George G. Arnakis: The near east in modern times. Volume I: The ottoman empire and the balkan states to 1900

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As curious as it may sound, the civilization of one third of Eurasia still stands the significance of the internal struggle of the area, which has always been the will of each one of the peoples of the Intermediary Region to hold the sceptre of its Oecumenical Empire in Istanbul. Thus we fail to understand the process by which an external power, England, intervenes in the «civil war» going on in the area for the succession of the Istanbul throne and helps the Turks maintain the throne by repelling both the internal contender from the South (the Arabs of Mohammed Ali) and the internal contender from the North to Ethiopia in the South. No textbook has ever been written on the history of this Intermediary Region. The first important effort in this direction was made however by L.S. Stavrianos when, in 1958, Rinehart of New York published his remarkable The Balkans since 1453. This book encompasses only one part of the Intermediary Region, the western quarter of it, describing five centuries of its history. At the same time a parallel effort was made in French by a Lebanese historian Jawad Boulos, published in five volumes by Mouton of The Hague, under the title Les peuples et les civilisations du Proche Orient. The absence of Russia as a great mistake in a book like this which has the ambition to help understand the unity of the Intermediary Region, because of the great importance this people played in the last millennium of the internal history of this area of civilization. To present, as the author does, the Russian State as an external factor to the Eastern Question, on the same level as England for instance, is a very common mistake among historians which prevents us once again from understanding the significance of the internal struggle of the area, which has always been the will of each one of the peoples of the Intermediary Region to hold the sceptre of its Oecumenical Empire in Istanbul. Thus we fail to understand the process by which an external power, England, intervenes in the «civil war» going on in the area for the succession of the Istanbul throne and helps the Turks maintain the throne by repelling both the internal contender from the South (the Arabs of Mohammed Ali) and the internal contender from the North to Ethiopia in the South. No textbook has ever been written on the history of this Intermediary Region. The first important effort in this direction was made however by L.S. 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collaboration in Istanbul with the Ottoman Emperor, even after the making of a treaty ceding the city to the Turks.仕一会以伊斯坦布尔与奥斯曼帝国的合作，甚至在缔结条约将该城割让给土耳其之后。

However the main value of this work, which far exceeds its weaknesses, is that for the first time it gives us a very clear account of the last two centuries of the history of nearly the whole of this area of civilization lying in the middle of Eurasia, it situates the Balkans in the Near East where they really belong and from its vocabulary the illogical and confusing term of Middle East, which only came into vogue at the outbreak of the Second World War. It is highly desirable that in the near future a synthetic history of the Intermediary Region in modern times, including Russia, be written from the "inside" and not from the Western angle.

The bibliography of both volumes is not satisfactory. The once more repeated, although very weak, argument that "for practical reasons" it was necessary to limit it to works available in English, does not save it from criticism as useful books in English are not mentioned while others of highly doubtful importance are brought in.

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Αι περί ιδιοκτησίας άποινες εν τῇ εκκλησίᾳ κατά τοὺς τρεῖς πρῶτους αἰῶνας

'Εκδόσεις Πιατερεικού Ιδρύματος Πατερικών Μελετών, 'Ανάλεκτα Βλατάδων 13, Θεσσαλονίκη 1972, σ. 201, ύπο Άργυρινόρντου Νικητή Χατζημιχάλη.

Είς καταιγιστικήν καί λιγός ἐπιμελήμενήν ἔκδοσιν ἐκκλησιαστικήν εὐκαλύφτης τελευταίας ἤ διδακτική διατριβή τοῦ Πανουσιολογιστοῦ π.Ν. Χατζημιχάλη, διδακτόρου Κοινωνιολογίας τοῦ Πάνεπιστημίου τοῦ Στρατούντος, ἔχουσα ὡς θέμα: Αἱ περὶ ιδιοκτησίας άποινες ἐν τῇ Εκκλησίᾳ κατά τοὺς τρεῖς πρῶτους αἰῶνας. Ἡ διατριβή αὕτη ἐπιμεληθεῖ ἐς τὴν Θεολογικὴν Σχολήν τοῦ Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης καί ἐκεῖκε διαμήνυσε.

'Ἡ ἐργασία περιέχει πρόλογον, εἰσαγωγήν καὶ τὸ κύριον μέρος, τὸ ὁποῖον εἶναι διηγημένον εἰς τέσσαρα φεράλαια. Ἡ διάτριβα αὕτη ἐπυγμένη ἐς τὴν Θεολογικὴν Σχολήν τοῦ Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης καί ἐκεῖκε διαμήνυσε.

I. Διαφωτισμὸς ἐπὶ τοῦ προβλήματος τῆς ἐξαρτήσεως τῶν περὶ ιδιοκτησίας άποινων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἡ οὖν μὲν ἢ τῶν οἰκονομικο-κοινωνικῶν ἀντίληψεων τῶν διαμάχων τέχνης τῆς Ελληνορωμαϊκῆς κοινωνίας, ἡ δὲ τῆς ἐργασίας ἐλληνικῆς κοινωνικῆς φιλοσοφίας.

II. Διὰ τῆς παρούσης μελέτης θεμελιώδει ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῆς ἐργασίας χριστιανικῆς παραδόσεως νὰ κλιμάκιον κριτηρίων ἡθικῆς ἀξιολόγησης τῆς ιδιοκτησίας. Τονίζεται π. χ. ὑπὸ τοῦ συγγραφέα (σ. 117, 118) ἡ ἀνάγκη τῆς ὁρθοδόξου πνευματικοτῆτος καὶ ἀπορρίπτεται ἡ προσφυγὴ εἰς τῶν ἔργων τῆς Διονυσίου ἑρωικοτῆτος καὶ συμβολικοῦ ἐν τῇ περιοχῇ τῆς κοινωνικῆς ἐπιστολογιῶν.

III. Ὁ συγγραφέας δέχεται ὅτι δὲν ἔγεντο ἐν τῷ ὁδός δικαίου τοῦ θεοῦ τῆς ιδιοκτησίας ἡ Ἐκκλησία τῶν τριῶν πέντε αἰῶνων. Ἡ ιδιοκτησία ἐκθεωρήθη ὑπὸ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ως ἱστορικὸς θεσμός δοκεῖ νὰ μεταβάλλεται 

Author: A. ΤΖΑΝΙΜΗΣ

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