## Understanding Two Important Commemorations: America's Involvement in the Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Smyrna Catastrophe of 1922

Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou
Christos Mantzios Visiting Scholar
Australia, October/November 2023



### "Founded on Freedom & Virtue"

DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATING
THE IMPACT IN THE UNITED STATES
OF THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
1821–1829

Edited by Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou



CARATZAS

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 8, 2000

#### PERSONAL

Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou, Ph.D. 3337 29th Street Astoria, New York 11106

Dear Dr. Hatzidimitriou:

I wanted to let you know that Founded on Freedom and Virtue was a great help as I prepared for my visit to Greece last November, and I quoted from it in two different speeches. I'm always interested in learning more about the values and the historical ties that the peoples of Greece and the United States share, and I'm pleased to know that you are working to promote a further understanding of them. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Psin Clinton

## **AMERICAN ACCOUNTS DOCUMENTING** THE DESTRUCTION OF SMYRNA by the Kemalist Turkish Forces, September 1922 Constantine, G. Hatzidiroitrio

#### ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ Γ. ΧΑΤΖΗΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

#### Η ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΟΦΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ ΜΕΣΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΙΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΗΓΕΣ

Ή ἐνοχή τῶν κεμαλικῶν δυνάμεων γιά τήν πυρκαγιά και τίς σφαγές σύμφωνα μέ μαρτυρίες, δημοσιεύματα, ἐπίσημες ἀναφορές και διαβαθμισμένα ἔγγραφα

Μετάφραση: Θαλῆς Ν. Καραγιάννοπουλος





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#### Some of the Online Studies

Sympathy and Restraint: American Views of the Greek Revolution by Dr. William Antholis

American Publications and the Cause of Greek Independence by Dr. Jeremy Cox

Through the Eyes of Sailors and Citizens: How Sailors on the USS Constitution Viewed the Greek Revolution by Elizabeth George Despres

The Greek Vision of America during the Greek War of Independence by Dr. Konstantinos Diogos

A Meeting of Minds: The Correspondence between Jefferson and Korais by Dr. Stamatia Dova

Edward Everett: The Cicero of America and Greek Independence by Dr. Johanna Hanink

Some Observations Concerning American Philanthropic Contributions to Greece's War of Liberation of 1821 by Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou

Some Observations Concerning the so-called Orphans that Came to the United States During Greece's War of National Liberation 1821-1829 by Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou

Bibliographic Supplement to "Founded on Freedom & Virtue" by Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou, Ph.D.

## THE GREEK REVOLUTION Through American Eyes



A Bicentennial Traveling and Online Exhibition

MAR 22-OCT 15 2021

Maliotis Cultural Center Brookline, MA

Fall 2021 Stockton University Galloway, NJ

Photo credit: "Nikolakis Mitropoules at Salona" by Louis Dupré, 1825 Source: Alkatirial Laskaridis Foundation

The Greek Revolution through American Eyes exhibition commemorates the 200th anniversary of the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821. It also allows viewers to consider the formation of U.S. identity in the first fifty years of the nation's existence, as foreign policy was taking shape and slavery was leading the country to its own war.

#### **EXPLORING FOUR THEMES**

FREEDOM OR DEATH: Greece in the Age of Revolutions

MONROE'S EMPATHY: Rooting for Greek Victory, Forging a Doctrine of Non-Intervention

GREEK FEVER: American Philhellenes and the Birth of International Humanitarianism

400 YEARS A SLAVE: Greek Unfreedom and American Abolitionism

Organizations and institutions interested in hosting the exhibit beginning in the summer 2021 may contact the organizers at info@greekrevolution.org.

www.greekrevolution.org



A partnership between The Maliotis Cultural Center of Hellenic College Holy Cross and

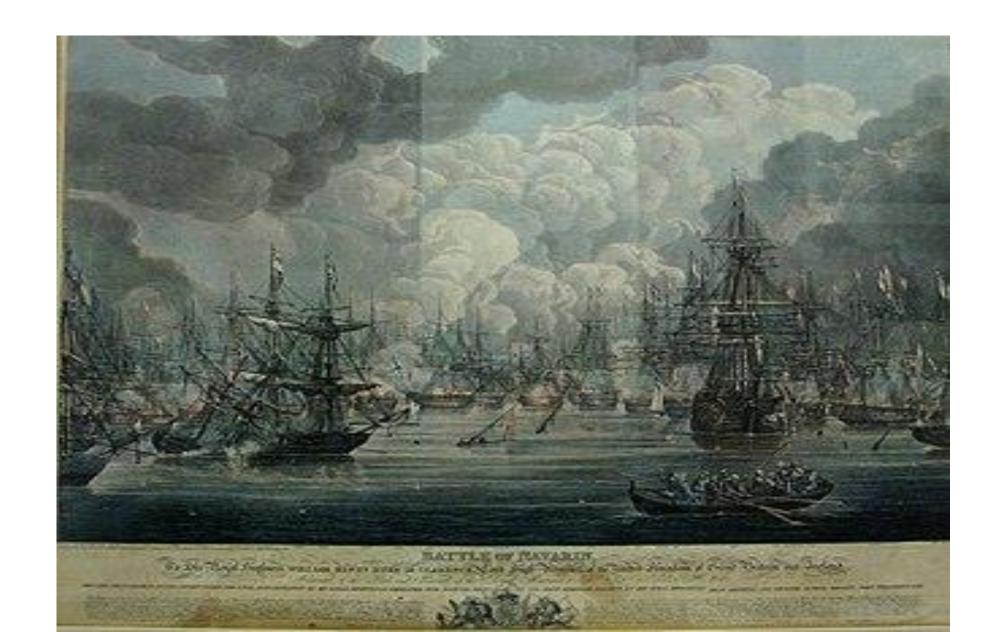
The Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies of Stockton University







