

The German-Austrian Philhellenism through the Revolution Press-The Case of Newspapers *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law) during the Period 1824-1826

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Abstract

The Greek Revolution of 1821 was certainly an important milestone in the history of the Greek nation in order to reclaim freedom and create an independent state. This study will attempt to highlight the significance of philhellenism and philhellenes of the diaspora, with a special emphasis on the German Austrian philhellenism, as recorded in the Greek press during the revolution. This article examines a) how two Greek newspapers portray the German-Austrian philhellenism during 1824 – 1826 and b) how this world movement of philhellenism helped during the Greek revolution. The Philhellenic movement was related to the interest of European people in Greece and pre-existed the Greek revolution of 1821. In countries of Western Europe, such as Germany and Britain, interest in classical Greece was nurtured by philosophical, philological and explorative texts and news reporting. More particularly, articles from the *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law) newspapers refer to cases of Philhellenes living abroad, and especially the German Austrian axis, will be examined. These items create an important field of study that showcases how the press records history and events happening at the time of the Greek Revolution, 200 years ago.

Keywords: Greece, revolution, uprising, press, struggle, newspapers, *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law)

1. Revolution of the Press

In Georgios Babiniotis's *Dictionary of Modern Greek Language* (Babiniotis 1998), the word “revolution” strates an armed uprising by people who aim to be liberated from a foreign oppressor. On the other hand, Lychnos defines a newspaper as “a printed publication with information and opinions on public affairs, together with other educational and entertainment material” (Lychnos 1972). The Hellenic Revolution in 1821 gave rise to the need for the dissemination of printed media that would spread the demands of the uprising throughout the then Turkish-occupied geographical area of modern Greece. Therefore, since 1821 –which was a landmark for the national uprising– we observe the circulation of handwritten newspapers and, later, typed ones. The editors and printers –considered servants of the nation– played a decisive role in spreading the press (Anderson 1997). The primary objective of the press was to inform the public on the events taking place in the country and to achieve the national target, which could be facilitated by the circulation of the press. The use by the press of terms such as “education” and “rebirth” laid the foundations for the ideals that would be essential in achieving the ultimate goal and the liberation of the Nation (Koumariou 1971). As a result, the term “Revolution Press” captures news items reporting on the revolution, addressed to the public.

A typical feature of the revolution press during the period 1821-1828 is the fact that it was published in key cities such as Hydra and Mesologgi, where the uprising was taking place (Argyropoulou 1970). This press records not only the events on the war-military front and the political and diplomatic developments, but also deals with topics regarding political theory, legislation and constitutional institutions (Institute of Modern Greek Research 2005). The main idea of promoting the Greek issue through the press was relied on the fact that the Greek Revolution was practically a people's uprising that attempted to acquire and restore their own national identity through hard and difficult times. The role played by Greeks of the Diaspora was decisive, and more particularly by members of Greek communities established in several cities of the Western, Central and East Europe, such as Stuttgart in Germany and Bern in Switzerland. The initiatives of a great number of Greek communities moved the general interest on the Greek issue abroad (Chassiotis 1969). As stated by the Hellenic Parliament, “the contribution of the philhellenic press was highly efficient, especially at a time when free press suffered

several restrictions. In 1821, in Germany, the songs of Greeks by W. Muller, W.T. Krug's Declaration and Fr. Thiersch's appeal for the establishment of the volunteers' body are noteworthy. Articles in *Avgousta's General Newspaper* analysed the character of the Greek movement for freedom, separating it from the Carbonari Society".

2. The Press as a Historical Source

Through time, the press has been an important and useful research instrument. The contribution of the press in the history of a country is noteworthy. Press reveals the history, the economy, the mindset, the linguistic and cognitive level, as well as the social climate that prevails (Georg 2006). It is important to note that the press is also a bridge connecting the past with the present. Through newspapers, a researcher may look into the past of a news item, since newspapers record events of historical, social, economic and political significance, involving public figures or not. According to Georg, the media are "powerful shapers" since they "stress", colour and add meaning to events - to a large extent (Georg 2006). Newspapers aim to raise public awareness and provide information about the truth around events (Piliouras 2017).

