



1821 - 2021

The Embassy of Greece celebrates the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution with:

- 1) An original audio-visual project "21 Quotes for 21"
- 2) An online event dedicated to the literature of the Greek Revolution "Greek Revolution - Greek Language Revolution"
- 3) a complementary online information session to remind Greek nationals about EUSS

Also in this issue:

Greece will reopen to tourists from 14 May 2021. Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, opens the first digital Greek Alternative Tourism and Gastronomy Workshop in the United Kingdom

The Embassy of Greece in London celebrates the International Greek Language Day and the 1821 Bicentennial



The Embassy of Greece in London organized an online event entitled "Greek Revolution - Greek Language Revolution". The event took place on Thursday, March 4, on the occasion of the International Greek Language Day and the Celebration of the

200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution and was dedicated to the literature of the Greek Revolution.

At the beginning of the event, a video of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled "Why do you speak Greek" was projected, followed by a message by the Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Mr. Mitsotakis stated that "Greek is the language of Homer and Aristotle. It is also the language of Seferis and Elytis; The starting point of history and culture; A compass for today and a beacon for the future; A bridge beyond borders that embraces the world. This is why we learn Greek. In order to speak and feel Greek".

Next, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Konstantinos Vlasis, took the floor and congratulated the Greek Ambassador Mr. Ioannis Raptakis for his initiative. Mr. Vlasis said that the presence of distinguished British academics is "the best proof of the universality of the Greek language, the richness and breadth of which excites many people, all over the world". He mentioned that "today, the Greek language is taught in many foreign Universities".

Regarding the 200 years of Greek Independence he said that "it was the spirit of Freedom and Greek Culture that moved the people of Europe and led to the philhellenic movement and the dynamic support to the rights of the uprising Greeks. Great Britain was one of the countries that upheld [Greeks'] rights and values, contributing substantially to the national struggle. As an example, we can refer to the creation of the Philhellenic Committee of London, which was established in March 1823, with the main purpose to support the Greek Revolution, but also to the 99 registered British friends of Greece, among whom Lord Byron holds a special place in history. We also do not forget the contribution of Great Britain in both the diplomatic and the military field, with the

Battle of Navarino being recorded as a decisive point in the course of the struggle for the establishment of the Greek state, which finally took shape, with the signing of the Protocol of Independence in London, on February 3, 1830. This Protocol constitutes the first official, international diplomatic act, which recognized Greece as a sovereign and independent state".

Afterwards, the Ambassador of Greece in the United Kingdom welcomed everyone to this virtual event that was organized despite the pandemic. Mr. Raptakis referred to 2021 as a milestone year for Greece and he mentioned the decisive role that the United Kingdom played in support of the Greek struggle for Independence and ultimately of Greek statehood, as well as the "philhellenism" and the international public interest in the "Greek cause".

Regarding the Greek language he said that it runs a trajectory reaching back thousands of years. It is the language of Homer and Aristotle, of Elytis and Seferis, but also the language of Xenophon Zolotas who delivered two speeches in English using Greek words only. The Ambassador mentioned Dionysios Solomos and Andreas Kalvos who lived in London, as well as Lord Byron who arrived in Messolonghi to inspire other romanticists across Europe to join him. He concluded his greeting with a piece of advice: "Learn Greek to improve your English" before wishing everyone to enjoy the event.

The panel discussion consisted of Roderick Beaton, Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature, David Ricks, Professor of Modern Greek Literature and Dr. Ioanna Manolesou from the Academy of Athens. The coordinator was Alexandra Georgakopoulou, Professor of Discourse Analysis & Sociolinguistics at King's College London.

You can watch the event on Facebook as well as on the Greek Embassy's YouTube channel by following the link:

<https://youtu.be/qtReSRsqBLw>

We would like to thank all those who joined us in this year's celebration.

Photo: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Konstantinos Vlasis during the event

1821 – 2021: Greece celebrates the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution



On March 25th, the Embassy of Greece in the United Kingdom celebrated the anniversary for 200 years after the Greek revolution with an original audio-visual project.

This commemorative production honoured the Bicentenary, highlighting aspects of the War for Independence as well as the long-standing friendship between Greece and the United Kingdom which played a decisive role in support of the Greek struggle for Independence and ultimately the establishment of the Modern Greek state.

