

The contribution of Philhellenism to the Greek revolution



200 YEARS
AFTER THE
REVOLUTION
GREECE—2021

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What is Philhellenism?

Philhellenism was an ideological and political movement that developed in European countries and in America and aimed at the moral and material support of the Greeks before and during the Revolution of 1821. It helped the Greek revolution on many levels.

What is the mind and heart for people is
also Greece for the Universe

Johan Wolfgang von Goethe



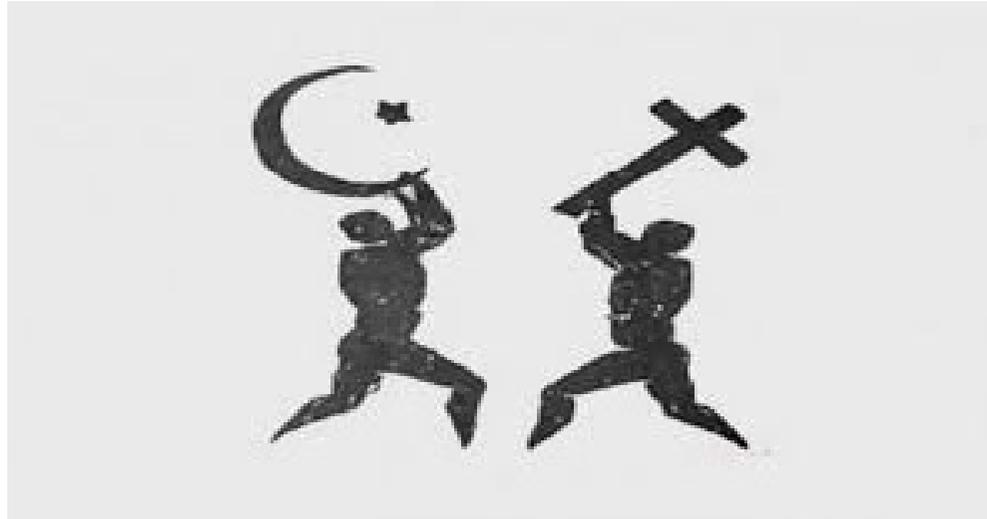
Causes of spread

- The admiration of Europeans for ancient Greek culture.
- The intellectual life in Europe at that time was characterized by a strong element of classicism.
- Europeans looked in the arts and in the philosophy of Greece, and saw the foundations of European culture.



➤ Religious differences between the Greeks and the Turks

The Greek revolution took the form of a fight and a religious difference between Greeks and Turks, a struggle of the oppressed Christians against the oppressing Muslims. It was also a war of the cross against the crescent.



The Europeans felt disgusted by the violence of the Turks against the Greek civilians.



➤ And finally the well-carried out battles, that with so much struggle the Greek population noted, caused the emotion of Europeans.

Philhellenism in Italy

with the start of the Revolution we have many Italian articles
g the Greek issue to a fight for culture and education and **the
otion that Greece is somehow within “Italy’s genetic code”**. A
-Italian national and cultural solidarity is revealed. About one
ed and thirty-seven Italians came to fight in Greece and many
m were killed by Muslims. Most of the volunteers were
ns of the Napoleonic Wars or protagonists of the internal
s of Italy. The Order of the Philhellenes was formed in May
nd the the commander, Dania, was originated from Italy.
al reasons caused discomfort in the arrival of Italian
eers. Italian philhellenism is one of the longest philhellenic
ments of the century since it plays a role beyond the Revolution
1.



Moldavia



With the support of the Phanariot Leaders, Hellenization in the region had advanced to the upper social levels. Many Voyagers spoke and wrote Greek. In fact the Holy Corps was formed from Voyagers during the Greek revolution. Furthermore, another large number of Greek students attended universities in the area.

- The Danube countries were familiar places for the Greeks. They migrated there and settled permanently or wandered professionally as scholars, clergy, merchants, but also as tenants of Vogia estates.



Philhellenes

Two noteworthy writers are the Romantic French poet **Alphonse de Lamartine** who spoke for the Greek issue, especially with his works "Invocation for the Greeks" and "The Last Song" in 1820.

The French **Alfred de Vigny** in his poem "Eleni" writes about "Immortal Greece, the Queen of Arts".



