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**The Quest for Hellenism: Religion, Nationalism and  
Collective Identities in Greece (1453-1913)**

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THE QUEST FOR HELLENISM:  
RELIGION, NATIONALISM AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES  
IN GREECE (1453-1913)

*Dimitris Livanios*

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ABSTRACT: The main aim of this essay is to offer a critical survey of the development of Greek collective identities, between 1453 and 1913. That period witnessed dramatic transformations, and the arrival of a modernising and Westernising wave, which crashed onto the Greek shores in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The ensuing clash between Western and modern ideas of nationalism on the one hand, and time-honoured local mentalities nurtured by Orthodoxy and the Ottoman *millet* system, on the other, was intense. This paper attempts to chart some salient aspects of that struggle, to discuss the evolution of concepts and words, such as “Hellene” [Ελληνας], “Hellenism” [Ελληνισμός], “Roman” [Ρωμαίος] and “Romiosyne” [Ρωμιοσύνη], and to place them within their changing historical context.

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### *I. The Austrian, the Hungarian and the Greeks*

On 21 September 1829 an Austrian statesman sent a letter to a Hungarian nobleman. In this letter the author reflected on the Greeks: “What do we mean by the Greeks? Do we mean a people, a country, or a religion? If either of the first two, where are the dynastic and geographical boundaries? If the third, then upwards of fifty million men are Greeks...”<sup>1</sup>

Prince Clemens von Metternich, our Austrian statesman, had his reasons for taking the trouble to preoccupy himself with the Greeks, a far away people of whom he knew rather little: he had to protect the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, which was then threatened by the emergence of a Greek state, and to extinguish the flames of nationalism that threatened to engulf not only the Ottomans but his own masters, the Habsburgs, as well. Regrettably, we do not know the reply of our Hungarian aristocrat, Prince Paul Esterhazy, then ambassador in London. Metternich could be excused, of course, for having difficulties in understanding what the Greek “nation” actually is. Devoted to the defence of the multi-ethnic Habsburg Empire, and steeped in a pre-national frame of mind, Metternich was referring to a subject, the definition of

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\* I am indebted to Professor Peter Mackridge for his perceptive and much appreciated suggestions. I should also like to thank Professor Basil Gounaris for his insightful comments.

<sup>1</sup> Guillaume de Bertier de Sauvigny, *Metternich and His Times*, transl. Peter Ryde, London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1962, p. 35.

nationalism, that neither he nor his Hungarian interlocutor were able fully to grasp.<sup>2</sup>

Therein lies, however, a delicious historical paradox: Metternich would have been rather surprised to be told that the very issues he raised in his letter were, in fact, the crux of the whole matter: in 1829 “Greece” as a state was being formed, but the definition of a “Greek” was still a matter of intense debate among the Greeks themselves: is it “religion” only that determines admission to the Greek nation? Where are exactly the “geographical boundaries” of Greece? Are the Greeks a “people” and what does this mean? This essay will attempt to show that although Metternich and Esterhazy had no clear answers to these questions, neither had the Greeks, albeit for entirely different reasons. It will further attempt to examine some aspects of the interplay between some important forms of belonging (language, religion and customs) in the formation of Greek collective identities. All these criteria played a role in the period under consideration here, but not equally, and their relative importance changed over time. A discussion of these parameters will seek to place “Hellenism” and some of its meanings within its post-Byzantine and modern Greek contexts.

At this juncture two preliminary observations are called for. The first concerns the chronological purview of this essay. It consists roughly of four centuries of Ottoman rule and one century of independent statehood. It is dangerously (and therefore unwisely) broad, but nevertheless necessary, if some relevant continuities, changes and patterns are to be identified. The chronological signposts are 1453 and 1913. All chronological conventions are arbitrary and even misleading, and those selected here are no exception. Some discussion of them is therefore necessary. The first date (1453) marks the year the Eastern Roman Empire was pronounced officially dead, by the capturing of its capital by the Ottomans. It has been accepted as the conventional, but by no means actual, beginning of the period of Ottoman domination of the Greek

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<sup>2</sup> It is of interest to note here that for the great Hungarian aristocrats (among whom the Esterhazys figured prominently) the term “Hungarian nation” [*Natio Hungarica*] included only the land-owning nobility and not the peasantry, irrespective of ethnicity or language. In that context, “Hungarian” meant “noble”, and not “Hungarian-speaker”, or “of Hungarian ethnic descent”. For a good discussion of these issues see Tofik M. Islamov, “From *Natio Hungarica* to Hungarian Nation”, in Richard L. Rudolph and David Good (eds), *Nationalism and Empire: The Habsburg Empire and the Soviet Union*, New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1991, pp. 39-45. As shall be seen below, the Hungarian experience was not much different from the Greek one during the period of Ottoman rule.

lands.<sup>3</sup> From the point of view of the history of ideas that interests us here, however, it represents both a break with and (perhaps even more) a continuation of the preceding period. It was a break in the sense that it ushered in high relief the problem of the relations between the Orthodox Greeks and their Muslim overlords, now that the Empire was definitely a thing of the past, and a Muslim potentate sat on the throne of Constantinople. But in terms of the collective identity of the Greeks it marked, as shall be seen, a continuity rather than a break: that date saw no change in the way the Greeks perceived themselves, and this is one of the reasons why 1453 did not signal the beginning of the “modern period” of Greek history. In 1453, modernity (and its consequences) was still far away.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the relative importance of this date should not be overstated. The other signpost of this essay (1913) is rather more substantive in that respect. In a narrow sense, it marked the end of the Second Balkan War, between Greece and Serbia against Bulgaria over the spoils of Macedonia. On another level, however, this war marked the complete victory of nationalism over other forms of collective identities in Greece. By 1913 Greek nationalism had come of age.

## II. “Who am I?” Answers from Patriarchs and Peasants

The second observation, which refers to the nomenclature used here, can also serve as the starting point for the discussion of Hellenism and collective identities. The title of this essay refers to “Greece”, but for most of the period under consideration here, neither “Greece”, as a nation-state or a nationalist project, nor “Greeks” [Ελλήνες] in the sense of a group identified by that name, existed. Anachronisms are habitually derided as an elementary mistake to be avoided at all costs, but some anachronistic terms have been so much entrenched that their common use escapes attention, and confuses issues of identity instead of clarifying them. The Ottoman Empire, for example, is frequently called the “Turkish Empire”, which was ruled by “Turks” and subjected the Greeks to “Turkish rule” [Τουρκοκρατία]. The use of such appellations imply three assumptions: a) that the Ottomans called themselves

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<sup>3</sup> This is a rough, although convenient, chronological demarcation, but it should be noted that the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans and the Greek lands was a piecemeal process, starting in the fourteenth century and effectively ending in 1669 with the fall of Crete, although some Aegean islands were captured much later; Tinos, for example, in 1715.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. at this point the observations by John S. Koliopoulos and Thanos M. Veremis, *Greece: The Modern Sequel: From 1831 to the Present*, London: Hurst & Co., 2002, pp. 5-7.

by that name, b) that they were, or had an awareness of being, “Turks” in a national sense, and c) that there is an intrinsic continuity between the Ottoman “Turkish” Empire and the modern (Kemalist) Turkish Republic. All these inferences are equally erroneous, given that the Ottoman administrative élite of the Empire was highly multi-ethnic, and until the very end of the nineteenth century used “Turk” as a term of abuse, denoting the uncivilised and illiterate Anatolian peasant; on the other hand, perceptions of continuity between the Ottoman Empire and the modern Turkish state are also misleading, for the entire Kemalist ideological edifice was built on the utter rejection of the Ottoman past, which was vehemently castigated as “backward”, “oriental”, and inimical to the Western world that modern Turkey wished to join.<sup>5</sup> When, in the 1920s, Kemal declared to his countrymen that “There is no nation in the world greater, older or more honourable than the Turkish nation,” he signalled a massive break with the past, not the culmination of an age-old process.<sup>6</sup>

The “Ottomans-as-Turks” example, and its intellectual ramifications, have some interesting parallels in the terminology used in the Greek case. Just as the appellation “Turkish” misleadingly turkifies the Ottoman Empire long before (some of) the Young Turks attempted to do just that in the twentieth century, there have been attempts to “Hellenise” the Eastern Roman Empire, either because nineteenth-century Greek Romanticism (through Spyridon Zampelios and Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos) constructed Byzantium as the medieval phase of the primordial “Hellenic nation”, or because a segment of the Byzantine intelligentsia used the term “Hellene” to identify themselves, especially in the last two centuries of the Empire. The first of these two views belongs to the intellectual history of the independent Greek state, and will be discussed later on. An examination of the problem of Byzantine “Hellenism”, however, or, as some scholars would like to suggest, nationalism,<sup>7</sup> lies beyond the scope of this essay, and the competence of its author. But given the continuity between the late Byzantine and post-Byzantine periods in terms of collective identity, and the importance of nomenclature, some brief discussion of these points is appropriate here by way of introduction.

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<sup>5</sup> For these issues see Bernard Lewis, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, London: Oxford University Press, 1968, pp. 317-355.

<sup>6</sup> Andrew Mango, *Atatürk*, London: John Murray, 1999, p. 469. For the glorification of Turkish history by Kemal see also Patrick B. Kinross, *Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation*, London: Phoenix, 1965, pp. 465-472.

<sup>7</sup> Paul Magdalino, “Hellenism and Nationalism in Byzantium”, in John Burke and Stathis Gauntlett (eds), *Neohellenism*, Canberra: Australian National University, 1992, p. 5.

There is no doubt that by the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries a growing number of intellectuals gradually abandoned the customary word “Roman” [Ρωμαῖος] to identify themselves, and used instead the term “Hellene” [Ἐλλήνας], thus demonstrating a profound admiration of the language and artistic output of the ancient Greeks, and sometimes an awareness of an ancestral connection with them.<sup>8</sup> This may well have signalled a shift in the cultural identity of some of those authors, given that until then the term “Hellene” meant “pagan”. It should be noted, however, that the literary environment of the period also played a role in favouring the word “Hellene” over “Roman”. To give but one example, Speros Vryonis quotes what is to him a “most interesting” reference to the Byzantines as “Hellenes” by the historian Kritoboulos. In describing the gradual Ottoman advance in the Balkans, our fifteenth-century Byzantine historian, *inter alia*, writes: “καταστρέφονται δε Μυσούς [...] ἐτι δε Ιλαυρίους, Τριβαλλούς, Ελληνας...”.<sup>9</sup> But if the Albanians became “Illyrians” for our archaising historian, is it not appropriate that the Byzantines too will become “Hellenes”? Surely, it would have been odd for Kritoboulos to put “Romans” next to “Illyrians” and “Moesians”. In this case, it seems that it was Kritoboulos’ archaism, rather than his “Hellenism”, that dictated the use of the word “Hellene”.<sup>10</sup>

The most prominent and oft-quoted case of Hellenism, however, is that of Pletho, who did not mince his words about his own perceptions of belonging. Addressing Manuel II Palaiologos, Pletho declared that “We over whom you rule and hold sway are Hellenes by race, as is demonstrated by our language and ancestral education.”<sup>11</sup> Yet, this startlingly modern formulation of Hellenic

<sup>8</sup> See, for example, Speros Vryonis Jr, “Byzantine Cultural Self-consciousness in the Fifteenth Century”, in Slobodan Curcic and Doula Mouriki (eds), *The Twilight of Byzantium: Aspects of Cultural and Religious History in the Late Byzantine Empire*, Princeton: Dept of Art and Archaeology, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, 1991, pp. 5-14.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. in this context the observation of C. Th. Dimaras: “Naturally, the archaism of the historians [of the 15th century] somewhat complicates things; just as the Ottomans become Persians, it is natural that the Romans (Romioi) become Hellenes in the historiographical texts.” *Νεοελληνικός Διαφωτισμός* [Neohellenic Enlightenment], Athens: Ermis, 1983, p. 83.