The Ambassador of Greece in the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, welcomed the audience addressing a very poignant speech about the strength and determination of the Greek people. "It was on about this day, the 25th of March 1821, that a handful of people, proud people but still slaves in their country, decided that 400 years of slavery was enough".

"On that historic 25th day of March 1821, the day of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, roughly 800,000 Greeks of all ages, revolted against the Ottoman Empire. It was another attempt to regain control of our country, and of our destiny. Many non-Greeks, called philhellenes, who admired Greece and what it symbolized, joined this impossible and seemingly hopeless revolt, as the newspapers of that time characterized it. Lord Byron, fought the Turks side-by-side with the Greeks. He said that "if I am a poet, it is the air of Greece that makes me one".

"2021 is a milestone year for Greece as it is the Bicentenary of the 1821 Uprising and War of Independence that ultimately led to the creation of the Modern Greek state. This anniversary is an opportunity to look back to our origins and reflect more into the older and modern history of the Greek nation", Ambassador Raptakis said. "Greece

is a country that does not have only a past and it is proud of its history and its ancestors. It is a country that has a present, and more importantly, future; a country with strong democratic institutions that consistently and constantly promote stability, peace, development and cooperation between peoples and states".

The Greek Ambassador also referred to the strong relations between Greece and the United Kingdom: "This year we also celebrate 200 years of friendship, cooperation and philhellenism between Greece and the UK. We must not forget the inspiring role of Lord Byron, the diplomatic actions of George Canning, the Battle of Navarino and the bravery of the admiral Sir Edward Codrington".

In the first part of the video, distinguished personalities honoured the 1821 Bicentenary. Among them His Eminence Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain Nikitas, the worldwide acclaimed British author Victoria Hislop, the actor and prolific writer Stephen Fry and HM British Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic Kate Smith.

In the second part, a video under the title "21 Quotes in 21" was broadcasted. The video highlighted in a concise way the landmarks and the iconic figures of the Greek War of Independence. Prominent British and Greek scholars and distinguished personalities of the Greek diaspora commented on specific aspects and figures of the Greek Revolution.

The last part of the video involved a Recital for Violin and Piano with compositions by Tchaikovsky and Brahms, performed by Maria Ismini Anastasiadou and Teresa de la Escalera Calderón.

You can watch the event on YouTube following the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGBoJGTtp2A>

The event was 'virtually' attended by more than 11.600 people. Thank you for joining us in this celebration!



Maria Ismini Anastasiadou and Teresa de la Escalera Calderon during the recital for violin and piano

The Doxology for the National Day of 25th of March was held at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom (Hagia Sophia)



The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the Doxology for the National Day of 25th of March took place on March 28, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) in London, presided over by His Eminence Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain Nikitas.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions a limited number of Greeks attended the Doxology which marks a great event for all Greeks of Diaspora. Pupils flag-bearers from Greek primary and secondary schools wearing blue and white clothes and accompanied by their teachers attended the ceremony. Representatives of the Greek Armed Forces designated in the UK, in official uniform, as well as members of the Greece's and Cyprus' Diplomatic missions participated in the Doxology for the National Day.

After the religious ceremonies were completed, the Ambassador of Greece in the U.K. Mr. Ioannis Raptakis addressed the congregation. Before delivering his speech he conveyed messages sent by Her Excellency the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mrs. Katerina Sakellaropoulou and the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

In her message Her Excellency the President of the Hellenic Republic underlined the particular symbolism of this year's celebrations as they mark the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolution and mentioned the considerable contribution of the Hellenic Diaspora to the awakening of the Greek national consciousness.

In his message, Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, mentioned the great values of Democracy and Justice upon which our Nation was established. He stressed the importance of all Greeks being united in order to overcome any differences and the need to "transform the national memory into a responsibility for the present". "The

same virtue and courage for freedom then, is needed to overcome the challenges of today; to keep Greece strong and the Greeks healthy", he said.

During his speech, Ambassador Raptakis underlined the double symbolism, a national and a religious one, of the anniversary of March 25. "Today, we pay tribute to the immortal heroes of 1821, who with patriotism, bravery and self-sacrifice, liberated our homeland and paved the way for the establishment of the independent Greek state", he said.

He mentioned that "Greece is a pillar of stability, peace and progress; it has gained its place amongst the modern democratic European states, at the core of the European Union; it is one of the most developed countries in the world", only to stress that "our country still needs the solidarity and bravery of all of us to face the challenges of our time. The imperative of the new era is Greek men and women, once more, setting aside the few and the small that separate us, to join forces, to coordinate our efforts so that we can accomplish everything we envision; everything we deserve".