Claude Faurier also published "Greek Popular Songs" in two volumes 1824-1825 which were quickly published in Russia, England and Germany and were duplicated, inspiring the whole world of Europe.



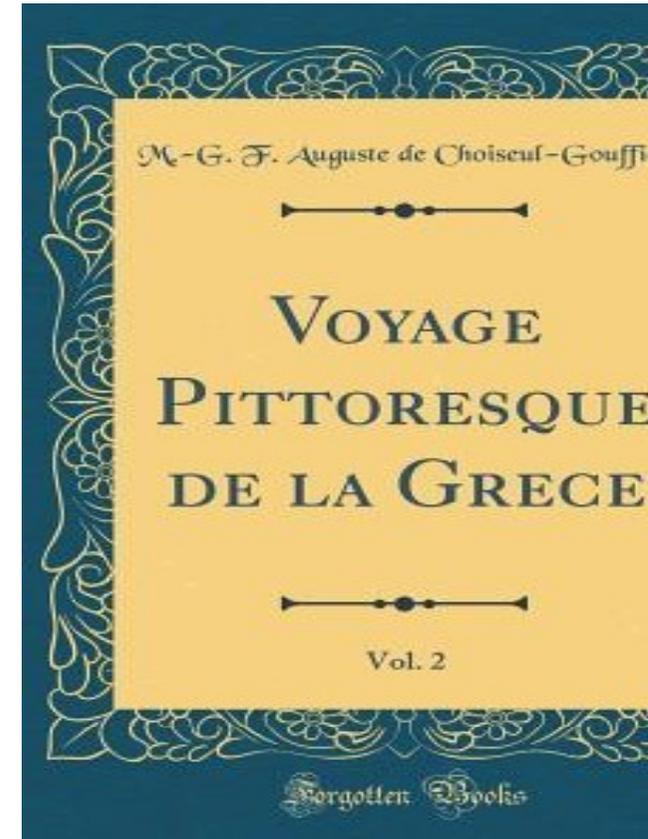
The Italian poet **Giovanni Berchet** published a poem in 1821 entitled "I Profughi di Parga" which, in addition to the sale of Parga by the English to the Pasha, also reports some facts about the Greek revolution.



Marie Gabriel Florent Auguste Souazel - Goofier was extensively occupied with Greek geography and history.

Edward Dodwell

A young man, a patriot and a scholar of classical times. He held a special place among the European tourists who visited Greece. He traveled through Greece and in his passage he depicted places and people of that time.



James Stuart and Nicholas Revett

James Stuart was a painter and Nicholas Revett was an architect. Together they visited Greece. They depicted the monuments with exceptional art and accuracy and contributed to the revival of the interest for ancient Greece in Europe.



Alexandros Kantakouzenos

The Greek-born Romanian prince Alexandros Kantakouzenos, was the leader of the Albanians and conquered the Castle of Monemvasia in July 1821.



Alerino Palma

He took part in the Italian revolutions of the period 1820-1821 where he was arrested and sentenced to death. However, he managed to escape and took refuge in Greece where he fought against the Turks.



Lord Byron

Of course we have to include **Lord Byron** who belonged to the Philhellenic Committee of London and helped in the revolution. Along with Byron, the English poet **Percy Bysshe Shelley**, was also the main representative of Romanticism in England and wrote the following preface in his lyrical drama "Greece" in 1821:



"We are all Greeks. Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their roots in Greece"

Santore di Santarosa

Santore di Santarosa was an Italian soldier, revolutionary, titular hero and great philhellene. As a simple soldier named Derrosi, he followed Georgios Kountouriotis and Alexandros Mavrokordatos in their campaign towards Pylos. On April 20, 1825 he successfully entered the fortress of the Akrocastro of Pylos. On March 7, 1826, Ioannis Kapodistrias, who was fighting in the defense of Sfaktiria, asked for reinforcements. Among the 100 fighters who were sent was Derrosi. The next day, May 8, the Egyptian general Ibrahim Pasha launched the attack on Sfaktiria, Derrosi was seriously wounded shortly before the fall of Sfaktiria. When he refused to surrender an Egyptian soldier killed him.