<sup>11</sup> John Campbell and Philip Sherrard, *Modern Greece*, London: Ernest Benn, 1968, p. 23. The authors translate the Greek word γένος as “race”. C. M. Woodhouse, in his: *George Gemistos Plethon: The Last of the Hellenes*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986, p. 102, suggests the rendering: “we are Hellenes by descent”. For the meaning of the word γένος see p. 49 below.

identity, based on the continuity of language and culture, was a truly singular case, for Plethon remained, as Donal Nicol has observed, “a dreamer of dreams”, and “an odd man out”.<sup>12</sup> He represented few others beyond himself, not least because he was pagan. His paganism obviously made it easier for him to break the barrier of religion and to accept unconditionally that the idolaters of ancient Greece were his own forefathers.<sup>13</sup>

Perhaps a more sensitive guide to the complexity and contradiction that characterised the attitudes of the Byzantine intellectual circles of that period was the case of the first post-Byzantine patriarch, Gennadios Scholarios, whose reign marks the beginning of the period under consideration in this essay. A staunch enemy of Pletho on philosophical grounds,<sup>14</sup> Scholarios in a well-known passage asked the question “Who am I?”. He refused to call himself Hellene (*οὐκ οὐ φαίνη ποτέ Ελλήνη είναι*), opting instead for “Christian”, for he “did not think as the Hellenes did”, despite the fact that he spoke their language.<sup>15</sup> Importantly, however, he did so in a religious context, in his dialogue with a Jew, and in that context Hellene could have only meant “pagan”. The rejection of the “Hellenic” appellation was then quite appropriate. In other contexts, however, when religion was not the main issue, occasionally he uses the traditional “Roman” [*Πομακίος*], but he also repeatedly referred to the Byzantines as “Hellenes”, “children of the Hellenes” (*Ελλήνων γαρ πατέες*) and to their fatherland as “Greece” [*Ελλάς*]. For the Fathers of the Church, he reserved the word “Asians” [*Ασιανοί*], whereas the Orthodox Church is an “Eastern” one [*Ανατολική*].<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Donald M. Nicol, *The Last Centuries of Byzantium, 1261-145*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 21996, p. 345.

<sup>13</sup> Interestingly, Pletho’s tradition was mirrored in the Arabic setting five centuries later. Just as it took a non-Christian (in this case, a pagan) to go beyond religion and advocate secular concepts of belonging that rest on ethnicity and language, it took non-Muslim (in this case, Christian) Arabs first to formulate the idea of Arabic nationalism based on language and ethnic commonality, and to reject Islam as the prime marker of belonging. In both the Greek and Arabic cases, the road to nationalism had to by-pass the universalism of religion. For the role of Christian Arabs in the development of Arab nationalism see Bassam Tibi, *Arab Nationalism: A Critical Enquiry*, New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1990, pp. 96-105.

<sup>14</sup> For the battle between Pletho’s Platonism and Scholarios’ Aristotelianism, in the course of which Scholarios burnt Pletho’s *Book of Law*, see Christopher Livanos, “The Conflict between Scholarios and Plethon: Religion and Communal Identity in Early Modern Greece”, in A. Stavrakopoulou and G. Nagy (eds), *Modern Greek Literature: Critical Essays*, New York: Routledge, 2003, pp. 24-41.

<sup>15</sup> Louis Petit, X. A. Sideridès and Martin Jugie (eds), *Oeuvres complètes de Georges Scholarios*, Vol. III, Paris: Maison de la Bonne Presse, 1930, p. 253.

<sup>16</sup> I follow here the meticulous and careful examination of the word “Hellene” in

The multiplicity of contexts, which necessitated Scholarios' oscillation among "Hellene", "Christian" and "Roman", demonstrates perhaps the limits of a quest for any meaningful national content of the word "Hellene".<sup>17</sup>

One thing, however, appears to be certain: Scholarios remained deeply attached to Orthodox Christianity, which constituted the most important dimension in his identity and clearly overshadowed all others. It was the defence of Christianity, now threatened both by the Latin West and his Muslim ruler, that preoccupied him most. For Scholarios, the coming of the Ottomans was clearly not a "national" disaster, the enslavement of one nation by another, but more of a political and religious one. In enumerating the disasters he faced, he wrote that with the coming of the Ottomans, "we have no Emperor, no free church, no freedom of speech".<sup>18</sup> It can be said that the second grievance was somewhat higher in his considerations than the other two. A solution to this problem would make life for him at least tolerable. So, it can be argued that when his new overlord decided to restore the position of the Church, and allow Christians to worship their God, Scholarios was apparently prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. The available evidence suggests that he had good relations with the Sultan, and he had even the odd good word to say of Mehmet II, when he spoke of his "humanity" [φιλανθρωπία].<sup>19</sup>

By identifying first and foremost as a Christian, Scholarios was in accord with the majority of the Byzantines, irrespective of their educational level, for most Byzantines would call themselves "Romans" or "Christians" every time they encountered the rare opportunity to identify themselves. It was these words that survived the fall of Constantinople and displayed an astonishing tenacity. In the ninth century, for example, St Gregory, a native of Asia Minor,

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Scholarios' *œuvre* by Athanasios D. Angelou, "Who am I? Scholarios' Answers and the Hellenic Identity", in Costas N. Constantinides (ed.), *Philhellene: Studies in Honour of Robert Browning*, Venice: Istituto Ellenico di Studi Bizantini e Postbizantini, 1996, pp. 1-19, from which these quotations are taken. Further quotations of the words "Hellene" and "Roman" in Scholarios in Vryonis, "Byzantine Cultural Self-consciousness", pp. 9-11.

<sup>17</sup> Angelou suggests that "the name 'Hellenic' is another name for the Christian *oecumene*", and considers it equally "universalistic in its claims as 'Roman' had been for previous generations of Byzantine scholars". *Op. cit.*, p. 19. No scholarly consensus, however, exists on this issue.

<sup>18</sup> C. J. Turner, "The First Patriarchate of Gennadios II Scholarios as Reflected in a Pastoral Letter", in A. E. Christa Canitz and Gernot R. Wieland (eds), *From Arabye to Engelond: Medieval Studies in Honour of Mahmoud Manzalaoui on his 75th Birthday*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 1999, p. 25.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 31.

was arrested in Thrace and received a good beating. The reason for that treatment escaped the historical record, but not the question he was asked: to identify himself. His answer was rather simple: "I am a Christian, my parents are such and such, and I am of the Orthodox persuasion."<sup>20</sup> That much was enough to him, and apparently to his tormentors. A thousand years later, around 1891, a Greek nationalist visited Asia Minor, the land of St Gregory, only to receive to his considerable distress exactly the same answer:

For if today you ask a Christian, even one speaking a corrupted Greek: "What are you?", "A Christian (Christianos)," he will unhesitatingly reply. "All right, but other people are Christians, the Armenians, the Franks, the Russians..." "I don't know," he will answer, "Yes, these people believe in Christ but I am a Christian." "Perhaps you are a Greek?" "No, I am not anything, I've told you that I'm a Christian, and once again I say to you that I am a Christian!..."<sup>21</sup>

What we see here is a continuum in terms of collective identity, which spanned almost a millennium. The prevalence of Orthodox Christianity had created a way of perceiving the world, and a way of perceiving one another, that appears to have changed very little during the period of Ottoman domination. That tradition, formed under the Byzantine Empire, was cemented, as shall be seen, by the administrative practices and worldview of the Ottoman Empire. It obviously excluded nationalism; it excluded, that is, the emergence of secular forms of belonging, which rested on language and identification with "a nation". In that respect, the views of St Gregory proved remarkably enduring.

Further instances of continuity between the Byzantines and post-Byzantine identities can be readily observed. For the Byzantines, Orthodox Christianity was the main force that could motivate and unite against any adversary. Nowhere is this more palpable than in the case of war. In fighting the Bulgarian Simeon in the tenth century, Romanus I Lecapenus urged his men to die for Christendom, overlooking the small detail that the Bulgarians were by that time also Christians. This did not appear to trouble the Emperor in the least.<sup>22</sup> Ten centuries later, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a Greek officer, Pavlos Melas, was also fighting a war against the Bulgarians, but this time in Ottoman-held Macedonia. Melas himself was a nationalist, but the peasants whose allegiance he wanted to

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<sup>20</sup> As quoted by Cyril Mango, *Byzantium: The Empire of the New Rome*, London: Phoenix, 1998, p. 31.

<sup>21</sup> As quoted by Richard Clogg, "Anadolu Hristiyan Karindaslarimiz: The Turkish-speaking Greeks of Asia Minor", in *Neohellenism*, p. 67

<sup>22</sup> Cited in Cyril Mango, *Byzantium*, p. 31.

attract were not. Consequently, in order to reinforce his message to the Macedonian peasants he ordered a seal which bore the Cross and the inscription *Ἐν Τούτῳ Νίκα* [In this sign conquer].<sup>23</sup> The Byzantine echoes of our captain's seal, alluding to Constantine the Great, could not have been more pronounced. Again, the fact that his enemies were also Orthodox Christians left our officer unmoved. Clearly, at times of war, Christianity was not a commodity that could be shared. In the Byzantine and post-Byzantine world (which in many cases survived to the twentieth century, as the above-mentioned illustrates) it had become solidified as a marker of "our own" identity only, despite the obvious fact that it also formed the main identity of "our" opponents.

But if the "Christian" and "Roman" appellations survived the fall of the City, what remained of the "Hellenism" of the late-Byzantine intellectuals? True, the "Hellenic" fire had not raged with intensity in the first place; Pletho's views were too idiosyncratic, and were buried with him, while the "Hellenism" of the intellectuals was confined to their circle and did not seem to have reached a wider following. But some flames of it apparently continued to flicker, as Jonathan Harris has shown, among the Byzantine émigrés in the West, in Renaissance Italy but also further afield. Many of these used the word "Hellene" instead of "Roman", were proud of their Hellenic inheritance, and considered their language a crucial element of their identity.<sup>24</sup> Interestingly, some of these émigrés converted to Catholicism, and this dimension of their intellectual constitution invites a question which goes to the heart of the "Hellenic" debate: they thought of themselves as Greeks despite the fact that they were no longer Orthodox, but would they have been accepted as such by their Orthodox brethren? In other words, was it possible for someone to be a Catholic and a "Greek" at the same time?

On one level, the answer depends on whom we are talking to. For Bessarion, there was no contradiction between Hellenism and Catholicism. In his funerary inscription, which was written by himself, he proudly included all his magnificent Latin titles (*Episcopus Thusculanus / Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae Cardinalis / Patriarcha Constantinopolitanus*), but he did not fail to add that he was from "Noble Greece" (*nobili Graecia ortus oriundivsque*).<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Natalia Mela, *Pavlos Melas*, Athens and Ioannina: Dodoni, 1992, p. 370, p. 372.

<sup>24</sup> See his *Greek Emigres in the West*, Camberley: Porphyrogenitus, 1995, and his article "Common Language and the Common Good: Aspects of Identity among Byzantine Emitters in Renaissance Italy", in Sally McKee (ed.), *Crossing Boundaries: Issues of Cultural and Individual Identity in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, Turnhout: Brepols, 1999, pp. 189-202, for a number of such cases.

<sup>25</sup> Theodoros N. Zisis, *Γεννάδιος Β Σχολάριος. Βίος - συγγράμματα - διδασκαλία*

The view from the Greek East, however, must have been much less sanguine. Most Orthodox, and especially the non-educated, would have found it very difficult to accept that a Latin, irrespective of his language, could also be a Greek, one of “us”: the Orthodox peasantry of the Ottoman-ruled Greek lands went as far as to deny that a Westerner could ever be a Christian. They were “Latins” and “Franks”, generic terms of Byzantine origin that denoted the largely undifferentiated Catholic multitudes of the West, but they were not “Christians”. These attitudes also enjoyed a long lease of life, and even crossed the boundaries of language. In 1827 an educated Greek, dressed *ala Franga* (like the Franks), visited a house on the island of Poros and crossed himself the way the Orthodox do. When the Albanian-speaking housewife inquired in broken Greek if he was a Christian, our well-dressed man answered in the affirmative. The woman was thunderstruck and ran to the door to summon everybody in to see for themselves the extraordinary sight of a “Frank” who crosses himself the way only “Christians” can do.<sup>26</sup> Clearly, for the Albanian-speaking housewife even a native Greek-speaker was not necessarily (an Orthodox) Christian. He had to look and dress like “us” as well.

In fact, “Orthodoxy-as-Greekness” was not a matter of choice that could be solved by a declaration of faith. Orthodoxy, as identity, was even inscribed in ones’ body, and could be proved objectively: at the beginning of the twentieth century a Greek captain (a Cretan) was leading a band of men in Ottoman Macedonia in pursuit of Bulgarian bandsmen, and, perhaps, the stray Turk that might have crossed his way. He suddenly encountered a Greek-speaker, who frantically started crossing himself and begged the captain to accept that he was a fellow Christian. But the Cretan needed harder proof of his religion, apparently because in Macedonia there were also Greek-speaking Muslims, the *valaades*. The unfortunate man was asked to reveal his anatomy: he was uncircumcised, and therefore not a Muslim. His religion had been proven beyond doubt, his identity and commonality with the Cretan chieftain had been established, and his life was thus spared.<sup>27</sup>

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[Gennadeios II Scholarios: life, works, teaching], Thessaloniki: Patriarchikon Idryma Paterikon Meleton, 1980, p. 218. Predictably, in discussing this epitaph, the Orthodox author refuses to accept that Bessarion was in fact a “Hellene”. “He wanted,” he notes, “to be first Latin and then Greek.” After all, “it is contradictory for someone who thinks like a Latin [λατινόφρων] and is an apostate to call himself Hellene”, *ibid.*, p. 218, p. 215. Many nineteenth-century Greeks would have agreed.

