

The Greek-Americans and Balkan Wars 1912-13: Helping the old homeland

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1.0 Introduction

This study is about the reception and preparation of the Greek-American community to the Balkan Wars 1912-13 which also raised the issue of ethnic identity and divided loyalties between the old homeland and the adopted one. The Greeks, who migrated to the U.S during the period 1880-1910, were very anxious to maintain their ethnic identity and close ties with the old homeland (*patrida*) in a hostile environment dominated by sentiments of xenophobia and racial prejudice.

Heece, Greek-Americans showed their patriotism and loyalty to fight for their *patrida* against the Ottoman Empire during the Balkan Wars 1912-13. They would have followed the events of the Balkans through the pages of their popular Greek language newspapers including *Athena*, *Loxias*, and the *Greek Star* published in Chicago (Illinois) and *Atlantis*, *Pan Hellenic* and *Satyros* in New York City , *Patris* in Lowell (Massachusetts), *Ergatis* in Manchester (New Hampshire) *Enosis* in Pittsburg (Pennsylvania) , Phos in *Salt Lake City* (Utah) and *Eirenikos* and *California* in San Francisco which reported on the war clouds gathering in a region described as “the powder keg of Europe.” The *Atlantis* published as a daily newspaper was by far the largest circulating Greek paper in the US with copies sold approaching 30,000.¹

Educated Greeks who spoke English probably kept up-to-date on Balkan affairs through the pages of both American and Greek-American newspapers. This article will not discuss the actual Balkan conflict but will focus on U.S mainstream newspapers reporting how ordinary Greeks living in New York City, Illinois and Indiana mobilized into action to the Balkan conflict. They reported also on the important role played by Greek-American organizations and Greek Consuls organizing public meetings and inspiring the Greek community into action.²

¹ Thomas Burgess, *Greeks in America*, Sherman, French & Company, Boston, 1913, pp.67&69; S. Victor Papacosma, The Greek press in America, *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora*, Vol. V, no.4, Winter, 1979, pp.48-9 & 56; N.W. Ayer and Son's, *American Newspaper and Directory 1912*, N.W Ayer and Son, Philadelphia, 1912, pp.83,169, 175,392,595, 628, 643 and 942; Paul Koken, Theodore N. Constant and Seraphim G. Canoutas, *A History of the Greeks in the Americas 1453-1938*, Proctor Publications, Ann Arbor, Michigan, p.229

² The vast majority of the American newspapers used in this study other than the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times* and *Christian Science Monitor* have been extracted from *Chronicling America*, Historic American newspaper via the Library of Congress website.

The Pan-Hellenic Union with its chapters throughout the US played a very important role in helping to mobilize Greek-Americans who wanted to fight in the Balkan Wars and also raised funds for the war effort. Many Greek-Americans did their military service in Greece before migrating to the U.S and their past military training proved a valuable asset for the Greek army's triumphs over the Ottoman Empire.

It should be noted that the American Red Cross and "other" Red Cross societies raised money to assist the relief efforts of the Greek, Bulgarian and Serbian Red Cross societies and Turkish Red Crescent.

There is no clear cut evidence to support the notion as to how many exactly Greek-Americans repatriated participating in the Balkan campaigns and how many of them decided to remain in Greece at the end of hostilities. However estimates range from 30,000-40,000 men who volunteered to fight in the Balkans. Those who returned to America were greeted as heroes by their respective communities and quickly resumed their jobs and business activities.

1.1 Background of Greeks in America at the time of the Balkan Wars.

The great majority of the Greeks who lived in the United States in the period under review were of peasant background. They lived mainly in small villages and mountainous areas of Greece working as shepherds and small farmers with many of them being illiterate. The great wave of Greek migration was between 1880-1920 where over 370,000 of them settled in almost every corner of the United States.³ This figure excluded Greeks from Turkey, Egypt, Cyprus, Rumania and other parts of the Mediterranean.

Chicago and New York had the largest Greek concentration of any US cities with 15,000 and 20,000 respectively. In these two cities, Greeks owned restaurants, shoeshine parlors, shoe repair, florist, confectionary, ice cream parlors, hotel business, street peddlers selling fruit, barbershops, coffee-houses and importers.

The Greeks of New England (Massachusetts and Maine) were unskilled labourers employed in carpet, cotton spinning and shoe factories. In the mid-West and western regions, labour agents (padrones) played a critical role in the hire of Greeks on railroad, waterfront, construction and mining jobs in Iowa, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. ⁴ The Greek 'padrone' system involved an individual who usually was an old

³ For a comprehensive study on the life of early Greeks see Burgess (1913), Theodore Saloutos (1963) *The Greeks in the United States*, Harvard University; A. M. Tamis (2006) *Greeks in Latin America*, Ellinika Grammata, Athens; also A. M. Tamis (2014), *Macedonian Hellenes in Oceania*, (2014); also M. G. Kassotis (2014), *The Dodecanesian presence in America*, Stegi Grammaton kai Tecnon Dodekanisou, Athens.

⁴ Andrew T. Kopan , Ch.9 Greek survival in Chicago, in Peter d'Alroy Jones [ed], *Ethnic Chicago*, Wm B. Eerdman's Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995, pp.262, 276-7,280 &283; Charles C.Moskos, *Greek Americans, struggle and success 2nd ed*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, NJ,1990, pp.23-5,123-6 &156; JP Xenides, *The Greeks in America*, George H. Doran &Co, New York, 1922, pp.81-4; Thomas Burgess, *Greeks in*

immigrant who acted as a labour contractor finding work for new immigrants for an employer. In return, the contractor would extract a monthly fee from the wages of workers for his services. Sometimes workers were required to pay rent for accommodation provided by the employer and purchase goods from the company store where these expenses were deducted from their wages. A good example was Leon Skliris who “controlled access to nearly all mining and railroad jobs in Utah.”⁵ These immigrant workers were exploited by both the labour agent and employer.

During the period 1880-1920, the first wave of Greek immigrants to the U.S were predominately young males, from Greek rural areas and unskilled labourers from the urban centres, who maintained their ethnic identity and customs in a strange land. They preserved their ethno-linguistic and cultural identity establishing the conventional infrastructure that assisted Greeks in the Diaspora to display their loyalty to the Hellenic legacies during their 4,000 long history: at home they used exclusively the Greek, set up Orthodox Churches, Greek schools, fraternities, coffee-houses (*kafenion*), funding their own newspapers, and living in isolated and secluded linguistic and cultural clusters, their neighbourhoods known as Greek-towns. The *kafenion* was a social meeting place for Greeks to discuss politics of the old world, drink coffee, meet friends, read Greek-American newspapers and speak their language. The first generation of Greek immigrants wanted to their children to learn and speak Greek and also maintain the customs and traditions of the *patrida*. They very proud of their ancient history and saw themselves as inheritors of ancient Greece and Byzantium.⁶

The collapse of the price of Greece's principal export, currants in 1893, due to the imposition of high duties by France on Greek imports had a marked impact in the economic fortunes of many small Greek cultivators. Many of them migrated to America in the hope of making their fortunes. Economic gain was the driving force behind the transatlantic journey to America.⁷ Once settled in America, these immigrants wrote letters to their families and friends in Greece telling them of economic opportunities and encouraging male relatives to follow them. The ratio of Greek men to women entering the U.S was

America, Sherman Franks & Co, Boston, 1913, Ch.6; Henry Pratt Fairchild, *Greek Immigration to America*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1911, pp.133, 138-9, 147-50 & 258; Leara D. Rhodes, *The Ethnic Press: Shaping the American dream*, Peter Lang Publishing, New York, 2010, p.101; see also Saloutos (1963); also Tamis (2014).

⁵ Gunther Peck, Reinventing Free labour: Immigrant Padrones and Contract Labourers in North America, 1885-1925, *Journal of American History*, Vol.83, no.3, December, 1996, p.848; Phillip J. Mellinger, *Race and Labour in Western Copper*, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1995, pp. 94, 103, 107, and 111; Helen Zeese Papanikolas, Life and Labour among the Immigrants of Bingham County, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol.33, no.4, Fall 1965, pp.294-8

⁶ Andrew T.Kopan, Ch.9 Greek survival in Chicago, in Peter d'Alroy Jones [ed], *op cit*, pp.286-7; Theodore Saloutos, The Greeks of Milwaukee, *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Vol.53, no.3, Spring, 1970, pp.182-87; Ann W. Ellis, The Greek community in Atlanta, 1900-1923, *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Vol.58, no.4, Winter, 1974, pp.402-03; Theodore Saloutos, *The Greeks in the United States*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1964, pp.78-80. Hereafter cited as *The Greeks in the United States*

⁷ Moskos, *op cit*, p.10-11; John S. Koliopoulos and Thanos M. Veremis, *Modern Greece. A history since 1821*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, p.61; A. Andreades, The Currant crisis in Greece, *The Economic Journal*, Vol.16, no.61, (Mar., 1906), pp.41-2 in http://www.arts.yorku.ca/hist/tgallant/documents/andreadescurrantcrisis_000.PDF (accessed October 13, 2014)

around 20 to 1 in the period under investigation.⁸ These letters encouraged chain migration when an individual brought family members and friends to join him in America. However, these Greeks had no intention of settling permanently in the US other than making their economic fortunes and returning to their home villages by flaunting their wealth.⁹

America may have been paved with gold for some Greeks who ran successful businesses, however there was a dark side where Greeks faced racism, intolerance, xenophobia and discrimination from Americans. The Americans viewed Greeks with suspicion as the latter wasn't interested in adopting American customs, they congregated in a certain neighbourhoods of a city or town and did not want to learn English. From an economic standpoint, the American Federation of Labour considered Greeks and other South East Europeans as cheap unskilled labour who threatened wages and the standard of living of American workers. There was even talk of curbing Greek immigration but nothing ever came of this.¹⁰ This provides the background to the anti-Greek riots against Greek owned businesses and strikes by miners and lumber workers which took place just before the outbreak of the Balkan Wars.

