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Presentation

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Special Section II / Section Spéciale II

Atlas1821.com

A DIGITAL ATLAS OF THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
AND THE CREATION OF THE GREEK STATE, 1821–1852

In memoriam Eugenia Drakopoulou

Presentation

This Special Section is dedicated to the Digital Atlas of the Greek War of Independence and the Creation of the Greek State (1821–1852), a digital mapping project conducted by the Institute of Historical Research / National Hellenic Research Foundation and generously funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. The atlas is based on the historical maps and their related source materials produced during the period under study, and first-hand testimonies of the Greek War of Independence extracted from memoirs of combatants. It proposes a digital reconstruction of the historical landscape of Greece during the crucial years of the emergence of the Greek state and offers a research tool for information on the Greek space and the revolutionary events.

The Special Section comprises three articles. The first one is collective and serves as an introduction. It presents the aim of the project, the empirical methodology followed for the creation of the atlas, and a survey of its content and structure. The following two contributions are dedicated to the historical material employed for the creation of the atlas, the maps produced during the period in question and the memoirs of the combatants. The first article, by George Tolias, examines the cartography of Greece produced by French army engineers between 1811 and 1827 as a laboratory for the conception and definition of the country; the last article, by Panagiotis El Gedi, examines the interaction between the memoirs of the combatants and the patriotic poetry dedicated to the sieges and the sortie of Messolonghi, from 1821 to 1880.

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