## BATTLE OF NAVARINO



### FUNDRAISING BY GREEK COMMITTEES

Address

OF

#### THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN BOSTON,
DECEMBER 19, 1823,

#### FOR THE RELIEF OF THE GREEKS,

TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

The committee appointed by the meeting, assembled Dec. 19th, for the Relief of the Greeks, for the purpose of addressing the public on this subject, now solicits your attention. In discharging this duty, we feel ourselves called upon, at the risk of repeating facts of public notoriety, to state those circumstances and considerations, which seem to us to dictate to the American people the propriety of an earnest expression of their sympathy, and of a generous exertion of their benevolence, in the cause of the Greeks.

Facsimile copy of the first appeal (1823) for the relief of the Greeks (courtesy of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens).

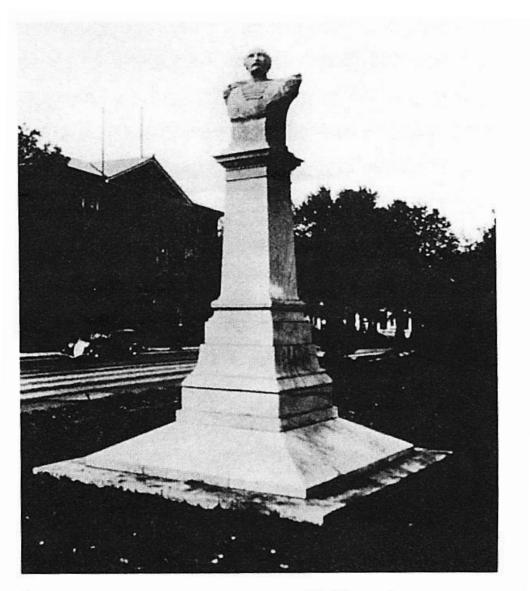
### STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

## evening form.

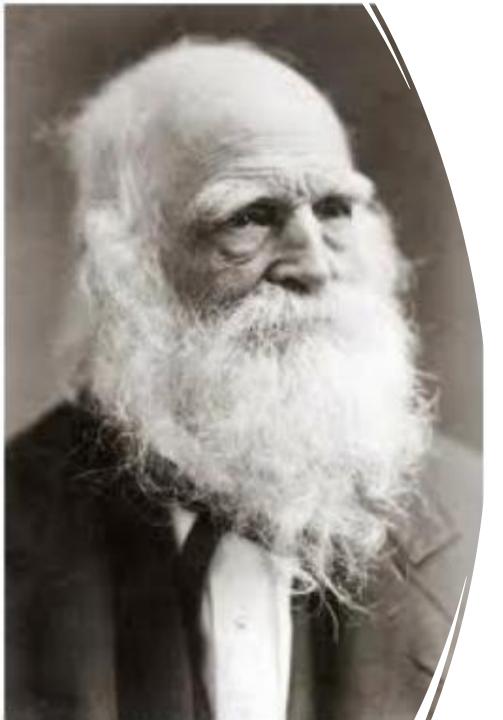
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19."

The Greeks.—The students of Yale College, New Haven, have contributed five hundred dollars to the cause of Grecian liberty, and which they have transmitted to Wm. Bayard, Esquire, chairman of the Greek committee in this city.

Facsimile copy of the *Evening Post* report of the Yale contribution (courtesy of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens).



Bust of Ypsilantis in Ypsilanti, Michigan (courtesy of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical



# William Cullen Bryant The Greek Boy

Gone are the glorious Greeks of old, Glorious in mien and mind; Their bones are mingled with the mould, Their dust is on the wind; The forms they hewed from living stone Survive the waste of years, alone, And, scattered with their ashes, show What greatness perished long ago.

Yet fresh the myrtles there--the springs Gush brightly as of yore; Flowers blossom from the dust of kings, As many an age before. There nature moulds as nobly now, As e'er of old, the human brow; And copies still the martial form That braved Plataea's battle storm.