Χρόνια πολλά! Ζήτω η Ελλάδα! Ζήτω ο Οικουμενικός Ελληνισμός!

Photo Credit: Alexios Gennaris

"All you want is Greece" – Greece aims to welcome tourists from 14 May

Greece will reopen to tourists from 14 May 2021. To enter the country holidaymakers will need to present proof of full vaccination or proof of Covid-19 antibodies or a negative test. Vaccination is not a prerequisite for travel but one of three alternatives for holidaymakers visiting Greece.

Speaking recently to ITV's Good Morning Britain, Greece's Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis stressed that people who visit Greece will be safe, as the country has built on its successful experience of welcoming visitors last summer. Greece will continue the random testing based on algorithms and the implementation of safety measures and has updated its health protocols. Moreover, this year Greece has new tools at its disposal for ensuring people's safety, such as the vaccine programme and the rollout of rapid tests. Greece will prioritise the vaccination of all employees in the tourism sector as soon as the critically vulnerable have received their jabs. Dozens of small Greek islands are already covid-free as the majority of their residents have been vaccinated. Same as last year,

Greece wants to strike a right balance between enabling travelling and securing the safety both of tourists and locals - and maintain its track record as one of the safest countries in the world.

In order to facilitate travel with the least possible friction, Greece is in talks with the British government, aiming to reach an agreement on a travel certificate recognised by both countries. Greece is a staunch supporter of the European 'digital green certificate', a proof that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result or recovered from COVID-19. However, if a broader deal on a common travel certificate is not reached between the UK and the EU, Greece is ready to pursue an agreement with the UK unilaterally. Moreover, as Theoharis told the Guardian, Greece is ready to accept test-run flights from the UK and other highly vaccinated countries, even before the May start date, in order to test the new rules at a some entry points.

Greece is one of the most popular summer destinations for UK holidaymakers. About 4 million British nationals visited Greece in 2019, before the pandemic. At the moment Greece's health system is under pressure due to the third wave of the pandemic that advances across Europe. However, in the next couple of weeks, as the vaccine rollout continues and the lockdown measures show results and, importantly, with the help of the good weather, Greece expects that the infection rate and the hospitalizations will be radically reduced.

Presenting Greece's tourism strategy at the International Tourism Fair ITB Berlin on 9 March Mr Theoharis said that the country's slogan this year is 'All you want is Greece'. "For 2021 in Greece we are more than optimistic. We are ready. We are ready to share the experience of liberation from the unpleasant memories of the pandemic with each of our guests." In a similar tone, Mr Theoharis told ITV's Good Morning Britain: "When you travel to Greece, you do not need to pack your smile but you are guaranteed that on your way back you will have your smile."

Greek Alternative Tourism & Gastronomy Workshop

On 22-24 March 2021 the first digital Greek Alternative Tourism and Gastronomy Workshop in the United Kingdom took place under the auspices of Greece's Ministry of Tourism, Greece's Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the Embassy of Greece in London. The workshop aimed at supporting businesses and public entities interested in promoting their products and services for alternative tourism and at highlighting the quality of Greek food and beverages. The Greek National Tourism



Organization was the event's main sponsor. The event included a webinar with presentations on destinations and gastronomic products of Greece as well as business meetings between participants.

Addressing the event, the Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, highlighted that Greek holidays mean much more than sun, sea and ouzo, as Greece is a country well-placed to cater for nature-loving adventurers. "An increasing number of international travellers are in search of fresh and most authentic experiences and for those looking for something different the possibilities in Greece are endless." Driving around Milos, climbing on Kalymnos, visiting the villages and churches of Tinos, windsurfing on Paros, walking through mastic groves on Chios are memorable experiences. Large areas of woodlands, forest trails and old pathways, past flowing rivers, stone bridges and striking lakes, create the ideal setting for having a truly memorable experience. "Seasons may change, yet the beauty of those destinations remains undiminished", Ambassador Raptakis said. "Greece is also known for the captivating local aromas and delicious flavours. The local food traditions and the use of local ingredients date back to ancient times and they are an essential part of our culture." Moreover, Greece is fast becoming the world's go-to destination for luxury family resorts. Greek islands are synonymous with cosmopolitanism. Large cities like Athens and Thessaloniki attract people from all over the globe. The country is full of treasures, related to its culture, that bear witness to the ancient Greek past that has offered so much to humanity. There are imposing archaeological sites everywhere in the country, numerous monuments and hundreds of museums where the country's historic course unfolds.

