

# **The Martyrs' Bloodshed of 1821** **[Η Εκατόμβη των Μαρτύρων του 1821]**

**The Fathers of Machairas Monastery (eds.)**  
**Holy Basilica and Stavropegic Monastery of Machairas**  
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This extensive two-volume publishing work is the culmination of the collaboration between the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus and the Holy Monastery of Machairas. The work includes scientific volumes A and B, of 1055 pages in total with a continuous numbering, and was published by the Holy Basilica and Stavropegic Monastery of Machairas in 2022. The first volume is the bulkiest, consisting of 823 pages, as opposed to the much smaller second volume of 232 pages.

The articles included in the first volume are conference speeches, which were delivered in various scientific conferences held throughout Cyprus during the anniversary year of 2021, on the occasion of the completion of 200 years since the Greek Revolution of 1821. The authors include, amongst others, academics, historians, philologists and clergy, who presented the results of their research and provided important information on the historical events of the period, known and unknown, enriching knowledge about the historical past of Cyprus and Hellenism.

The first volume includes the articles at the scientific conferences held in June and September 2021. The three conferences of June took place on 5 June 2021 at the Research Centre of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos, on 12 June 2021 at the Events Hall of the Holy Metropolis of Limassol and on 19 June 2021 at the Municipal Theatre of the 'Tassos Mitsopoulos' Aradippou Lyceum. The last conference took place on 4 September 2021 at the old church of Agios Georgios Paralimni of the Holy Metropolis of Constantia-Famagusta.

The scholarly studies included in the first volume cover a wide range of topics related to 1821 in the fields of history, philology, theology, church history and art history. Indicatively, various topics are examined, such as the relationship of Cyprus with 1821, which is analysed based on historical documents and reports of the French consular and diplomatic authorities, the actions and the personality of Nikolaos The-

seus, Commissioner of the island of Cyprus, the facts in the area of Lapithos-Karavas in 1821, the 9th of July 1821 in Cypriot poetry with the dialogue between literature and history in poems by Vasilis Michaelides and Kyriakos Charalambides, the faith in God and the Greek Orthodox spirit of the fighters of 1821. The martyred clergy of 1821 in Cyprus, the relics of the martyrs of 9 July 1821 in various monasteries of the island are also presented, while the art of painting is promoted as a means of liberating the homeland.

A large number of articles focus on the unique figure of the national martyr Kyprianos, Archbishop of Cyprus. These articles highlight the personality, the work and the actions of the Archbishop in all sectors of the Cypriot society. Special reference is made to his rich ecclesiastical work as well as to his concern for the Greek culture and the development of education in Cyprus. Meriting a mention are the articles that study the apprenticeship of Kyprianos, later Archbishop of Cyprus, in the Danubian Principalities, examine the relationship of the Archbishop of Cyprus Kyprianos with the Greek Revolution of 1821, and analyse the contribution of the Archbishop to the educational renaissance of Cyprus in the 19th century.

Apart from the fact that Archbishop Kyprianos was the first martyr of Christianity and Cypriot Hellenism in July 1821, he was a far-seeing ecclesiastical and national leader who placed great emphasis on the development of Greek education in Cyprus and the establishment of Greek schools around the island. A special mention can be made of the paper that highlights the importance of the establishment of the Greek School of Limassol, the culmination of educational development in the era of Archbishop Kyprianos, with clear influences from the ideas of Enlightenment and the pre-revolutionary processes. Moreover, with the establishment, in 1812, of the Greek School in Nicosia, later known as the Pancyprian Gymnasium, Archbishop Kyprianos placed Cyprus in the spirit of the Modern Greek Enlightenment, which was then reaching its peak in the geographical area of Europe.

The issue of the canonization of the Archbishop and other martyrs by the Church of Cyprus is also examined. For this purpose, a parallel between historical sources and the Gospel is attempted to outline the holiness of the Archbishop of Cyprus Kyprianos, the obligation to integrate the martyred Cypriots during the Turkish occupation into the hagiography of the Church of Cyprus is emphasized, while the importance of the establishment and work carried out by the Committee for the Inclusion of New Saints in the Celebration Calendar of the Church of Cyprus is highlighted.

The first volume concludes with a photographic appendix of articles. In par-

ticular, photographic and archival material from the scientific articles of Stylianos Perdikis, Christodoulos Hadjichristodoulou, Paraskevas Samaras and Charalambos Chotzakoglou is presented.