<sup>26</sup> Elli Skopetea, *To “Πρότυπο Βασίλειο” και η Μεγάλη Ιδέα* [The “Model Kingdom” and the Great Idea], Athens: Polytypo, 1988, p. 120.

<sup>27</sup> Angelos Chotzidis (ed.), *Ευθύμιος Καούδης. Ένας Κρητικός αγωνίζεται για τη*

That Catholicism (not to mention Islam<sup>28</sup>) was incompatible with “being Greek” remained an important issue that briefly flared up during the Greek War of Independence of 1821. At that time, the Greek revolutionary leaders of mainland Greece faced an awkward problem: a good number of the small Catholic population of some Aegean islands, although Greek-speaking, refused to participate in the revolt against the Ottomans. For them Catholicism was much more important than the calling of nationalism or language, and consequently they preferred the relative tolerance of their religion under the Ottoman Empire than their inclusion into an Orthodox state which might have been less inclined to respect it.<sup>29</sup> Interestingly, this produced a mixed reaction on the part of the Orthodox Greeks: for the Orthodox of the islands, the Catholic refusal reinforced their belief that they were not Greeks at all, and a bishop had no qualms in calling them “Turk worshipers”. His views probably reflected a wider trend among his co-religionists in mainland Greece: lack of Orthodoxy leads to lack of “Greekness” as well. For the Westernising élite of the Greek Revolution, however, their stance was rather baffling. It became even more so when the islanders declined to pay taxes to the emerging state. In 1823, the interior minister sent them a letter stressing that they too were considered Greeks: “Only barbaric nations [βάρβαρα εθνη],” he argued, “place religion above nationality [εθνικότητα].” It is revealing that the author of that letter was probably not the minister himself, but George Glarakis, a graduate of Göttingen University.<sup>30</sup> Indeed, if the Germans did not discriminate between their Catholic and Protestant kinsmen, why should modern Greece be any different? If the German brand of nationalism emphasised the unifying bond of language and relegated the divisive issue of religion to a secondary position, why should Greece not follow suit? The main reason accounting for this

*Μακεδονία* [Efthymios Kaoudis: a Cretan fights for Macedonia], Thessaloniki: Mouseio Makedonikou Agona, 1999, p. 41.

<sup>28</sup> This perception cuts both ways. If the term “Muslim Greek” is incomprehensible, then, as Lewis has observed, “Christian Turk” is equally so: “[it] is an absurdity and a contradiction in terms”. B. Lewis, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, p. 15.

<sup>29</sup> Charles Frazee, “The Greek Catholic Islanders and the Revolution of 1821”, *East European Quarterly* XIII, no. 3 (1979), pp. 315-326.

<sup>30</sup> Quoted in Nikiforos Diamandouros, *Oι απαρχές της συγκρότησης σύγχρονου κράτους στην Ελλάδα, 1821-1828* [The beginnings of modern state-building in Greece, 1821-1828], Athens: MIET, 2003, p. 116. Cf. John Koliopoulos, *Η “πέραν” Ελλάς και οι “άλλοι” Ελλήνες. Το σύγχρονο ελληνικό έθνος και οι επερόγλωσσοι σύνοικοι Χριστιανοί, 1800-1912* [The Greece “of beyond” and the “other” Greeks: the modern Greek nation and the heterolinguistic cohabitating Christians, 1800-1912], Thessaloniki: Vanias, 2003, pp. 71-72.

discrepancy was that Glarakis and the Catholic islanders were facing in opposite directions: he was a man of the future, a future that would see Greece emerging as a modern state with a modern nationalist ideology; not so the islanders, who remained wedded to pre-modern forms of belonging, and felt unable to establish a commonality with their Orthodox brethren. In the 1820s, the future that animated Glarakis was just arriving, and the chilling wind of modernisation, as shall be seen, had not yet touched the majority of the Greeks, Catholic and Orthodox alike.

The prominent role of Orthodoxy in the collective identity of the Greek-speakers of the East was cemented under Ottoman rule, due to the administrative practices of the Ottomans. Just as their rulers had Islam as the main component of their identity and made no reference to a “Turkish” or other ethnicity, the Orthodox Christian subjects of the Empire were also united by religion. Such a focus of loyalty was facilitated by the organisation of the Ottoman Empire along religious lines, the so-called *millet* system, a system which emerged gradually and was crystallised in the eighteenth century.<sup>31</sup> Each religious group inhabiting the Empire was a more or less self-governing unit, a *millet*, under the spiritual and to some extent temporal jurisdiction of its religious leader.<sup>32</sup> Within this framework, the Orthodox *millet* included all Orthodox ethnic groups.<sup>33</sup> Called *Rum millet* (meaning actually the “Roman” *millet*, and revealing yet another instance of the survival of the word “Roman”), it was placed under the leadership of the Patriarch of Constantinople, who was

<sup>31</sup> This point needs to be emphasised, as many historians tend to date the *millet* system as early as the 15th century. For Ottoman terms of their Christian subjects and the use of the term *millet*, see Paraskevas Konortas, “From Ta’ife to Millet: Ottoman Terms for the Ottoman Greek Orthodox Community”, in Charles Issawi and Dimitri Gondicas (eds), *Ottoman Greeks in the Age of Nationalism: Politics, Economy, and Society in the Nineteenth Century*, Princeton: Darwin Press, 1999, pp. 169-179.

<sup>32</sup> For the *millet* organisation and its functions see Peter F. Sugar, *Southeastern Europe under Ottoman Rule, 1354-1804*, Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1977, and especially ch. 2 on the “Ottoman Social and State Structure”. For the “Greek” *millet* see Richard Clogg, “The Greek Millet in the Ottoman Empire”, in Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis (eds), *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society*, Vol. I: *The Central Lands*, New York: Holmes and Meier Publishers, 1982, pp. 185-207; Konortas, “From Ta’ife to Millet...”, *passim*.

<sup>33</sup> The use of the term “ethnic” in this paper does not mean to imply that these groups are “primordial” entities that exist unchanged from time immemorial. Cf. the definition that Anthony Smith gives to “ethnic categories”: “human populations whom at least some outsiders consider to constitute a separate cultural and historical grouping”. Anthony Smith, *National Identity*, London: Penguin Books, 1991, pp. 20-21.

the religious head of the Orthodox Christians of the Ottoman Empire. Such an arrangement had profound repercussions for the non-Greek Balkan Orthodox peoples, especially during the nineteenth century. After the abolition of the Slavonic Sees,<sup>34</sup> Bulgarians and Serbs, together with Romanians and Christian Albanians, were brought directly under the leadership of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. The language of the liturgy, especially in the Bulgarian lands to the south of the Balkan Mountains and in Macedonia, was then mainly (although not exclusively) Greek, and Greek was the *lingua franca* of high culture and commerce; so much so that many educated Vlachs and Bulgarians referred to themselves in the nineteenth century as “Greeks”.

The collective identity that the Patriarchate nourished has been a matter of intense debate. Greek cultural and religious “domination” led many to accuse the Patriarchate of being essentially an agent of denationalisation of the Slavs. But this view is coloured by a nineteenth-century nationalist context, and projects into the past current perceptions and ideas. The issue of “denationalisation” was a non-issue for the Church during the period of Ottoman rule. What the Patriarchate of Constantinople promoted was not a “national” Greek project, for such a thing did not exist. Most Greek-speakers in that period continued to refer to themselves, as we have seen, as “Christians” or “Romans” and had no conception of a “Greek” nation. As for the Patriarchate, what it promoted was the concept of the community of believers, the “Christian Commonwealth”, which was shared to varying degrees by all Balkan peoples, and made no reference to ethnic or national identification.<sup>35</sup> That said, the unity imposed in the Balkans by religion should not be confused

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<sup>34</sup> Both the Serbian Patriarchate of Peć (Ipek) and the nominally “Bulgarian” Archbishopric of Ochrid were abolished during the eighteenth century, in 1766 and 1767 respectively.

<sup>35</sup> The continuation of the Byzantine world view has been perceptively called by the Romanian scholar Nicolae Iorga, “Byzance après Byzance”: N. Iorga, *Byzance après Byzance. Continuation de l'histoire et de la vie byzantine*, Bucharest: Institut d'Études Byzantines, 1935. The concept of a “Byzantine Commonwealth”, a community of believers cutting across linguistic and ethnic boundaries and united by Byzantine traditions and Orthodoxy was first elaborated by Dimitri Obolensky in his masterly *The Byzantine Commonwealth*, London: Phoenix, 1971. For the functioning of this community under Ottoman rule and the role of the Patriarchate of Constantinople as its guardian, the work of Paschalis Kitromilides is a subtle and highly sensitive guide: see his collection of studies *Enlightenment, Nationalism and Orthodoxy: Studies in the Culture and Political Thought of South-eastern Europe*, Aldershot: Variorum, 1994. See also his “Balkan Mentality: History, Legend, Imagination”, *Nations and Nationalism* II, no. 2 (1996), pp. 163-191.

with uniformity. Customs, regional fragmentation, the social organisation of households, language and divisions of labour, to name but a few factors, all pointed to obvious divisions within the Balkan Christian body, and even among the speakers of the same language. However, these cleavages did not have “national” content until well into the nineteenth century.

The division of labour is a case in point. As Greeks dominated Balkan commerce in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Romanian and Slav peasant resentment against Greek merchants began to build up, and accusations were fired off, for “The Greek is a pernicious disease which penetrates to the bone.”<sup>36</sup> Such criticisms have often been interpreted as manifestations of “national” grievances, directed against the dominant Greek presence. But it remains doubtful whether those reactions amounted to anything more than peasant hostility to the emergence of a moneyed economy, represented by Greek-speaking (and, as shall be seen below, not necessarily ethnic Greek) financial activities. For the peasants, religion remained the only form of collective identity they could make sense of. Ethnic descent played little, if any, role in their loyalties. As Kitromilides has shown, peasant geography was a religious geography, punctuated by holy relics, monasteries and the routes of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In the eighteenth century, for a Greek in, say, Thessaloniki, Jerusalem was in a sense a much closer land than Athens. Ethnic boundaries had little meaning, and of course there were no national frontiers. Their calendar was not determined by a secular concept of time but by saints’ festivals and agricultural work. It was a Christian and a peasant calendar.<sup>37</sup> This tradition of identification with religion was not, as has already been noted, something new, but a residual strength of the Christian identity fostered by the Byzantine Commonwealth. Further, appellations, such as “Greek” or “Bulgarian”, tended to reflect the division of labour, rather than “race”, “ethnicity” or language. In broad terms, every transhumant shepherd was thought to be a “Vlach”,<sup>38</sup> just as merchants were invariably called, or perceived as, “Greeks”, and peasants were

<sup>36</sup> For such accusations see L. S. Stavrianos, *The Balkans since 1453*, Hinsdale: Dryden Press, 1958, p. 224.

<sup>37</sup> For this “Geography of Faith”, see Paschal Kitromilides, *Νεοελληνικός Διαφωτισμός. Οι πολιτικές και κοινωνικές ιδέες* [Neohellenic Enlightenment: the political and social ideas], Athens: MIET, 1996, pp. 126-127.

<sup>38</sup> For the Vlachs see A. J. B. Wace and Maurice S. Thompson, *The Nomads of the Balkans: An Account of Life and Customs among the Vlachs of Northern Pindus*, New York: Biblo & Tannen, 1972 (originally published in 1914). For a recent survey see Tom Winnifrith, *The Vlachs: The History of a Balkan People*, London: St. Martin’s Press, 1987.