Boy! thy first looks were taught to seek Their heaven in Hellas' skies: Her airs have tinged thy dusky cheek, Her sunshine lit thine eyes; Thine ears have drunk the woodland strains



Christos Miltiades Evangelides shortly after his arrival in the United States

### Greek Aires Music Sheet 1820's

Greek Aires and 1821 War Relief by Steve Frangos, NH June 10, 2014

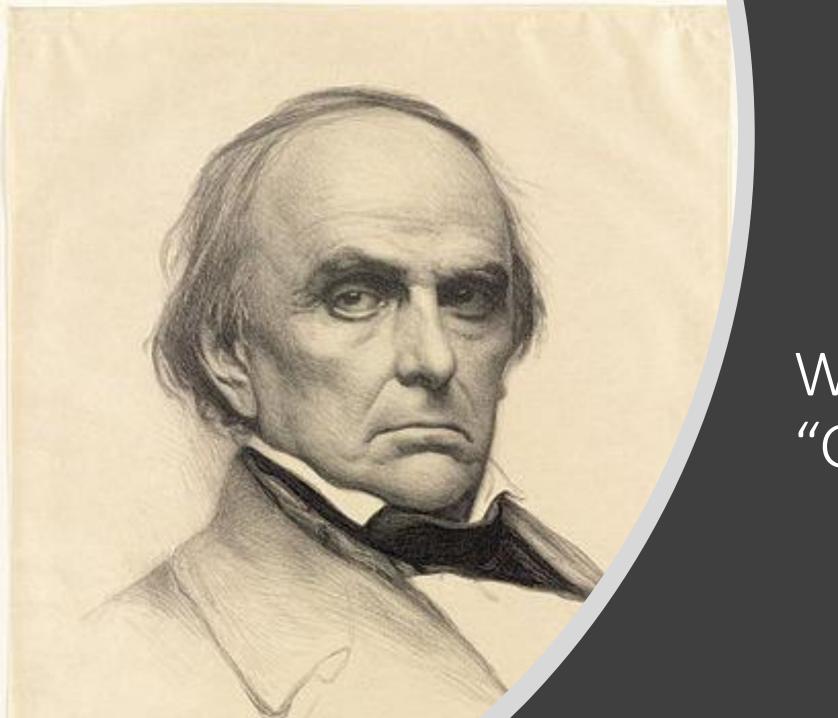




## EDWARD EVERETT THE LEADER OF AMERICAN PHILHELLENISM

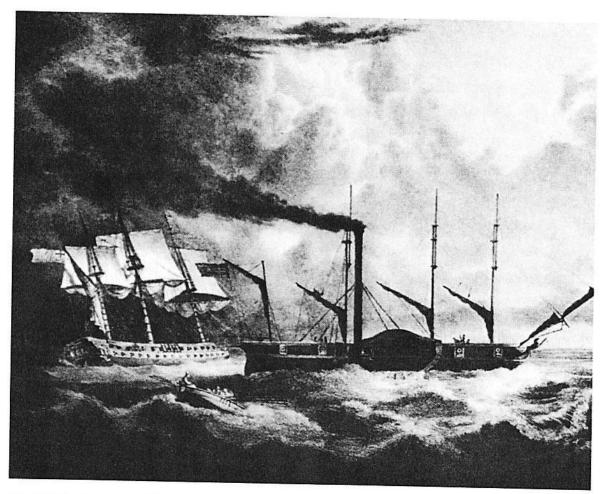
- Everett studied at Harvard B.A. 1811, M.A. 1813 and then became Professor of Greek Literature and then Harvard President.
- Known as the greatest orator of his time he was also a Senator, Governor, Congressman, Ambassador, & Secretary of State— and an abolitionist leader as were many others who supported the Greek cause. Many years later he was the main speaker at Gettysburg.
- He was one of the earliest American Philhellenes, the first American to obtain a Ph.D. and he met Korais in Paris in 1817 before going to Greece in 1819

  — where he wrote his journal
- He and Daniel Webster led the Massachusetts Grecians in a national effort to support Greece from Boston. He was also the editor of the North American Review and contributed to many other publications.
- Throughout the war and thereafter, for his entire life, he never stopped helping organize aid for Greece and his efforts saved thousands from starvation and death through American Philanthropy.
- Yet 200 years later we still have no study done focused on Edward Everett and Greece



Daniel Webster the "Grecian"

## The AMERICAN BUILT FRIGATE



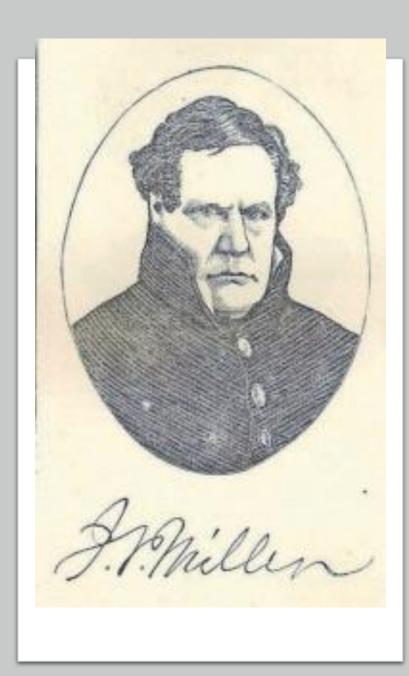
The "Hellas" and the "Karteria" (courtesy of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens).

