

GREECE – INDEPENDENCE DAY

Greeks celebrate their Independence Day on the 25 of March. The Greek War of Independence (which actually started on the 23 of March and not the 25th), also known as the Greek Revolution, was a successful war of independence waged by the Greek revolutionaries between 1821 and 1830 against the Ottoman Empire. The Protocol of the independence of the Greek Nation (also known as the London Protocol of 1830) was signed by England, France and Russia on 3 February 1830. It was the first official, international diplomatic statement to recognize Greece as a sovereign and independent state.

MASSACRE OF CHIOS

The Chios massacre was the killing of tens of thousands of Greeks on the island of Chios by Ottoman troops during the Greek War of Independence on March 30, 1822. Greeks from neighbouring islands had arrived on Chios and encouraged the Chians to join their revolt. In response, Ottoman troops landed on the island and killed thousands. Three months after the massacre, Constantine Kanaris set fire and destroyed the Turkish flagship. The massacre provoked international outrage, and led to increasing support for the Greek cause worldwide.



MASSACRE OF MESSOLONGHI

Messolonghi revolted on May 1821 and the city was one of the main Greek forces in the liberation struggle. Its inhabitants faced Ottoman attacks in 1822 (the first siege of Messolonghi) and 1823 (the second siege of Messolonghi). The third attack began on April 1825 by Kutahis-pasha. On April 10, 1826 the heroic exit and fall of Messolonghi happened. Ibrahim tried to exhaust the besieged by interrupting all lines of communication and supplies. Messolonghi remained under Turkish rule for 3 more years, until May 2, 1829.



BATTLE OF NAVARINO

An Ottoman armada, which included Egyptians, Tunisians and Algerians, had anchored in Navarino Bay, and it was destroyed by an Allied force of British, French and Russian vessels on 20 October 1827.



HEROES OF THE GREEK REVOLUTION



Georgios Karaiskakis



Markos Botsaris



Theodoros Kolokotronis



Athanasios Diakos

PHILHELLENS

The Greek Revolution found many supporters in the West Europe. Most of them were romantic idealists (especially artists), lovers of the ancient greek culture and proponents of national and liberal movements in Europe. They were called “philhellens”, which actually means “friends of the Greeks” in the greek language.

Only some of the most famous of them are listed here.

VICTOR HUGO

Victor Hugo was among the staunchest supporters of the Greek Revolution. He expressed his ideas in poetic collection "The Oriental" (1829), with references to the Greek Independence War and leading events such as the Massacre of Chios.



LORD BYRON

Lord Byron, he died on April 19, 1824 at Messolonghi, after strong fever during the seizure by the Ottomans. He was only 37 years old. His contribution to the Greek Revolution was very important. Both his poetic work and his fiery presence reinforced the philhellenic stream.



JEAN-GABRIEL EYNARD

Jean-Gabriel Eynard was the chief of the philhellens community in Europe, and aided the revolutionaries financially. For his services to this cause, he was made a Greek citizen. In 1842, he became one of the co-founders of the National Bank of Greece.



GEORGE CANNING

He was Britain's foreign minister who supported the Greek revolution.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY: romantic poet from Great Britain

FRIDRIH HELDERLIN: romantic poet from Germany

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN: writer and poet from Russia