A significant factor that makes the press a valuable historical source is the direct nature of news reporting. This fact enables researchers to gather additional evidence about the ideological and social climate and make a diagnosis of procedures and trends at a given time (Droulia-Mitrakou 2005). Studying the press of a given period should involve the examination of a plethora of data in order to be as successful as possible. On one hand, the content should be studied and, on the other hand, indirect evidence should also be examined, such as the manner in which the content is presented, the order in which it is presented and its "length" (Loulos 2006). How the information is transmitted, how arguments are developed, and the methods used for convincing are also examined. Frontpage articles, headlines which may be indifferent or impressive in terms of size are utilised, especially in the most recent years. Moreover, the position of articles in newspaper sheets is studied, adding the relevant significance according to such position (Piliouras 2017).

An important aspect for this paper is the methodology followed during the study of the news content articles from the *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law) focusing on cases German Austrian axis of Philhellenes. It is a fact that researchers shape an opinion on the circumstances, the mentalities that contributed to the shaping of attitudes and perspectives in the period under study, hence a newspaper is the medium that includes a very wide pool of information, topics and opinions, whilst including columns with news from the secular, cultural, educational and sports world.

The news about the beginning of the Greek Revolution became known in Western and Central Europe within a very short time through the newspapers of the time, which often featured articles and items regarding the developments in the Greek space. There was a network of "reporters" formed by permanent residents of Constantinople (Istanbul), Smyrna (Izmir) and islands of the Ionian Sea, who had contacts in Europe. In Germany, England, Switzerland, France, Italy and even the USA, "philhellenic committees" were established. Handouts are printed, money is collected and donations of arms are organised to assist the uprising (Alithia ('The Truth') 2021: 15). The admiration for classical antiquity fed the enthusiasm, such as in the case of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe or the British romantic poet and philhellene Percy Shelly, who had written *We are all Greeks*. News reports covered important moments of the Greek struggle for independence, crucial battles and highlights, such as the Exodus of Mesolongi and analyse the role of the Great Powers, mainly towards the end of the revolution and until the establishment of the Greek State (Balta et al. 2015). Moreover, marines and merchants who travelled throughout the Mediterranean not only carried goods but also valuable information, since their transactions were not limited to the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire, but reached even the most remote ports of Europe. People of letters, intellectuals, scholars, politicians and diplomats often wrote articles offering vivid descriptions of the Greek revolution.

3. The Case of the Greek Revolution Press

By the end of the 18th century, printing and circulation of press was established in Europe, as opposed to Greece where –due to the Ottoman rule– the press was almost inexistent (Loulos, Kostas 2006). An attempt to publish a newspaper was considered a very risky action, due to the political situation in Greece under Ottoman rule and due to the lack of technical equipment and expertise (Argyropoulou 1970). Therefore, the Greek Press was initiated by intellectuals from the Greek Diaspora, who had influences from the movement of Enlightenment and aimed to prepare the ground for the revolution. At the intellectual centres, such as Vienna and other European cities, newspapers of a philological character such as *Ellinikos Telegraphos* (The Greek Telegraph) (1812), *Logios Ermis* (Intellectual Hermes) (1811), and *Philologikos Telegraphos* (The Philological Telegraph) (1818) were circulating. Research suggests that it was the circulation of these newspapers, distributed from hand to hand in neighbourhoods that helped to ideologically prepare the subjected Greeks to claim their rights.

In 1823, there are handwritten newspapers that are being published, with a local and restricted character (Argyropoulou 1970). These newspapers covered news from the struggle as well as political decisions. European editors contributed to the creation of the Greek press, while several philhellenic companies donated the necessary hardware equipment (Koumariou 1971). Within a three-year period, six printing presses were transported and set up in Greece (Dimakopoulos 1972), and more particularly in Mesolongi, Athens, Hydra and Nafplion. One must note that newspapers