TAPAΣ τη 12 · /arrovaçiou 1824

'Arazorei érreuter à K. Kwapios Plajon's America
prosopraros prisa que του κλιντικού 50 ρου, 200 ετ δλος του ουση ειείς, και εινικώς εξωσίας ίτα με του δοθή: πόσιος, 2 22 μελεος πάσα συγχωριμένη και άζημίωτος βούς οι έπετοραγισμέ οι με της σεραγίοα της Αστυκομίας.

### **GEORGE JARVIS**

- Jarvis was wounded several times and impressed everyone with his courage and daring.
- He never took a salary and supported his band of 45 fighters on his own rising to the rank of Lieutenant General.
- He also fought with Karaiskakis and Nikitaras in Attica and never took sides in any of Greece's rivalries. He was beloved by all and even became a godfather to one of his soldier's son. He also went to Crete with a Greek-American from the United States where they supported revolts against the Turks.
- From 1827 onwards he and his men supported Howe and Miller with the distribution of food, clothing and medicines from America to thousands of starving Greek women, children and the elderly and disabled. On more than one occasion he saved supplies from pillage from brigands and even Kolokotrones!
- He died of illness in Argos on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1828 and was buried there with the highest honors.
- Jarvis has left us a remarkable journal in Greek, English and German that was published in the 1960's **but we still have no single detailed study of this outstanding Philhellene**



## Willaim Peckham Miller The *Yankee Dare-devil* (1797-1847)

- Miller was was born in Randolph, Vermont and had served in the army during the war of 1812 and studied law.
- With support from the Greek Committee of Boston he traveled to Greece and arrived in Messolonghi in November of 1824 where he had the good fortune to meet Jarvis who helped him greatly, taught him Greek, and how to survive and fight in Greece.
- He was made a captain in the Greek army and rose to Colonel.- Like Jarvis he never took a salary and raised his own funds.
- He fought in the battle of Messonghi and escaped shortly before it fell. His reports and letters to America were widely circulated in the newspapers and helped raise funds to support Greece.
- In June 1825, Miller was with Jarvis and Howe at the battle of the Mills in the Morea where they were surrounded until with the help of Makrygiannes-- they fought off the Turks and won the day. His courage there earned him his Greek nickname.



## Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, The *Greatest American Philhellene* (1801-1876)

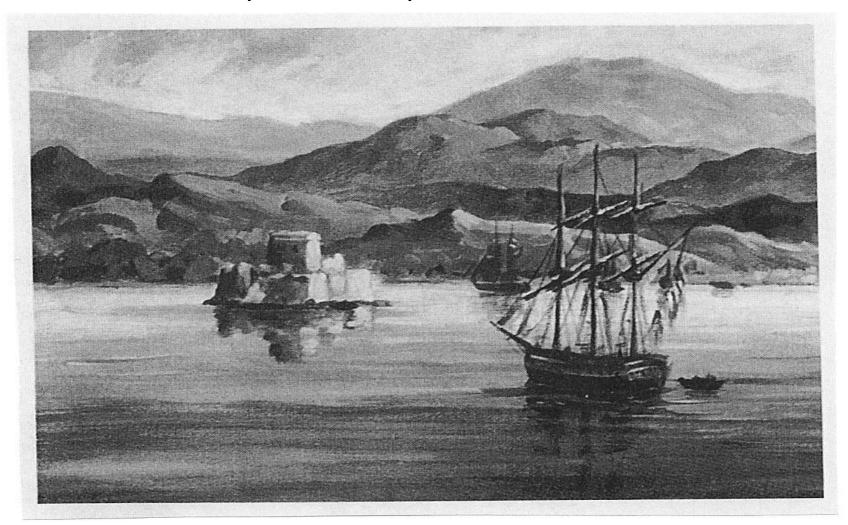
- Howe was born in Boston, Mass. Into a distinguished old family and attended Brown University and the Harvard University Medical School from which he graduated in 1824.
- Inspired by the poetry of Byron, he decided to go to Greece and offer his services to aid in the struggle. Edward Everett and the Greek Committee of Boston gave him letters of introduction to prominent Greeks. Hearrived in Nauplion in January 1825 and joined the Greek forces as a military doctor.
- By April 1825 Howe had been appointed Surgeon of the Hellenic forces and participated in the battle of Neokastro where he met Jarvis during their retreat. He fought again at the battle of the Mills along with Jarvis and Miller and then went to the island of Hydra in June to care for the wounded.
- After participating in a campaign in Crete, September 1826 finds him in Nauplion as the chief physician at the War Hospital. During this period, he wrote many letters home about his experiences which were published and helped stimulate Greek support.
- At the end of October, he was appointed Chief Physician aboard the steamship Karteria under Captain Hastings and attempted to lift the blockade of Athens. Like Jarvis and Miller he never drew a salary.