Concluding his welcome address, Ambassador Raptakis noted that Greece is one of the most popular holiday choices for British nationals and referred to the 'digital green certificate' and the bilateral arrangements which are expected to facilitate international holidays. The UK's rapid vaccine rollout could mean that British holidaymakers are first in line for Greek holidays this summer, he said.

Crete was the honoured region of the event and Preveza was the honoured destination. Representatives of the Cretan Region, Kyriakos

Kotsoglou and Nikos Alexakis, presented the advantages that Crete offers to visitors, highlighting the island's authentic character, its hospitality, its safety and easy access, the world famous Cretan diet, the island's rich cultural tradition as well as its wide variety of facilities for sports, health tourism and family holidays. The Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Preveza, Leonidas Argiros, spoke about Preveza's very small number of COVID-19 cases, its breath-taking nature and laid-back lifestyle, its delicious local cuisine and its cultural heritage. Preveza offers a variety of sporting activities such as surfing, horse riding etc. It is accessible with direct flights from European cities; it has a marina, and the longest sandy beach in Europe, awarded "European safest beach."

Migration Challenges for Europe and Greece



Minister of Migration & Asylum, Notis Mitarachi

The Hellenic Bankers Association (HBA-UK) organized on the 30th March an exclusive briefing on "Migration Challenges for Europe and Greece" with the Greek Minister of Migration, Notis Mitarachi, former Chairman of HBA-UK and member of the Chairman's Circle, speaking in his current capacity as the Greek Minister of Migration.

Mr. Mitarachi underlined the fact that Europe is facing two opposing challenges: irregular migration flows and demographic deterioration. He said that for those people technology has played a key role in increasing migratory flows and that we clearly need to separate refugees from economic migrants. Another factor we should not underestimate, which will trigger mass migration of millions of people over the coming decades, is climate change.

Mr. Mitarachi emphasized that Greece, due to its coordinated efforts, has recently regained the control of the migration crisis. He also mentioned that the Greek government has set two key goals: the reduction of the migrant flows and the mitigation of crisis's impact in the local communities.

The Movement for Greek Independence 1770-1821, Edited and Translated by Richard Clogg



First published in 1976 and reprinted in 2021, on the two hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence, this book contains a wide range of documents, many translated from the Greek or French, together with contemporaneous sources in English. The original text is

accompanied by a supplementary bibliography.

A documentary collection of this kind retains its usefulness indefinitely. Although published forty-five years ago, Paschalis Kitromilides, as recently as 2013 in his *Enlightenment and Revolution: the Making of Modern Greece* (Harvard University Press), has written that 'an anthology of primary sources by Richard Clogg has remained the only contribution that could serve as a substantive introduction to the subject.'

On its initial publication, other scholars welcomed the book:

'... A work which is indispensable reading not only for those interested in the origins of the Greek War of Independence but also for those generally interested in the intellectual and cultural history of modern Greece', Theofanis Stavrou, *Balkan Studies* 18 (1977)

'A splendid collection', John Petropoulos, *The American Historical Review* 83 (1978) Despite the restriction measures in force due to the pandemic, which we are obliged to implement, the Consular Office operates between 09.00 and 17.00, serving, daily, at least 75 pre-arranged and many emergency appointments with daily attendance at the Consulate exceeding 100 people. Approximately 3,451 appointments have been made available for the next quarter.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias participates in the Online Conference of the Hellenic Society of the London School of Economics (6 March 2021)



On March 6, the LSEU Hellenic Society's "Greece 2021: Reflecting on Yesterday, Shaping Tomorrow" conference took place, where distinguished speakers and moderators together investigated the past, analysed the present and deliberated on the future of Greece.