The anti-Greek riots against Greek businesses occurred in Roanake (Virginia) and Omaha (Nebraska) in 1907 and 1909 respectively. In the former case, the cause of the dispute was over money between Greek restaurant employee and an American customer. With emotions running high a mob attacked nine Greek restaurants and three shoe shine parlors and two Syrian businesses.¹¹ The latter event occurred after a police officer was sent out to arrest a Greek named John Masourides for vagrancy but on the way to the police station Masourides pulled out a gun and killed the officer. However there were tensions simmering below the surface as local Americans regarded Greeks as unwelcome residents as they worked cheap, did not mix, insulted women, would not make good citizens and Q Street became Greektown.

The murder triggered an anti-Greek riot in Omaha where many Greek businesses were looted and destroyed by the mob. Some Greeks were beaten and injured by the angry rabble. A petition and newspaper articles appearing in the Omaha press did not help the situation either. Many Greeks left Ohama seeking a new place to start over again including

⁸ Stavros T. Constantinou, Ethnic residential shifts: the Greek population of Akron, 1930-2005, *GeoJournal*, (2007), pp.259-60; Moskos, *op cit.*, p.27

⁹ Nancy Kleniewski and Alexander Thomas, *City Change and Conflict 4th ed*, Wadsworth, Belmont, CA, 2011, pp.172-4; John D. Buenker, *The Progressive Era, 1893-1914, Vol.4*, Worzalla Publishing Co, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, pp. 204-06; Moskos, *op cit.*, p.12; Fairchild, *op cit.*, p.87

¹⁰ *The Greeks in the United States*, pp.62-3

¹¹ 'Roanake Greeks appeal to Consul for protection', *Tazewell Republic*, July 18, 1907, p. 1; 'Will Protect Greeks...Protest to State Department', *Daily Press*, July 16, 1907, p.8; 'Roanake Greeks appeal to Consul', *The Times Dispatch*, July 15, 1907, p.1; 'Twenty Indicted. Roanake Grand Jury act in Greek riot case', *Washington Herald*, July 18, 1907, p.1; For history of the Greek community in Richmond Virginia, see Nicole Kappatos, *Greek immigration to Richmond, Virginia, and the Southern Variant Theory*, Masters Thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of History, Richmond, Virginia, May 2014 in https://digarchive.library.vcu.edu/bitstream/handle/10156/4969/Kappatos_Nicole_MS.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed on October 17, 2014)

workers who requested their pay from the meatpacking company. The Omaha incident triggered further anti-Greek riots on a smaller scale in Kansas City (Kansas) and Dayton (Ohio). In 1915, damages of \$40,000 were paid to the Greek Government for the Omaha riot.¹² These two anti-Greek riots showed openly the American hostility and disdain towards Greeks.

On the industrial front, Greeks were involved in lumber and mining strikes in Grays Harbor, (Washington State), Bingham (Utah) and Ely (Nevada) in 1912. At Grays Harbor lumber workers went out on strike in March seeking higher wages with the mill owner ignoring their claim. It was dubbed "the Greek strike" by the *Aberdeen Herald* showing a disdain for Greeks and other newly arrived immigrants on racial grounds. Anyone who turned an offer of employment by the mill owner was to be deported from the town. This gave the locals the opportunity to force 100 Greeks to leave the region.¹³

A miners' strike in Bingham (Utah) was over higher wages which the Western Federation of Labour (WEF) tried to negotiate with the mine owners:Utah Copper in September. Whilst the Greeks supported the strike, they would only return to work so long as 'labour contractor', Leon Skliris was dismissed and prepared to work for the same rate of pay. Utah Copper dismissed him but the Greeks tried to stop the company from bringing in strike breakers. However a battle followed "between strike breakers and deputy sheriffs and strikers" which left five men wounded. One Greek wounded died two weeks later. The strike ended in November with the miners only receiving half the increase that the WEF tried to negotiate with Utah Copper.¹⁴

In Nevada, the strikers there wanted higher wages too. It is interesting to note that on June 7, 1907 the *White Pine News* considered the Greek workers to be of "inferior intelligence" and unsuitable for citizenship. It stated that " we welcome intelligent, industrious foreigners and we will always welcome them, but our gates should be closed to

¹² John G. Bitzes, The anti-Greek riot of 1909-South Omaha, *Nebraska History*, 51 (1970), pp.202-09 in http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/1970-2-Anti_Greek_Riot.pdf (accessed October 17, 2014); *The Greeks in the United States*, pp.66-9;Paul A.Gilje, *Rioting in America*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1999, pp.128-9; 'Mob attacks Greeks...', *Omaha Daily Bee*, February 22, 1909, p.1; 'Three Orators explain...Glad insolent Greeks are gone', *Omaha Daily Bee*, February 23, 1909, pp.1-2; 'Rioters attacked a store. Mob at Dayton .Demolished the front of a Business house owned by Greeks', *Marion Daily Mirror*, February 23, 1909, p.2; 'Rioters attacked a store', *Perrysburg Journal*, February 26, 1909, p.2

¹³ Philip J. Dreyfus, The IWW and the limits of Inter-Ethnic Organizing, *Labour History*, 38 , Fall, 1997, pp.457-61; 'Strike closes tow big mills...Greeks resist arrest', *Aberdeen Herald*, March 18, 1912 p.1; 'Foreigners are sent away', *Aberdeen Herald*, April 1, 1912, pp.1-2; For a discussion of class struggle and class formation in Grays Harbor with special focus on International Workers World (IWW), see Aaron A. Goings, *Red Harbor: Class, Violence, and Community in Grays Harbor, Washington*, PhD Dissertation, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, 2011, 513ff in <http://libcom.org/files/redharbor.pdf> (accessed October 17, 2014)

¹⁴ Helen Papanikolas, Toil and Rage in a new land. The Greek immigrants in Utah, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol.38, no.2, Spring 1970, pp.121-33; 'Complaint against Skliris refused', *Evening Standard*, October 4, 1912, p.11; 'Guard fires on strikers. Greek Miner at Bingham shot at Bingham during fight with deputies', *Evening Standard*, October 11, 1912, p.1; 'Test comes at Bingham; Armed men in ambush to thwart strike breakers', *Salt Lake Tribune*, September 20, 1912, pp.1-2; 'Striking Miners fire on Sheriffs', *New York Times*, September 19, 1912, p.6

barbarians." The article shows clearly the anti-Greek and racist stance by the press in White Pine County and the loathing of the "other." During the strike two Greek miners were shot dead.¹⁵ It is clear that Greek miners action ended the padrone system and also sought to improve their wages despite the difficulties which they encountered.

At the time of the Balkan wars 1912-13, it is estimated that some 42,000 Greeks from the US offered their services for the mother land. Many of them left their businesses and jobs in great numbers to hurry back to fight for Greece.¹⁶ It is difficult to ascertain the actual number of Greek Americans who participated in the Balkan wars; but their numbers boosted significantly the fighting strength of the Greek military and naval forces. The *Christian Science Monitor* called the Greek-Americans soldiers "magnificent", "efficient" and proved a "large factor in the Balkan struggle."¹⁷

2. Pan Hellenic Union and the mobilization of Greeks in New York City

In early October 1912, the *New York Times* published a number of articles highlighting that war was imminent in the Balkans. The Greeks who read English would have followed such stories with interest and would want to volunteer to fight for their homeland against the Ottoman Empire.¹⁸ Several days later, the same newspaper suggested that possibly 75,000 Greeks could return to Greece from the United States. It quoted two royal decrees which the Greek legation received in Washington . The first one stated that all reservists who served between 1900-1909 in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and a part of 8th military divisions between 1896-1899 were being called up. However the second decree mobilized all non-commissioned officers in the infantry, artillery, and light infantry between 1896-1899 to report for active duty.¹⁹ Any reservist who failed to enlist faced jail and could be banished permanently from returning to Greece.