In honor of the heroically fought and fallen Philhellene Santarosa, on the 100th anniversary of his death, in April 1925, an official memorial service was held on Sfaktiria where the Monument of Philhellene Santarosa was constructed, which was later described as a historic monument.

Streets in Athens, Thessaloniki, etc. are named after him. In his hometown, Saviliano, a marble statue of him was also sculptured and he is honored as a national hero.



The contribution of the Philhellenes to the revolution

Solidarity was manifested in practice. Philhellenic committees (komitata) were established in various cities of Europe. Distinguished personalities of the time participated, who aimed to provide assistance in various forms to the Greek revolutionaries.



- These committees treated the Greek refugees who had taken refuge in Europe.
- They facilitated with money the transfer of volunteers to Greece.
- They organized fundraising events to collect money in order to sent to Greece or use to ransom Greek prisoners.

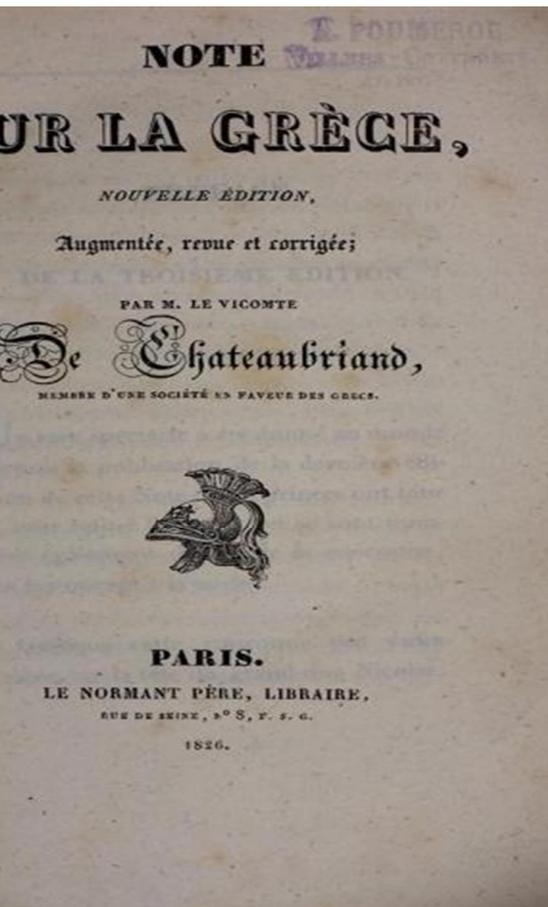


Unfortunately, many conservative governments blocked these activities because they opposed their policy of supporting the Ottoman Empire.



More than 1,200 Europeans participated actively, by taking part in battles against the Turks.





The Greek Revolution was transmitted directly by correspondents from Smyrna and Istanbul via Greek ships travelling from the Ottoman Empire to Europe and then by Greek students studying there. Of course, it was also promoted by the newspapers.

The Battle of Dragatsani



The Battle of Dragatsani was a military conflict between the forces of the Filiki Eteria and troops of the Ottoman Empire. It took place on June 19 1821 in Dragatsani of Moldavia. The Ottoman Turks defeated the forces of the Greek revolutionary organization Philikí Etaireía and ended the first insurrection of the Greek War of Independence. The Turkish Army destroyed the Greek force at Dragatsani and Ypsilantis fled. The battle marked the end of his leadership but otherwise this had little effect on the Greek independence movement, which had launched another rebellion.

Times of the Ottomans that shocked the Europeans

- After the Easter service on April 22, 1821 Patriarch Gregory V was arrested, deported and imprisoned. In the afternoon of the same day he was hanged at the main gate of the Patriarchate, where he remained hanged for three days, humiliated by the mob.



This therefore had a double impact because it was not only unjust death but also a deep wound to Christianity.

April 1822 Chios was completely destroyed by Turkish soldiers and most of the inhabitants were slaughtered. This was an event that shocked the people of Europe.



Η σφαγή της Χίου

J. Angeli 1822

The siege of Messolonghi, which lasted almost a year, will be engraved in history. After the arrival of Ibrahim in 1826 the siege was better organized and became harder for the people in Messolonghi. Without being organized combined with the lack of financial resources, the Greek forces were defenseless. Sieged and exhausted by fighting, diseases and lack of food and ammunition, they decided to leave the city. On the way out, however, the besiegers were on guard, only one part managed to escape while most of them retreated to Messolonghi, losing their lives.

