



AP[®] European History 2001 Sample Student Responses

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With the dramatic rise in nationalism that occurred during the late eighteenth century and nineteenth century, revolutionary ideas were widespread across the European area. As Greece began to prepare for their own revolution, people viewed the character and condition of the Greeks differently. The people of Greece had developed both a positive and negative reflection of their character. However, the condition of the country may have been enough influence to arouse strong feelings of pity from other nations.

To the Turks, the revolution seemed an act of groundless pretense. According to a Turkish governor, the entire ordeal was done in a completely drunken state. Likewise, the Turkish sultan referred to the rebels as common "robbers." His instructions were for the immediate destruction of those involved and the return of stolen goods, animals, and ransom money.

Such a view of Greek character would be expected from a Turkish ruler or citizen. However, surprisingly there was a strong objection the Greek reason by members of the English community as well as anti-revolutionary feelings by some Greeks.

An Englishman named James Dallaway wrote about the state of Greece with respect to Turkish rule. He wrote that the Greeks had experienced great toleration, but had not diverted back to the enlightened society of Ancient Greece. Dallaway called some Greeks denious and ignorant, while others he considered to be simply untrustworthy. Such a reaction

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parallels that of Turkish ~~rule~~ response. Both parties see the Greek revolutionary movement as unbased. A conservative Greek Christian even wrote about his own people being fake for simply adopting a western style. Such a comment would be expected given the fact that western European countries had experienced revolutions in previous years. This Greek's view of the revolution simply put it as imitation without understanding.

Despite many feelings that Turkish rule was just or tolerant, other people viewed the Greek country as a nation in a state of sorry affairs. An English writer, Sneyd Davis, described the condition of Athens in a poem. He described the shores as destroyed and abandoned, the streets as dark, the ancient buildings in ruin, and Plato's teaching replaced by Turkish ignorance. A French scholar described the similar heartache he felt when he wrote, "I...have seen the injuries of every kind which they have done to the sciences, the arts, and the human race."

The turmoil and bloodshed of the revolution was described by Englishman Edward Blaquiere in his novel Greek Revolution. The Turks had murdered the head of the Greek Orthodox Church which successfully fueled the bitter hatred felt by the Greeks. The result was further bloodshed on both sides. Once again, the condition of Greece is viewed in great unrest and pity. This view was eventually shared

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by many nations around Europe. Several artists created paintings and artwork featuring scenes representing the spirit of the Greek people. One such engraving shows wounded, scared, and dying Greek people huddled around a cross as Turkish soldiers come riding towards them. Greece is being "sacrificed" at the hands of Turkish leadership.

European recognition of the destruction of Greece would eventually bring about help for the Greek people. Contrasting some earlier opinions about the nature and character of Greece, many nations began to support the revolutionary movement begun by Greek exiles who let out a cry for freedom. ~~The~~ The exiles proclaimed, "The hour has approached, O Greeks, for the liberation of our motherland!" The revolution then becomes the work of the righteous, and Greece sends out a cry to Europe for aid. The attitude towards Greece had obviously shifted to a more positive outlook. English poet Percy Bysshe Shelly wrote, "We are all Greeks. Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their roots in Greece." As people realized this, their perception of the character of Greeks shifted.

While Greeks maintained much of their culture even after Turkish rule began, many of the beautiful art created during the Golden Age was destroyed. People of Europe saw this condition that the Greeks were living in, which was described as being in

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ruins, and felt great compassion and pity. While many questioned the character and intent of the Greek revolution, the majority of opinions in regard to the independence of Greece were seeded in an acknowledgement of the injustice of the Turkish rule.

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In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Greeks living in the Ottoman empire were subject to oppression. However, the Greeks were unhappy with their conditions. Many others (besides the Greeks) (The Ottoman Empire) including Greek nationalists and foreigners also pitied the Greeks in that region. It was these sympathetic feelings which fostered ideas of freedom and independence for the Greeks. Naturally, the Ottoman Turks were opposed to this idea.

"Go, search for Athens..." ^{urged writer} ~~David~~ Sneyd Davis in a poem to Dr. Thomas Taylor. In other words, Davis was saying the Greeks should have freedom and not be forced to deal with the constraints of the Turks. (Doc 1)

Greek exiles in Italy agreed with Davis. In the pamphlet "a word about Freedom" Greeks are told to resist the Ottomans, hence seek liberty because the Turks are imposing injustice. (Doc 6) Claude Etienne Savary,

a French scholar of both Greek & Arabic stated he "would wish to excite all Europe to combine against these Turks who have crushed the Greek nation." He also held the biased opinion that the Ottomans had done the Greeks wrong & Greeks deserve their freedom. (Doc 3)

Alexander Maurocordato in the "declaration to the Christian Powers" says that "In a word, humanity, religion, interest all plead in their favor." He meant the Greeks in this statement. He was another person who held the belief that the strong determined

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Greeks should have liberty, (Doc 6) ^{This all notions for} ~~of the~~
^{green} ~~independence~~ Greeks are often cited as big benefactors in Europe's development. According to Alexander Kappagiou the Greeks are very receptive people. They don't judge foreigners and are more than willing to contribute. ^(poor) This is all despite the repression they faced from the Turks. Percy Bysshe Shelley an English poet agreed. He say "We are all Greeks." In other words we have taken a lot from their society and culture. Therefore ~~Greece~~ Greece should have it independence. (Doc 7)

The Greeks were subject to a lot of wrong doing at the hands of the Turks. Mustapha III a Turkish sultan ordered his governing in N. Greece to repress raids by the Greeks. Although the Greeks had reason for the revolt, this sultan sought only to crush the rebellion and not take further action at the root of the problem. (Doc 2) Edward Blaquiere, an Englishman, also spoke of Greek revolts. This was in response to ^{the revolt when} "the murder of the head of Greek orthodox church" occurred. This is an additional example of how the Greeks tried to strike back after the Ottoman Turks did something wrong ^{to them}. ~~(Doc 3)~~ It is ~~because~~ because of the Turks tight rope on the Greeks that these revolts occurred. The government continued to deny liberty to the

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Greeks ~~calling~~ them "atavistic" and "diabolical", according to Turkish provincial governor, Vahid Pasha, (Doc 9) Leaders like him, who thought ^{that} Greek liberation was ridiculous. Government officials ~~were~~ would even go as far as to kill ~~many~~ Greeks. (Doc 11) The Ottoman ~~govt~~ government was obviously opposed to Greek liberation, thinking the Greeks were devilish and animalistic. It is clear ~~that~~ the Turks felt this condition of oppression was right ~~for~~ for the Greeks.

This rival between the ~~greek~~ Turks and the Greeks (for their freedom) ended in 1828 when the Greeks gained independence. Through the ^{bravery} ^{and} ^{help} sympathy of ~~many~~ a wide base of support, Greeks achieved emancipation despite all other wise efforts of the Ottoman Turks. ~~and~~ Those supporting the Greeks against the ~~greek~~ Turks ultimately won out.