The Pan Hellenic Union was the prime Greek-American organization that handled all enlistments for the Balkan Wars. This organization was established in 1908 in Boston

¹⁵ E. D. Karampetsos, Nativism in Nevada: Greek Immigrants in White Pine County, *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora*, Vol.24.1 (1998), General Issue, pp.66-7; 'Mine Strikers in ugly mood.Greeks...at Ely, Nevada using guns and clubs on those who would work', *The Holt County*, October 18, 1912, p.6;'Martial Law in Ely. Warrants out for mine officers over murder of Two Greek strikers', *New York Times*, October 18, 1912, p.1; In Pocatello, Idaho the Greeks were "restricted to segregated seating in the theatres and could not live in most neighborhoods." see Dan Georgakas, The Greeks in America, *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora*, Vol.14 nos.1 &2, Spring-Summer 1987, p.22; For history of Pocatello, see Mary Katsilometes Scott, The Greek Community in Pocatello, 1890-1941, *Idaho Yesterdays*, 28,(Fall 1984), pp.29-36

¹⁶ Michael Walzer, *The politics of ethnicity*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1990, p.113; Andrew T. Kopan , Ch.9 Greek survival in Chicago, in Peter d'Alroy Jones [ed], *op cit*, p.296 ; 'Greeks off to war desert hotel jobs', October 22, *New York Times*, 1912, p.2

¹⁷ 'American Greeks in Balkan War are called magnificent', *Christian Science Monitor*, December 19, 1912, p.2 & 'Greek-Americans large factor in the Balkan struggle', May 28, 1914, p. 6

¹⁸ 'Danger Spot of Europe. An outbreak in the Balkans has been feared for many years'; 'Ottoman Army to be mobilized .Porte refuses Serbia's demand...' & 'War is begun in the Balkans', October 1, 2 & 4, *New York Times*, 1912, pp.3.1 &1

¹⁹ '75,000 Greeks may return. That number of residents of America are effected by Royal decrees', October 6, *New York Times*, 1912, p.4

whose aims were to assist Greeks in distress and to promote the interests of Hellenism in the United States. It acted like an "agency" of the Greek State to ensure the immigrants didn't become Americanized. The appointment of Lambros Coromilas, as Greek Minister in Washington, was part of the Greek government's strategy to work with the Pan Hellenic Union to ensure that Greeks in America remained loyal to the homeland. It was hoped that the Pan Hellenic Union with its branches all over the United States would unite all Greeks under its banner. They got a rude shock when it tried to impose a \$12 head tax on all Greeks hoping to raise \$2.5 million in 1910. All collected funds would go directly to the Pan Hellenic Union in Boston to cover its expenses with the balance being remitted to the Greek treasury in Athens. Resolutions were passed denouncing such a move.²⁰ Even at this early stage, it showed that such a monolithic organization would find it difficult to unite Greeks who identified themselves with their regional fraternal organizations.²¹

On October 6 and 7, the *New York Times* and *the Sun* (New York) reported that the Greek ship *Macedonia* had sailed for Piraeus laden with large artillery and ammunition from Bethlehem steel works and was not permitted under US law to carry passengers since it carried explosives. However, the Greek Consul General in New York, Demetrios Botassi had arranged for the transportation of 600 reservists on the Austro-American liner *Martha Washington* for Patras. Accommodation was organized for 550 reservists in boarding houses near the harbour to await the next ship to transport them to Greece.²² Over the next couple of weeks, Greek ships *Macedonia*, *Patras* and *Themistocles*, Fabre line *Madonna* and *Venezia*, Cunard liner *Ivernia* along with Austro-American ships were taking Greek reservists from New York and Boston. Those residing in Philadelphia, the Mid-West and other parts of the United States would later join the exodus to the Balkans. Meanwhile Botassi was busy registering individuals with previous military service, checking military papers showing length of service and informing reservists of any new regulations.²³

²⁰ Yiannis G. S. Papadopoulos, 'The Role of Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Class in Shaping Greek American Identity, 1890-1927: A Historical Analysis', pp. 16-17 in

https://www.academia.edu/1098815/The_Role_of_Nationalism_Ethnicity_and_Class_in_Shaping_Greek_American_Identity_1890-1927, (accessed October 14, 2014); 'Greek Co-operation urged Minister Coromilas Counsels them to obey the laws', January 17, *The Philadelphia Record*, 1910, p.4; 'To Tax Greeks in America', January 18, *Boston Evening Transcript*, 1910, p.2; 'Greeks stand by Minister. Denounce report of Head Tax on Hellenic natives in this country', January 24, *Washington Post*, 1910, p.8; Burgess, *op cit*, pp.64-5

²¹ Yiannis G. S. Papadopoulos outlines the local divisions emerging in the Greek-American community in New York between the Ralli and Vlasto factions. He also mentions the role of Coromilas who misjudged these local divisions and centers of power. Vlasto who published the *Atlantis* used the columns of his newspaper to argue that the Greek Government had no business meddling in the affairs of Greek-American community and supported immigrants becoming naturalized citizens. See Yiannis G. S. Papadopoulos, *op cit*, pp.16-18

²² 'Six Hundred Greeks sail. But they are barred from the Macedonia, carrying war supplies', October 6, *New York Times*, 1912, p.4; '600 Greeks will leave to-day to fight the Turks....', October 7, *The Sun*, 1912, p.4

²³ 'Young Greeks in America push home to fight', October 20, *New York Times*, 1912, p.SM3; 'Greeks at Chicago', October 14, *Salt Lake Telegram*, 1912, p.8; '300 Greeks kneel to pray, Before departing Davenport, Iowa...', October 23, *The Quincy Daily*, 1912, p.1; On October 24 and 25, 1912 the *Argentina*, *Patris* and *Santa Ana* (Fabre line) sailed with about 1500 Greek reservists (approximately 500 per ship) for Greece. As the demand increased for Greeks seeking passage to Greece, shipping companies took advantage of this by increasing their fares. See 'Under the heavy Balkan War cloud. Men among New York's Greeks eager to fight for country', November 3, *The Sun*, 1912, 3rd section, p.10

The Pan Hellenic Union moved its headquarters from Boston to New York since all Greeks departed from that city. It swung immediately into action where “Greek patriots” and “American sympathizers” contributed \$70,000 to help the Greek cause. Many Greeks visited the temporary headquarters of the Pan Hellenic Union seeking information about Greek affairs and also contributing funds. Many poor Greeks gave what they could afford to assist their homeland. The Pan Hellenic Union was elated at the Montenegrin successes over the Turks.²⁴ Such victories could only entice many young Greeks to enlist for service.

Besides its enlistment activities, the Pan Hellenic Union conducted public meetings where a variety of speakers addressed huge audiences regarding the Balkan conflict and rallying Greeks to do their patriotic duty for their homeland. A public meeting conducted at the Amsterdam Opera House attracted an audience of 5,000 with another 1,000 standing outside due to insufficient seating inside the auditorium. The gathering is described as a “wildly enthusiastic affair” with many volunteers ready to go to Greece. Dr Constantine Papamichalopoulos, General Manager of the Pan Hellenic Union, told the attendees to do their patriotic duty for their homeland either by fighting or contributing funds and that “Crete must be freed.” It was reported that the Union contributed \$15,000 and the owner of the Athens hotel gave \$500 to launch the fundraising process. Constantine Zampasulis, editor of the Greek-American weekly *Satyros*, was overcome with emotion after reading out a poem. Then came the turn of Rev. Curculis, the pastor of the Greek Orthodox Church, who gave a rousing address couched in religious terms appealing to the patriotism of all Greeks. He said:

Sons and daughters of God. It is your duty to fight for the sake of God and your country. Constantinople once was held by the Christians, but now is occupied by the infidel Turks. Your brethren in Macedonia, Albania, Constantinople, and everywhere that the Turks rule are suffering from their atrocities. These Turks are at the same time the foes of all civilization. Stand up and fight them for the sake of God, your country and civilization.

The speech is about fighting for God, King and country and also liberating the unredeemed Greeks living outside the borders of the small Hellenic Kingdom. It raised the issue of the great idea which was one of the central tenets of Greek foreign policy by expanding its frontiers.²⁵

The occupation of Thessaloniki by Greek troops on November 8 and the triumphal entry of Crown Prince Constantine would have fired up the imagination of Greeks everywhere.²⁶

²⁴ ‘Raises \$70,000 for Greeks. Pan-Hellenic Union’s fund includes many gifts from the poor’, October 12, *New York Times*, 1912, p.3; For Montenegrin military reports, see ‘Montenegro’s declaration’ October 9, *New York Times*, 1912, p.6; October 11 & 13, *New York Times*, 1912, pp.1 & 18; ‘Big war now inevitable...King Nicholas of Montenegro declares a ‘Holy Undertaking’..Battle confirmed’, October 10, *The Sun*, 1912, p.1; ‘Montenegrins defeat Turks in battle’, October 10, *New York Tribune*, 1912, p.1

²⁵ ‘New York Greeks anxious for war, raise \$20,000 at one meeting and are ready to go home to serve’, October 7, *New York Times*, 1912, p.4; ‘...Pan Hellenic holds its largest meeting in America. 5,000 to go within week’, October 7, *The Sun*, 1912, p.4

²⁶ ‘Thessaloniki falls...’, & ‘Prince enters Thessaloniki. Heir to Greek throne leads division into the captured city’, November 9 & 11, *New York Times*, 1912, pp.3&2

This was reflected at another meeting organised by the Union at Grand Central Palace “to celebrate the Allies and Greek victories.” Botassi introduced US Admiral Colvocoresses to the audience. The admiral told them that he wanted the Turks driven out of Europe and that the Greeks should cast their past glories aside. Their disunity led to their downfall but “you are now united.” Other attendees included: Augustinos Synodinos, President of the Union in Boston, Harilaos Economidi, owner of the daily Greek newspaper, *Pan Hellenic*, Constantine Papamichalopoulos, Dr Thanos Alexian, C.P Ralli and Rev Curculis. Synadinos and Botassi announced that the Greek Government through finance minister, Kyriakos Diomidis had authorized a war loan for a million dollars to be raised in the US. This loan would be covered by bonds issued to lenders who would receive no interest after 10 years.²⁷ It showed the role of the Union using its influence in the Greek community and working closely with the Greek Consulate to raise funds for the war effort.