### AMERICAN SHIPS BRINGING PHILANTHOPIC AID TO GREECE 1827-1828

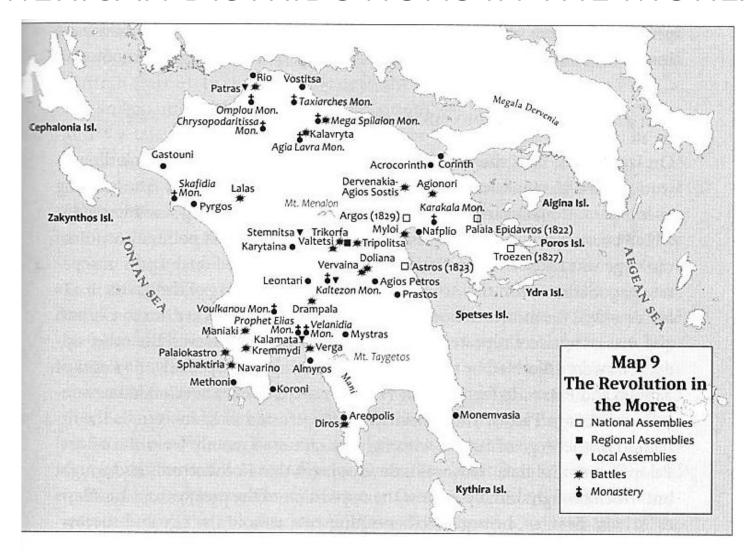
| Sponsoring   |           |                     | V                                  |           |                             |             |
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| Ship         | Captain   | Committee           | Agent                              | Departed  | Arrived                     | Cargo       |
| Tontine      | Harris    | Philadelphia        | Joseph Worrell, Jr.                | 3-23-1827 | 5-19-1827<br>(Poros)        | \$13,856.40 |
| Chancellor   | Barker    | New York and Albany | Johnathan P. Miller                | 4-1-1827  | 5-23-1827<br>(Nauplion)     | \$17,500.00 |
| Six Brothers | G.R. Lee  | New York            | John R. Stuyvesant (and W. R. Lee) | 5-13-1827 | 7-7-1827<br>(Nauplion)      | \$16,614.00 |
| Levant       | Osgood    | Philadelphia        | James R. Leib                      | 5-20-1827 | 8-25-1827<br>(Nauplion)     | \$8,547.18  |
| Statesman    | Bray      | Boston              | John D. Russ                       | 6-26-1827 | 9-9-1827<br>(Hydra)         | \$11,555.50 |
| Jane         | Proctor   | New York and Albany | Henry A. V. Post                   | 9-12-1827 | ca. 11-5-1827<br>(Nauplion) | \$8,900.00  |
| Herald       | Page      | New York            | Stuyvesant and Samuel Woodruff     | 5-28-1828 | 7-26-1828<br>(Poros)        | \$49,800.00 |
| Suffolk      | Miltimore | New York and Boston | Samuel G. Howe                     | 9-13-1828 | 11-12-1828                  | \$12,000.00 |

From Larabee

## American Ship in Nauplion Harbor 1820's



### AMERICAN DISTRIBUTIONS IN THE MOREA



#### A VISIT

TO

## GREECE AND CONSTANTINOPLE,

IN THE YEAR 1827-N.

#### BY HENRY A. V. POST,

ONE OF THE AGENTS OF THE NEW YORK GREEK COMMITTEE.

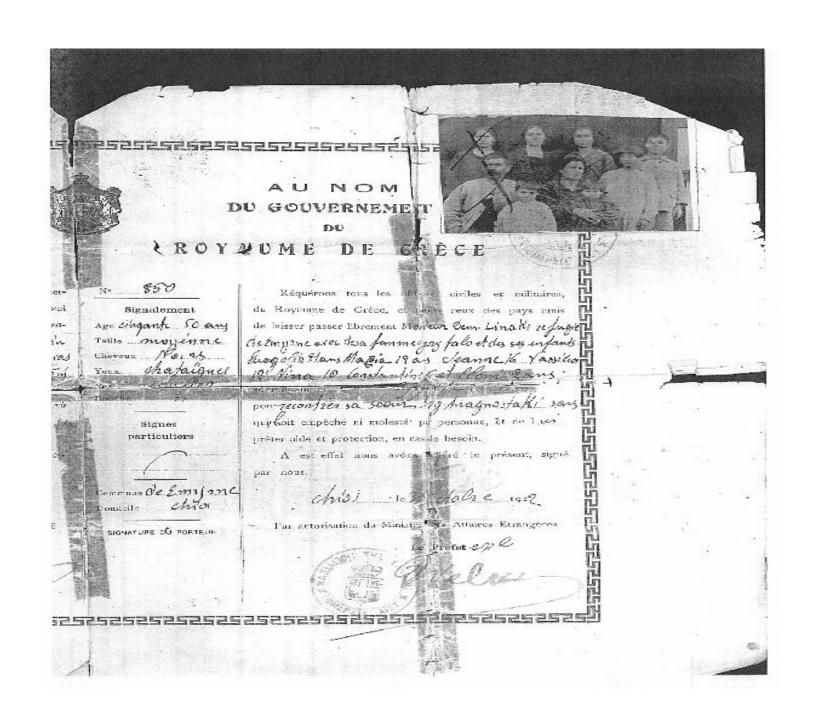
#### NEW YORK:

SLEIGHT & ROBINSON, PRINTERS.

