

De l'Empire à la nation:
L'auto-représentation des Grecs et le poids de
l'héritage classique

ALEXANDRA SFOINI

Εθνικό Ίδρυμα Ερευνών, Athènes

Abstract

From Empire to Nation: the self-representation of the Greeks and the weight of classical heritage

After the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, the majority of the Greeks came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. During the first centuries of the conquest, the official ideology of the Sublime Porte, the Orthodox Church and the Greek notables advised submission to the regime as justified by providential history. In the 18th century, the Enlightenment and the French Revolution would play a key role in the formation of a new enlightened and national consciousness. The weight of classical heritage was crucial for the formation of a new national identity. Modern Greeks thought of themselves as worthy successors of their ancient ancestors, which enhanced and encouraged the national War of Independence. This itinerary from tradition to modernity is noted in the sources and the discourses of identity formulated.

Keywords: nation; tradition; modernity; identities; classical heritage, modern Greece.