had a strong effect on readers since the illiteracy rate was very high at the time. Newspapers were circulated in urban centres where educated people would read them. In truth though the illiteracy rate of the nation was very high, educated people such as the village priest, doctor, teacher and other local authorities in a county would usually read out loud to the people newspaper articles especially regarding topics related to the wellbeing of the country. According to various diaries of philhellenes, newspapers were printed in up to 500 copies. According to Koumarianou (Koumarianou 1971), *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law) had 200 subscribers, and *Efimeris Athinon* (Athens' Newspaper) had even fewer. Based on these, one could establish that newspapers were bought by few people, but every copy was read by multiple readers. Moreover, we must consider that this was a period when illiteracy was widespread, but at the same time the Greeks were thirsty for information. Hence, this research indicates that the educated people, the protagonists of the Struggle, made sure to provide information –through their columns– about what was going on in the country. An example is the archive material of newspapers, which survives to this day and proves this activity according to Koumarianou 1971. Newspapers at that time contained four small-size pages. They were printed once or twice a week, and their circulation was often disrupted due to several factors, such as needing to carry the press to another city or war developments.

The Greek revolutionary press was directly related with revolution events. A main news' item in the newspapers was the freeing of the Turkish rule and the establishment of the independent Greek state. Therefore, we observe that the press undertakes the role of lifting morals and supporting the national uprising. The press is a vehicle of information and of joining forces in the national, political, ethical, and religious struggle against the Ottoman rule. Namely, a struggle to defend "Faith and Motherland", as put by Adamantios Koraes and Demetris Ypsilantis (Koumarianou 1971).

The newspapers under study, *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law), with editors I. Mayer and G. Chiappe respectively, were seeking linguistic uniformity through the *katharevousa* vernacular, a conservative form of the Modern Greek language conceived by scholar Adamantios Koraes. According to Koumarianou (1971), this was viewed unfavourably since, in this manner, their texts did not appeal to the readers of the time. Moreover, as a result of this, historians do not have insight into the features of the live language used during that period. On the contrary, Dimakopoulos (1972) does not reach to this conclusion. Reversing the above argument, Dimakopoulos notes that the language of these newspapers is proof that *katharevousa* was a live linguistic tool, not least for scholars (Dimakopoulos 1972). At this point, it is important to mention that there was no freedom of speech at that time and that newspapers could not express their positions freely due to the difficult circumstances that prevailed in the country. It is also important to note that, following a suggestion by Mavrokordatos, a framework was created, called "preventive censorship" (Kazantis-Zamanikos 1971). This framework included codes for respecting the Christian religion, principles and ethics and prohibited personal insults.

Within the framework of this paper, the author describes below the key features of the newspapers under study in order to create an image that is necessary for further deepening into the subject. As noted by Argyropoulou (1970), at the beginning of the year 1824, the newspaper *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) was first published in Mesolongi by the Swiss I. Mayer. In fact, Skamnakis (Skamnakis 2018) writes that –according to Mastorides– the newspaper was published thanks to the efforts of Leicester Stanhope, a philhellene colonel of Irish origin. Issues 1-31 were printed at the small, French printing press brought by Alexandros Mavrokordatos, Greek diplomat, politician, and Prime Minister from 1833-1834. Stanhope undertook the setting up of the printing office and the publication of a newspaper, and he therefore contacted Ioannis Iakovos Mayer, a philhellene of Swiss origin, who undertook the task of publication. Ioannis Iakovos Mayer was slaughtered along with his Greek wife and his two daughters during the heroic Exodus of Mesolongi. The quote "publicity is the very soul of justice" is currently engraved in the hall of the Journalists' Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers (ESIEA), who wanted to pay tribute to this bright revolutionary and philhellene (Argyropoulou 1970).

The newspaper was circulating until the end of February 1826, when a French-Egyptian bomb ruined the printing office. The first period of the newspaper lasted from 1 January to 31 December 1824, with the circulation of 106 issues; the second period lasted from 3 January to 31 December 1825 with the circulation of 105 issues, and the final period lasted from 6 to 20 February 1826 with 15 issues (Argyropoulou 1970). Overall, 226 issues circulated which are rich in content about the war and administrative organisation of Western Greece, war conflicts (on land and at sea), while especially valuable information is provided about the climate in Mesolongi during the time of second siege. Among other things, it included translated extracts from several European and American newspapers, announcements, declarations and statements by the Temporary Administration of Greece, the Executive and Legislative body, letters by the philhellene committees based overseas, by politicians, citizens or private persons. Opinion articles and other relevant material (Argyropoulou 1970).