On February 12, 1913 a report titled ‘When Greek meets Greek’ appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript* suggesting that monies collected for the Greek war loan might have been misappropriated. Eleftherios Anastastos and Greeks of Boston had filed an injunction through their lawyer Walter F. Frederick against the Union to stop them raising any further funds immediately for the Greek war effort. Some \$200,000 had been raised in New England which was then handed over to Papamichalopoulos. There were two reasons which irked the plaintiffs. Firstly, the Union had gone beyond its original charter of being a charitable social organization by raising funds for political purposes. There was no problem in raising money to pay transportation costs of Greek reservists to Greece; and as subscribers and members of the Union, they demanded Papamichalopoulos to show an account of how their money was being expended. To make matters worse, Papamichalopoulos departed for Greece who failed to produce the information sought by the plaintiffs.

The counsel for the plaintiffs would refer this matter to the Tax Commissioner and Attorney General of Massachusetts “for purpose of instituting proceedings to determine by what warrant the defendant has raised money for war uses.”²⁸ At this stage no evidence has been found to see if the Massachusetts authorities instituted formal proceedings against Michalopoulos. His departure from the U.S would have created suspicion in the minds of the plaintiffs thinking that he may absconded with their funds.

3. The American Red Cross and “other” Red Cross societies

Whilst the Union was actively engaged assisting the Greek war effort, the American Red Cross would play its part, too. On October 4, 1912 a Red Cross committee established in Athens cabled the Pan Hellenic Union that war was imminent and “ to set the machinery of

²⁷ ‘U.S Admiral wants Turks driven out.’, November 11, *New York Times*, 1912, p.3; ‘War loan for Greece. Pan-Hellenic Union of New York to authorize to issue bonds’, November 11, *Washington Post*, 1912, p.5; ‘Greeks to raise big war fund in U.S’, *Christian Science Monitor*, November 13, 1912, p.14

²⁸ ‘When Greek meets Greek. An attempt made to have Pan Hellenic Union enjoined from collecting money’, February 12, *Boston Evening Transcript*, 1913, p.4; ‘Boston Greeks ask for an accounting’, *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 13, 1913 p.14

patriotism in motion." A second cable received on October 18 stated that "war is declared. Make appeal for funds." This communication was circulated to all Greek communities politicising funds for the Red Cross throughout the U.S. A New York Greek Red Cross committee was established consisting of DM Botassi, the Greek Consul-General in New York, Constantine Papamichalopoulos, and A.P Ralli as treasurer and secretary, to handle all monies collected for war relief. During the first week of its appeal the Greek Red Cross society raised \$7,000 from both Greeks and American sympathizers. A poor Greek woman sent 31 cents in stamps in an enclosed envelope towards the relief fund.²⁹

The American Red Cross (ARC) was concerned at the intense competition in raising money from "other" Red Cross committees operating in the US. It issued a formal statement that the A.R.C was the sole legitimate organization where funds could be raised for Balkan war relief. Other so-called Red Cross societies "where claiming to act in the name of the national committees of foreign countries" where in fact violating US federal law.³⁰

On August 22, 1911 President Taft who was also honorary president of A.R.C, put it in plain language regarding A.R.C's official position in fundraising. He said:

That the American Red Cross is the only volunteer society authorized by this Government to render aid to its land and naval forces in time of war; that any other society desiring to render similar assistance can do so only through the American National Red Cross.³¹

The news articles indicate that Greek Red Cross of New York probably may have bypassed the A.R.C by remitting its subscriptions directly to Greece.

Taft made a direct appeal, on behalf of the American Red Cross, to the American public to give generously to the wounded, sick and destitute because of the Balkan conflict. He stated that the medical resources available were inadequate to cope with the rising number of wounded and sick soldiers. The A.R.C would act with "impartiality" in its dealings "to all the combatants" irrespective of race, religion or creed. European nations sent surgeons and nurses to the battlefields but due to great distance the "American Red Cross will not send expeditions of trained personnel." Subscriptions could be sent to the American Red Cross in Washington, Jacob H. Schiff, Red Cross treasurer in New York City and to any local Red Cross chapter.³²

²⁹ 'Under the heavy Balkan War Cloud ...', November 3, *The Sun*, 1912, 3rd section, p.10; 'Red Cross appeal for funds. Greek Committee asks aid from the American people', October 20, *New York Times*, 1912, p.2; 'Stamps swell war fund. Greek Red Cross gets 'widow's mite', totalling 31 cents', November 1, *New York Times*, 1912, p.2

³⁰ 'Only one legal Red Cross. Other organizations have no right to use the name here', November 29, *New York Times*, 1912, p.2; 'Red Cross issues protest against rival collections', *Washington Post*, November 29, 1912, p.3

³¹ Sarah E. Pickett, *The American National Red Cross*, The Century Co, New York, 1923, p.17

³² 'American Red Cross, Appeal of President Taft and International Relief Board', ltr to editor, November 7, *New York Tribune*, 1912, p.8; 'Call for funds by Red Cross', November 9, *Boston Daily Globe*, 1912, p.4; 'Seeks aid. American Red Cross society wants contributors for Balkan relief', November 8, *Youngstown Vindicator*, 1912, p.7; *Washington Post*, November 10, 1912, p.11

The *New York Times*' in its two editorials 'Help needed in the Balkans' and 'A Pressing appeal' of November 11 and 21, 1912 respectively echoed President Taft's comments about America being too far away to send trained personnel but implored its readers "to lose no time in sending in generous subscriptions" and to "request that any subscription be devoted to the aid of any designated nationality will be needed."³³ The press was the only medium through which politicians or the A.R.C could appeal directly to the public for funds. Readers were given the choice to nominate either the Red Crescent or Red Cross or nationality where they wanted their money directed too.

Queen Olga of Greece made a direct appeal to a Greek-American newspaper in New York seeking assistance in the U.S. Breck Trowbridge, an architect, who was well known in Athens organized a committee to raise funds in New York. The committee included some prominent women such as Mrs Vanderbilt, Mrs William Douglas Sloane, Mrs Cornelius Vanderbilt and Mrs Breck Trowbridge. Breck Trowbridge and Demetre J.Vlasto were the two males on the committee. A fund was created under the name 'American fund for the relief of the destitute families of the Greek-Turkish war' to raise money for relief of destitute Greek women and children whose villages were burned by retreating Turkish forces. The appeal was authorized by Queen Olga and the Union of Greek women of Athens with the Greek Minister in Washington "attach[ing] the official seal to it." All collected funds would be transmitted via the A.R.C.

On November 18, *New York Times* published a story that the *Atlantis* newspaper had been running its own appeal for a month at the request of the Greek Crown Princess Sophia where its readers contributed \$95,541. It stopped its appeal once hearing of Trowbridge's fund. Furthermore it is not clear whether the funds raised by the *Atlantis* newspaper were transmitted to Trowbridge but the two amounts published in the *New York Times* are almost similar.³⁴

The A.R.C forwarded \$1.000 each to the Greek, Bulgarian and Turkish Red Cross and Red Crescent societies for war relief bringing the American contribution to a total of \$53,000. Queen Olga was "profoundly touched. Grateful to all generous givers" whereas Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria stated "am most grateful for generous gifts on behalf of the wounded soldiers."³⁵ The A.R.C was true to its charter of dispensing aid regardless of nationality or religion. As stated earlier, the A.R.C did not send any of its trained personnel to the Balkans; however, they were Greek-American and American women wishing to volunteer as nurses. The most prominent of these were Anna Coromilas (nee Crockrell), the American wife of Greek Foreign Minister Lambros Coromilas, Mrs William H.Draper, Secretary of New York County Chapter of Red Cross, Mrs Miltiadi Melachrino, wife of Vice President of Tobacco

³³ 'Help needed in the Balkans', & 'A pressing appeal', November 11 & 21, *New York Times*, 1912 pp.10 & 4

³⁴ 'Women and war victims. Fund of \$95,000 raised in New York for relief of sufferers', & 'Greeks here give liberally. Fund for relief of wounded soldiers swelled to \$95,541', November 16 & 18, *New York Times*, 1912, 1912 pp.3

³⁵ '\$3,000 more sent by Red Cross', & 'Queens thanked Americans', November 26 & December 6, *New York Times*, 1912, pp.3 & 2

Products Corporation & owner of M. Melachrino & Co, Mrs Marie Economidy, wife of one editors of the Greek daily *Pan Hellenic*, and Johanna Lymberopoulos.³⁶

Each of these women could help Greece in their own way. However the three Greek-American women were keen to create a corps of trained nurse to go to the Balkans. The three were prepared to use their time and money for the Greek cause. "Women deplore war", Lymberopoulos stated. She remembered many Greek women had died in the Greek-Turkish war of 1897 when trying to take care of the wounded. Whilst the Turks was the enemy, but assistance would be given to the wounded irrespective of their nationality or religion. Marie Economidy was a journalist in her own right where she travelled across the U.S to ascertain the condition of the Greek community. She was well known to Greek – American community leaders where she could encourage them to mobilize young Greek men to do their patriotic duty. On the other hand, Mrs Miltiadi Melachrino shared the same sentiments as Lymberopoulos and Economidy. At the time of the 1897 war, she lived in Egypt where she organized several corps of nurses and provided the necessary funds for them to be attached to the Greek army.³⁷ The author has found no evidence to show that these three Greek –American women actually put into the practice of establishing a corps of trained nurses for the Balkans.

