

main thing needed is a change of heart, an understanding that in this field, too, one is supposed to work seriously.

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THE GREEK STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1821–1833. By *Douglas Dakin*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1973. viii, 344 pp. \$13.00.

Douglas Dakin, a distinguished British historian well known for his work in modern Greek history, offers English-language readers a narrative and interpretive account of the Greek revolt for independence during 1821–33. Drawing on an extensive but still incomplete literature, Dakin assembles many parts of a complicated story in an effort to produce a comprehensive history—an objective that has eluded generations of writers in and out of Greece.

The book, rich with information not readily available to Balkanists, could have served as a useful synthesis of current scholarship, but without footnotes its value diminishes even to specialists. The primitive state of the field, evidenced by inadequate bibliographic aids, makes source citation indispensable for anything but the most general introduction. Treated separately and in great detail, the diplomatic, military, political, and social dimensions of the revolt—in Greece and abroad—fail to coalesce into a coherent account. Pages of unconnected facts swamp and bewilder the reader; the outfitting of a Greek fleet and an ill-fated venture to secure steamships take up several pages, while the disposal of “national” property, an affair of great consequence, is buried in a long explanatory note. Still, Dakin relates several crucial episodes masterfully—for example, Byron and the philhellenes.

Many readers will be surprised by Dakin’s thoughts on Greek “character”: the Greek enlightenment spread rapidly because the “lowliest Greek is usually nimble-witted and curious, ready to believe anything that smacks of news and novelty”; resistance to central authority was intense, “because of the national character—the excessive subtlety of mind, the love of intrigue, the tendency to emotional extremes, the desire of everyone to lead and the reluctance to be led.” These are notions discredited and discarded by serious writers generations ago.

Dakin’s appreciation of the intricate play of international and native forces survives the narrative, and some of his interpretations square with the best recent work. He properly emphasizes the important struggle between modernizers seeking to impose a central authority, and local oligarchs intent on extending their traditional prerogatives. Furthermore, he never loses sight of the dominant role of Europe’s great powers, deeply enmeshed in checking each other’s ambitions in Southeastern Europe.

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THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, THE GREAT POWERS, AND THE STRAITS QUESTION, 1870–1887. By *Barbara Jelavich*. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1973. xi, 209 pp. \$6.95.

The continued control of the Turkish government over the maritime passage from the Aegean to the Black Sea has been periodically challenged by one or another