You win some, you lose a lot

Greece in the first half of the Twentieth Century
General Questions about early 20th Century Greece

How did the territorial expansion of Greece affect the nature of the state?

How did the Greek state conceive of nationalism after the First World War?

What was the National Schism? How did it define Greek politics?
Greece Successful at War?

1909: Goudi Coup
1910: Venizelos solidified in local politics
1912-13: First Balkan War
1913: Second Balkan War
1914: First World War
1915: Entente Arrival at Thessaloniki
1917: National Schism
1920: Treaty of Sevres
1923: Treaty of Lausanne and Population Exchange
1923-35: Political Instability
1936: Metaxas
Goudi Military Coup

Military Disillusionment
Can we just win one war?
Economic mismanagement
1908 Young Turks

Initial Intransigence by George I

November 1910 Elections
300/362 Seats to Venizelos and the Liberals
First Balkan War

The Balkan States cooperate

Greece’s role in the conflict

Just the navy?

Problem: Greece and Bulgaria didn’t agree to territorial disposition

Treaty of London (1913)

King Constantine accepts surrender of Turkish Army in Thessalonike 26/10/12
Even the diaspora is engaged...
... and some monks
Second Balkan War

Bulgaria felt slighted, and attacked Greece and Serbia.

Romania and Ottoman Empire look to make gains.

Treaty of Bucharest (1913)
Legacies of the Balkan Wars

Territorial growth
Problem - a heterogeneous population

Nationalizing Policies
During the war: Ethnic Cleansing
After the war: Carrot and Stick

Captured Ottoman Artillery at Bitola
First World War and the Division of Greece

Outbreak of war
Question: which group to align?

Constantine I: A German sympathizer?

Venizelos: Entente
Megali Idea
First World War (Cont’d)

Entente arrival in Thessaloniki
  (Wasn’t Greece neutral?)

October 1916: Provisional Government of National Defence

1917: Greece joins the War with the Entente

French encampment in Thessalonike
Treaty of Sevres (1920)

Greece acquired sections of Asia Minor
Constantinople Internationalized

Not sufficient
Advance as early as 1919

December 1920
Elections

Pro Venizelos poster that advertised in exaggerated fashion the success at Sevres
Asia-Minor Campaign/Disaster

Initial Advance

Turkish National Movement
– Mustafa Kemal

Battle of Sakarya (1921)

August 1922 Counterattack
– Why collapse?

Great Fire of Smyrna

The burning of Smyrna
Legacies of the Asia Minor Campaign

Treaty of Lausanne (1923)

Megali Idea now dead

Integrating the refugees
  – Urbanization

Using the refugees for nationalizing purposes
  – Northern Greece
    • 1926: 86% of the population now Greek

Venizelos among members of the Greek delegation in Lausanne
Political Turmoil

Trial of the Six (1922)

The Struggle for the Monarchy – Coups and Countercoups

Greek Default (1932)

Return of the monarchy (1935) – 97.9% of Votes

1936 Greek Elections – Return of the KKE

Plastiras and Gonatas among troops
Leaders of the anti-royalist coup
Refugees rewrite Greek demography
The Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE)

Officially formed in 1918

Initially gained strength from the Asia Minor Refugees

Lost considerable support due to the Macedonian Question

Great Depression a boon for the organization – 1934 about face
Ioannis Metaxas

Previously a favourite of King Constantine

Proponent of the ideology of slavocommunism

Convinced George II of Imminent threat
4th of August Regime in Action

Anti-communism
- Maniadakis

Was it a fascist regime?
- EPON
- Role of History
  - Change from the past
- Autarkical principles

Negotiating 1930s European politics
- German clearing house system

Building a nationalist youth with EON
Greece at the outbreak of war

Hesitant relationship with Great Britain
– Was Metaxas pro-German?
– Safety guaranteed by Great Britain

Outbreak of war
– Greece remains neutral
Conclusions

Territorial expansion inadvertently made Greece a ‘model’ nation-state

Asia-Minor campaign had the inadvertent effect of reinforcing religion as a marker of Greek identity

National schism continued to define Greek politics moving forward