

**200 Years since the 1821 Greek Revolution.  
The Cost and the Contribution of Cyprus.  
[200 Χρόνια από την Ελληνική Επανάσταση του 1821.  
Το Τίμημα και η Συμβολή της Κύπρου]**

**Petros Papapolyviou**

**Phileleftheros**

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With the completion of 200 years since the beginning of the Greek Revolution of 1821, Petros Papapolyviou, in two volumes, attempts to highlight the contribution and sacrifices of Cyprus to the Struggle, which, as the author emphasises, is the most important historical event in the history of modern Hellenism. Through individual and collective actions, struggles and sacrifices, the Greek Struggle led to the creation of the first independent Greek state.

The first volume briefly examines the pre-revolutionary period, the outbreak of the Revolution, as well as the events of 9 July 1821, and its painful consequences. In particular, the life and work of the Cypriot Ioannis Karatzas, comrade of Rigas Velestinlis, and his contribution to the preparation of the Struggle, are initially presented. After that, the author focuses on the intellectual development observed on the island during the period before the beginning of the Revolution, especially with the establishment and operation of Greek schools in Cyprus, such as the Greek School of Nicosia in 1812 and the Greek School of Limassol in 1819. At the same time, the increased interest of Cypriots in studying in important centers of Hellenism, such as Kydonia and Smyrna, is presented.

Subsequently, an attempt is made to highlight the relationship between the *Filiki Eteria* and Cyprus, through the activity of members of the *Filiki Eteria* on the island. In this context, the effort to initiate Greek Cypriots into it is presented, as well as the efforts made to for the island to contribute to the Greek Struggle, both by sending volunteers and by allocating money, material and munitions, since revolution in Cyprus was considered by some to be impossible based on the data of the time.

In addition, the events that preceded the massacres committed by the Turks on the island on 9 July 1821, are examined, including the descent of Konstantinos Kanaris to Lapithos and the coastal areas of the Famagusta district and the warm

welcome given to him by the Cypriots, as well as the material assistance they offered him for the Greek Struggle.

The author then records a brief assessment of the revolution attempted by Alexandros Ypsilantis in the Danubian Principalities. Despite the failure of Ypsilantis, his actions encouraged the Greek fighters, and the flame of the Revolution quickly spread to the Peloponnese, but also to the rest of the enslaved Greek regions.

The development of the Revolution infuriated the Ottomans, who were trying, in various ways, to suppress it. Among the victims was Cyprus, which paid a huge cost with the massacres that began on the island on 9 July 1821, and continued in the following days. Thus, the first volume describes the results of the massacres, with some being forced to convert to Islam and some fleeing with their families to Greek communities abroad, in order to avoid the horrible death that the Turks had in store for them.

The author recaps the first volume, trying to answer the question ‘Why did the Cypriots not revolt in 1821?’. Rejecting the theories of the British, during the British rule on the island, about the ‘non-Greekness of the Cypriots’, he indicates that the only ones who did not doubt the Greekness of the Cypriots were the Ottomans, who sent 4,000 soldiers to the island and committed the horrific massacres of July 1821. The ‘panhellenicity’ of the Revolution of 1821 and the role of Greek regions, such as Cyprus, was reflected in the clearest way, according to the author, by Ioannis Philimon in his work *Δοκίμιον Ιστορικόν περί της Ελληνικής Επανάστασεως*.

In the second volume, Papapolyviou focuses on the Cypriots’ contribution to the Revolution and the events after 1821. He highlights the fact that the participation of the Greeks of Cyprus in the revolution of 1821 is still one of the least known areas in modern Greek historiography. He considers that systematic research, which could identify, record and utilise a significant volume of archival sources, is lacking, so it is not possible to create a complete and reliable list of the Cypriot fighters of 1821.

Initially, he records the Cypriot fighters in the Revolution and then presents in detail a list of Cypriot fighters of 1821. He refers to the Cypriot fighters included in the *Archive of Rodion P. Georgiadis*. The list of Cypriot fighters of 1821, compiled and presented by Papapolyviou in the second volume, is perhaps the largest that has been made to date, without, as he emphasizes, it being the final. It does, though, provide a brief perspective of the important contribution that Cyprus had in the Struggle of 1821. In addition, the relationship of Nafplio with Cyprus during this period and the creation, as well as the action of the ‘Cypriot community of Nafplio’, are examined.

Papapolyviou then highlights the issue of the 'Cypriot loan', which caused rivalry and division in the leading group of Greek Cypriot fighters, that resulted in wider reactions in the rebellious areas in Greece. For the first time, the author also presents information about an event that took place in Cyprus and concerned the pirate landing of a large number of men of Mavrovouniotis and Krieziotis, in 1826 in Cyprus. The motives of these actions, as well as the objective of the landing, are presented as controversial.

Subsequently, the relationship of Ioannis Kapodistrias with Cyprus and the interest in the island shown by the Governor are examined. The expectations created in Cyprus by the memorandum prepared and submitted by the ecclesiastical and political leadership to Kapodistrias in 1828 are also highlighted.

What is also examined is the way in which the Struggle of 1821 was perceived, as well as the impact and symbolism of the Revolution in Cyprus in the long term. In this context, various issues are highlighted, such as the establishment of anniversary events for 9 July 1821, the construction of busts and the mausoleum in the courtyard of the church of Faneromeni in Nicosia, the 1921 celebrations for the centenary of the Revolution of 1821, as well as the celebrations for the 1931 *Oktovriana*. Finally, the reception of the Revolution of 1821 in the struggle of EOKA as the 'last Greek revolution' is presented.

The consequences of the massacres of 1821 in Cyprus were catastrophic and long-term. Hundreds of the island's inhabitants were killed or forced to emigrate, while those who remained took over all of the tax burdens. The population of the island decreased significantly, forcing the Sublime Porte to grant amnesty, worrying about the island's tax revenues. In Cyprus, there were uprisings or revolutions in 1833, such as those of Nikolaos Theseus in Larnaca, the monk Ioannikios in Karpasia and Gi-aour-Imamis in Paphos, which prove the turmoil that prevailed on the island. Beyond that, however, the author emphasises and highlights the participation of the Greeks of Cyprus in the Greek Struggle, a fact that confirms the desire of Cypriot Hellenism for freedom, but also the close ties with metropolitan Greece. The large number of Cypriot fighters of 1821 was an example that would be imitated by Cypriot volunteers in the subsequent wars that Greece participated in.

In conclusion, the two volumes deserve to be read, since in a concise but effective way they present an important aspect of the modern history of Cypriot Hellenism. By utilising primary sources, with documented positions, as well as through a multitude of photographs, images, documents and other relevant archival material that inter-

sperses the two volumes, the author graphically highlights the largely unknown great contribution of Cyprus in achieving the goals set by the Revolution of 1821, but also the high cost it was forced to pay.

**Foivi Christodoulou**