No. 26 William Street.

FOLD BY G. AND G. AND H. CARVILL; WHITE, GALLAHER AND WHITE; E. BLISG; COLLINS AND HANNAY; COLLINS AND CO.; W. B. GILLEY; J. LEAVITT; T. AND J. EWONDS; J. F. BAVEN; A. T. GOODRICH; C. S. FRANCIS; O. A. ROGRBACH; WM. BURGESS, JE.—PHILADELPHIA: CARRY AND HART; JOHN GRIGG.

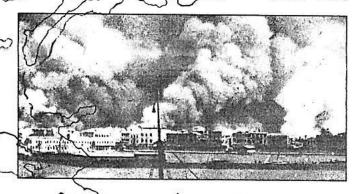
1880



## GreekAmerican



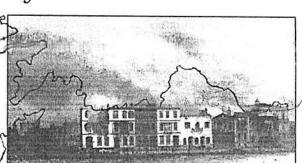
ATASTROPHIE:



A Personal Account



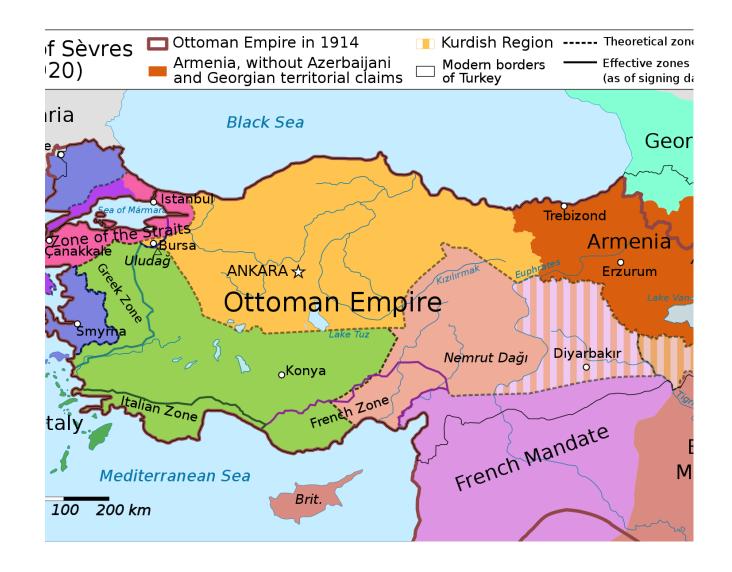
By Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou



pages 10 & 11

### Venizelos Receives permission to Occupy Smyrna Area May 1919

- Christian massacres had been taking place all over Asia Minor since during the war. American missionaries continued to report them to the press and public outrage put pressure on the powers to do something. Evidence of Ottoman massacres were also presented in Constantinople at genocide trials that anticipated those after WWII.
- At the same time, a new Turkish leader, Kemal, lands in Samsun (Pontus) and creates a Turkish nationalist movement which refuses to accept the Ottoman defeat, and the Greek occupation of Smyrna. He builds an army, and supports new, extensive Christian massacres.

