

A b s t r a c t s

ANDREA GIOVANNI NOTO

Moments and Expression of the European Philhellenism: The “Cretan Question” in Messina (1866-1889)

Being excluded from the borders of the Independent Kingdom of Greece, the island of Crete, with its troubled and unstable matters, represented during the 19th century until 1913, the date on which it was reunited with its motherland, a nerve centre of the “Eastern Question,” which was an intricate tangle of issues concerning the geopolitical order of the Balkan–Danubian area under the sovereignty of the sultan. Those issues were becoming more and more serious because of the progressive and irreversible decline of the Ottoman Empire.

In the course of a strong debate among the international public opinion and in accordance with the philhellenic sentiment growing stronger among vast parts of the western society from the second half of the 18th century and with positive results for the Greek emancipation, the Cretan independence aspirations were supported –both materially and culturally– by the city of Messina, point of conjunction between the two shores of the Mediterranean and the centre of a large and active Greek community in modern and contemporary age.

Therefore, the present essay aims at analyzing how the “Cretan Question” was perceived in the Sicilian city of the Strait through the study of the local press and political journalism from 1866 to 1889.

SPYROS TSOUTSOUMPIS

Land of the Kapedani: Brigandage, Paramilitarism and Nation-building in 20th Century Greece

This purpose of the essay is to explore the overlooked role and impact of brigands and other non-state violent actors in the nation-building process. Giannes Koliopoulos noted in the introduction of his pivotal *Brigands with a cause* that “scholarly interest in Greek brigandage has not been equal to the importance of the phenomenon.” The state of the historiography has hardly changed three decades after Koliopoulos study appeared. The dearth

of scholarly studies is more surprising if we consider both the extent of the phenomenon and the persistent fascination of novelists, popular historians and filmmakers in brigandage. The paper will address this gap in the existing historiography by looking at the period of the “listokrateia” (1914-1930) in Epirus. Brigands have been often described as outsiders and rebels who fought a desperate rear-guard action against the advance of modernity, accordingly brigandage has been often seen as a pre-political form of social protest. The essay will explore the connections between security service, brigands, paramilitaries and politicians and demonstrate that banditry was neither an inheritance of Ottoman times as sometimes argued nor a form of social protest but rather an integral aspect of the state building efforts and the increased need for control and security. The expansion of the polity, the inclusion of minorities and the increased sectarianism of political culture in an area of traditionally weak state authority created a niche for violent actors and augmented the need and demand for groups willing to perform the tasks the state was unwilling or unable to undertake. This situation led the authorities to seek and form alliances with non-state violent actors; brigands, rustlers and paramilitaries thereby transforming the previously marginal outlaw groups to an integral part of the security and administrative apparatus, as a parliamentary committee noted two decades after the Balkan Wars “banditry was unfortunately created from and is still indirectly sustained by the state.”

ALBERTO BECHERELLI

**Montenegro Betrayed: The Yugoslav Unification
and the Controversial Inter-Allied Occupation**

The paper focuses on the Italian military presence in Montenegro during the Inter-Allied occupation of 1918-1920. During World War I, King Nikola Petrović-Njegoš and his government were forced to go into exile to France due to the occupation of their country by Austro-Hungarian troops. At the end of the war the small Adriatic kingdom was occupied once again by Serbian and other Inter-Allied troops such as French and Italians. The new Serbian rule was legalized in November 1918 with the purpose of deciding on the future status of unilateral unification with Serbia. The decision of the Podgorica Assembly was considered a brutal annexation by a considerable part of the Montenegrin people, who did not accept the deposition of King Nikola and the suppression of independence. Old political

and tribal divisions surfaced to the ground, causing a bipolarization in the country between the pro-independence *Zelenaši* on one side and the unionist *Bjelaši* and the Serbian troops on the other. Among the Great Powers, France supported the Yugoslav unification led by Serbia, while Italy supported the Montenegrin government in exile. Italian assistance was not priceless, as the status of Montenegro (independence or unification with Serbia into a larger Yugoslav Kingdom) became a political card played by Italy at the Paris Peace Conference in the long-standing dispute against Belgrade over the control of the eastern Adriatic coast.

ARETI TOUNTA-FERGADI

**The View of the Greek Press
vis-à-vis the Provisional Government of Thessaloniki**

In the summer of 1916, while World War I was at its peak, the dispute between Venizelos and Constantine concerning Greece's formal participation in the war activities, had reached a dead end. The invasion of Bulgarian troops in Eastern Macedonia was cause that caused rapid and violent developments whose effect on Greek politics was profound.

The uprising that took place in Thessaloniki led after a short period in the establishment in the same city of the provisional government with Venizelos at its head. This development resulted in Greece's geographic division in the "state of Athens" and in the "state of Thessaloniki," terms which were repeatedly used by the pro-royalist newspapers in Athens. This historical period has attracted the attention of prominent historians, both Greek and foreigners, contemporary to the events and subsequent. However, there are no published academic papers which focus on the stance of the Greek press vis-à-vis the so-called government of National Defense. As a result, we believe that the research of the Greek press of that period will offer a new perspective to the subject.

SPYRIDON PLAKOUDAS

**Doomed from the Start? Peace Negotiations
in the Greek Civil War, January-July 1947**

The Greek Civil War (1946-1949) still represents a contentious issue in the Greek and non-Greek historiography even sixty-five years after its ter-

mination. Academics still passionately debate the causes, course and outcome of this early episode of the Cold War. In recent years, several scholars have claimed that this internecine war could have been resolved in the first half of 1947 through peace negotiations but for the restrictive intervention of the USA. In effect, these academics argue that the KKE declared open war in September 1947 only after its rivals had closed the door to a political settlement. This paper argues, instead, that the peaceful termination of the war could not have been achieved in 1947 despite the several peace offers and counter-offers between the two sides due to the unwillingness of the belligerents to sincerely commit to a precarious peace process. Using the insights from the literature on peace negotiations during civil wars and the hitherto inaccessible archives in Greece, this paper will offer a new interpretation of the course of the civil war and, in particular, its escalation into an all-out conflict in the second half of 1947. In summary, this article will examine the “peace-and-war” situation between January and September 1947 and answer why the internecine conflict escalated into an all-out war in September 1947 (and not before).