“Bulgarians”. Such use of ethnic terms, it should be noted, was employed as much within the Balkans as outside the region. From the fifteenth century and well into the nineteenth, Western observers, both priestly and lay, considered the Balkans to be a “Greek” peninsula, inhabited by “Greeks”, if not exclusively at least predominantly, due to the prominence of Orthodoxy and the Greek language, and because most merchants and bishops they encountered were either Greek-speakers or Hellenised Slavs.<sup>39</sup>

The issue of the Greek language is also revealing in this context, for it affords much insight into how the Patriarchate perceived the function of the Greek language, and into the identity it promoted during the period of Ottoman rule. The imposition of the use of Greek in the liturgy in a large part of the Balkans during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, has been presented as an important “national” divide between Slavs and Greeks, as many Slavs had now to listen to a liturgy which was in a language “alien” to them. Such a move, however, no matter how bitterly it was resented by the Slavs, was not aimed at their “denationalisation”. The two liturgical languages of Balkan Christianity, Hellenistic Greek and Old Church Slavonic, were just that: Christian languages, appropriate vehicles for the dissemination of the word of God, sanctioned by tradition. Neither the Patriarchate of Constantinople, nor that of the Serbs, perceived them as “national” tongues that should be addressed to, or even understood by, modern “Greeks”, “Serbs” or “Bulgarians”. This is highlighted by the fact that, although both scriptural languages were almost unintelligible to the uneducated Greek and Slav peasants, the Patriarchate and the Serbian Church stubbornly refused to translate them into their respective vernaculars.<sup>40</sup> The audience of the scriptures was the Christian flock, not the modern “nation”.

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<sup>39</sup> Habsburg authorities in Transylvania, for example, tended to call all members of Orthodox merchant companies “Greeks”. Significantly, these companies included not only Slavs, Romanians and Christian Albanians, but also a sprinkle of Armenians and Jews. See Richard Clogg, “The Greek Merchant Companies in Transylvania”, in Heinz-Dietrich Lowe, Stefan Troebst and Gunther H. Tontsch (eds), *Minderheiten, Regionalbewusstsein und Zentralismus in Osmittteleuropa*, Cologne, Weimar and Vienna: Böhau, 2000, p. 163; Western travellers in Macedonia, such as Pouqueville, quickly realised that the term “Bulgarian” was used locally to describe poor Slav peasants. See Douglas Dakin, *The Greek Struggle in Macedonia*, Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies, 1966, p. 11.

<sup>40</sup> For the Serbian case cf. Gale Stokes, “Church and Class in Early Balkan Nationalism”, *East European Quarterly* XIII, no. 3 (1979), pp. 259-270, esp. p. 262. For the Greek case see Nomikos M. Vaporis, *Translating the Scriptures into Modern Greek*, Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1994.

It is interesting to add here that even in the mid-nineteenth century when the Patriarchate of Constantinople started to use some modern-sounding terms to denote its flock, their content remained very traditional. One example will suffice to illustrate this point. In two synodical letters (in 1836 and 1839), Patriarch Gregory VI fiercely and unreservedly condemned the translations of the Bible into modern Greek, Turkish, Arabic and Slavonic that were printed by missionaries. It is the rhetoric of this reaction that is of interest here, for it raises a number of points about the role of the Greek language as understood by the Patriarchate in the mid-nineteenth century. The first attack was fired off in 1836, in a synodical letter against the heterodox teachings and the activities of the missionaries.<sup>41</sup> In this letter, the Patriarch attacked “foreigners, men who speak another language and are of another religion” [ξένοι, αλλοδαπείς ἀνθρώποι καὶ αλλόγλωσσοι καὶ αλλόθρησκοι]. These men “contaminate our religion and corrupt our nation” [μολύνωσι τὴν γημετέραν θρησκείαν καὶ διαφθείρωσι τὸ γημέτερον ἔθνος]. By disseminating their little books (the translations), they attack “both religion, and the dialect, and our noble paternal sentiments”. But what exactly was this “nation”, and what really was the “dialect” that the Patriarch so fervently defended? In a section of this letter, addressed explicitly to “all Orthodox peoples” [πρὸς τοὺς απανταχού Ορθοδόξους λαούς], he becomes even more illuminating. He urged the faithful to defend “the most precious things: the salvation of our souls, the preservation of the religion of our holy fathers” and “our national character” [τὸν εθνικόν μας χαρακτήρα]. He even prompts them to guard “ourselves and our children inside our fatherland and nation”. A number of issues emerge here: this was written in 1836, at a time when a Greek state had been established, as well as a *de facto* independent Serbia, whereas the Patriarch now found himself in the Ottoman Empire. But where is his true fatherland [πατρίδα] and further, given that he explicitly addressed all Orthodox and not only the Greeks, who belongs to his “nation” [ἔθνος] and what exactly did he mean by “national character”?

It appears that Gregory, despite his modern terminology, still perceived the Orthodox in a very Ottoman fashion, as a *millet*, a pre-modern and pre-national community which is united in faith, although obviously divided by the spoken vernaculars. Similarly, the Greek language of the scriptures belongs equally to all Orthodox, and is not perceived as the “national” language of the

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<sup>41</sup> The text is in Manouil Gedeon, *Κανονικαὶ διατάξεις, επιστολαὶ, λύσεις, θεσπισματαὶ τῶν Αγιωτάτων Πατριαρχῶν Κωνσταντινουπόλεως* [Canonical regulations, letters, statutes of the Most Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople], Constantinople: Patriarchikon Typographeion, 1889, Vol. II, pp. 248-280.

Greeks, but the (almost sacred) language of the faithful. Within this context, the “nation” of the Patriarch can only be Orthodoxy, and his “fatherland” the lands of the Orthodox. As for his “national character”, this can only include the traditions and teaching of the true faith. Arguably, Gregory had not moved much from the position taken by Scholarios four centuries earlier. Reference has already been made to the work of Angelou, who plausibly concluded that the use of “Hellenic” by Scholarios was just another name for the Christian *oecumene*. It is that concept that we can find behind Gregory’s exhortations to defend our “nation”.

This community of Christians, however, whose custodian remained the Patriarchate, had a name: Genos [Γένος, plural: Γένη], a word that linguistically carries connotations of lineage through blood and ancestry, and remains notoriously untranslatable.<sup>42</sup> It started life in the Byzantine Empire as γένος των Ρωμαίων [of the Romans], or γένος των Χριστιανών [of the Christians], but in many instances remained unaccompanied by adjectives and other appellations. It is the one single word that was used throughout the period of Ottoman rule by the Greek-speaking Christians to denote the wider community they thought they belonged to, but it was not employed only by them: in 1768 a religious book was published in Bucharest for the benefit of the Karamanli (Orthodox, but Turkish-speaking) community of Asia Minor. It was printed in Greek using Turkish characters, but also had a page in Greek. That page referred to the “Orthodox Genos of the Romans” [τού Ορθοδόξου γένους των Ρωμαίων].<sup>43</sup> It is clear that the meaning of genos was primarily religious: it denoted the Orthodox Christians, and it was frequently qualified as the genos “of the Romans” or “of the Christians”. But it had many nuances and its meaning varied according to its user. In November 1700 Patriarch Kallinikos wrote a letter to the Wallachian ruler Constantin Brâncoveanu, praising him for publishing in his printing press many books that benefited “our unfortunate genos” [τού δυστυχούς γένους ημών].<sup>44</sup> Obviously, being Orthodox Christians, the Wallachian ruler and the Greek Patriarch belonged to the same genos. Almost a century earlier, however, Metropolitan Matthew of Myra, sensing hostility between the Wallachians and the “Romans” [Greeks], urged

<sup>42</sup> Both “race” and “nation” have been used, but are equally inadequate as they reflect different concepts and refer to different collective identities. For the term and its uses see Dimaras, *Διαφωτισμός*, pp. 80-82, and Koliopoulos, *H “πέραν” Ελλάς*, pp. 67-70.

<sup>43</sup> Clogg in *Neohellenism*, p. 78.

<sup>44</sup> The letter was published by Manouil Gedeon in the Patriarchal journal *Εκκλησιαστική αλήθεια*, 31-12-1899, pp. 521-523.

the former to honour the Greeks, the reason being that the “Romans” were “a blessed and most Orthodox genos” [γένος εὐλογημένον, γένος Ορθοδοξότατον],<sup>45</sup> for the Metropolitan, Wallachians and “Romans” were distinct γένη, although both were Christians. Scholarios also made a distinction between Orthodox Christians, when he referred to other Orthodox γένη, like the Russians.<sup>46</sup>

As always with such terms, context is all, and it would be unrewarding to search for consistency, for in many cases much depends on who is referring to whom, and when. But it seems that whenever patriarchs or higher religious authorities mentioned that term they actually meant the Orthodox of the Ottoman Empire, those, that is, that were within the spiritual (but not necessarily administrative) jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople.<sup>47</sup> The Russians were clearly another genos, which in some cases also enjoyed the distinction of being “most Orthodox”. What appears to be certain is that ethnicity and language did not play a role in the definition of the genos. Christian Arabs, for example, were not considered members of a different genos. Athanasios, a former Patriarch of Antioch and himself an ethnic Arab, spoke of his kinsmen in 1701 simply as “Christian Arabs” [Οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τῶν Αράβων] without feeling the need to group them in a separate genos.<sup>48</sup> Vlachs and Bulgarians (whose educated classes were highly Hellenised) also did not have “their own” genos, and the same applied to the Christian but Albanian-speakers (the Arvanites) of the Peloponnese, Attica, Hydra and Spetses. It was this multi-ethnic and polyglot community that, together with the Orthodox Greek-speakers, comprised the community of the Patriarchate’s flock, the genos.

It is evident, then, that genos not only coincided with the *Rum millet*, given that the limits of both entities overlapped, but it was also used as a literal translation of the term *millet* into Greek.<sup>49</sup> In fact, it is in the Islamic realm, where religion determined identity as much as in the Greek case, that we have to turn, if we are to find suitable terms to convey some of the nuances of genos

<sup>45</sup> Dimitris Livanios, “Pride, Prudence and the Fear of God: The Loyalties of Alexander and Nicholas Mavrocordatos (1668-1730)”, *Dialogos: Hellenic Studies Review* 7 (2000), p. 21.

<sup>46</sup> Angelou, “Who am I?”, 15 for references to the γένος of the *Pόσοι* and *Τρηγορεῖς*.

<sup>47</sup> It is occasionally overlooked that the Orthodox Ottoman community was administratively divided into four Patriarchates, and friction among them over issues of jurisdiction was not unknown.

<sup>48</sup> Émile Legrand, *Bibliographie hellénique*, Paris: Maisonneuve & Larose, 1962 edn, Vol. IV, p. 68.

<sup>49</sup> In the Karamanli essay referred to in notes 21 and 43 above, the phrase “most Orthodox genos of the Romans” is rendered in Turkish as “Ortodoks milletin”.

as it was understood during the Turkokratia. Apart from the *millet*, we encounter two other terms: the Ottoman *ümmet-i Muhammed*, and the Arabic *Umma*. These terms denoted the Muslim community irrespective of linguistic or ethnic frontiers, and remained the main linguistic expression of the wider inclusive collectivity to which Ottomans and Arabs considered they belonged.<sup>50</sup> Once again, Christianity and Islam, by promoting analogous forms of belonging, produced similar linguistic results. Significantly, with the coming of nationalism *millet* and *genos* will gradually cease to have the broad and religious connotations of the previous periods, and the impulse to translate both as “nation” in the modern sense of the word will correspondingly increase. In the Greek case, this happened in the course of the nineteenth century.<sup>51</sup>

### III. Metternich’s Questions in Search of an Answer

What has been described so far is a religious body under the Ottoman Empire, which, although it advanced in age, showed no perceptible signs of change. This is not meant to imply that the community of Orthodox Christendom, the *genos*, and together with it the Greek-speakers were an immutable and unchanging entity. In terms of identity, however, a substantial fraction of them (mainly the uneducated peasantry) did not seem to show much sign of change for at least a millennium. But forces were already at work to destroy the unity of the *millet*, to shatter its unity, and eventually to create a Greek, a Bulgarian or a Serb out of a Christian. Since the early nineteenth century, Western ideas of belonging, and an awareness of a distinctive “national” (and, of course, glorious) past, started to penetrate the Balkans. This penetration of nationalist ideas started from outside, and from the fringes of the area, where connections with the West (mainly with France, Austria, Germany and Italy) were easier; from Western-educated Greek intellectuals, living mostly abroad; from the schools financed by a flourishing mercantile Greek bourgeoisie, in which not

<sup>50</sup> For the Ottoman term see Antonina Zhelyazkova, “Islamization in the Balkans as an Historiographical Problem: The Southeast-European Perspective”, in Fikret Adanir and Suraiya Faroqhi (eds), *The Ottomans and the Balkans: A Discussion of Historiography*, Leiden: Brill, 2002, p. 258. For *Umma* see Bernard Lewis, *The Political Language of Islam*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1991, p. 32.