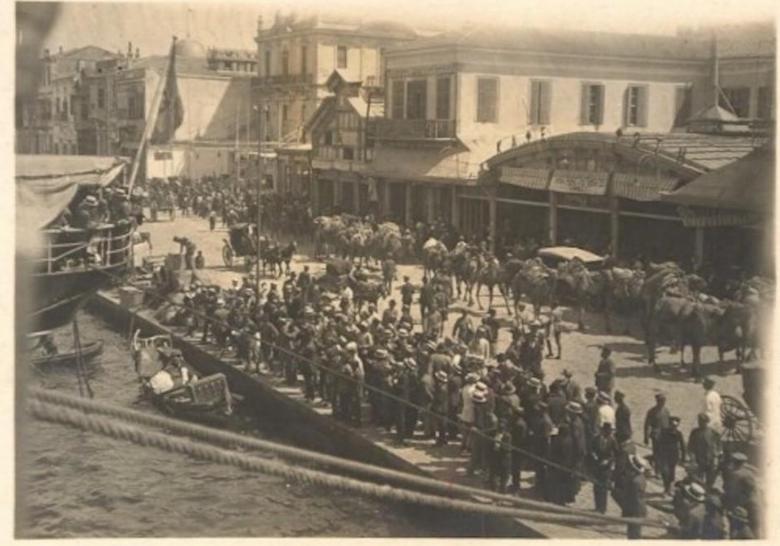








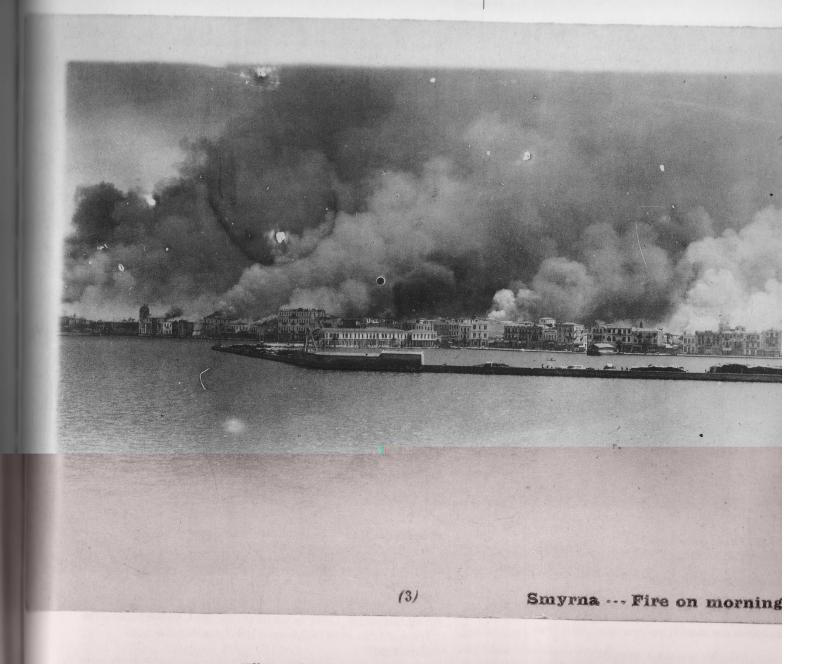
Jonesine J'Ell 1922





Οι φλόγες, μαζί με την όμορφη πόλη, αποτέφρωσαν και τα όνειρα του ελληνισμού στη μικρασιατική Γη.

The flames devoured both the lovely city and the dreams of the Greeks in Asia Minor.



"Εβλεπα τη φλεγόμενη Σμύρνη μέσα από το καράβι, που σιγά-σιγά απομακρυνόταν" (μαρτυρία Αλέξη Αλεξίου).

"I could see Smyrna in flames from the ship that was gradually moving away" (account by Alexis Alexiou).

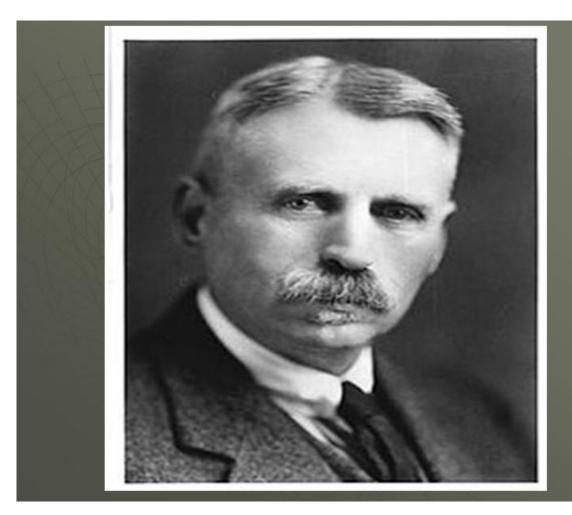


Η πυρκαγιά εξαπλώθηκε στις χριστιανικές συνοικίες και αποτέφρωσε 55.000 σπίτια και 5.000 καταστήματα.

The fire spread to the Christian districts and burned 55,000 homes and 5,000 shops.

# Two Factors in U.S. Policy in Smyrna- *One Was, Consul George Horton*

- He had previously served as U.S. in Athens and Thessaloniki
- On September 5<sup>th</sup> 1922, he asked Washington for permission to arbitrate between Turkey and Greece to prevent a massacre— President Harding said no!
- He was married to a Greek but even Bristol his opponent- declared him to be 'fair and Square." Spoke Greek & Turkish
- He was a scholar, accomplished journalist and writer of fiction and non-fiction.
- His reports to Washington predicted the catastrophe and provided many details of Turkish atrocities— the US kept secret.
- After retirement he published a book which gathered together many American eyewitness accounts.
- He testified before a Congressional Committee about Turkish Responsibility



# The Second Factor in US Policy was Admiral Mark L. Bristol not someone like Morgenthau

- U.S. High Commissioner in Constantinople who distorted information going to Washington about Asia Minor.
- In charge of the American fleet in the region *and* ordered his ships to maintain strict neutrality despite Turkish atrocities. Only Americans were to be protected.
- Colleague and friend of Alan Dulles, Head of the Near Eastern Desk at the State Department- *Future CIA head*.
- Ties to Standard Oil and American business interests. The Harding administration was corrupt: Teapot Dome scandal.
- He was Pro-Kemalist Turkey and biased against Greeks and Armenians—emphasized Greek atrocities on Turks.
- Did not trust Horton and opposed his views.
- Did not trust American missionaries who reported on Turkish atrocities and minimized them.
- Founding member of the American Friends of Turkey



ing work in making American archival evidence available relating to earlier massacres. This is a model that the Greek–American scholars and community should emulate.  $^{33}$ 

In order to illustrate their importance I will reproduce two heretofore unpublished documents from the National Archives that relate directly to the question of who was responsible for the fire that destroyed the Christian sections of Smyrna:

767.68/32134

Telegram Received

Constantinople

Dated September 15, 1922

Rec'd 3 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

185. September 15, noon.

Following from Smyrna: "Fourteenth. Am convinced Turks burned Smyrna except Turkish section conforming with definite plan to solve Christian minority problem by forcing allies evacuate Christian minorities. Believe that they will now prepare for an attack on Constantinople Merrill."