Queen Olga and Princess Sophia were the chief patrons of the Greek Red Cross with the responsibility for raising funds and distribution of relief. Another member of the Greek royal family, Princess Andrew (Princess Alice of Battenberg), worked as a nurse in the second Balkan War between Greece and Bulgaria in 1913. She set up hospitals, organized supplies and cared for the wounded. Hetty Goldman, an archaeologist, is the only American woman "who served as a volunteer nurse in a Greek hospital."³⁸ The American Red Cross played an important role in raising funds and providing relief for soldiers and civilians of the Balkans.

³⁶ 'Under the heavy Balkan War Cloud', November 3, *The Sun*, 1912, 3rd section, p.10; Anna Coromilas (nee Crockrell) was the daughter of former US Senator Frank M. Crockwell who also was a member of Interstate Commerce Commission, see 'An American and Greek', July 6, *Palestine Daily Herald* (Palestine Texas), 1910, p.6; For Miltiade Melachrino, see 'D.G.Reid President', November 1, *New York Tribune*, 1912, p.13 & 'Reid Tobacco President', November 1, *New York Times*, 1912, p.16

³⁷ 'Women patriots of Greece flock to the battle standard', November 24, *San Francisco Call*, 1912, p.8; 'Greek women as army nurses', October 24, *Washington Post*, 1912, p.5; For a brief account of Marie Economidy's sojourn across the US, see Maria Sarantopoulou Ekonomidou, *The Greeks in America as I saw them, Journal of Hellenic Diaspora* in thesis.haverford.edu/dspace/bitstream/.../Economidou_20_1.pdf?...1 (accessed November 13, 2011)

³⁸ Barbara Sicherman *et al*, *Notable American Women Vol.4*, Belknap Publishing, Cambridge, MA, 1980, p.281; Gloria Teles Pushker *et al*, *Toby Belfer learns about heroes and martyrs*, Pelican Publishing Co, Gretna, 2009, p.67; Princess Andrew, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, www.oxforddnb.com.ezproxy.slv.vic.gov.au/view/article/66337 (accessed November 13, 2011); Papacosma, S. Victor. "The Greek Press In America". Pella Publishing Company. 1979-01.p. 50fn9 Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/10066/5208> (Accessed November 13,2011)

4. The Greeks in Chicago and surrounding towns of Illinois, Indiana and California mobilize for action

In Chicago, the Greek Consul was the main instigator in rallying his fellow countrymen as war clouds gathered in the Balkans. On October 4, 1912 the *Chicago Examiner* reported that two Greek residents George Petropoulos and John Agriostathis were engaged in drilling Greek American cadets in a hall located at Polk Street and Blue Island Avenue. The article identifies the two Greeks as “former members of the Greek army” who more than likely were ex-officers preparing their countrymen for the forthcoming conflict.³⁹ As the political situation continued to deteriorate in the Balkans, some 6,000 Greeks packed Hull House to hear to call to arms by the Greek Consul in Chicago, Nicholas Salopoulos. “When the Greek Military Company, headed by John Agriostathis brought forward the flag of Greece, there was pandemonium”, reported the *Chicago Examiner*. The Greek national flag was an important symbol which could be used to rally some 3,000 Chicago Greeks needed for the Greek army.⁴⁰

An executive committee composed of Consul Salopoulos, three Greek clergymen-L. Pegeas, A. Mandilaris and P. Panagopoulos and ice cream manufacturer, P. Rousutos was established to co-ordinate the raising of money “to cover the cost of transportation, equipment and mobilization of the forces.”⁴¹ Salopoulos was the first Greek Consul in Chicago (1898-1918) who served in the medical corps during the Greco-Turkish War 1897 and whose name was also listed under physicians and surgeons in the *Greek-American Guide and Business Directory 1911*. He was one of the owners of the weekly *Saloniki* and later *The Greek Press* and president of the Greek Educational Association established in 1908 which gave him a high profile in the Greek community of Chicago.⁴²

³⁹ ‘Greeks in Chicago Eager to defend native land’, October 4, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.2

⁴⁰ ‘Armies of the Balkans mobilizing for war’, October 1, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912; ‘Balkan States ready for war. Mobilization of troops in Servia and Bulgaria ordered by Governments’, October 1, *Chicago Tribune*, 1912, p.2; ‘Chicago Greeks Rush to arms’, *Chicago Examiner*, October 5, 1912, p.3; Jane Addams was a philhellene who encouraged the Greeks of Chicago to use Hull House for their social activities. As a pacifist, she permitted the Greeks to use its gymnasium for military training in readiness for the Balkan wars. A religious service and civil ceremony were held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and Hull House after the first contingent of Greeks who embarked for the Balkans. Addams attended the civil ceremony. See Andrew T. Copan, Ch.9 Greek survival in Chicago, in Peter d’Alroy Jones, op cit., pp.283-84, 296 & 298

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, Some background information on L. Pegeas and A. Mandilaris. The former is listed as Archimandrite Leon Pegeas, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, *Chicago Blue Book of Selected names of Chicago and Suburban Town for year ending 1912*, The Chicago Directory Company, Chicago, 1912, p.80 in www.archives.org/details/chicagobluebooko1912chic (accessed June 29, 2011; Mandilaris was “a pioneer priest serving Orthodox churches in Chicago. Rev Ambrose Mandilaris was known as an ‘empire builder’ because of his aggressiveness in founding churches. He served Holy Trinity and SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Churches in the early 20th century.” See Michael George Davros PhD, *The Greeks in Chicago*, Arcadia Publishing, Mt Pleasant, SC, 2009, p.68

⁴² Seraphim G. Canoutas, *Ellino-Amerikanikos Odigos (Greek-American Guide & Business Directory 1911)*, New York, p.428 See <http://abalinx.com/wordpress/pellana/files/2010/07/S.G.-Canoutas-Greek-American-Business-Directory-1911-Part-1-of-4.pdf> (accessed on June 28, 2011); Rivkah Shpak-Lisak, *Pluralism and progressives: Hull House and the new immigrants, 1890-1919*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1989, p.107

In addressing the large gathering, Salopoulos stated that “the present move would never subside until the cross of Greece once more waved over the Cathedral of St. Sofia in Constantinople, and the ancient supremacy of the Byzantine Empire is once more restored.”⁴³ The emotive language used by the Consul added a religious element to the forthcoming conflict which offered an opportunity to drive the Ottoman Turk out of Constantinople and to reclaim this historic city for Greece. Modern Greece could consider herself to be the rightful heir of the defunct Byzantine Empire. After this meeting, the Greek Consul issued a proclamation which was published in the *Chicago Examiner* on October 6, 1912 in both English and Greek appealing to the patriotism of his compatriots in Chicago. It stated:

Greece our mother country, is at this moment mobilizing her sons to fight the hated barbarian oppressor and all the reserves of the army are urged to hurry home and take up their arms. Five thousand of our countrymen Friday night met and made their arrangements for going home.

Three thousand of them will start to-morrow and thousands of others, sworn to the sacred flag and symbolizing the immortal Greek courage will go as soon as the executive committee is able to arrange transportation.

They have sworn to go back, win more wreaths of laurel, as the heroes of old, and in so doing write another golden page in our motherland’s glorious history.

The situation is a critical one and my trust is that every able man will make his earliest preparation to report for duty.

Nicholas Salopoulos, Consul of Greece to Chicago.⁴⁴

The proclamation contains such terms as “immortal Greek courage”, “wreaths of laurel”, “heroes of old” and “write another golden page in our motherland’s glorious history” which were intended to appeal to the patriotism of Greeks to do their duty for their nation against the “hated barbarian oppressor.” Many Chicago Greeks came to the Consulate to enlist whilst others contributed money to help defray transportation costs.⁴⁵ It appears that the *Chicago Examiner* may have been supportive of the Greece and her allies in the forthcoming conflict.

