

REVOLT IN ATHENS: THE GREEK COMMUNIST "SECOND ROUND," 1944–1945. By *John O. Iatrides*. Foreword by *William Hardy McNeill*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1972. xiv, 340 pp. \$11.50.

GREECE WITHOUT COLUMNS: THE MAKING OF THE MODERN GREEKS. By *David Holden*. Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1972. 336 pp. \$7.50.

The armed attempt of the Greek Communist Party (KKE) to seize power in Athens in December 1944 is one of those key events which in the closing months of the Second World War gave—rightly or wrongly—shape and direction to international affairs for more than two decades. For this reason, Professor Iatrides's book is a valuable contribution to the literature on the war and deserves wide attention. The author offers a penetrating glimpse into one of the darkest moments in the history of modern Greece; at the same time, his assessment of the material he has so carefully assembled is not entirely sound in the opinion of this reviewer.

Historian Iatrides offers firsthand evidence on the views of President Roosevelt, the State Department, and the British with regard to the situation in occupied Greece. He bares their disagreements on the intentions and motives of KKE and EAM/ELAS (the Communist-led resistance organization) and on the question of the monarchy. Iatrides seems to side with the American intelligence operatives in the area who saw King George as the cause of all friction and discounted the efforts of KKE to monopolize the resistance movement and prepare the ground to seize power at the time of German withdrawal.

In assessing the December uprising, Iatrides correctly focuses on the human dimensions of the conflict and the effect of misunderstandings and chance incidents, but he is wrong in deducing that the uprising was an unintentional, inadvertent move. KKE had articulated its objective very candidly in its December 1942 conference, and it had made specific plans in the summer and early fall of 1944 to seize power in the capital. Evidence from Communist sources was presented by this reviewer more than seven years ago. The KKE was forced in the fall of 1944 to forgo these plans, mostly because of the Churchill-Stalin agreement on the Balkans. The change came in late November, because the time was closing in for ELAS to disarm if "national unity" were to be maintained. Assuming that the British forces that had come to Greece were too weak to prevent a Communist takeover, the Communist leaders decided to carry out their long-established plans. They were wrong in their assessment of the British reaction, and the uprising was crushed. Be that as it may, Iatrides's book is an indispensable source on the American policies toward Greece in the Second World War.

If Iatrides's book is a good example of meticulous micro-history, Holden's *Greece Without Columns* is macro-history at its best. When it first appeared, it stirred a great deal of controversy among Greek readers especially. Holden bares the frailties and the dark shadows of Greek character in a way only Greeks are supposed to know and especially talk about. Holden has had a long acquaintance with Greece and has a keen, observant eye. With a brilliant blending of journalism and history he brings together the remote past and yesterday's headlines. He accomplishes this difficult feat without distorting reality or forcing his analysis to serve cherished misconceptions or prejudices. His prose is witty but not sarcastic, informed but not overbearing, critical but not hostile.

In the first part of his book Holden—occasionally with a certain dose of hyperbole—highlights the persistent contradictions of the Greek national character, the conflicting values which derive from the “Hellenic” and the “Christian” wellsprings of Greek culture, the effects of the country’s location at the crossroads of continents and civilizations, and the “welter of ambivalence” in which modern Greece was born. The second part covers the nation’s re-emergence in the early nineteenth century, the establishment of the Greek state and its march through the next sixteen decades until the military takeover in April 1967, and its immediate aftermath. His candid appraisal of the military regime was not critical enough in the eyes of the regime’s opponents, but neither was it laudatory enough for the regime’s stalwarts. Yet, in the opinion of this reviewer, among the dozens of books on recent Greek developments, Holden’s treatment of the military regime offers a most informed and valid picture.

Anyone interested in Greek politics cannot afford to miss this most readable introduction to what makes the Greeks tick. It is one of those books that a reviewer may wish he had written himself.

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MIKIS THEODORAKIS: MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE. By *George Giannaris*. Foreword by *Mikis Theodorakis*. New York and Washington: Praeger Publishers, 1972. xix, 322 pp. \$8.95.

George Giannaris’s account of Theodorakis’s life (to age forty-eight) seems pure hagiography at first, a saint’s legend written for our edification by an enthusiastic disciple. This is not a criticism; indeed, it is a pleasure to see humanity still producing figures of such extraordinary accomplishment and integrity as Theodorakis: a composer, political leader, and social theorist/activist who has put all his ideas into practice despite enormous suffering. The tenacity, the vitality despite sickness and imprisonment, the miraculous escapes, the immovable allegiance to a cause: all appear legendary and superhuman at first, until the book begins to convince us that they are real, and furthermore that saintly virtues are bequeathed to rare individuals not by some divine agent on high, but by humanity itself, via culture.

This is Giannaris’s major point, and also Theodorakis’s major belief: the extraordinary, be it in art, heroism, or goodness, begins “among the people and the times,” is given intenser expression by the individual talent, and then must attain completion where it began, amidst the people once more. Consequently, what starts as a hagiographic account of one man’s accomplishment soon becomes a sociological investigation of the Greek people and their times, from Metaxas’s dictatorship (1936) to the present, with emphasis on culture and politics. Culturally, the focus is, of course, music—Theodorakis’s crusade to amalgamate (1) sophisticated European technique, (2) lyrics of true worth by Greece’s leading poets, (3) the folk tradition of the countryside, and (4) the popular instruments of the urban proletariat, in order to produce a revitalized musical expression that speaks to the masses. Politically, the focus is the Greek Left. We see the complicated role which communism has played in the lives of many Greek intellectuals, with Theodorakis as paradigm. He joined the party in 1943 as a way of fighting the Germans, entering Marxism “through the door of nationalism and patriotism.” He endured