As Argyropoulou (1970) further describes, in 1824, *O Filos tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law) was published for the first time on Hydra Island by the Italian philhellene Giuseppe Chiappe. Chiappe was a strong supporter of Napoleon and participated in several revolution movements of his era, such as the one in Napoli in 1820. Following the defeat of the movement by the Austrians, Chiappe moved to Hydra where he started to publish *O Filos tou Nomou*, a newspaper which was a personal tool in the hands of ship owners, the Tombazis brothers. The Tombazis brothers started printing the newspaper in their printing

office, which they had established, after being persuaded by Stefanos Kanellos, during the second National Assembly at Astros. Later on, and more particularly as from issue 15 onwards, the newspaper *O Filos tou Nomou* was printed at the French printing press dispatched from Paris by the French philhellene Ambroise Firmin Didot. For a certain time, *O Filos tou Nomou* was the official newspaper of the Administration, and more particularly, from May 1824 to October 1825. Decree No. 972 of 14 April 1824 was made particularly for that purpose. Afterwards, the Administration decided to proceed with publishing an official resource, the *Geniki Efimerida tis Elladas* (General Newspaper of Greece). As a result, *O Filos tou Nomou* lost its capacity as official newspaper though continued to be published, on the initiative of Chiape (Skamnakis, 2018). The newspaper was circulating twice a week until May 1827. The character of the newspaper was not stable during this time. It would cover decisions, resolutions, acts and circulars of the Executive Body, the minutes of the Parliament, as well as news regarding war operations and developments related to the civil war, by expressing the official opinions of the administration. During the one and a half year that the administration used it as a tool, the fact that it was manipulated by the Kountouriotis' brothers –who used to control it became tool for the Administration–causing irritation for members of the Parliament who were demanding for its relocation to Nafplion and the removal of the reference “of the Administration” from its title. It is worth noting that the newspaper remained a tool of the administration until October 1825, when the *Geniki Efimerida tis Elladas* (General Newspaper of Greece) was first published. It then carried on as an independent newspaper, standing in opposition to *Geniki Efimerida tis Elladas*, and including articles on education, freedom of press and other current affairs (Skamnakis, 2018).

4. The German-Austrian Philhellenism in Newspaper *Ellinika Chronika*

Many of the news' items reported aimed at raising the spirits of Greek people. On 18 December 1823, the editor of newspaper *Ellinika Chronika* stresses in the declaration entitled “Correspondence and acts of Philhellene Europeans” that the newspaper will cover news originating from European Philhellenes who are named “DEFENDERS OF MOTHERLAND”. The newspaper *Ellinika Chronika* included news regarding the German Austrian philhellenism. It should be noted (too many repetitions) that not all copies include news items. In this newspaper, we also identified foreign news as follows:

Foreign news

In the newspaper *Ellinika Chronika*, we identified items on the Greek revolution and the German Austrian philhellenism. On 6 October 1823, the newspaper reports *to this day we have been apathetic observers of unfortunate events which have been suppressing for over three years the most beautiful regions in the world, those to which we owe the greatest gratitude; we were lucky enough to enjoy the fruits of the system which the Austrian Observer praises as a work of utmost wisdom.* This demonstrates that the editors of this newspaper attributed special significance to references to the Greek revolution made by foreign press.

Moreover, we spotted references to movements and activities of Philhellenes. In issue No. 8, circulated on 26 January 1824, the following is reported *Anna, the English ship, which departed from London and is loaded with military equipment and other necessary items needed to create a machine shop (Laboratoire), steered by honourable Captain Parris, arrived a few days ago at Dragamesto and all its cargo was unloaded within. We hope that Greece will accept this valuable gift, in accordance with the beneficial purposes of the Greek Company, based in London. This ship also carries military luggage dispatched from the brave company in Darmstadt, Germany* (the current city of Darmstadt in the city of Darmstadt in Germany). This shows that military equipment arrived from London to Greece via sea and that it included warfare equipment made in a German city, having as destination the village of Dragamesto, subsequently renamed Karaiskakis in 1930 because there Karaiskakis, the chief of gunmen kept its camp during the Greek revolution of 1821.