KYRIAKOS D. KENTROTIS

**From Sepúlveda to the Islamic State:
Sovereignty Monologues in International Relations**

On February 1, 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned to Tehran from Paris after fifteen years in exile. The Iranian monarchy that under the Pahlavi dynasty had defended the post-war order on one of the front lines of the Cold War was replaced by the guardians of the Iranian revolution, who established the Islamic Republic of Iran. A few months later, on November 4, the international community would watch with trepidation the international balance of power and the rules of international law put to test as the staff of the American Embassy in Tehran were held hostage for 444 days.

Using the Islamic State as an example, this paper attempts to examine the nature and character of similar historical tests of international normality. The revival of the classical framework of confrontation between the West and other state entities is analysed in the post-war domination of Western discourse and model of power in contemporary international politics. My main questions are: To what extent can the West, in all its forms

of sovereign authority, legitimately denounce any other ground for the constitution of politics as incompatible with the universal values set by the post-war order? Could emerging forms of polity such as the Islamic State replace this order in international relations or would they, conversely, simply contribute to perpetuating the power regime they are opposing to.

ROSSELLA BOTTONI

**Turkish Democracy and the Evolving Interpretation
of the Principle of Secularism:
The European Court of Human Rights' Perspective**

The Turkish principle of secularism (*laiklik*) has a paramount importance not only in the country's constitutional system, but also in its external relations. For a long time, inside Turkey it was presented as a pillar of democracy against Islamic fundamentalism; outside, it was perceived as the instrument making the coexistence between Islam and democratic values possible and, as such, as a model for other Muslim countries. This traditional interpretation of secularism, as known, has been increasingly challenged by the AKP-led government, and the consequences of the changes in the understanding and application of the constitutional principle of *laiklik* are being debated.

This paper aims to look into this issue from the perspective of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), by examining a number of decisions characterized by a specific interpretation of the Turkish principle of secularism, and by focusing on the evolution of the ECtHR's understanding of the relation between *laiklik* and democracy in Turkey.

STAVROS CHRISTODOULOU

The History of Ancient Olbia in the Northern Black Sea Region

The intent of this essay is to gather all available information concerning the historical and constitutional development of Olbia city. The most important military, political and economic centre of the entire Northwest Pontus during the antiquity, has been reported to the ancient sources not so often as Olbia (or Olbiopolites), than Borysthene (or Borysthenitae). However, it is necessary to note that, in all monuments of Olbian epigraphy and on coins, the city is called Olbia. All that allowed coming to a con-

clusion that primordial names of Olbia, both in colloquial and in official languages were ΟΛΒΙΗ ΠΟΛΙΣ and reduced ΟΛΒΙΗ.

Moreover, the rich epigraphic material complements the above information. These consist on consular decrees, dedication to gods, inscriptions in honor of important people and public lists. The numerous graffiti extend our knowledge of their religious life, their relations and their names.

PANAGIOTIS KONTOLAIMOS

**Beyond Typology: *Zaviye* and *T-Shape* Buildings
in the Balkans. Some Thoughts on their Urban Context
and their Possible Use(s)**

During the last decades many attempts have being made from various scholars for the interpretation of the so called “T-shaped” buildings, otherwise described with the term “zaviye.” A great variety of functions has being attributed to them, ranging from dervish lodges to soup kitchens, failing however to provide an exact description of the function of those buildings, that would be in agreement with all available to us data. Similar approaches oversee the urban role of those structures and instead of analyzing the surviving buildings of the kind, they view them as mere typology specimens.

This paper aims to place those buildings in their spatial context and suggest possible ways for their interpretation, by estimating not just their layout, but also their spatial properties. We hope that by analyzing those buildings and addressing the question of their relevance with their urban environment, we will come closer to their original function(s) and social context. The wider scope of this paper is to suggest a less typological and more integrated interpretation for early Ottoman architecture, which demonstrates strong tendencies for experimentation in style and shape.

K. TRANTALIDOU, D. BOULIOU, TH. HATZITHEODOROU

**The Cultural Landscape of the Livadopotamos Gorge.
Hints of the Recent Past**

The Livadopotamos gorge is situated at a height of 850m above the sea level. Evidence suggest that it was a possible prehistoric human dispersal route and an important corridor thought-out the historical times.

During the excavations at the Piges Koromilia cave an amount of ca. 5,570 ceramic finds came to light providing evidence for a long use of the site from the Middle Neolithic period to modern times, though not uninterrupted. In this study, interest is focused on material fragments dated from the Byzantine period onwards. Though few, they are considered of significance, as they contribute to the enrichment of our knowledge about ceramic wares in the broader region of the Kastoria basin, the settlement history of the cave and the Livadopotamos gorge.

The ceramic material is divided into two distinct categories. The first category is comprised of unglazed fragments, represented by both closed- and open-type vessels (cooking, serving and transporting wares), usually of coarse fabric and a yellowish red to red or brown clay. Typical decorative motifs, i.e., combed or incised lines, were applied on the walls of the vessels. The second category consists of a small number of glazed bowls and one jug. Their fabric is of medium hardness, fine, with gritty particles included occasionally, and varies in colour from a dull orange to orange and brown or reddish brown. Their decoration falls into two groups: the slip painted and the polychrome sgraffito.