Introduction to Essays and Contributors

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With this issue, we again seek to enhance the quality of American foreign policy regarding the eastern Mediterranean, particularly Greece and Cyprus. Our essayists combine historic analysis with recent events and place them in broad cultural contexts. We believe key factors in enriching American policies are the activities of the Greek community and its allies, and we seek to empower them in whatever way we can. We think it especially important to work with Greek Americans still at the onset of their careers. In all our endeavors, we advocate the need for a commitment to the principle of Rule by Law coupled with a commitment to rendering an authentic historic record stripped of ethnocentric bias.

Our issue opens with an essay written and researched by Seth Cropsey (Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute) and George Papadopoulos (Research Assistant at the Hudson Institute). Their “Vice President Biden’s Trip to Cyprus: A Lost Opportunity?” discusses why Turkey is an unreliable American ally, a view that is increasing being shared by politicians, journalists, and the general public. Cropsey and Papadopoulos stress the importance of the natural gas sources being developed jointly by Cyprus and Israel. More broadly, they argue that the United States needs to rethink its current policies in the eastern Mediterranean.

The strategic importance of the military bases located at Souda Bay is addressed by Harry Dinella in “The Expanding Strategic Significance of Souda Bay.” Dinella contrasts Greece’s dependability with the unreliability of Turkey. Dinella is a former U.S. Army Foreign Area officer with extensive experience in Greece. He currently teaches courses at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Belvoir and at George Mason University.

A historical legal context for the present relationship of Greece and Turkey is offered by Alexandra Karambelas in her “The Un-Mixing of People: The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and Nation-Building in the Ottoman Empire and Beyond.” Karambelas discusses how the Lausanne Treaty has been utilized in subsequent political conflicts.
She recently received a BA (Classic Studies) from Tufts University and an MA (Historical Studies) from the New School for Social Research. She is currently working as an editor and professional consultant.

Further commentary on the eastern Meditteranean is chronicled by Constantine Hatzidimitriou his review of *Hidden Genocides: Power, Knowledge, Memory* edited by Alexander Laban Hinton, Thomas La Pointe, and Douglas Irvin-Erickson. This volume establishes the genocidal policies begun by the Ottomans and continued by the Turkish republic. The volume indicates that the Turkish denial of orchestrating genocides is being addressed by a broad spectrum of international scholars. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou is editor of *American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna by Kemalist Turkish Forces, September, 1922* and *Founded on Freedom and Virtue: Documents Illustrating the Impact in the United States of the Greek War of Independence*.

Greece’s role in the contemporary Balkans is addressed by Andronikos Falangas in his review of *The Balkan Prospect: Identity, Culture, and Politics in Greece after 1989* by Vangelis Calotychos. The analysis offered begins with the fall of the Soviet bloc and then the dismembering of Yugoslavia. Falangas has written extensively on Hellenism in Romania and recently was honored with a Fulbright grant for study in Moldova.

The role of Greeks in Ukrainian history and the views of contemporary Greeks on the current crisis in Ukraine are discussed by Svitlana Arabadzy, in “Greeks in Ukraine: From Ancient to Modern Times.” Her discussion of current events in Ukraine thoughtfully examines the conflicting views of Greeks while expressing her own personal judgments. Arabadzy, who is of Pontian heritage, is a PhD candidate at Mariupol University (Ukraine). She has co-authored a book devoted to the history and culture of the Greek Diaspora in Ukraine, and she is an authority on the Greeks of the Azov region.

Patrick Theros takes a longer look at the direction of European culture in his “Kapodistriasis and the Making of Modern Europe and Modern Greece.” He recounts how Kapodistrias, then working as a Russian diplomat, was the most prominent voice for a new, more progressive European order at the critical Congress of Vienna (1815) dominated by Metternich. Kapodistrias became Greece’s first prime minister, and Theros speculates on how governance in modern Greece might have evolved had Kapodistrias not been assassinated. Patrick Theros was in the U.S. Foreign Service for thirty-six years, mostly serving in the Middle East. He was American Ambassador to Qatar (1993-1998), directed the State Department’s Counter-Terrorism Office, and holds numerous U.S. government decorations. He is currently president of the U.S. Qatar Business Council.
Our Emerging Voices section offers a wide and varied account of the activities and views of Greek Americans still at the onset of their careers. Each represents a slightly different aspect of being Greek and American, and each has a slightly different sense of Hellenism. All of the essayists are activists in their chosen fields. Two of them are intensely involved with the electronic revolution now central to global commerce and communication.

Corinne Candilis opens this feature of the journal with her “Never on Sunday: Retail Therapy Not the Answer to Greece’s Woes.” She discusses why some American business practices may not be well suited for the Greek economy. Corinne Candilis, now an economics major at Swarthmore College, researched this piece while participating in the 2014 AHEPA Journey to Greece program.

Konstantine Buhler, a Greek of mixed ethnic ancestry, writes of “Technology, Art, Orthodoxy and Hellenism.” He was the first person of the Orthodox faith to give a commencement address at Stanford University (2014) and speaks of the influence of Church activists in keeping him in contact with the Greek community. His professional focus is on industrial management and venture capitalism with a global focus. This past year he worked with a team in Italy, and he is now planning to work with a group of younger technologists and investors in California.

Konstantina Karageorgos, currently a PhD student at the U of Michigan, speaks of some of the issues faced by immigrant families of the 1980s. In her “Art, Politics, and Ethnic Identity,” she recalls how xenophobia and racism during her school years remained highly destructive even though appearing in a more subtle form than in previous eras. Her academic work centers on African-American and West Indian authors writing in the period of the Cold War, but she also is interested in writing about Hellenes. She offers an interesting fusion of a radical political perspective with Hellenic traditions. Konstantina Karageorgos’ work will be appearing in the forthcoming Mediations, Against the Current and Lineages of the Literary Left to be published by the U of Michigan Press.

Michael Nevradakis describes his passion for radio and Hellenism in his “Dialogos Radio: A Dialogue with my Hellenic Heritage.” Beginning with a Greek radio program in Austin while a student, he describes how he has fashioned an international radio program that has many outlets in Greece as well as in the United States. These shows can vary from regularly scheduled programs to podcasts to internet postings. Michael Nevradakis also writes for mass media. Most recently he published an article on the intimidations facing Greek journalists that appeared in the Huffington Post.
Our aim is to continue offer a broad look at various aspects of Hellenism and American foreign policy. We welcome unsolicited submissions and any suggestions for areas readers believe should be addressed in future issues.