On 6 February 1824, issue No. 11, the newspaper reports that *Greece owes many favours to Germany and Switzerland, whose children died gloriously for the flag of the Cross, after having fought alongside Greek orders against the barbarians.* The editor further states *those Greeks who were chased from Moldovlachia, amidst an exhausting trek, were offered great care and were received in the homes of Germans and Swisses, who helped in such a noble and kind way, wishing to show us their good feelings and brotherly sentiments.*

On 5 March 1824, issue 19, the newspaper reports that *We feel that it is our necessary duty to notify the philhellenic companies in Germany and Switzerland and all the philhellenes, through Ellinika Chronika, that we are very happy that we have competent subscribers and readers not only in Greece, but also in many places of enlightened Europe... The Supporters of the Greek-Swiss company in Greece.*

Issue 32, which circulated on 19 April 1824, reports that *Mr Andreas Kountouris, who arrived from Kefalonia, passed on the news from Corfu that the Holy Alliance appointed five delegates to Greece, so that they learn about the true state of things, and therefore decide about the matter of its independence. He adds that soon a General Meeting will be convened in Vienna.* This extract indicates the influence of philhellenism to the Holy Alliance. It must be highlighted that the Holy Alliance had a negative and condemning stance towards the Greek revolution but through this quote, we observe a shift.

In issue 34 dating 26 April 1824, a reference is made to newspaper *Austrian Observer*; one of the most well-known newspapers of Austria at that time, which undermines the Greek Revolution and reports that *it fills its pages with slander, assumptions and activities which happened during the Neapolis revolution; it became a defender of the Turks, an accuser of the Greeks, an all-time slanderer of Spanish districts and a defamer of independent Americans*. From the above, we can establish that despite the negative comments and defamation of the Greek Revolution by the newspaper, philhellenes also existed in Austria who did not take into account the newspaper's policy and contributed to the Greek revolution.

On 7 May 1824, in issue 37, there is an invitation for Mr Vamvas to join forces with his compatriots through his Chancellery. Through this statement one could understand that the Greeks of the diaspora were trying to create a Philhellenes notion and help the Greek Revolution.

In issue 56, circulated on 9 July 1824, the newspaper mentions the contribution of the philhellenes in Germania Superior to the Greek revolution. More particularly, it states that *We were honoured; we were glorified. And, yes, we never want to forget the great philanthropy of the Philhellenes of Germania Superior; Switzerland and England; all these were but a few of the many who had come to us*.

In addition, issue 57, which circulated on 12 July 1824, states *the Ottoman Porte is pretending not to see the masses of Swiss, German, American, French and Italian people who are philhellenes at the same time and have been taking action on a daily basis to defend us*. It then mentions "several military companies of invincible philhellenes (of several Christian nations), who heroically fought in several places, alongside and in support of the Greeks". Through this extract, it is easy to understand that German philhellenes fought heroically to contribute to the Greek revolution.

In issue 63 of 8 August 1824, the newspaper reports the following news *our fleet, comprising of around 100 military ships is ready for a speedy cast off against the Sultan and the Egyptian. We hear –and we hope that this is true– that English, French and Austrian frigates went to Alexandria and obstructed all the European ships, chartered by Mehmet Ali for his expedition against Greece, and this is proof that the Monarchs are not neutral*. Through this news we realise that the alliance powers join the army against the Turkish marine which was operating against Greece.

It is interesting to note that in issue 66 of 13 August 1824, the newspaper reports this story *The Austrian Observer includes a narrative on a tragic act where allegedly a man from Souli, Greece attacked a German officer. It appears that, once again, Mr Observer still cannot manage to establish the truth about what goes on in Greece from his thirty-three bad reporters. This incident was in fact very different to what the Observer reports. The German officer was shot once in the head and died the next day, not immediately, as the Observer reports. We therefore want to ask politely, was this man from Souli crazy - if he was indeed from Souli? And was he really the man who fired the gun?* Through this report, *Ellinika Chronika* contradicts the news that was reported by a newspaper which is considered hostile and harmful to Greece's national objective through the way it reports on events.