The second volume initially presents the three-volume work of the Holy Monastery of Machairas, with a total length of 1560 pages, published in 2021 in Athens by Arvanitidis Graphic Arts-Printing, as it was highlighted at an event held on 31 October 2021 at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre. The first volume is entitled *1821 ἐν Κύπρῳ. Ταμείον Βιβλιογραφίας Μαρτύρων – Όμολογητῶν – Διασωθέντων – Έξιολαμισθέντων*. In this specific volume there are detailed lists of 140 people out of about 250 people for whom there are historical references and who were either martyred or tortured by the Turks. The cases of five well-known confessors are also recorded, who resisted and were not intimidated by the threats of the Ottomans and in the end escaped death. In addition, the known cases of the 130 proscribed people who managed to escape capture and massacre are mentioned. Finally, there is a nominal list of 22 out of a total of 40 people mentioned in historical sources as having succumbed and converted to Islam. Of these, nine remained Muslim, while the remaining 13 later rejoined the ranks of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus. At the end of the volume there is a list of Cypriot volunteers, who fought in various battles during the Greek Revolution under the leadership of important chieftains of the struggle. Some of them met heroic deaths on the battlefield, while others either settled in Greece temporarily and were later repatriated to Cyprus or remained permanently in Greece until the end of their lives. Subsequently, in the second volume, entitled *Τουρκοκρατία ἐν Κύπρῳ*, a serious scientific attempt is made to write a History of the Turkish Occupation in Cyprus (1571-1878) through the Greek perspective, which reflects on the real historical events of the period, in order to restore the historical truth, since it has been distorted by the works of foreigners who attempted to write the history of that period. The volume utilises primary sources collected after thorough research, in order to depict the History of Cyprus during the Turkish occupation based on the correct scientific approach. Through the rich bibliography, it is possible to comprehend historical events and draw safer conclusions, as well as to conduct further research on the period under review. Finally, the third volume entitled *Κύπρου Κυπριανός - Ό ποιμὴν ὁ καλός* highlights the multifaceted work of Archbishop Kyprianos. The volume anthologises lectures delivered at various scientific conferences as well as articles covering various aspects of the Archbishop's life and rich work. The indexes and the rich bibliography of the volume constitute an

essential contribution to the history of the Church of Cyprus and more broadly to the History of Cyprus.

The scientific editorial board of *Η Εκατόμβη των Μαρτύρων του 1821* also included other selected studies in the second volume, directly or indirectly related to the historical milestone of 1821. The selection of the included studies was based on their historical significance, since, although written at an unsuspected time, they offer unknown material and information about this historical period and for historical personalities, or contribute to the effort to interpret texts related to this period. In particular, it includes the study of Lambis Konstantinidis on the relationship of Ioannis Kapodistrias with Switzerland and the adventurous journey of the fighters of the Sacred Band (Ιερός Λόχος), as well as two studies by Bishop Epiphanius, Abbot of Machairas and Bishop of Ledra: the first on the figure of Lavrentios, Metropolitan of Kyrenia, who was caricatured by the Turks in July 1821 and the second on the historical, literary and theological implications in Vasilis Michaelides' poem 'Σὺ πρὸς σκοτώθης γιὰ τὸ φῶς' ('You who perished for the light').

At the end of the second volume there is a photographic appendix of the study of Lambis Konstantinidis as well as the two studies of Bishop Epiphanius. It is completed with a photographic appendix of the scientific conferences included in the project.

In conclusion, this two-volume work is a collective effort to enrich historical knowledge about a historical period that is a milestone for Modern Greek History, since the Greek Revolution of 1821 led to the creation of the first Greek state. At the same time, it contains historical data of this period that significantly enrich the historical knowledge about Cyprus during the period of 1821. Important historical data of the period and information for laity and clergy are given, highlighting the fact that the milestone of 1821 influenced –and continues to influence till today– the historical events in Cyprus.

The two volumes complement each other and constitute a remarkable contribution to the Modern and Contemporary Cypriot and Greek History, since they enrich the existing knowledge of the role played by Cyprus in the Greek struggle of 1821 through new data and archival material that researchers of the period managed to secure and utilise, shedding light on essentially unknown aspects of historical events and the personalities that shaped them to a large extent.

The topics dealt with in the two volumes are certainly not exhausted by the contributions and the truly remarkable work carried out by the researchers. However, the articles included in the two volumes open up new perspectives in research, in order

to continue the effort to identify new elements that have been latent until today and to possibly shed light on still unknown aspects of the events that took place in Cyprus before and after the beginning of the Greek Revolution in 1821.

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