

**A HISTORY OF THE
GREEK PEOPLE
(1821-1921)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649086443

A history of the Greek people (1821-1921) by William Miller

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM MILLER

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UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME
A HISTORY OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE
BY
GUY DE LA BATUT AND GEORGE FRIEDMANN

A HISTORY OF THE GREEK PEOPLE (1821—1921)

BY
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
G. P. GOOCH

WITH TWO MAPS

METHUEN & CO. LTD.
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.
LONDON

First Published in 1922

INTRODUCTION

By G. P. GOOCH

THE outstanding feature of our age is neither nationality nor democracy, nor applied science, but the growing consciousness of the essential unity of mankind, both on the material and on the spiritual plane. Since the murders at Sarajevo in 1914 it can no longer be argued that any part of the earth is too remote or any country too insignificant to concern the life and fortunes of every one of us. The world has become a hall of echoes, a vast whispering gallery. For good or evil the civilized nations form a single family. Isolation spells stagnation and hermit kingdoms are out of date.

The most urgent task of the coming years is to substitute the reign of law in the relations of States for the moral anarchy which brought the old Europe to its doom. But the League of Nations will only establish itself as our guardian and our guide if it rests on the explicit assent of the plain citizen, by whom governments are chosen and to whom statesmen are ultimately responsible. It is no longer enough to be a good Englishman

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or even a good European ; for as members of the League we are now also citizens of the world, and must never forget that civilization is a collective achievement and a common responsibility.

Our new status brings obligations as well as privileges, among them the duty of knowing more of our fellow-members in the association of nations. Without such knowledge we can never understand why they act and think as they do, nor can we measure the value of their contribution to the making of the world in which we find ourselves. The more we can learn of the life and growth of other lands the better. There are indeed many claims on our energies ; but there should be no difficulty in a person of average intelligence finding time to master brief narratives of at any rate the later chapters of the story of the nations. What he wants—and what the writer who knows his business will give him—is not a sterile record of wars and dynasties, but a historical interpretation of the events and institutions, the social life, the ideas and ideals which influence the fortunes or express the individuality of organized political communities.

Mr. William Miller is the greatest living British authority on mediæval and modern Greece. His larger works are the treasured companions of the historical scholar ; but readers of this little volume will quickly discover that he carries his learning lightly and can adapt himself to the needs of the beginner no less than to those of the expert. He

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writes with sympathy yet without flattery of the gifted people whom he knows so well. There is nothing more romantic than the survival of the Greek nation and the Greek language in unbroken continuity from classical times ; and no country could wish for a more competent recorder and interpreter of its trials, its achievements, and its aspirations.