As many Greeks were preparing for their return to Greece, the *Chicago Examiner* reported that “considerable ill feeling [had] arisen among educated Greeks over an editorial in a morning paper urging the American public to “mind its own business” in regard to the Balkan unrest.” The *Chicago Examiner* does not identify the morning newspaper which published this editorial. However, the editor of *Greek Star*, Peter S. Lambros was quoted that the article was “unworthy of any American.” He commented that the unnamed newspaper used the slogan “Be Just and Fear Not” whose opinion seemed contradictory

⁴³ ‘Chicago Greeks Rush to arms’, October 5, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.3; ‘Greeks enlist for the war. Chicago patriots hold demonstration at Hull House’, October 5, *Chicago Tribune*, 1912, p.2

⁴⁴ ‘Proclamation appeals to Greeks of Chicago’, October 6, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.5

⁴⁵ Consul Salopoulos’ proclamation was also published in the Greek-American newspaper *Loxias*, October 12, 1912, p.1 in Chicago foreign language press survey (microform): Greek (1904), Chicago Public Library, See www.archive.org/details/5422062_6 (accessed June 28, 2011); Thousands of Chicago Greeks plan war aid, October 6, *Chicago Examiner* 1912, p.5

that on one hand it sympathized with the “eight million Greeks [who were] sighing under the Turkish yoke” and “yet this paper cries “Hands off.”⁴⁶ It could be argued that this editorial reflected the American attitude of the time in keeping out of the problems of Europe.

On October 10, Governor Woodrow Wilson stopped off in Chicago as part of his presidential campaign receiving a rousing reception by huge crowds who thronged the streets of the city. Many Chicago Greeks wanted to speak the democratic presidential candidate about the Balkan crisis. After his address earlier that evening, some 50 Greeks who were ready to leave for the Balkans wanted an interview with Wilson “so that he might give them his blessing.” Wilson sent a message to them “they would go and fight for their native land and all return to this country after the war to become good American citizens.”⁴⁷ He may have been thinking that after fulfilling their military duty to their old homeland that they would return to take out American citizenship. Wilson may have had his eye on the 1916 presidential election where naturalized Greeks might vote for him and the Democratic Party. It might be suggested that Wilson may have supported the Greeks, Bulgarians and Serbians against the Ottoman Turks in the Balkans conflict.

The Balkan allies were achieving military successes over the Turks in their respective theatres of war. William Georgopoulos, President of the Greek community and some 2000 Greeks “marched to Second Regiment Armory where they held a mass meeting to celebrate victories over the Turks.” Prominent Greek women of Chicago including Mrs Gregory Papathan and Mrs George Stamatiades raised more than \$3000 for the Red Cross Fund. Other prominent individuals such as Nicholas Salopoulos, Greek clergy, Peter S. Lampros and A. Argyris, editor of the *Athens*, addressed the audience.

“When the star spangled banner was played by the Greek band and American flag was unfurled the audience cheered wildly for 15 minutes”, *Chicago Examiner* reported.⁴⁸ This action showed some loyalty and respect for their adopted homeland despite casting their eyes across the Atlantic.

In other parts of Illinois such as Urbana, Elgin, DeKalb, Sterling and Quincy the Greeks were ready too for action or weighing up their options of enlisting or not. For Urbana Greeks any news from the Balkans formed their main topic of discussion where-ever they congregated. Many of them hadn't made up their minds of enlisting but would have been concerned about the political crisis unfolding in the Balkans. The Greeks of Elgin had already departed without waiting for official orders.⁴⁹

The *True Republican* quoting the *DeKalb Advertiser* on October 26 stated that DeKalb Greeks had already departed for the Balkans where “only able-bodied fighting men, between the ages of 18 and 45 are allowed to join.” Furthermore the same article citing the

⁴⁶ “Thousands of Chicago Greeks plan war aid”, October 6, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.5; Peter S. Lambros was also “the leader of the Greek American (Republican) Political Club.” See Rivkah Shpak-Lisak, *op cit*, p.107

⁴⁷ “250,000 Cheer Gov Wilson's Triumphant entry. Addresses 750,000 during visit to Chicago. Proceeds Through solid mass of humanity to hotel, met by Mayor” , October 11, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.2

⁴⁸ 2,000 Greeks here celebrate victory; \$3,000 fund raised, October 28. *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.2

⁴⁹ “Urbana Greeks are on anxious seat”, October 15, *The Urbana Courier-Herald*, 1912, p.6

Sterling Gazette mentioned that 150 Greek employees of North-western railway dropped "their picks and shovels" to wear the Greek military uniform. Obviously the company would have displeased, to lose so many of its workers all at once, leaving quite a deal of uncompleted work which wouldn't be finished until the spring of 1913.⁵⁰

Between 50-100 Greeks were supposed to get together in Quincy to decide how many wanted to return to fight and how much money to raise to cover transportation expenses. Some of these Greeks owned candy stores, shoe shining parlors and the Princess theatre. Unfortunately the meeting was postponed for another time as not enough notice had been given to members of the Greek community. It also attracted Greeks from Hannibal who wanted to contribute to the war effort.⁵¹

A Quincy resident William Spero, the owner of the Olympia candy store, who left the city some two months earlier to visit Greece, ended up being drafted in the army. Prior to his departure, he had been warned by some who arrived recently in America to be mindful of the political situation in the Balkans but he chose to ignore their advice. Spero sent a letter back to Quincy informing his friends that "he is now on the northern frontier and...expecting any day to take part in an engagement with the hated Turks." A former Quincy resident, Anton Demers who returned to live in Sparta Greece, informed his brother John, of the firm "Demers Bros shoe shiners at 504 Hampshire Street" that he had been conscripted and would be sent to the front. John Demers too would do his patriotic duty by heading off to fight in the Balkans.⁵²

Ten Greeks of the Burlington Railway company who were employed on the construction gangs received their pay on time so that they could depart for Greece. The railway company offered half fare for the Greeks to go to the front. This was a good gesture on the part of Burlington. Some labourers lacking funds for their transportation had them paid by Greek businessmen in Quincy. Greek merchants in Quincy would only depart if their services were desperately needed at the front.⁵³

Whilst the Greeks of Illinois were responding to the call of arms, Greeks in Gary and La Porte, Indiana were ready to move too. The *Chicago Examiner* reported that the steel mills in Gary faced the possibility of closure as employees from Balkan countries (Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia) were ready to go over to fight the Turks. It was reported that "2,000 Balkan reservists in Gary served written notice upon the plants of the United Steel Corporation that they would not work next Tuesday. Mass meetings in Gary and Chicago to

⁵⁰ Greeks leave for war., October 26, *The True Republican* 1912, p.1

⁵¹ "Back to Greece! Greeks will meet in Quincy tonight..", October 24, *The Quincy Daily Journal*, 1912, p.7; "Greek meeting is postponed.", *The Quincy Daily Journal*, October 25, 1912, p.7

⁵² "Local Greeks may go back home to fight. Spartan love of country seems to prevail even in Quincy....", October 25, *The Quincy Daily Whig*, 1912, p.6; "Greek meeting is postponed.", October 25, *The Quincy Daily Journal*, 1912, p.7

⁵³ "Track workers will go to Greece. Ten local employees of the Burlington will help their country to tame the terrible Turk', October 26, *Quincy Daily Journal*, 1912, p.10

discuss the war situation will be held in the meantime.”⁵⁴ The United Steel Corporation was the major employer in Gary and the exodus of 2,000 employees would have greatly impacted on its daily operations. How many of these 2,000 went to fight in the Balkans is difficult to estimate.

At Laporte, 300 Greeks had made their plans to enlist in the Greek army without waiting for official instructions. A prominent businessman, John Moshos was advised to take command of troops so that “he [could] take his countrymen here who can raise funds to make the trip” back to Greece. Even Greeks from Valparaiso had already left for the war.⁵⁵ It would appear that Moshos was an ex-officer in the Greek army before he migrated to America. All the Greek reservists were full of enthusiasm and patriotic zeal to defend their old homeland.

5. The assassination of King George and Aleko Schinas March 1913

The next major Greek triumph was the capitulation of the Turkish garrison at Yannena in early March 1913. After many months of bitter fighting Greek persistence finally paid dividends with jubilation in Athens and Greek Diaspora. In the euphoria of the Greek success came the assassination of King George at the hands of Aleko Schinas whose dastardly act plunged Greece and Greeks of America into deep mourning.