<sup>51</sup> The Turks had to wait much longer, and the transition from *millet* to nation was even more complicated. Even in the early proclamations of Turkish nationalists in the 1920s, including Kemal’s, the meaning of *millet* was unclear, as religious content alternated with a more secular one. See Erik Jan Zürcher, “The Vocabulary of Muslim Nationalism”, *International Journal of the Sociology of Science* 137 (1999), pp. 81-92.

only Greeks but also Hellenised Slavs started discovering their “own” past; from the community of Bulgarian traders in Constantinople; from Serbs who lived and worked in the Habsburg Empire; and from Romanians living in Transylvania. At about the same time the new revolutionary political ideas of the French Revolution started reaching the region. The impact of these ideas in the Balkans was uneven, and few were able to come into direct contact with them. But those who did were keen to sow the seeds of revolution against the ailing Ottoman Empire.<sup>52</sup>

The guardian of the genos, the Patriarchate of Constantinople, predictably, resisted the “new ideas” of revolution and nationalism, which threatened the Ottoman Empire, the “purity” of the Orthodox doctrine, and, with it, the unity of the Christian flock.<sup>53</sup> Patriarch Gregory V anathematised the Greek revolt of 1821, but it was soon realised that the Patriarchate was fighting a losing battle. The new ideas were there to stay. There is also some evidence to suggest that even within the circles surrounding the Patriarchate ideas that approximated nationalism were not unknown during that period, but the pre-national tradition of the *millet* remained very strong and kept them at bay. The case of Patriarch Chrysanthos I offers an interesting illustration of this point. Chrysanthos was Metropolitan of Serres and was apparently thought of as “Bulgarian”. When his name was put forward for the patriarchy in July 1822, Jeremiah, the Metropolitan of Derkon and a Greek from the island of Kalymnos, strongly protested: “There is no shortage of Greeks [Γραικός],” he argued, “Why should the Bulgarian become Patriarch?” Jeremiah was successful

<sup>52</sup> For the impact of the French Revolution see Paschalis Kitromilides, *H Γαλλική Επανάσταση και η Νοτιοανατολική Ευρώπη* [The French Revolution and Southeastern Europe], Athens: Diaton, 1990. For the role of the Greek bourgeoisie see Richard Clogg, “The Greek Mercantile Bourgeoisie: ‘Progressive’ or ‘Reactionary’”, in *Anatolica: Studies in the Greek East in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, Aldershot: Variorum, 1996, Study X. For Bulgarian students of Greek schools, and their difficult discovery of their Bulgarian identity, see Philip Shasko, “Greece and the Intellectual Bases of the Bulgarian Renaissance”, in Anna Cienciala (ed.), *American Contributions to the Seventh International Congress of Slavists*, Vol. III: *History*, The Hague and Paris: Mouton, 1973, pp. 108-117. For an account of the spread of Western political ideas in Bulgaria see Cyril E. Black, “The Influence of Western Political Thought in Bulgaria, 1850-1885”, *The American Historical Review* 48, no. 3 (1943), pp. 507-50. For the Romanian case see Keith Hitchins, *The Rumanian National Movement in Transylvania, 1780-1849*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1969.

<sup>53</sup> Cf. Richard Clogg, “The ‘Dhidhaskalia Patriki’ (1798): An Orthodox Reaction to French Revolutionary Propaganda”, *Middle Eastern Studies* 5 (1969), pp. 87-115, and reprinted in *Anatolica*, Study V.

in 1822 and Chrysanthos lost, but two years later, in 1824, Chrysanthos the “Bulgarian” was duly elected Patriarch, and Jeremiah was forced to take the road of exile to Jerusalem.<sup>54</sup> Clearly his anti-Bulgarian ideas enjoyed some currency: when Stefanos Vogoridis, a Hellenised ethnic Bulgarian, raised his voice against a Greek at a meeting of laymen and clergy for the election of another patriarch in 1853, his Greek interlocutor exploded: “enough is enough; are we supposed to listen to you, you bloody Bulgarian?” [φθάνε πλέον. Εσένα θ' ακούμε, παληγοβούλγαρι [sic]].<sup>55</sup> Despite these outbursts, however, the Patriarchate itself would remain the last bastion of the inclusive identity of the genos for years to come. Elsewhere though, developments would move much more swiftly.

The modern Greek Enlightenment (spanning roughly the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries) and the Greek Revolution of 1821 ushered in a new phase concerning the crucial issue of who is, or should be, Greek.<sup>56</sup> It was this period that saw the first sightings of nationalism in the modern sense of the word: both as a political programme (aiming at the establishment of a nation-state) and as an ideology (commonality based on a “Hellenic”, pre-Byzantine, lineage and Greek language). It also witnessed the resurfacing of terms (like “Hellenes”) that had been buried, although never entirely forgotten, under a thick layer of Christianity during the period of Ottoman rule, as well as the emergence of a hitherto unknown quantity: the nation [ $\epsilon\theta\nu\sigma\zeta$ ], to denote the new collective identity of the Greeks.<sup>57</sup>

National motivation was one of the forces that emerged during that period, assisted by a growing awareness, mainly among a small but highly influential Westernised élite, about the classical past and the glory of ancient “Hellas”, the

<sup>54</sup> Manouil Gedeon, *Ἐγγραφα Πατριαρχικά περί του βουλγαρικού ζητήματος* [Patriarchal documents on the Bulgarian question], Constantinople: Patriarchikon Typographeion, 1908, pp. οβ-ογ. It should be added here that during the nineteenth century there had been three patriarchs that were considered “Bulgarians”: Evgenios II, his successor Chrysanthos I and Agathagellos I. For the word *Γραικός* see below.

<sup>55</sup> Gedeon, *Ἐγγραφα*, p. ογ.

<sup>56</sup> For the Neohellenic Enlightenment see Dimaras, *Διαφωτισμός*, G. P. Henderson, *The Revival of Greek Thought, 1620-1830*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1971, and Kitromilides, *Διαφωτισμός*.

<sup>57</sup> According to Veloudis, the first “systematic use” of the word  $\epsilon\theta\nu\sigma\zeta$  (nation) in the modern sense of the word occurred in 1839, when Georgios Kozakis-Typaldos published his *Philosophic Essay on the Progress and Fall of Old Greece*. See his *O Jakob Philipp Fallmerayer καὶ η γένεση του ελληνικού ιστορισμού* [Jakob Philipp Fallmerayer and the emergence of Greek *Historismus*] Athens: Mnimon, 1982, p. 19.

discovery of which was one of the most important preoccupations of the Greek Enlightenment.<sup>58</sup> That notwithstanding, the Greek Revolution was in an important sense a war of Orthodox Christians against the oppression of a Muslim overlord vested with nationalist rhetoric. The Greek Catholics, as we have seen, refused to participate, but the Orthodox and Albanian-speaking islanders of Hydra and Spetses did, whereas the Balkan Slavs (Bulgarians but also Serbs) did not remain idle too.<sup>59</sup> After all, the call to arms was directed towards all Orthodox Christians of the peninsula: “Fight for Faith and Motherland! The time has come, O Hellenes...”, read Alexander Ypsilantis’ revolutionary proclamation of 1821. “Our brethren and friends are everywhere ready. The Serbs, the Souliots and the whole of Epirus...”<sup>60</sup> Although the terminology used in the proclamations was full of references to “Hellenes” and to “our motherland Hellas”, it was the reality of the genos and the bond of religion that most of the protagonists of the revolt (and certainly their followers) could make sense of, given that the meaning of “Hellene” and “fatherland” was not the same for those who did the talking and those who did the listening.

“Fatherland” [πατρίδα] at the time meant one’s village, or island, a reality that forced the Philiki Etaireia, the revolutionary society that inspired the revolt, to use expressions such as “the general fatherland” [γενική πατρίδα] or “our own fatherland” [η δική μας πατρίδα] to clarify things.<sup>61</sup> The sense of a wider, common “fatherland” continued to be elusive throughout the revolutionary period as regional loyalties prevailed, and frustrated the efforts to create central institutions covering the insurgents’ domain. The deep divisions between Moreots, Roumeliots and Islanders, which were further subdivided into even more localised struggles for control, demonstrated both the strength

<sup>58</sup> For this discovery of the classical past see Richard Clogg, “Sense of the Past in Pre-Independence Greece”, reprinted in *Anatolica*, Study XI.

<sup>59</sup> For the participation of Slavs in the Greek Revolution see N. Todorov, “La participation des Bulgares à l’insurrection hétairiste dans les principautés danubiennes”, reprinted in *id.: Society, the City and Industry in the Balkans, Fifteenth-Nineteenth Centuries*, Aldershot: Variorum, 1998, Study XIV.

<sup>60</sup> Richard Clogg (ed. and transl.), *The Movement for Greek Independence, 1770-1821: A Collection of Documents*, London: Macmillan, 1976, p. 201.

<sup>61</sup> George D. Frangos, “The Philiki Etaireia: A Premature National Coalition”, in Richard Clogg (ed.), *The Struggle for Greek Independence: Essays to Mark the 150th Anniversary of the Greek War of Independence*, Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1973, p. 98. The majority of the society’s members who used the term “fatherland” meant their own village or area. *Ibid.*, pp. 96-99.

of regionalism within the context of a traditional society, and the inability of the newly emerging idea of nationalism to provide a viable alternative.<sup>62</sup> Again, the continuity with the late Byzantine world appears to be striking. In discussing the issue of fifteenth-century Byzantine identity, Anthony Bryer concluded that family and place of origin were at its centre.<sup>63</sup> In the mid-nineteenth century things were hardly different: the important families of the Mani region in the Peloponnese, for example, decided to join the revolt only when their dominant position in their own region, the only fatherland that mattered to them, had been assured.<sup>64</sup>

If “fatherland” had many meanings in the 1820s, so did the word “Hellenes”. During the period of the Greek Revolution the meaning of the term was unclear, as both language and religion were employed as criteria for denoting the “Greek”. According to the first Greek revolutionary constitution voted in 1822, all Christians shared this appellation, for it was stipulated that “Greeks” [Ελλήνες] are those “who believe in Christ”, and were born within the insurgents’ domains. The second national assembly, in addition to religion, inserted also the criterion of language, stating that Greeks are also those “who have the Greek language as their native tongue and believe in Christ”. It is indicative of the relative strength of religion over language, however, that the third and last Greek national assembly, convened at Troezen in 1827, deleted the reference to the Greek language, and argued that Greeks are simply those born in the country who “believe in Christ”, as well as those who came to Greece from Ottoman-occupied lands and “believe in Christ” and wish either to fight with the insurgents or live in Greece.<sup>65</sup> Such formulations were not a novelty. When the radical thinker and revolutionary Rhigas Velestinlis drafted his “New Political Constitution” in 1797, envisaging a republic which would include most of the Balkans, he included in his “class of citizens” all Christians irrespective of their knowledge of Greek, provided that they helped “Greece”.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Diamandouros, *Oι απαρχές*, *passim*.

<sup>63</sup> Anthony Bryer, “The Late Byzantine Identity”, in K. Fledelius and P. Schreiner (eds), *Byzantium: Identity, Image, Influence*, Copenhagen: Danish National Committee for Byzantine Studies, 1996, p. 49.

<sup>64</sup> Frangos, “Philiki Etaireia”, p. 98.

<sup>65</sup> *Tα Ελληνικά Συντάγματα, 1822-1975/1986* [The Greek constitutions, 1822-1975/1986], Athens: Stochastis, 1998, with an introduction and notes by Evangelos Venizelos and Loukas Axelos, p. 108, p. 122, p. 136. Cf. Koliopoulos, *H “πέραν” Ελλάς*, p. 65.

<sup>66</sup> “He who is a Christian and does not speak colloquial or ancient Greek, but only assists Greece, is a citizen.” Rhigas Velestinlis, “The New Political Constitution of the Inhabitants of Rumeli, Asia Minor, the Archipelago, Moldavia and Wallachia”, Article 4:

For Rhigas, Greek language was important in his definition of the “Citizen”, and all Greek-speakers were considered “citizens” irrespective of their religion. But, ultimately, the bond of religion was too strong to be left out. At any rate, it was not possible for language to be used as an exclusive criterion of ethnicity in the 1820s, for it would have excluded substantial Albanian-speaking populations. It seems, however, that these views were not only based on political expediency; they reflected the strength of religion and the inability of even highly educated Greeks to separate the Balkan ethnic groups on the basis of language: in 1824, the Phanariot Theodore Negris compiled a catalogue of “Greeks” [Ἐλλῆνες] which included not only the “Serbian”, the “Bulgarian”, and the “Thracian”, but the “Antiochene”, the “Syrian”, and the “Bithynian” as well.<sup>67</sup>

It should be added here that, although these constitutional documents referred to “Hellenes”, very few Greeks beyond a segment of intellectuals would have used that term to describe themselves. Most would continue to use “Roman” or “Christian”, although the more educated would also opt for “Graikos” [Γραικός], a term which has also had a long pedigree.<sup>68</sup> Writing in 1768 Evgenios Voulgaris argued that “Graikos” is preferable both to “Roman” and “Hellene”, for the former signified the ancient Romans [Ρωμαῖοι], while “Hellene” still had associations with “paganism” [ειδωλοθρησκεία]. “All nations of Europe,” he added, “do not identify our genos with another name.” Some forty years later, Adamantios Korais, the father of the Greek Enlightenment, agreed with Voulgaris on the usefulness of “Graikos” as a term used “by all enlightened nations of Europe”. But in his time (and in his circle) the term “Hellene” had been purified from its traces of, and allusions to, “paganism”, and therefore, according to Korais, “Hellene” could also be used as a legitimate appellation by the Greeks together with “Graikos”.<sup>69</sup> The case of

“Concerning the Class of Citizens”, translated by Richard Clogg in Richard Clogg (ed.), *The Movement for Greek Independence, 1770-1821*, p. 158.