On 30 August 1824, issue 71, the newspaper reports *In Germany, they were preparing a nice monument for Markos Botsaris, in white, carved marble, depicting all the battles that he was involved in from time to time; it is almost complete and it will be sent to Greece, in memory of his heroism*. This item shows Germany's admiration for Botsaris's heroism and we can assume that Philhellenes may have contributed to the creation of this statue.

On 21 January 1825, issue 6, during the second year of the circulation of *Ellinika Chronika*, the newspaper mentions ships sent from Austria to Greece to support the Greek Revolution of 1821. More specifically, the newspaper reports *The Austrian frigate, Ivi and Yoleta or Ariadne, having spent approximately twenty days outside Mesolongi, they departed; Ivi headed to Zakynthos and Yoleta to Corfu*.

5. The German Austrian Philhellenism in Newspaper *O filou tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law)

O filou tou Nomou newspaper was published for three years (10 March 1824 – 27 May 1827) in Hydra by the Italian Philhellene Giuseppe Chiappe. The newspaper published 296 issues overall. It was the longest living newspaper of the Greek Revolution. Many of the news reported aimed at lifting the spirit of the Greeks, as stated in the declaration of the newspaper on 10 March 1824. By going through the topics covered in the newspaper, we identified items referring to the German Austrian Philhellenism. The news items in this newspaper are divided as follows:

Domestic news

On 14 June 1824, issue 27, the newspaper reports *Austrian frigate arrived at Psara on the 7th of this month and informed them that the enemy is heading unobstructed towards Psara*. This report demonstrates how important this piece of information was for the Greeks and implies a philhellenic approach.

Foreign news

On 22 September 1824, issue 55, the newspaper reports *In Germany, they were preparing a nice monument for Markos Botsaris, in white, carved marble, depicting all the battles that he was involved in from time to time; it is almost complete*

and it will be sent to Greece, in memory of his heroism. The same item was found in *Ellinika Chronika* on 30 August 1824, issue 71. Due to the fact that this information is reported in both newspapers, it is reasonable to assume that it was an important development.

On 27 October 1824, issue 65, the newspaper reports *Letters from an officer in Leros, dated 21 October, are informing us that our fleet was preparing for a new battle against the enemy hiding in Alikarnassos; that Ibrahim Pasha, commander in chief and admiral, did not at all quit from all his vain objectives; that because the European cargo ships are asking to be released, since the deadline for their charters has ended, the above-mentioned officer wrote to the Consuls of England and Austria in Smyrna to ask for the charter to be extended; and that the Austrian consul indeed provided a one-month extension for the ships under his flag; from the English consul he has not yet received a response.* Through this item, we conclude that Austria gave a one-month extension for the charter of a cargo ship. Here, we observe that during this critical time when Ibrahim Pasha is focused on his devious plan, Austria provides assistance in the form of an extended charter for cargo ships.

In issue 80 of 19 December 1824, the newspaper reports *the Austrian administration ordered the Admiral of its Marine Forces to recognise the Greek's declaration on the exclusion. To not allow ships bearing the Austrian flag to be chartered for the transport of animal feed and military equipment to be used by the Turks and to not provide supplies to castles controlled by the Turks.* This item indicates a Philhellenic stance of the Austrian administration in support of the struggle of the Greeks to be liberated from the Turkish rule. The reference to the recognition of the declaration of the occupied Greeks against the Ottoman rule demonstrates, in this author's opinion, the important role that the Philhellenic powers of the diaspora played during the Greek revolution.

On 30 April 1826, issue 204, *O Filos tou Nomou* reports *According to the latest news from London, the Duke of Wellington arrived to Saint Petersburg to prevent an outbreak of a war between the Russian and the Ottoman state and managed to reach a compromise regarding their ancient disputes, after having found that the internal noise in Russia was toned down; it is said that England, Austria and France undertook the burden of mediating in favour of the Greeks.* We observe a philhellenic stance on behalf of Austria, in favour of the Revolution of the Greeks.