King George was very popular and respected figure among his subjects and in the Greek Diaspora.⁵⁶ In America, the Atlanta Greeks wore black bands as a mark of respect for their dead monarch. The New York Greeks were stunned by the news of the assassination of King George and inquired continually at the offices of the *Atlantis* newspaper for news updates from Greece. Botassi stated that he owed “his continual re-appointment [as Consul-General] to King George [and] the *Atlantis*.” Church leaders and business community expressed its sorrow too. Chicago Greeks surrounded the offices of the Consulate seeking precise information on the assassination. Initially Salopoulos couldn’t fathom why would anyone commit such a terrible act. Later reports he received confirmed the King’s death. One of the proprietors of the Greek-American bank, FG Papakostas believed the reports to be “untrue” whereas George Mallers, Vice President of Naslacos Importing Co, thought King George’s death would have a “great effect on the outcome of the war.”⁵⁷

⁵⁴ ‘Rush to Balkan War May shut Gary Mills’, October 6, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p. 5; ‘Gary Steel Mills may shut down as Greeks leave to fight Turkey’, *Washington Times*, October 6, 1912, p. 6

⁵⁵ October 6, *Chicago Examiner*, 1912, p.5; ‘Urbana Greeks are on anxious seat’, October 15, *The Urbana Courier-Herald*, 1912, p.6; *Washington Times*, October 6, 1912, p.6

⁵⁶ ‘Greeks take Yannena and 32,000 troops....Great rejoicing in Athens’, March 7, *New York Times*, 1913, p.4; ‘Yannena surrenders to the Greek army...Garrison of 32,000’, March 7, *New York Tribune*, 1912, p.5; ‘Chicago Greeks praise King. Say he was loved by all his subjects...’ George was the idol of Greece says P.S. Lambros’, March 19, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 1913, p.3; the editorialist commented that the result of the siege at Yannena brought no rejoicings at Vienna, Sofia, Belgrade and Cetinje. See ‘The capture of Janina’ [editorial], March 8, *Washington Post*, 1913, p.6

⁵⁷ ‘Atlanta Greeks will wear black bands for dead King’, March 20, *Atlanta Constitution*, 1913, p.16; ‘Greeks camp in Streets. Members of Greek colony eagerly await news of assassination’, March 19, *The Evening*

The press reports gave different differing accounts about Aleko Schinas persona. Both *the Washington Times* and *El Paso Herald* (El Paso, Texas) described Schinas as “a Greek of low type and feeble mentality” whereas the *New York Tribune* called him an “evil looking fellow.”⁵⁸ According to the *Warsaw Daily Times* (Warsaw Indiana) and *The Sun*, Schinas was was known and disliked by Greeks in Chicago, Gary (Indiana) and Davenport (Iowa). C. Damascus, a journalist who worked for a Greek newspaper in New York, claimed that he met Schinas in Davenport where local Greeks detested him “because of anarchistic utterances and open declaration favouring assassination..” Schinas volunteered for the purpose of returning to Greece to assassinate the King. Damascus suggests that Schinas “was [a] wanted criminal and came to America” because the latter had “difficulties while serving in public office in Greece.”⁵⁹

There were conflicting news reports on Schinas’s origins who lived in New York before returning back to Greece. A Nick Caras, an employee in John Rompapass’s bookstore, remembered meeting Schinas several years earlier in Athens. He claimed that Schinas was possibly ‘the son of a rich merchant of Seres’ selling tobacco and spices. Furthermore Caras was uncertain whether Schinas attended university but remembered him returning back to Greece. In fact, Rompapass also acted as a shipping agent booking passages which explains Caras’s recall of Aleco Schinas’ return to the patria.⁶⁰

Another account given by Eratosthemus Charrns claims that he was a personal friend of Schinas where both of them worked in a New York hotel. Charrns mentioned that he had many discussions with Schinas “quarrel[ling] with him because of his atheistic and socialistic ideas.” Apparently Schinas was a keen reader “of all socialism works” and spent his free time “making friends with radical and fervid thinkers” on New York’s east side.

Botassi stated that Schinas sought revenge for the Greek government’s action closing down his ‘school of anarchism’ which he founded in Voloss. A government raid resulted in the seizure of books and pamphlets and arrest of two of its leaders at the school. It was also reported that Schinas considered running as a candidate for Voloss in the Greek parliament.⁶¹

He was supposedly well educated where he lectured for a time in the medical department of the University of Athens. Furthermore he spoke allegedly four languages: Greek, English,

Standard, 1913, p.1; ‘Chicago Greeks mourn death of popular monarch. Hundreds besiege office of Consul for definite reports on the assassination’, March 19, *Chicago Examiner*, 1913, p.1

⁵⁸ ‘Greeks suspect anarchist plot’, *The Washington Times*, March 19, 1913, p.5; *El Paso Herald*, March 19, 1913, p.1; ‘King George of Greece shot dead in Salonica, his conquered city’, March 19, *New York Tribune*, 1913, p.1

⁵⁹ ‘New King takes oath at Athens. Constantine is crowned ruler of the Hellenes...’ March 22, *Warsaw Daily Times*, 1913, p. 2; ‘Schinas known in Chicago. Regicide enlisted in Balkan war as patriot’, March 21, *The Sun*, 1913, p. 3

⁶⁰ ‘Regicide known here, Greeks of this city say Schinas was anarchist’, March 20, *New York Tribune*, 1913, p. 3

⁶¹ ‘The Assassin lived here. Worked in a New York hotel-well educated and an anarchist’, March 20, *New York Times*, 1913, p.3;

Italian and French fluently and was related to Lambros Coromilas.⁶² His hatred of royalty was the chief motive in King George's assassination.

Solon Vlasto, the editor of *Atlantis*, put to rest any doubts of Schinas's supposed background from the number of conflicting accounts appearing in the US press. He published Basal Batzoulis's letter which revealed some interesting details regarding Schinas. The assassin never established a school of anarchism, never entered politics, had no friends, enjoyed backgammon and was employed as a chemist's assistant in his brother's pharmacy. Schinas argued with his brother and decided to try his luck in the US. He found work physically demanding and returned to Greece. Vlasto believed Batzoulis account to be correct as it was confirmed from information of Greeks who had resided in Voloss.⁶³

6. The return of Greek Volunteers to America 1913-1914

There were various attitudes expressed in the US press regarding Greeks departing in their thousands to fight for their old homeland during the Balkan wars. Many press articles referred to these returning Greeks as 'heroes', 'patriots' and fighting the 'unspeakable Turk.' With such sentiments appeared in the US press, there were dissenting voices expressing concern with the number of immigrants arriving from SE Europe. Frederic J. Haskin wrote a series of articles for the *Milwaukee Sentinel* in December 1912 comparing the old immigrant with the new one. The old immigrants originally came from Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and other parts of Northern Europe who made the US their permanent home and later becoming naturalized citizens. Only 20% of Greek considered as new immigrants became American citizens. Many of them considered the US as a place to make plenty of money with the intention of returning back to their home villages as rich men.

The new immigrants came from poor villages who were usually illiterate and never dabbled in politics. Haskin noted that 126 Greeks entered the US in 1882 whereas 26,000 were admitted in 1911. Most of them were single men and boys who mainly lived in large cities doing jobs which American born workers would not work for e.g bootblacks. Those Greeks who had their womenfolk tended to remain whereas bachelors returned permanently to Greece.⁶⁴

Another disputing voice was a letter addressed to the editor of the *New York Times* published on October 28, 1912 where the author questioned the loyalty of some US citizens' participation in the Balkan wars. He understood the response of non-citizens doing their patriotic duty but the participation of naturalized citizens of a neutral country

⁶² 'New King at father's bier gives warlike talk to army', March 20, *Chicago Examiner*, 1913, p. 2; 'Assassin an anarchist. Often threatened King....', March 20, *Washington Post*, 1913, p. 3

⁶³ 'New York Greek tells of Assassin', March 21, *Calgary Daily Herald*, 1912, p.12; 'Schinas not in politics .Greek newspaper publishes letter regarding King George's assassin', March 21, *The Evening Standard*, 1913, p.1; 'Assassin never a candidate', March 21, *Washington Post*, 1913, p.4

⁶⁴ 'Immigration : the 'old' immigrant', & 'Immigration: the 'new' immigrant', December 11 & 12, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 1912, pp.12 &10

was another matter. This might create a 'dangerous precedent' leading the US into a conflict of not of its own making. Once an individual became an American citizen they were obligated "to abide by [their] decision to become a citizen by remaining strictly neutral when his government is neutral."⁶⁵ It is likely that similar letters appeared in the US press with Americans expressing their concerns of naturalized citizens rushing off to fight for their former homeland.

The American Federation of Labour (AFL) opposed unrestricted immigration especially from SE Europe. They supported a literacy test for Europeans as way of restricting illiterate and unskilled labour into the US. The AFL's rested its case in maintaining wages and living standards of American workers against unskilled labour whose large numbers would lead to lower wages and exploitation by unscrupulous employers. Frank Morrison, the Secretary of AFL, criticized President Taft "for vetoing the Immigration Bill" which had been passed by the US Congress in early 1913. The AFL preferred alien workers stay home to fight labour battles in their own countries.⁶⁶ Arguments voiced supporting the literacy test was based on racist assumptions. Whilst the AFL had genuine concerns about wages and living standards of American born workers, the absence of a literacy test made it easier for Greeks to re-enter in the US after the Balkan wars.

The literacy test continued to be discussed in Congress in early 1914 without a resolution in sight and a veto from President Woodrow Wilson.⁶⁷ On January 18, the *Spartanburg Herald* reported that Dr Joseph J. O'Connell, a health official, stated that "we are likely to meet with typhus in our Mediterranean immigration for some time to come" especially with Greeks, Turks, Serbians and Bulgarians returning from the Balkans.⁶⁸ Other reports published in the *Boston Evening Transcript* and *New York Times* mentioned that new immigrants and returning Greek soldiers spoke little or no English including six reported cases of passengers who died of spinal meningitis on board the steamer *Athinai*. There was 55,000 Greek soldiers waiting to return to America from the Balkan wars which worried former health official of New York Port, Dr Alvah H. Doty. "Greece was one of the main sources for the spread of this disease to various parts of world", Doty said. He pointed out that a potential epidemic could easily be avoided by introducing "modern sanitary methods" back in Greece. Doty mentioned that overcrowding and poor sanitation was responsible for the spread of this infectious disease.⁶⁹ It might be argued that these two newspapers may have dreaded the return of more Greeks bringing back disease thus threatening the health of Americans. Furthermore their underlying messages might afford an opportunity to curtail SE European immigration for a time to the US.