<sup>67</sup> As cited in E. Skopetea, *To “Πρότυπο Βασίλειο”*, p. 25.

<sup>68</sup> See Angelou, “Who am I?”, p. 9, for the use of the word by Scholarios, and Vryonis, “Byzantine”, p. 8, for Ducas. For further Byzantine uses of the word see Panayiotis Christou, *Οι περιπέτειες των εθνικών ονομάτων των Ελλήνων* [The adventures of the national names of the Greeks], Thessaloniki: Kyromanos, 1989, pp. 105-111. See also Loukia Droulia, “Towards Modern Greek Consciousness”, *The Historical Review / La Revue Historique* I (2004), pp. 51-67.

<sup>69</sup> Dimaras, *Διαφωτισμός*, pp. 84-86. Cf. Koliopoulos, *H “πέραν” Ελλάς*, pp. 72-75. The use of “Graikos” came under strong attack, for it was considered by many a European influence on the Greek nomenclature (from the latin word *Graecus*) that had to be resisted.

Kosmas Aitolos (1714-1779) offers a revealing glimpse into the use of “Hellene” in the eighteenth century, before its rehabilitation by Korais and the other Enlightenment intellectuals. Kosmas, “the Teacher of the *genos*” as he is habitually called, insisted that his listeners (many of them Albanian-speaking) were not “Hellenes”: “You are not Hellenes [Ελληνες],” he kept telling them during his teachings. “You are not unbelievers, heretics, atheists, but you are pious Orthodox Christians.” At the same time, however, he urged them “to teach your children to learn Greek [Ελληνικά], for our Church uses the Hellenic language and our *genos* is ‘Hellenic’ [Ελληνικόν].”<sup>70</sup> The semantic difference between the ancient “Hellenes” and their language is thus quite clear: their language should be used, and could be called by that name, but their pagan beliefs meant that their name as a collective appellation was clearly inappropriate. Consequently, Kosmas’ *genos* (which obviously included both Greek- and Albanian-speaking Christians) was the traditional “*genos* of the Christians”, and the use of the Greek language was allowed only because it was sanctioned by Christianity, and perceived as a Christian language; a belief, as we have seen, that the Patriarchate of Constantinople firmly promoted. It appears, however, that there was another, although much less widespread, use of the term “Hellene” among the Greek peasantry during the Turkokratia: the “Hellene” became in their eyes a mythological superhuman, a hero with tremendous power and endurance, capable of performing astonishing feats.

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This view continues to hold to this day, especially among Orthodox scholars who attacked the European orientation of Korais and the Enlightenment. Cf., for example, the attitude of Christos Giannaras, a prominent “Neo-Orthodox” theologian who forcefully attacked Korais and his use of “Graikos”, which was nothing more than “a contemptuous linguistic invention of the Westerners” [γλευαστικό λεξικό εφεύρημα των Δυτικών]. See Christos Giannaras, *Ορθοδοξία και Δύση στη νεώτερη Ελλάδα* [Orthodoxy and the West in modern Greece], Athens 1996, p. 217. It should be added here, as Peter Mackridge has suggested to me, that the term “Graikos” has been used in most cases to denote the Greek-speaker only.

<sup>70</sup> As cited by Alexis Politis, *Ρομαντικά χρόνια. Ιδεολογίες και νοοτροπίες στην Ελλάδα του 1830-1880* [Romantic years: ideologies and mentalities in Greece, 1830-1880], Athens: Mnimon, 1993, p. 33, and Dimaras, *Διαφωτισμός*, p. 83. The phrase “our *genos* is Hellenic” obviously contradicts the previous quotation, and merits some comment here. Peter Mackridge has suggested to me that the phrase may be a later fabrication, possibly inserted by Fanis Michalopoulos. But Dimaras, who cites the phrase, does not seem to question it. Mackridge’s suggestion is entirely plausible, for it is clear that the contested citation not only flatly contradicts Kosmas’ other sayings, but also conveniently helps him acquire some “Hellenic” credentials. And, of course, it gives valuable ammunition to some scholars to count Kosmas as yet another “ideological forerunner” of the Greek Revolution of 1821. Further research, however, is needed on this point, as the jury is still out.

The physical prowess of the “Hellene” was profoundly admired and this admiration left some traces in folk songs, folk tales and legends. It is in the context of “Hellene” as “hero” that we encounter this word in relation to the last Byzantine emperor in a Pontic Greek folk song about the fall of Constantinople: “την Πόλιν ὅνταν ὥριζεν ο ἔλλεν Κωνσταντίνον”, which should be translated as “when the hero Constantine [Palaiologos] ruled the City [Constantinople]”.<sup>71</sup>

If the revolutionary constitutions were prepared to use the inclusive “Christian” to define the Greek, and to downplay the role of language, not everybody agreed. The equation of “Christian” with “Hellene” was coming under increasingly strong attack. For Korais and many intellectuals of the Greek Enlightenment and beyond, and especially for those who were archaizing in their literary pursuits, the “Greek” could only be someone who speaks Greek. Religion, although important, was now not enough, for it was language only that could ultimately grant admission to the Greek nation. Prominent among these intellectuals was the Phanariot Panayiotis Kodrikas, who argued that only language can truly distinguish between nations, for it is the surest marker of “national existence” [εθνική ὑπαρξία].<sup>72</sup> In his early works, Paparrigopoulos, Greece’s national historian *par excellence*, agreed with this narrow definition, and in 1853 he wrote that members of the Greek nation were only those “who speak the Greek language as their native tongue”.<sup>73</sup> In the course of the nineteenth century language became increasingly accepted as a valid criterion of ethnicity, and fought a long and painful war with religion for the coveted position of the main signifier of a “Greek”. That battle had profound ramifications not only for the development of Greek nationalism, but also for the realisation of its most important project: the “Great Idea”.<sup>74</sup>

The inclusion of all “Greeks” within a single state, first formulated by Ioannis Colettis in 1844, gave a new urgency to the need to define the “Greek”. Clearly, the “Great Idea” had Byzantine geographical connotations, as it

<sup>71</sup> Panayiotis Christou, *Περιπέτειες*, pp. 126-128. It is worth adding here that “the Hellenes are mentioned more often in the folk material that is in prose – particularly the παραδόσεις – than in the songs”. I would like to thank Peter Mackridge for this point.

<sup>72</sup> P. Kodrikas, *Μελέτη της κοινής ελληνικής διαλέκτου* [Essay on the common Greek dialect], Vol. I, Paris: Typografie I. M. Everatou, 1818, p. 97.

<sup>73</sup> K. Paparrigopoulos, *Ιστορία του ελληνικού έθνους. Η πρώτη μορφή 1853* [History of the Greek nation: the first version 1853], ed. C. Th. Dimaras, Athens: Ermis, 1970, p. 33.

<sup>74</sup> For the Great Idea see C. Th. Dimaras, *Ελληνικός Ρωμαντισμός* [Greek Romanticism], Athens: Ermis, 1982, pp. 405-418; Richard Clogg, “The Byzantine Legacy in the Modern Greek World: The Megali Idea”, *Anatolica*, Study IV.

included not only the lands where Greek-speakers predominated, but also areas in which they formed isolated enclaves, and were surrounded by other ethnic groups. The preferred territorial boundaries of “Greece” varied widely during the nineteenth century, but many would agree that its “true” borders extended from the Balkan Mountains in the north, to Crete in the south, and from Epirus in the west (including the southern part of what is today Albania) to Asia Minor in the east. Macedonia, a notoriously undefined land with a solid Slav (and mostly Bulgarian-speaking) majority, figured prominently in that context. Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, the Slav neighbours of the Greeks were generally considered to be pious and peaceful Christians, and they were allowed to move freely in and out of the Greek genos and ethnos, according to the eye, or rather the criterion of ethnicity, of the beholder. But from then onwards things deteriorated rapidly: the Fallmerayer affair, which provoked an anti-Slavic hysteria in Greece; the emergence of Bulgarian nationalism and the correspondent increase of communal violence in many parts of Macedonia; the creation of a Bulgarian Church in 1870 independent of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, as well as the turbulence of the Eastern Question with the creation of the short-lived “Greater Bulgaria” of San Stefano in 1878, laid bare the danger that the Bulgarian factor represented for the realisation of the Great Idea. The Greek national and historical imagination was accordingly recast, and embarked on a process that would transform the Bulgarians from harmless peasants and good Christians into blood-thirsty barbarians.<sup>75</sup> But the main issue remained open: how many Bulgarian-speakers could be claimed for “Hellas”? How much land could Greek nationalism claim as being legitimately, that is “ethnically”, its own? The dilemma of how to approach the position of the Slavs in relation to the Greek nation became thus quite acute, for if “Greekness” was allowed to be confined to the Greek-speakers only, then “Greece” itself would have to be cut down to its linguistic size and could not make much headway in Macedonia. Consequently, the power of language to determine ethnicity had to be somehow tempered.

A solution to such a problem came through the application to the Slavs of two relatively novel terms: “national descent” [εθνική καταγωγή], and “national sentiment” or, perhaps, “national consciousness” [φρόνημα]: the Slavs of Macedonia and beyond were Greeks, not by virtue of their language but because

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<sup>75</sup> For this transformation see Dimitris Livanios, “Christians, Heroes and Barbarians: Serbs and Bulgarians in the Modern Greek Historical Imagination (1602-1950)”, in D. Tziovas (ed.), *Greece and the Balkans: Identities, Perceptions and Cultural Encounters since the Enlightenment*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003, pp. 68-83, and the bibliography cited there.

of their Greek descent. Predictably, research on their descent proved that south of the Balkan Mountains “there is no Bulgaria”.<sup>76</sup> Just as the Turkish-speaking Karamanli peasants of Asia Minor were Greeks by descent who adopted the Turkish tongue but retained their ancestral religion, the Slavs were considered “Slavicised Greeks” or “Slavophone Greeks”. As for their “national consciousness” [φρόνημα], this was also Greek, for their continuing adherence to the spiritual leadership of the Patriarchate of Constantinople during its struggle with the Bulgarian Church after 1870 “proved” that they considered themselves members of the “Greek nation”.<sup>77</sup> After all, it was argued, if the Alsatians can be both German-speaking and French, why should the Slavs of Macedonia be prevented from doing the same with regard to Greece? The employment of Orthodoxy and national descent, as equally conclusive “proofs” of Hellenic ancestry and consciousness, enabled Greek nationalism to downplay the role of language when needed, and to cast a very wide net: not only the Slav-speakers up to the Balkan Mountains were now “Greeks” by descent or sentiment, but also the Christian Arabs of Syria and Palestine. In 1899, in a development that mirrored the Greek-Bulgarian church struggle, an Arab was elected Patriarch of Antioch, despite the attempt of the Patriarchate of Constantinople to impose a Greek candidate. But was this clash a national struggle between Greeks and Arabs? Not so, declared the archivist of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Syrian Christians were Greeks by descent, and “the theory that there is a Greek and an Arabic national entity [εθνότητα] in Syria fighting one another is proven historically to be totally baseless,” he wrote in 1904.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup> N. I. Kokkonis, *Iστορία των Βουλγάρων. Από της εμφανίσεως αυτών εν Ευρώπη μέχρι της υπό των Οθωμανών κατακτήσεως* [History of the Bulgarians: from their arrival in Europe until their conquest by the Ottomans], Athens: Typographeion Ch. N. Philadelfeos, 1877, pp. γ-ιγ. Cf. the view of Stilpon Kyriakides: “The population of the south and east parts of Bulgaria was in the past bilingual...Racially, these Slavic-speaking populations have nothing in common with the Bulgarians and are of pure Greek origin.” *The Northern Ethnological Boundaries of Hellenism*, Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies, 1955, pp. 53-56. See also Koliopoulos, *H “πέραν” Ελλάς*, pp. 150-156.

