever Manos and Demetrios Filippis, both from Trikala.

KUMANUDI. A GREEK FAMILY IN BELGRADE

Georgios Klokidis

The Balkan Peninsula has always been a special place for the Greeks, which could be a place of permanent residence for them, where they would develop their activities. One of the Balkan areas, in which the Greek populations showed a particular preference, is the area of Belgrade. One of the Greek families who settled in Belgrade is that of the Koumanoudis family.

The main purpose of this article is to get acquainted with the Koumanoudis family and especially with information and facts that have not been adequately illuminated by the existing literature. For this reason, in addition to the Greek literature, Serbian has also been used, especially the sources and archival material of the neighboring country. In this way, we can form a broader picture and reconstruct as much as possible the life and work of the Koumanoudis family, who mainly lived in Belgrade and excelled, not only in the economic, but also in the social and cultural activity of the country.

THE UNDERSIDE OF THE ANATOLIAN RAILWAY'S ADMINISTRATION: A SHORT GREEK-OTTOMAN RESPONSE TO A LARGE GERMAN COMPANY

Melina Grammatikopoulou

Archangelos Gabriel, a medical doctor of Ottoman Greek origin, had been working on the Anatolian Railway for more than 15 years, until he was dismissed in 1910. His extended participation in union activities during the strike of September 1908 and his prominent position in the strike committee were to account for his dismissal. He thenceforth committed himself to writing *Les dessous...* with the aim of increasing public awareness of the company's non-transparent and corrupt policy. By his own account, not only were the European management inattentive to the traditional Ottoman customs and values, but they were also engaged in the abusive exploitation of the country's resources. Moreover, Gabriel highlighted the directors' oppressive manner to-

wards the indigenous workforce as the main reason behind the strike. However, his urge to pledge allegiance to the new regime by strongly protecting the Ottoman interests from the European arbitrary policies highly indicates his vital need for consolidating his position in view of the political instability.

SERBIAN-GREEK RELATIONS FROM THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DATA

Jasmina Tomašević

Serbia and Greece did not establish diplomatic relations till 1868. Their rapprochement was certainly influenced by geographical proximity, the same religion, and centuries-old affiliation of the church under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, but above all, by similar historical circumstances during the long Ottoman rule in the Balkans. At first, solidarity and cooperation of the two countries were reflected in the participation of volunteers in the uprisings against the Ottomans, both during the First Serbian Uprising (1804-1813) and the Greek War of Independence (1821-1830). From the first liberation struggles to the First World War one can distinguish three different stages in Serbian-Greek relations. During these stages, the fundamental idea of cooperation was joint action against Turkey (and afterward against Bulgaria), while at the same time both countries were making efforts in the fields of education and culture. Publications referring to the history, literature, and tradition of the neighboring country were translated, as well as various other studies and articles written by significant figures of that period. The paper aims to illuminate the lesser-known aspects of Serbian-Greek cooperation and the Greek publishing production that reached the general public of the neighboring country.

**“EAGERLY AWAITING FOR THE STEAMBOAT”:
THE MIGRATION OF THE MERZAN COMMUNITY FROM THE
KUBAN DISTRICT OF NORTHERN CAUCASUS
TO THE AREA OF SKYDRA**

Agni Koliadimou

The Russian Revolution in 1917 caused upheavals and disruption in the lives of the Greek communities in the region of Northern Caucasus who expressed

the wish to settle in Greece. The first group who formally submitted the request in spring 1919 was the Greek community of Merzan in the Kuban district of Northern Caucasus. This essay records the difficulties of this endeavor caused by a wrangling strategy of the Greek government, which at first approved but later on rejected the repositioning of the Merzan group, as well as the anxious anticipation in Novorossisk port and the adventurous embarkation to Thessaloniki. The effort to settle this group in Skydra in the Prefecture of Pella at the end of 1920s was a difficult enterprise to accomplish. The inexpedient choice of the land by the refugees themselves, the limited size of agricultural holdings, the inefficiency of the authorities to offer the infrastructure required, made their settling down process even more complicated. On top of that, they had to face the hostile attitude not only from the Muslim landowners but also from land workers and tenants. Finally, the refugees were split up in three settlements: Toumba in Skydra, the neighboring village of Petria and in the village of Lefhadia in Imathia Prefecture where land was available.

**ANTISEMITISM IN INTERWAR DRAMA.
“THE INFAMOUS ‘ETHNIKI ENOSIS ELLAS’ AND THE
FOUNDATION OF A NAZI PARTY”**

Georgia Bakali

This article investigates the phenomenon of anti-semitism in the town of Drama and its impact on the local society. Evidence of the emergence of the National Union Ethniki Enosis “Hellas” organization on the 29th of June 1931 and the reaction it brought is presented, along with evidence of the political actions of Georgios Spiridis, as an Adolf Hitler enthusiast and founder of the Greek National Socialist Party (“Ethnikosocialistiko Komma”). At the same time, the relations of the Jewish population with the Christians in the urban environment of Drama are demonstrated as evidence that this environment, in contrary to Thessaloniki, did not favor the growth of a massive anti-semitic movement.