The city was completely destroyed. Women and children sold as slaves. The exit of Messolonghi was one of the top moments of the Greek revolution, causing emotion throughout the world.



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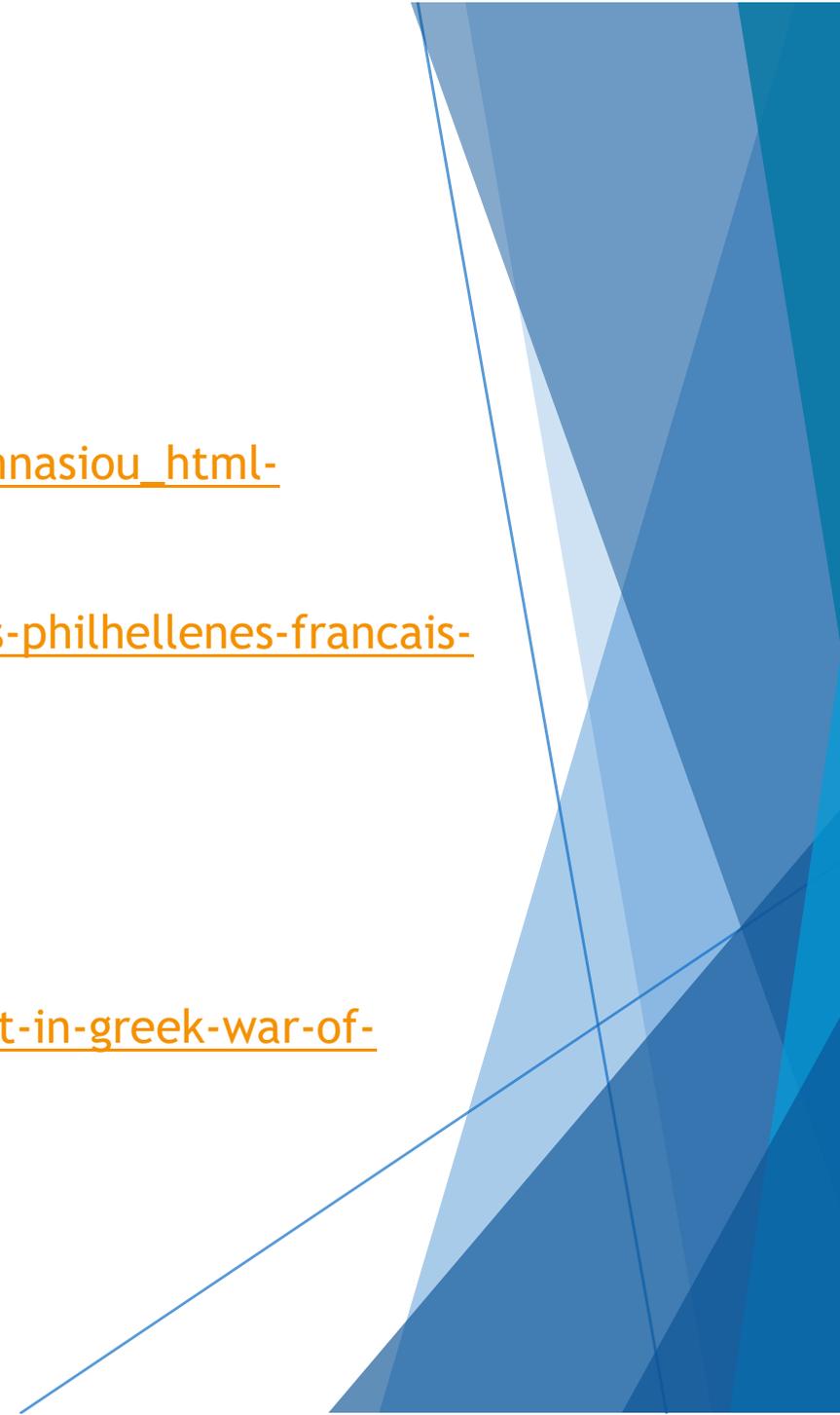
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