<sup>77</sup> Most of the Greek accounts written to justify the Greek claims on Macedonia adopted this line of argument and presented to the European public opinion a solidly “Greek” population of Macedonia, consisting of both the Patriarchist Slavs and the Greek-speakers of the region. See for example V. Colocotronis, *Macédoine et l'Hellénisme. Étude historique et ethnologique*, Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1919.

<sup>78</sup> Kallinikos Delikanis, *Υπόμνημα επί του Αντιοχικού Ζητήματος* [Memorandum on the Antiochene Question], Constantinople: Patriarchikon Typografeion, 1904, p. 50. He

The Greek attempt to claim the Slavs as Greeks by descent was intimately linked, as we have seen, with the Great Idea. This project, however, was of equal importance for the establishment of the descent and historical evolution of the Greek nation itself. The unity in space that the Great Idea required also demanded unity in time.<sup>79</sup> The modern Greek Enlightenment had put the spotlight on the classical past of the Greeks, and had established the continuity between them and their ancient forefathers. But Byzantium remained in a historical and historiographical limbo: the Enlightenment was either suspicious or outright hostile to Byzantine theocracy, the ideas that it represented, and to the Patriarchate that embodied them. But Greek Romanticism in the second half of the nineteenth century came to fill that gap. Spyridon Zampelios and especially Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos established the “unbroken line” of continuity of the Hellenic nation from antiquity to modern times. Now the Byzantine Empire became a “Hellenic Empire”, the vital middle link in the long chain of Hellenism.<sup>80</sup> With Paparrigopoulos’ voluminous *History of the Greek Nation* (1860-1874) the unfolding of the Greek nation throughout history became firmly outlined, and remains an article of faith for Greek nationalism to this day. Consequently, the Romantic perception of the unbroken continuity of the “Hellenes” from archaic Greece through the Byzantine Empire, together with the Greek language and Orthodox Christianity became the holy trinity which supported the Greek nation. It is this ideology that the modern Greek state promoted through its educational mechanisms, which predictably emphasised the national, and nationalising, role of history.<sup>81</sup>

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was not alone in saying so, for in 1909, Pavlos Karolidis, a Professor of History at Athens University, wrote a dense, and occasionally unreadable book with the revealing title *Περί της εθνικής καταγωγής των Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών Συρίας και Παλαιστίνης* [On the national descent of the Orthodox Christians of Syria and Palestine], Athens: P. Sakelariou, 1909. Note in this context the term “Greek Arabic-speaker” [ΕλλήνοΑραβόφωνος] used by the Greek Ministry of the Interior in the nineteenth century. See this entry in Stefanos Koumanoudis, *Συναγωγή νέων λέξεων* [Collection of new words], Athens: P. Sakelariou, 1900.

<sup>79</sup> For the importance of “unity” in time and space in Greek Romanticism see Dimaras, *Ρωμαντισμός*, pp. 419-427, and esp. p. 422.

<sup>80</sup> For the role of Byzantium in Greek Romanticism see Dimaras, *Ρωμαντισμός*, pp. 376-379; for the wider context see David Ricks and Paul Magdalino (eds), *Byzantium and the Modern Greek Identity*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998.

<sup>81</sup> See Christina Koulouri, *Dimensions idéologiques de l'historicité en Grèce, 1834-1914. Les manuels scolaires d'histoire et de géographie*, Frankfurt am Main and New York: P. Lang, 1991.

Of these elements, however, it was religion that helped most to create the Greek nation. The ethnic groups that came together to form it (the Greek-, Albanian- and Vlach-speakers) had mostly Orthodoxy (and Greek education) in common; only Orthodoxy could provide the connecting bond that ultimately (and through the policies of the nation-state) would forge the Greek nation. We have already seen the problems that the Greek insurgents faced with the case of the Catholics of the Aegean. Arguably, then, the process of Greek nation-building in the nineteenth century would have been seriously challenged if the substantial number of Albanian-speakers, for example, were Catholics instead of Orthodox. The overwhelming preponderance of Orthodoxy made the creation of a Greek nation a much more feasible task. The use of the Greek language was not enough to forge this sense of belonging, for the peasants were sensitive to the commonality based on religion, not language. It was not for nothing that the revolutionary proclamations of 1821 emphasised that the struggle was undertaken “For Faith and Fatherland”: *Υπέρ Πίστεως καὶ Πατρίδος*. If the insurgents did not have a common “Faith” it would have been difficult to envisage a common “Fatherland”.

The historical rehabilitation of Byzantium and its incorporation into Greek national history took place in the wake of the Fallmerayer affair, a controversy over the descent of modern Greeks that provoked a massive reaction on the part of the Greeks. Fallmerayer’s claim in 1830 that massive Slavic invasions of the Byzantine Empire had led to the racial disappearance of the Greek population of the Peloponnese came as a stupendous shock to the newly minted Greek nationalism. His theories attacked many targets: by depicting the Greeks of his day as descendants of Slavs, he not only deprived modern Greeks of their foremost source of pride and equated them with lesser breeds like the Slavs, but removed their European credentials as well. For if they are not the linear descendants of “the Glory that was Greece”, then they had no real place in European civilisation. The entire ideological credo of both the Greeks and European Philhellenism seemed to be suddenly turning into a castle of mud, swept over by the Slavic tidal wave of the Middle Ages.<sup>82</sup> The indignation of the young Paparrigopoulos summed up the prevailing feeling in Greece, when

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<sup>82</sup> For Fallmerayer’s theory as an attack on the European orientation of the Greeks see Michael Herzfeld, *Ours Once More: Folklore, Ideology and the Making of Modern Greece*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982, pp. 75-76. For the Greek historiographical reaction, which led the young Paparrigopoulos to write his first historical study on the Slavic tribes in the Peloponnese (in 1843), see Veloudis, *Fallmerayer, passim*. On Paparrigopoulos’ reaction see *ibid.*, pp. 63-80.

he wrote in 1846 that such theories, reiterating that the Greeks were in fact “Skythians, Slavs, Albanians, children of northern lands” reduced the Greek nation into a “shapeless mass” [όγκον ἀμορφον], having a “fake life” [επίπλαστον ζωήν].<sup>83</sup>

The Greek rebuttal of Fallmerayer’s theories dramatically opened the whole issue of the descent of modern Greeks and sparked off a systematic interest not only in the history of Byzantium, but also in folkloric studies [λαογραφία]. The premises of this new discipline, yet another offspring of the Greek Romantic movement, were thus quite explicit: to prove that the Greeks of the nineteenth century were the direct descendants of the ancient Greeks and to identify elements of such a continuity in the modern Greek folk culture. Nikolaos Politis, the founding father of modern Greek folklore studies, neatly formulated these premises when he wrote in 1871 that the main issue at stake was “to seek the kinship between our own manners and customs and those of the ancient Hellenes”.<sup>84</sup> The imperative of “continuity” between ancient and modern Greece held captive Greek folklore studies well into the twentieth century, as the ghost of Fallmerayer continued to haunt Greek scholars.<sup>85</sup> Within this framework, the role of modern Greek customs became an issue of paramount importance in the second half of the nineteenth century, for they

<sup>83</sup> “... Σκύθαι, Σλαύοι, Αλβανοί, παιδες χωρών υπερβορείων”. Quotes from his article, published in *Πανδώρα* in 1850 as cited by C. Th. Dimaras, *Κωνσταντίνος Παπαρρηγόπουλος. Η εποχή του, η ζωή του, το έργο του* [Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos: his times, his life, his work], Athens: MIET, 1986, p. 149.

<sup>84</sup> As quoted by Herzfeld, *Ours Once More*, p. 101. See also *ibid.*, pp. 75-96, for Greek reactions to Fallmerayer, and pp. 97-122 on the role of *λαογραφία* to provide “proof” of the continuity between ancient and modern Greeks. For the intellectual climate of this period see also Alexis Politis, *Η ανακάλυψη των ελληνικών δημοτικών τραγουδιών* [The discovery of the Greek folksongs], Athens: Themelio, 1984; and *Ρομαντικά χρόνια*, pp. 48-60; on the national preoccupations of Greek folklore studies see also Alki Kyriakidou-Nestoros, *Η θεωρία της ελληνικής λαογραφίας. Κριτική ανάλυση* [The theory of Greek folklore studies: critical analysis], Athens: Etaireia Spoudon Neoellinikou Politismou kai Genikis Paideias, 1978.

<sup>85</sup> Cf. for example, Stilpon Kyriakides, “The Language and Folk Culture of Modern Greeks”, originally written in 1943 to refute the propaganda of the wartime German occupation which “indoctrinated” their soldiers with Fallmerayer’s ideas. The essay concludes with a reference to the attachment of the Greeks to freedom, from antiquity through Byzantium to modern times. “This, more than anything else,” he notes, “shows the purity of the blood in their [i.e. the Greeks’] veins.” See Stilpon P. Kyriakides, *Two Studies on Modern Greek Folklore*, Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies, 1968, p. 127.

were treated primarily as “survivals” of ancient Greece, offering “living proof” of the unbroken line that connected the “ancients” with the “moderns”.<sup>86</sup>

Within that Romantic context the one remaining discontinuity was remedied, and an important gulf was bridged: that separating Hellenism (as a term, and as a concept) with Christianity. In the fifteenth century Scholarios burned Pletho’s book and condemned Hellenism, by which he meant paganism. In his time there was still legislation that made it an offence for a Christian to “Hellenise”, that is to perform pagan rituals.<sup>87</sup> In the eighteenth century the term “Hellene” and its derivatives (like the word *Ελληνίςων*) retained, as we have seen, some pagan connotations, although it also came to denote in a literary context the use of archaizing language. So the gulf separating the idea of “Hellenism” from Christianity was still quite wide. The anti-Byzantine and antiquity-oriented Greek Enlightenment was unable to link the two, but Greek Romanticism, which reinvented Byzantium as a Hellenic Empire, was. In 1852 one of its prime advocates, Spyridon Zampelios, forged the word “Helleno-Christian” [Ελληνοχριστιανικός], thus uniting for the first time two terms that until his time were considered mutually exclusive.<sup>88</sup> Greek nationalism, as a project of defining the Greek and his past, was now complete. “Hellenism” was decontaminated from paganism, and was fused with Christianity to produce what was considered to be the essence of modern Greek national identity.

#### IV. *Shattering the Common Bonds: Violence and Nationalism*

Inevitably, all these important developments affected mainly the intellectuals. It was relatively easy for an educated and Westernised élite to perceive themselves as “Hellenes” and to identify with a “past” that was only “theirs”. But the peasants found the same question difficult to grasp. However, with the descent of nationalism to the Balkans and the establishment of nation-states, the relation between religion and nationalism was placed on a completely different footing. What followed was the nationalisation of religion, the attempt of the nation-states to harness Christianity to the particular national movement, be it Greek, Serbian or (much later) Bulgarian. That process was marked by (unilateral or “canonical”) declarations of independence of the Churches of Greece (1833), Romania (1865) and Serbia (1879) from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. It was thought inconceivable that

<sup>86</sup> For the “survivalist” approach of the Greek folklorists, see Kyriakidou-Nestoros, *H θεωρία*, p. 103, pp. 108-109.

<sup>87</sup> C. M. Woodhouse, in *Neohellenism*, *op. cit.*, p. 32.

<sup>88</sup> Dimaras, *Πωμαντισμός*, p. 378.

religion should be controlled by any institution other than the state, especially as the Patriarchate was now (after the revolutions) in “foreign” territory. In 1870 came the turn of the Bulgarians, who still lacked a state of their own, to establish their own national church, the Exarchate. The result was the institutional break-up of the Balkan religious community.<sup>89</sup> Through the medium of national Churches, religion became the champion of nationalism, for the Church was now attached to national states, or, in the Bulgarian case, to a national cause. The priests would start talking about nations, about “Greece”, or “Serbia”, which were now taking shape.

