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### History of the Greek Revolution

Thomas Gordon (1788–1841), a British army officer and philhellene, was actively involved in the Greek struggle for independence during the period 1821–8. This two-volume work, published in 1833, provides a comprehensive account of the Greek Revolution, portraying the war ‘as it really was’ and describing atrocities perpetrated by both sides. In his preface, Gordon acknowledges that the contest between the Greeks and the Turks has been written about a great deal. He sets out his aims to ‘clear away exaggeration, rectify errors and anachronisms, and supply omissions’, and he draws upon insights gained from having lived and fought for several years in Greece. In his introduction to Volume 1, Gordon provides background information on Greece’s history over the previous 2,500 years. He then describes the course of the revolution to the end of 1822, concluding with some observations on how it was regarded in the rest of Europe.

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# History of the Greek Revolution

VOLUME 1

THOMAS GORDON



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HISTORY  
OF THE  
GREEK REVOLUTION.

BY  
THOMAS GORDON, F.R.S.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH; AND  
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## PREFACE.

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THE contest betwixt the Greeks and Turks has employed so many pens, that he who now ventures to write on that hackneyed, and apparently exhausted subject, must begin by explaining his reasons for travelling over a beaten road, to which he cannot hope to attract public curiosity, since it is either satiated by preceding narratives, or drawn away towards more recent and important transactions: these reasons may be summed up in a few words. That momentary interest, which induced a number of persons hastily to publish what they had seen or heard in Greece, exists no longer; but there is, and ever will be, a grave class of readers loving truth more than novelty, and desirous of becoming acquainted with the exact details of a revolution, that must take its place in the history of the world. As yet there is nothing calculated to satisfy their taste, for of the forty authors whom the struggle in Greece has called forth, three or four alone have any claims to accuracy,

and their labours were confined to short and isolated periods, and detached scenes of the war;\* neither are they always free from the influence of strong prejudices. Conceiving that a day would come when a work more connected, and written on a larger basis, will be acceptable to literary men, the author of the following pages has presumed to take upon himself the task of composing it; because having served in the Greek army, and lived several years in close intimacy with the people of Hellas, he is indebted to the friendship of numerous individuals who bore a distinguished part in their country's affairs, as well as to the kindness of his Philhellenic comrades, for authentic materials, which are not likely either to survive the present generation, or to fall in the way of others.

\* As an example we shall pitch upon the campaign of 1821, certainly better described hitherto, than any subsequent epoch. Of four authors who have treated it in detail, Messrs Raybaud, Blaquiere, Pouqueville, and Green, the first served in Greece, and may be implicitly trusted for every thing that happened under his own eyes; the second, though partial, is a lover of truth, and derived his information from a Philhellene serving in the Morea; the third (long a resident in the East, and brother to the French Consul at Patrass) and the fourth, (himself Consul at that port,) had very good means of sifting out the real progress of events, but were both unfortunately wedded to violent prejudices on opposite sides, and both wrote for a political purpose. By comparing their accounts, a reader of judgment may obtain an accurate knowledge of the insurrection at Patrass, the siege of Tripolizza, and generally of the campaign in Peloponnesus: but with regard to the contemporaneous operations in Northern Greece, and beyond the Danube, he will either be left in the dark or led astray.

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## PREFACE.

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At the same time he has thought it his duty carefully to peruse all former publications on the topic of Greece, neither affecting to differ from his predecessors, where they are correct, nor admitting any thing upon their authority, unless when assured of its exactitude by his own observations, or by collating oral and MS. evidence worthy of credit. His study, in short, has been, by clearing away exaggeration, rectifying errors and anachronisms, and supplying omissions, to represent the Greek Revolution as it really was.

CAIRNESS, *Nov.* 1, 1832.

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