This event was organised under the auspices of the "Greece 2021" Committee in honour of the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution, and was supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung political foundation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias addressed the Online Conference and in his speech, he referred to the current priorities of Greek foreign policy, highlighting the 3 variable factors that must be taken into account at this time:

- Established powers, such as the USA, and emerging powers – such as China, India, Russia and post-Brexit Great Britain as well.
- The rising instability in the Eastern Mediterranean region, caused in large part by Turkish actions. In this context, he stressed that, what is being seen is the continuation of inflammatory rhetoric emanating from Turkish officials on one hand and the continuation of Turkey's aggressive actions in the broader region on the other. He also stressed that these actions include the illegal deployment of Turkish military forces in sovereign states such as Cyprus, Libya, Iraq and Syria.
- Developments in the Western Balkans, the Middle East and the Gulf, with special reference to the Western Balkans' European perspective and to the new conditions created by the Abraham Accords in the Middle East.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also emphasised the two fundamental pillars of the Greek foreign policy: rock-solid commitment to international Law and the UN Charter, and commitment to multilateralism, as

exemplified by Greece's engagement in international organizations, including the European Union, NATO and the Council of Europe.

He underscored that Greece promotes peace and the resolution of any pending differences on the basis of International Law. He also referred to Greece's support on Western Balkans countries' EU accession. He noted that Greece aims to become a bridge between Europe on one hand, and the Middle East and the Gulf on the other, underscoring, however, that Greece also wants to strengthen its cooperation with African and Asian countries. Finally, he referred to Greece's relations with its traditional allies, such as Great Britain and the USA, as well as the country's desire to further strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation with other countries as well.

Distinguished speakers that participated in the Online Conference were, among others, Evangelos Venizelos, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance of Greece and Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister for Research and Technology, Ministry of Development and Investments.

Photo: Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias

The Left in Power: reflections on SYRIZA's promise and achievements

On Monday 22 March 2021, Euclid Tsakalotos spoke in an event hosted by the Hellenic Observatory.

When SYRIZA came to power in January 2015, it promised an end to the bailouts and to austerity. After a major political struggle, it was obliged to accept new bailout terms and it spent its remaining years in office, in part, implementing its painful measures. In this conversation with Kevin Featherstone, Euclid Tsakalotos discussed its achievements and setbacks; what lessons its experience suggests for the Left in Europe; and the future for the Left in Greece and elsewhere.

Euclid Tsakalotos described the very difficult context faced when his party won the elections, and explained the internal and external situation. He concluded that, according to his opinion, his government did better than expected but also that many lessons were learnt.

Online Information Session on the EU Settlement Scheme

The Embassy of Greece in London, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to the UK, organised an online information session for Greek citizens in the UK on the EU Settlement Scheme. The event formed part of the events organised by the Embassy of Greece in London in honour of Greece's National Day and was planned on the 24th of March, to complement the celebrations of the Greek National Day, with an embassy-organised, online information session to remind Greek nationals about EUSS.

The main focus of the online information session was on delivering an interactive presentation on EUSS, followed by a Q&A session. The event was also livestreamed via the Embassy's Facebook page. Chris Benn, immigration lawyer and special advisor to the European Delegation in the UK, gave a presentation on the EU Settlement Scheme and answered questions from the audience. The event was moderated by the head of the Consular section, Konstantinos Adamopoulos.

More than 7.200 people joined us on this event, during which many questions that have been frequently received on EUSS matters, were answered. You can watch the recorded video on our YouTube channel following the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lkqwctr5JEE>

The EU Settlement Scheme is a UK Home Office application process that nearly all EU citizens, and their family members, must complete to protect their future residence in the UK in accordance with the rights provided for in the Withdrawal Agreement. The Scheme is only for EU citizens and family members who have already been resident in the UK before the end of the transition period and are beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement. These citizens will have until 30 June 2021 to secure the right to reside in the UK after this date.



Photo: Upper Left Head of the Consular section, Konstantinos Adamopoulos, Lower Right Chris Benn immigration lawyer and special advisor to the European Delegation in the UK

EVENTS TO COME

"The Noblest Cause"

When: Friday 2 April, 6pm

Where: Online

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/the-noblest-cause/>

Greece: 200 years of economic survival

When: Thursday 8 April, 11:40 SST (10:40 CET)

Where: Online

<https://www.hazliseconomist.com/en/event/200-years-economic-survival/overview>

"Inequality, the Misallocation of Talent and Economic Development"

When: Thursday 15 April 2021, 4pm (UK time)

Where: Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Events/2021/04/202104151600/inequality>

"Antifascism in Greece: Actors, resources, and tactics"

When: Monday 19 April, 5pm (UK) / 7pm (Greece)

Where: Online

<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/antonis-ellinas-antifascism-in-greece-actors-resources-and-tactics/>

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