What was needed, however, to really forge the nation in the Balkans was conflict and war between the Christians themselves, for only then “national” loyalty could conceivably take precedence over religious unity. And only then could religion become more “fused” with the concept of a particular nation, and the nation-state. At this juncture two instances of intra-Christian conflict need to be briefly discussed. The first concerns Macedonia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>90</sup> A region of mixed population where Slavs were predominant, it remained under Ottoman domination, and all Christians continued to be under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. A growing Bulgarian national movement, however, had every reason to want to challenge this supremacy, and in 1870 they created their own Church, the Exarchate. It was no surprise that the national struggle of the Bulgarians found a religious outlet: namely the establishment of a Church, although there were no differences whatsoever (from a religious perspective) between the Bulgarian Church, the Exarchate, and the Patriarchate of Constantinople.<sup>91</sup> The Patriarchate of Constantinople,

<sup>89</sup> P. M. Kitromilides, “Imagined Communities”, reprinted in *Enlightenment, Nationalism and Orthodoxy: Studies in the Culture and Political Thought of South-eastern Europe*, Aldershot: Variorum, 1994, Study XI, p. 54. For the autocephaly of the Greek church, and the forceful reaction of the Patriarchate see Charles Frazee, *The Orthodox Church and Independent Greece, 1821-1852*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969.

<sup>90</sup> For a fuller discussion of this point see Dimitris Livanios, “Conquering the Souls”: Nationalism and Greek Guerrilla Warfare in Ottoman Macedonia, 1904-1908”, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 23 (1999), pp. 195-221.

<sup>91</sup> For the establishment of the Exarchate see Thomas A. Meininger, *Ignatiev and the Establishment of the Bulgarian Exarchate, 1862-1872: A Study in Personal Diplomacy*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1970. See also George Arnakis, “The Role of Religion in the Development of Balkan Nationalism”, in Charles Jelavic and Barbara Jelavic (eds), *The Balkans in Transition: Essays on the Development of Balkan Life and Politics since the Eighteenth Century*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press, 1963, pp. 115-144.

still viewing the world largely through pre-national spectacles, condemned the introduction of “phyletism” [φυλετισμός], that is nationalism, into the Church.<sup>92</sup> But again it was fighting a losing battle, just as it had a century earlier when it tried to stop the penetration of Western liberal ideas. From 1870 onwards the Bulgarians claimed that every follower of the Exarch was a “Bulgarian”, while Athens responded by arguing that those who remained under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate were true “Greeks”, if not by language, then certainly because of their “national sentiment” [φρόνημα].

Between 1904 and 1908 a brutal low-scale guerrilla war raged in Macedonia as Greek and Bulgarian bands of irregulars tried to force the peasants to declare themselves “Greeks” or “Bulgarians”. The main task was simply to transform the Slav peasants into Greeks or Bulgarians, to break, in other words, the community fostered by religion. Realities in the field, however, frustrated the efforts of both sides. The Macedonian peasantry simply refused to identify themselves with the “national” causes of either Bulgaria or Greece and stubbornly continued to declare themselves Christians whenever the curious traveller asked the odd (for them) question “What are you, Greeks or Bulgarians?”. A Greek patriot found that reality quite disturbing: “I asked them,” he wrote “what they were - *Romaioi* [Greeks] or *Voulgaroi* [Bulgarians]? They stared at me incomprehensibly. Asking each other what my words meant, crossing themselves, and answered ‘Well, we are Christians, what do you mean by *Romaioi* or *Voulgaroi*?’.”<sup>93</sup> Clearly the Christian Commonwealth stubbornly resisted to die a natural death. But the ability of Christianity to localise itself through the “national” Churches and local priests, to be used, in other words, as a marker of identification with particular states and national movements, gave an indirect but much-needed impetus to the creation of national identity. The peasants of Macedonia were called by the Greeks to fight for their Church, against the “schismatic” Bulgarians, but by doing so they ended up fighting for national causes. The fact that very few of them understood that connection did not make the outcome less “real”. For those peasants who did not understand that point, the priest, or a captain, was always available to explain. This is how a Greek captain described his job to a British observer: “When I go into a converted village [that is, a “Patriarchist” village that had become “Exarchist”], I call the people together into the market-place, and tell them it was wrong to desert the old faith.”<sup>94</sup> Prudently, he did not

<sup>92</sup> Kitromilides, “Imagined Communities”, pp. 55-56.

<sup>93</sup> As quoted in Mark Mazower, *The Balkans*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2002, p. 45.

<sup>94</sup> Allen Upward, *The East End of Europe*, London: John Murray, 1908, p. 328.

say that the peasants deserted “Greece”, for few would have understood him. Yet again, the road to nationhood passed through religion.

Given that warfare was used in Macedonia by Christians against other Christians in order to shatter the unity imposed by religion in favour of the ideas sponsored by the nation-state, it can be argued that it served as the prologue to the developments that occurred during the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913. From the point of view of the Greek collective identities, the Second Balkan War (1913), when the Balkan allies turned against each other over the spoils of Macedonia, is especially important. To begin with, the Balkan Wars were the first armed conflict of Greece as a nation-state with another Christian state: Bulgaria. This is not to imply that the Greek-Bulgarian conflict first emerged in 1913; as we have seen, the second half of the nineteenth century had witnessed that. However, the level of mobilisation and participation in the war, the nationalist rhetoric that permeated the army, and the explosion of anti-Bulgarian feelings that engulfed the entire country, meant that the 1913 war marked the clinical death of the Christian Commonwealth as Christian killed Christian on a scale and with an intensity that had not been witnessed before.<sup>95</sup> Arguably, the military and political circumstances of the 1913 war sealed the triumph of mass nationalism in Greece.

Before 1913 it was still possible, albeit with increasing difficulty as the nineteenth century wore on, for the Greek national identity to include into its fold those who could not speak the “national” language, provided they were Christians and followers of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. They were, after all, Greeks by descent or sentiment, or both. After that date, and after the long struggle against Bulgarian nationalism, few would attempt such an undertaking. And their view would carry little conviction. After 1913 the Greek nation had to speak only the “national” language, and in the interwar years neither Greece nor any other Balkan state tolerated “minority” languages that were considered a threat to the nation. On the other hand, the “nation” that emerged triumphant after 1913 in Greece, but also elsewhere in the Balkans, although primarily a secular form of belonging, was still very much coloured by the prevalence of religion over so many centuries. In an important sense, to be “Greek” (or “Serbian”) still means, at the threshold of the 21st century, to be Orthodox Christian. Although the Christian Commonwealth failed to

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<sup>95</sup> For the intensity of the nationalist feelings generated by the war, and the atrocities perpetrated by all sides involved see the Carnegie report: *Report of the International Commission to Inquire into the Causes and Conduct of the Balkan Wars*, Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment, 1914.

maintain its unity, it managed to incorporate religion into the fabric of modern Greek nationhood.

#### V. Epilogue: The Difficult Cohabitation of “Hellenism” and “Romiosyne”

At the beginning of this essay we encountered the conflict between Pletho and Scholarios, which placed Plato against Aristotle, but also “Hellenism” against “Christianity”, both as identity and as a name for the definition of the Greek collective self. There was an element in this conflict, however, the battle between ancient Greece and the Byzantine tradition, that went beyond its two protagonists, and can be read as the prehistory of a wider clash between two words, which much later became a conflict between two worlds as well: “Hellenism” [Ελληνισμός] and “Romiosyne” [Ρωμιοσύνη, derivative of Ρωμιός/Ρωμαίος]. Despite the impressive resuscitation of the “Hellene” in the nineteenth century, the “Roman” did not die an early death, and not only because its use continued to flourish among those unaffected by the educational system of the Greek state. The cleavage between “Hellenism” and “Romiosyne” soon acquired many layers. It also became a battle between two different views of the Greek past: between those who favoured the splendour of Antiquity, and their opponents who longed more for Byzantium and the revolutionary period. This conflict was reflected not only in the way the Greeks called themselves (“Hellenes” vs “Romioi”), but also in the proverbial language question: the battle between the archaising katharevousa and the colloquial demotic.<sup>96</sup> The “Hellene” was adopted by the purists, who wrote (and spoke) in an archaising idiom, and despised not only the appellation “Roman” but also “the dirty and bad-mouthed mob” who spoke the living Greek language.<sup>97</sup> The “Roman” name, however, and its cause, was then taken up by the demoticist movement, which had little time for the purists and their attempt to impose an artificial language.

At the turn of the twentieth century we witness the last significant battle between the two terms, when Argyris Eftaliotis published in 1901 a *History of Romiosyne*. The reaction of the “Hellenists” was instant: the Professor of

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<sup>96</sup> For the role of Byzantium in the linguistic battles of the time see Peter Mackridge, “Byzantium and the Greek Language Question in the Nineteenth Century”, in Ricks and Magdalino (eds), *Byzantium*, pp. 49-62.

<sup>97</sup> Cf. the view of the purist Kontos, who thought that demotic is the preserve of “the uncivilised, the Roman who has been in a state of lethargy because of his long period of slavery, the dirty and bad-mouthed mob” [τον αγροίκον, τον υπό μακράς δουλείας νεναρκωμένον Ρωμαγόν]. As quoted by Kyriakidou-Nestoros, *H θεωρία*, p. 65.

Classical Archaeology at Athens, G. Sotiriadis, noted that “Roman” meant nothing more than “a cheap and vulgar man” [ἀνθρωπὸν εὐτελή καὶ γυδαῖον], while the folklorist Politis, adding to the debate the perspective of his discipline, also opted for the “Hellene”, for it symbolised the unbroken continuity of the Greek nation. But the demoticists lined up to a spirited defence of “Romiosyne”, led by Pscharis and Palamas. The term “Roman”, noted the latter, may not come “straight from the age of Pericles”, but it smells of “thyme and gun-powder”.<sup>98</sup> For them the ancient past needed to be cut down to size. Pscharis, who had a “Romeic heart” [τη ρωμαίηκή μου την καρδιά] and thought that the revolutionaries of 1821 were animated by a “Romeic political force” [ρωμαίηκη πολιτική ὀθηση], aptly summed up the general feeling of his circle: “The Acropolis, with all its ancient glory, is ready to fall upon us and trample us.”<sup>99</sup>

As far as the content of Greek nationalism is concerned, however, the conflict between “Hellenes” and “Romans” reached a formal end with Zambelios’ “Hellenochristian” attempt to force Pletho and Scholarios under a common linguistic roof, and Paparrigopoulos’ historical rehabilitation of the Byzantine Empire. By then, the “Hellenic” identity had integrated into the collective self of the Greeks both the “Hellenic” past and the “Roman” attachment to Christianity and the Byzantine traditions. “Hellenism” and “Romiosyne” could now be used as alternative renderings of the same entity.<sup>100</sup> This is not to imply that the “Romiosyne” itself became extinct. Far from it. Its use continued, especially among the demoticists; it acquired left-wing connotations in the context of the work of poets like Yiannis Ritsos, set to music by Mikis Theodorakis in the 1960s.<sup>101</sup> More recently, the pro-Byzantine and Christian aspects of “Romiosyne” enjoyed some currency in the 1980s and

<sup>98</sup> For the battle of 1901 between “Hellenism” and “Romiosyne” see Dimitrios Tziovas, *The Nationalism of the Demoticists and Its Impact on their Literary Theory, 1888-1930*, Amsterdam: A. M. Hakkert, 1986, pp. 77-86. Quotations on pp. 80-81. For Politis’ intervention see also Herzfeld, *Ours Once More*, pp. 121-128.

<sup>99</sup> Panayiotis Christou, *Oι περιπέτειες*, p. 150.

<sup>100</sup> Stefanos Koumanoudes translated the composite word “Hellenic world” [Ελληνόκοσμος] as “Romiosyne”: Έλληνόκοσμος, ο. (ως το κοιν. Ρωμαϊστική) in *Συναγωγή*, p. 356.

<sup>101</sup> It may be added here that the 1970s witnessed a solitary (and entirely unsuccessful) attempt to re-introduce the word “Roman” as the proper appellation of the Greeks. In 1975, a noted theology professor of the University of Thessaloniki, aptly called Romanides, argued again the case of the “Roman constitution of the Genos” [ρωμαίηκης υποστάσεως του Γένους], but no one was prepared to listen. Ioannis Romanides, *Ρωμιοσύνη, Ρωμαϊκή, Ρούμελη* [Romiosyne, Romania, Roumeli], Thessaloniki: Pournaras, 1975, p. 9.

1990s, as part of a new awareness of Byzantium promoted by the so-called “Neo-Orthodox” movement: a loose appellation that sheltered a number of leftist and Orthodox intellectuals with strong anti-Western overtones.<sup>102</sup> Ever since the 1820s, however, the “Hellenes” have carried the day, and they were not afraid of speaking their name any longer. But Scholarios need not burn their books this time, for his own identity, and the world that he represented, had also been accepted.

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<sup>102</sup> For the “Neo-Orthodox” awareness of Byzantium see Vasilios N. Macrides, “Byzantium in Contemporary Greece: The Neo-Orthodox Current of Ideas”, in D. Ricks and P. Magdalino (eds), *Byzantium*, pp. 141-154.