BRISTOL

WSB

[Stamped: Department of State, September 16, 1922, Division of Near Eastern Affairs]

Depart

Government

Secstate

U.S.S. Maryland

No. 50 for Hughes

My/44, September/1

Situation/in/Near/I

complications/which will

with/Turkey./....

[from page 3 of docun Confidential/reports/ /and British Foreign Offi conformity with/definite/ lem/by/forcing/the evacu eral/hundred thousand ( made/impossible/by the retreating/ Greeks/as well

[continues on page 4 o advancing Turks.

Reports/indicate/hea Native Americans are all ing/missing/naturalized of still/in Smyrna/assisting/ Secstate U.S.S. Maryland No. 50 for Hughes My/44, September/15,/3p.m.

Situation in Near East extremely acute, with possibility of complications which will involve Great Britain and Allies in war with Turkey....

...... Confidential reports received from our many officials at Smyrna, and British Foreign Office, indicate that Turks burned the city in conformity with definite plan to solve the Christian minority problem by forcing the evacuation of the minorities. The return of several hundred thousand Christians to their homes is apparently made impossible by the wholesale destruction of villages by retreating Greeks as well as by advancing Turks.

Reports indicate heavy loss of American property in Smyrna. Native Americans are all safe. No further details received regarding missing naturalized citizens. Three American destroyers are still in Smyrna assisting relief workers and protecting the American property which escaped the fire.....

AIDE MEMOIRE

P

Relative Ros. 11. 1922

His Majesty's Ambassador is instructed to communicate unofficially to the United States Government the accompanying copy of a preliminary report on the sacking of Smyrna from His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople.

It will be observed that the evidence contained therein all points to the conclusion that the European and native Christian quarters were systematically destroyed by the Turks as a part of a deliberate policy.

pared to communicate in the same way any reports which may have reached them upon this subject, His Majesty's Government will be glad to receive them.

DIAIRING OF MENY EVOLEKIA VELVI

Mevember 8, 1922.

8 4922

UNDER SECRETARY

DEPT. OF STATE.

Mr. Phillips

reference to the British Embassy's inquiry

for information as to reports we have received regarding the burning of Smyrna, I feel that it is a question of policy as to how far we should go in furnishing the desired information. The attached despatch from Barnes gives the most comprehensive statement of the Smyrna disaster which we have received and, while it contains information which we might not desire to make public, I do not know that there is anything that we could not appropriately communicate to the British Jovernment on the understanding that it should be kept confidential.

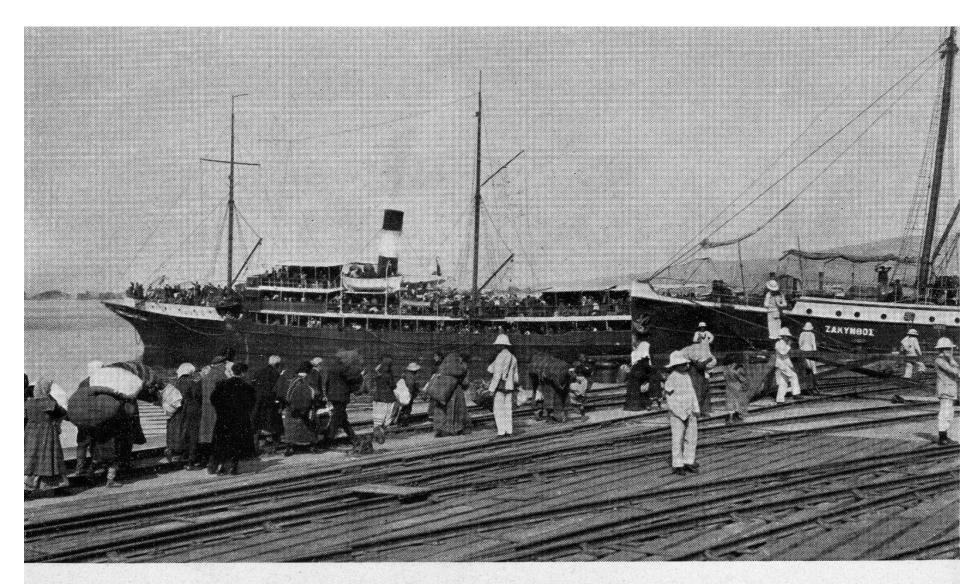
I should, however, be glad to have your instructions on this point before proceeding to answer the British note.



## Fleeing to the ships



Scene on railroad pier, Smyrna, where refugees embarked.



BOAT LOADED WITH REFUGEES LEAVING THE RAILROAD PIER AT SMYRNA



Photograph by C. D. Morris
AMERICAN SAILORS MOVING REFUGEES ON A HAND TRUCK: SMYRNA



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Photographs by C. D. Morris

SEEKING THE NAMES OF HER LOST LOVED ONES: ATHENS