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Some Remarks on the Religion, National Character, &c. in Greece

Edward Blaquiere

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### **The Greek Revolution**

Edward Blaquiere (1779–1832), an Irishman of Huguenot descent, joined the Royal Navy in 1794 and served, chiefly in the Mediterranean, throughout the Napoleonic wars. In 1820, influenced by Jeremy Bentham, he went on his behalf to Spain to observe the revolution there. On the fall of the liberal regime in Spain in 1823, Blaquiere and his friend John Bowring formed the London Greek Committee to raise money for the Greek war of independence and to lobby the British government for support. (It was under the auspices of the Committee, and recruited by Blaquiere, that Lord Byron made his famous, and fatal, journey to Greece.) Blaquiere published this book in 1824, emphasising his credentials as an eyewitness of events. An account of his second visit in 1824 is also reissued in this series, and the two works describe both events in Greece and the internal quarrels among its philhellene supporters.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108076005](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108076005)

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This edition first published 1824

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07600-5 Paperback

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THE  
**GREEK REVOLUTION;**

ITS

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS:

TOGETHER WITH SOME REMARKS ON

THE RELIGION, NATIONAL CHARACTER, &c. IN GREECE.

BY

EDWARD BLAQUIERE, Esq.

AUTHOR OF

“AN HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE SPANISH REVOLUTION,” &c.

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“I cannot, indeed, conceive a more delightful contemplation, how much more any effort to realize it! than the return of the Greeks to their ancient character and renown. It is animating, therefore, to see the first traces that have as yet appeared of probable resurrection of a people of such high antiquity, buried for so many centuries in the womb of time, and every virtuous hope must be on the stretch, that the consummation of the miracle may be in our times!”—LORD ERSKINE.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR G. & W. B. WHITTAKER,  
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1824.

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**Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street.**

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TO

THOMAS GORDON, Esq.

OF CAIRNESS,

THIS IMPERFECT SKETCH OF EVENTS,

IN WHICH

HE HAS TAKEN SO DISTINGUISHED

AND

SO HONOURABLE A PART,

IS DEDICATED;

BY HIS DEVOTED AND AFFECTIONATE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

AT SEA, *April 5th*, 1824.

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN laying the following sketch of the Greek Revolution before the Public, I venture to observe that, if not so correct in its details as such a work might be rendered, it is the only one hitherto produced in this country, of which the materials have been collected on the spot, and from actors or eye witnesses of the events it professes to describe. In saying thus much, it is hoped that the fact of my having been almost incessantly occupied in promoting the Greek cause in different counties since my return to England, and of my being called upon to revisit Greece at a very short notice, will be considered as some

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palliation for the imperfections to be found in these pages, as well as the hurried manner in which I have been obliged to terminate the concluding chapter.

To those gentlemen of the Public press, with whom my humble efforts to promote the cause of Greece have brought me in communication, my most particular thanks are due; more especially for the ready and able support I experienced during my late visit to Bristol, Manchester, and Liverpool, for the purpose of exciting sympathy in favour of the struggling people of Greece. And here I may be allowed to observe that, while that class of the community, upon which the Greeks had every right to calculate for sympathy and support, seemed insensible to the appeal so often made, the conductors of the daily and periodical press have, with one or two exceptions, uniformly advocated a cause, of which the justice and importance must now be acknowledged by its bitterest enemies. In deploring the unaccountable fatality which could have prevented the great mass of that sacred profession from coming forward in aid of this most righteous cause, it would be an act of manifest injustice, were I to omit

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the names of Chatfield, Elliott and many others, whose exertions, whether literary or otherwise, do honor to the priesthood.

Nor can I close these remarks, without acknowledging my obligations to Mr. Gordon, of Cairness, whose extensive knowledge of all that is connected with the origin and progress of the Greek struggle, not less than his talents as a writer, fitted him more than any one else I could name, to become the historian of the revolution. To Mr. Barker, of Thetford, whose excellent letter to the Rev. Mr. T. S. Hughes, one of the earliest and most eloquent appeals in behalf of the Greek cause, does him so much credit, and whose unwearied exertions to excite the active sympathy of individuals throughout the country are entitled to the highest praise, my best thanks are also due; and if I have not availed myself of the valuable materials placed in my hands by him, to the extent I could have wished, it has arisen solely from the necessity of my leaving England before I could give full development to a subject which I had hoped to be enabled to illustrate in a manner much more ample and satisfactory.

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