**WHEN TSALDARIS WAS DEPICTED AS HITLER AND
VENIZELOS AS HINDENBURG: THE INSTRUMENTALIZATION
OF THE GERMAN POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE SPRING OF 1932
BY THE VENIZELIST PARTY**

Petros Koris

This article aims to present the way, in which the Greek parliament and Press portrayed the constitutional crisis that beset the German political scene in the spring of 1932, as well as the repeated political interventions of the President of the German Reich, Paul von Hindenburg, through the abuse of Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution. At the same time, it seeks to highlight the instrumentalization of this crisis by the Venizelist faction through the opportunistic re-contextualisation of events, aiming to the revision of the Greek constitution according to the German model and the political predominance of Venizelos. Finally, the constant reports of the Press and the members of the Greek Parliament about the modernization of political life and thought allows the construction and integration of the aforementioned debates into a delimited, in part, ideological framework of public opinion and political thought during the interwar period.

**“LONG LIVE OUR CAPTAIN! YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO
HELPED US!” GEORGIOS KONDYLLIS AND THE VETERANS’
VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1936**

Alexandros Makris

In the aftermath of the First World War veterans emerged as a significant political factor in the domestic politics of ex-belligerents. In Greece the electoral power of the ex-servicemen was generally limited. The most important exception was the last elections of the interwar period, that of 26 January 1936, when veterans supported almost unanimously General Georgios Kondylis. The purpose of this article is to explore the roots of this political bond, which was cultivated from the early 1930s. The short-lived Kondylis’ dictatorship (October-November 1935) was a crucial moment in this relationship since he legislated various welfare measures for veterans. As a result of this policy, he was crystalized as a veterans’ patron and his former comrades ardently supported him in the elections of 1936.

**THE ENEMY'S LANGUAGE. GREEK INTERPRETERS OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE IN OCCUPIED GREECE (1941-1944)**

Panagiota Gkatsiou

Interpreters, as actors in conflict and war, remain in historiographical obscurity, rendering this field of research “virgin”. This article attempts to highlight the German language interpretation in occupied Greece. In particular, it searches the sources of German-speaking/German-learning and deals with the issue of those German-speakers who worked as interpreters and language mediators in the services of German Occupation Authorities. Next, an attempt is made to identify the pattern or patterns of hiring interpreters in the German services, what criteria one had to meet in order to be hired as an interpreter or translator of the German language. For a holistic approach to the subject, the working conditions, and the role of interpreters at work are described. In conclusion, the routes in the Civil War and the post-war life, complete the mosaic of action of those who served the language of the enemy in 1941-1944.

**EDUCATION POLITICS OF BULGARIA IN YUGOSLAV
MACEDONIA DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Anna Batzeli

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the invasion of Yugoslavia by Axis Powers, the present article examines the role of Bulgaria, a Nazi-ally, which occupied Yugoslav Macedonia. The concession of Yugoslav Macedonia was interpreted as a pre-step of full annexation of the territory to Bulgaria, which was claiming the territory since the 1878 Treaty of San Stefano. Once Bulgarian occupation forces entered Yugoslav Macedonia, Bulgarian government worked on stabilizing its regime. They immediately divided the region into two Administrative Units and administratively annexed them as integral parts of the Bulgarian state. To this aim, they equipped public administration with Bulgarian public servants and officers, who worked on the transition of the local services to the Bulgarian administration model. In this process, educational policy was considered of paramount importance, as the Bulgarian government hoped to enforce pro-Bulgarian sentiments and to assimilate local population. This would enable Bulgaria to claim annexation of the territory from the Germans, after a projected Axis victory, as Germany only consented on the temporary concession of Yugoslav Macedonia to Bulgaria and postponed the discussion on the future of the territory by the end of war. To this

end, shortly after the beginning of the Bulgarian occupation in Yugoslav Macedonia, Bulgarian Prime Minister, who was simultaneously the Minister of Education, worked on the development of a detailed plan on the “Bulgarisation” of school life. Bulgarian teachers were allocated in the region to support this process, while locals with Bulgarian origin were trained to undertake teaching positions and to contribute to the national cause. Bulgarian language courses were at the core of the school curriculum and, soon after, Bulgarian language classes were introduced for adults, as, despite the pro-Bulgarian sentiments or the Bulgarian origin they might have had, they were not able to speak Bulgarian correctly, as the language had been forbidden in public life by Yugoslav government. Apart from language courses, a series of parallel cultural and educational initiatives were introduced to promote Bulgarian history and culture. Bulgaria even attempted to establish a Bulgarian University at Skopje, which never operated due to the Axis defeat.