Another piece of evidence on philhellenism was spotted in issue 229 which circulated on 26 July 1826, this time regarding Germany and Switzerland. The newspaper reports *In Germany and Switzerland, where the first voices in favour of Greece were first heard and from where assistance was first dispatched –even though our anomalies at that time did not allow us to benefit as much as we should– the zeal in favour of us has doubled, mainly thanks to Eynard, a generous man who meticulously predicts our needs and manages to meet them, like a father. In Bavaria, the King himself and the honourable members of the royal family have made their first contributions to the companies established there.* This was an example of German philhellenism which derives from admiration and love for the Greeks and Greece. A pioneer of this huge effort was a generous philhellene, Swiss economist, banker and diplomat Eynard (Jean-Gabriel Eynard, 1775-1863).

On 16 August 1826, issue 235, the newspaper reports *Last Saturday, the 14th of this month, food and other items were successfully delivered to European ships, which will carry 12 philhellene French and German officers of the Defence and Artillery; the philhellenes departed with feelings of great excitement towards the war front in Athens and will be welcomed by 40 of their colleagues since they were able to join the Greeks during the bright days of the 6th and 8th of this month.* The German philhellenism is presented through the contribution of German officers in the Greek Revolution.

6. Conclusion

According to historians the Greek revolution of 1821 was a milestone of outmost significance, since a series of events took place as part of it, which brought to the surface the deep shifts that had already started taking place in the Greek society. In effect, during the Revolution, a struggle was given on multiple fronts, since aside from the continuous war conflicts, Greeks had to face several difficulties related to their being accepted from the politics of the great European powers. For this highly significant topic the author chose to collect material through the press of that era and especially through news items published in two reliable handwritten newspapers of that time, *Ellinika Chronika* (Hellenic Chronicles) and *O filios tou Nomou* (The Friend of the Law). This paper concludes that in their effort to acquire recognised status, the newspapers were not limited to reporting war-related news. Their pages include evidence on the administrative organisation of the Greeks, the economy, education and enlightenment of the Greek people, as well as news focusing on diplomacy in Europe, etc. The newspapers that this author studied applied their approach after the events. In general, variations are evident, reframing is constant, fears become clear, and visions are born in each stage of the Struggle.

The works of scientists and intellectuals of the 18th century – some of whom have never travelled to Greece had formed an impression about it from their visits to Italy or through detailed descriptions of explorers and other lovers of the ancient Greek spirit– also played a part. This geographical entity acquired tangible shape and a clearer content a while later, through the correspondence, memoirs and publications of Philhellenes who offered their services to the Greek struggle for independence. Their valuable testaments, testaments by eyewitnesses, directly involved in the developments, undoubtedly constitute historical sources of outmost significance in the study and evolution of the Philhellenic movement.

Consequently, certain historical sources placed the Greek revolution in an international framework and, almost at the same time, through the variety and heterogeneity of expressions, the modern Greek reality was outlined, and light was shed on the convergences and divergences of this reality from the respective European reality (Birtachas 2018). From then on, since the philhellenic concept and movement prevailed, the efforts for care and support in favour of Greek affairs was seen as a duty for Europeans, repayment of debt and even reward or minimum assistance towards Greece, which was the cornerstone of western civilisation.

This paper has argued that during the most part of 1822 and 1823 no newspaper was published; however, from 1824 onwards, at least two newspapers were operating simultaneously, at all times. Besides during the first months of 1824, a climate of optimism was prevalent, and it was a popular perception that only the achievement of independence would be a victory for the Greeks. Several centres of the Greek space were already liberated and therefore emphasis would be given by the press on topics regarding the establishment of the new Greek state, following the revolution. It is important to note that during the period 1824-1826, one could identify references in both newspapers that during the Revolution, intellectuals and people of the arts, through their writing and artistic activity helped cultivate a philhellenic culture that had a deep effect on popular opinion of that time. This culture offered significant assistance in kind and boosted the moral of the Greeks during the Struggle. This along with the Greek Revolution of 1821 supported the straggle for reclaiming freedom and the creation of an independent state. More particularly, we observe the existence of philhellenic associations that used to organise fund-raising events in European countries in support of the strenuous struggle of the Greeks for independence and liberation from the Ottoman rule. On the other hand, as previously mentioned, we observe the writing activity of the Philhellenes that helped shape a philhellenic culture that had a deep effect on the popular opinion of that time.

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