

Perception and ideological usage of Greek antiquity by the 4th of August Regime

This doctoral dissertation looks into the relation of the ideological tenets of the 4th of August Regime with ancient Greek cultural heritage. Drawing mostly on primary sources relevant to education and civilization, it attempts to fill a lacuna in contemporary literature by examining the impact the ancient Greek tradition had on the formation of the Regime's ideology. The way the Metaxas's Regime perceived, utilized or possibly instrumentalized ancient Greek literature and classical thought in order to shape ideologically the younger generation; The extent to which "the Third Hellenic Civilization", one of the regime's ideological constructs, drew on ancient Greek traditions, as the regime argued; The values of the ancient Greek tradition promoted by intellectuals and the regime's apparatuses and the way these values were integrated into the organization of contemporaneous education, the curriculum and the school textbooks; Whether these values were aligned with the military character and thinking of ancient Sparta and Macedonia or the intellectual tradition of classical Athens; are the main questions this dissertation attempts to explore. By tackling these questions it aims to contribute to contemporary historiographical discussion about the transformations Greek nationalism underwent during the interwar period, and the cultural transfers from antiquity, favored by the authoritarian regimes of the twentieth century.