THE STATE AS A PROVIDER (OR REGAINING THE COUNTRYSIDE): THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER GOODS TO THE RURAL POPULATION, 1945-1952.

Ioannis Chalkos

This article aspires to shed new light on the experience of the post-war reconstruction of Greece by examining how the Greek state perceived and organized the distribution of the foreign aid provided by UNRRA and the US missions (AMAG/ECA) to the rural areas of the country. It is argued that in its effort to deal with the problems that four years of war and foreign occupation had created, the Greek state had to undertake the role of a “provider”, that proved to be crucial for the legitimization of the post-war governments in the rural areas, which were the main theater of the Civil War. By linking economic development to the allegiance of the rural population to the government in Athens, the Greek state attempted to reconstruct the “rural space” which remained politically and socially fragmented. At the same time, the US missions to Greece tended to see the problem in its wider Cold War framework and tried to instill their own views on efficiency and social harmony to the Greek public administration, the structural weaknesses of which jeopardized the whole endeavor. Undoubtedly, its outcome would be uncertain without Greece’s participation in the international processes of European reconstruction.

**GREECE-BULGARIA (1953-1964): THE INTEGRATION OF A
BALKAN REGIONAL CONFLICT INTO THE COLD WAR
REALITY**

Spyridon Emmanouil Lygkouris

This paper concerns the history of the bilateral relations of Greece and Bulgaria during the first and “warmest” period of the Cold War. The above paper wishes to provide additional insight into the following: A) On the one side there is the only member of NATO in the Balkan peninsula and on the other one of the most devoted USSR allies in Eastern Europe. B) On the turbulent historical past and the antagonism of the two states in the geographical area of Macedonia and Thrace. The fresh memories of the conflicts, the ideological conformities of the Cold War and Bulgaria’s involvement in the Greek Civil War (1946-1949) had deteriorated Greco-Bulgarian relations without any possibility of approach until 1953. Between 1953-1964 their bilateral relations followed a course paralleled to the relations between the two coalitions of the Cold War. Joseph Stalin’s death and the “peaceful coexistence” brought about a reconnection between Athens and Sofia, leading to a redesigning of the two states’ borderline and an exchanging of their Chargés d’Affaires (1953-1954). Moreover, Detente (which followed the missiles crisis in Cuba) allowed the further upgrade of Greco-Bulgarian relations with the conclusion of agreements in July 1964 between G. Papandreou and T. Zivkov respectively. They managed to resolve the issue of the Bulgarian war reparations expressing a mutual desire to settle any dispute in the framework of peace. The aim of the above paper is to shed light on the course of the consultation procedures between Greece and Bulgaria (1953-1964), the ways of thinking of both countries’ staff involved in the conclusion of the agreements, as well as their hesitations and fears during the long way to their bilateral arrangements.

**SEMIOTICS OF MEMORY AND THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF
THESSALONIKI: ACTIVITIES, MEANING, SIGNIFICATION**

Thomas Bardakis

This paper attempts to approach the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki through its historical and semiotic dimension. The research data are based on the archive and the Museum activities. Also, the theoretical framework is grounded on memory studies and the Semiotics of memory. The museum is the place

where memory and history meet. The museum, as a semiotic text, through the exhibition of objects, the creation of narratives and representations, produces and composes the collective memory. It is highlighted that the representation of the past is performed through the objects and photographs of the history and tradition of the community. Visitors, therefore, thanks to the museum gain access to the items of the collective past. The museum is, therefore, not only a place of memory of a community but also a place of historical knowledge. Memory promotes the understanding, the construction of meaning and raises concerns about the future of humanity. Thus, it is concluded that well-educated humans are able to turn to self-criticism and to consideration of their responsibilities, so that memory functions as a guide for all over the world.

**WINE AS AN ELEMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND A
MEANS OF PRESERVING COLLECTIVE IDENTITY:
THE CASE OF THE GREEKS OF EASTERN ROUMELIA**

Kyriaki Karatzouni

Nutrition is linked to biological and cultural parameters as well as with collective representations. Among the food items is wine. Wine, in fact, can be considered as a “traditional Greek food item”, due to its long history and tradition in Greece. Winegrowing, winemaking and wine consumption have taken place in Greece without interruption since ancient times. Among the Greeks, a population group closely linked to vineyards and wine is the one originating from Eastern Roumelia/Northern Thrace an area which currently belongs to Bulgaria. This paper examines the contribution of Greek Eastern Roumelians in strengthening wine production in Greece. When they came to Greece at the beginning of the 20th century, they continued their close association with the vineyard and retained the tradition of drinking wine. This paper emphasizes that the viticulture and the production of wine, as well as its consumption are preserved as special cultural elements to this day by the descendants of Eastern Roumelians, acting as an element of collective identity.