⁶⁵ 'Citizens of a neutral state', letter to editor signed JH, October 21, *New York Times*, 1912, p.10

⁶⁶ 'Labour demands literacy test', November 19, *Journal Miner* (Prescott, Arizona), 1913, p.1; 'Foreign unrest sends people here', November 8, *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 1913, p.7

⁶⁷ 'Two Taft problems may worry Wilson. Literacy test and Labour trust... Each may provoke veto.', February 2, *New York Times*, 1914, p.2

⁶⁸ 'Finds another case of Typhus fever', January 18, *The Spartanburg Herald*, 1914, p.1

⁶⁹ 'Greeks bringing disease. Soldiers returning to America after war. Said to be a menace.', March 11, *Boston Evening Transcript*, 1913, p.9; 'Disease brought in Greek soldiers', March 11, *New York Times*, 1914, p. 3

On March 12, returning Greek veterans were treated as heroes by the Greek community in New York. As they proceeded on their way to Pennsylvania railway station, they were 'escorted by 10 pretty Greek maidens dressed in white' who "scattered roses in their path." Prior to their departure, they gave "three loud cheers for King Constantine and President Wilson." Then the US and Greek national anthems was sung by everyone. Many of them left by train for Chicago and other mid-west towns and cities.

Some returning Greeks on board the Austrian-American steamship, *Belvedere* brought back their wives to America with some of them having married Turkish women. A Corporal Leonidas Papamihalis who fought at Thessaloniki married a young Turkish woman whose dead husband was a Turkish officer.⁷⁰ The actual number of Greeks who returned to America from the Balkan campaign is difficult to ascertain. However many returnees resumed their businesses or jobs and became naturalized US citizens.

The First World War had a major impact on the Greek-American community with many of them realizing that they would never return to their old homeland. This raised the issue of adopting American ways and becoming naturalized citizens. Despite American apprehension towards them, they overcame this to some extent by enlisting in the U.S army and purchasing liberty bonds to fund the war effort. Both actions was an expression of loyalty to the adopted homeland and Helen Papanikolas in her article titled 'Immigrants, minorities, and the Great War', includes two pictures showing a patriotic parade and liberty bond drive with the Greek and American flags side-by-side in 1918.⁷¹

It should be noted that after the First World War, the establishment of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) played an important role in the assimilation of the Greek-American community into mainstream American society.⁷²

In conclusion, Greek Americans created socio-political and cultural institutions to mirror those that existed in the *patrida* in order to maintain their ethnic identity and language in an alien and sometimes hostile environment. The Greeks responded quickly to the call of

⁷⁰ 'Girls kiss Greek soldiers. Veterans of Balkan war leave for the west amid cheers', & 'Brides and mummies here. Greek soldiers bring Turkish wives from the Balkans', March 12 & 28, *New York Times*, 1914, pp.5 &7; It should be noted that T.T Timayenis, the editor of *Eastern and Western Review*, informed President Wilson that Greek veterans from the Balkan Wars were ready to offer their services in the advent of war between the U.S and Mexico, see 'Greeks eager for another fight', *Los Angeles Times*, May 2, 1914, p.12

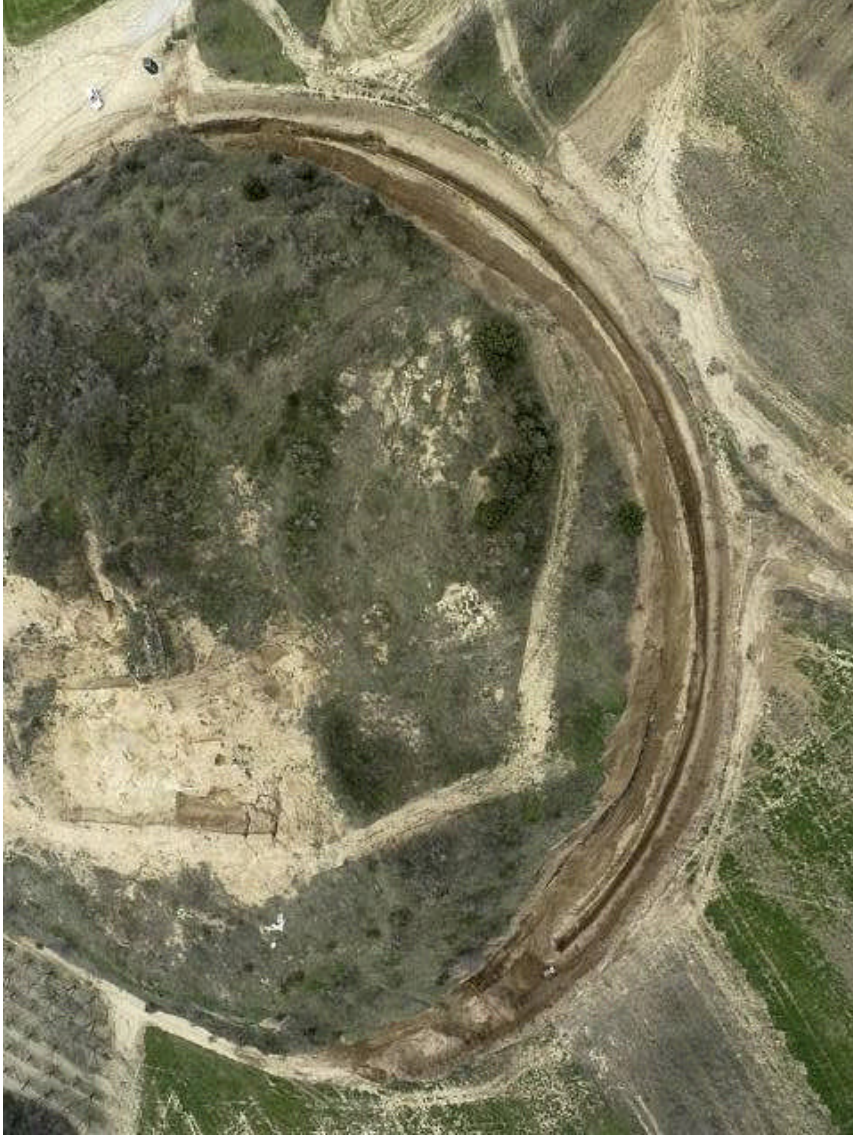
⁷¹ Alexander Kitroeff, Greek-American Ethnicity, 1919-1939 in Jelisaveta Stanojevich *et. al.* (ed), *To Ellinikon Studies in honour of Speros Vryonis Jr* Vol.2, Aristide D. Caratzas, New Rochelle, New York, pp.358-9; Helen Z. Papanikolas, Immigrants, minorities, and the Great War, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 58, no.4, Fall 1990, pp. 351 &355, the remainder of her article discusses the other immigrant groups that resided in Utah during the First World War; 'Greek patriots in America urged to register in N.Y. Venizelos party men of Cochise County asked to place Services at disposal of U.S. Government', *Bisbee Daily Review*, April 27, 1917, p.2; '9,000 Greeks ready to fight for the U.S', *New York Times*, April 9, 1917, p.2; 'Greeks to join American army', *Ogden Standard*, December 26, 1917, p. 1; For press accounts of the raising liberty bond, see 'Greeks march for liberty bonds', *Ogden Standard*, June 4, 1917, p. 12; 'Greeks and Japs loyal', *Ogden Standard*, April 30, 1918, p.3; 'Aliens big bond buyers', *New York Times*, September 5, 1918, p.13

⁷² Yiorgos Anagnostou, Forget the Past, Remember the Ancestors! Modernity, "Whiteness", American Hellenism, and the politics of Memory in early Greek America, *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, Vol.22, no.1,(2004), pp.25-71;Georgakas, *op cit.*, pp.14-16; Kitroeff, *op cit.*, pp.359-69

the old homeland through daily press reports of an impending conflict in the Balkans. These reservists were first generation Greek immigrants who still remained loyal and maintained connection with their families in Greece. Terrible economic conditions in Greece forced many of them to seek new opportunities in foreign lands. Those that made the transatlantic voyage to America ended up becoming naturalized citizens whilst others returned to Greece.

Many of the Greek returnees may have served in the Greek army before migrating to America. Such experience would have been invaluable at the time of mobilization for war. The Pan Hellenic Union despite its problems did a magnificent job as a recruiting agency along for the war effort. Various non-government actors like the ARC appealed for funds and relief from the American public.

Whatever the number of Greeks that returned to America from the Balkan wars, many of them became American citizens and showed their loyalty by enlisting in the US army and purchasing liberty bonds during the First World War. Greek-American volunteers with their immense patriotic input in the war fronts wrote a gallant chapter in the national history of Greece as well as in the modern history of the United States; their patriotism and loyalty to both countries comprise a significant outcome in the immigration history of the Americas.



The Kasta Tomb (Hellenica: Τύμβος Καστά), also known as the Amphipolis Tomb (Hellenica: Τάφος της Αμφίπολης), is an ancient Macedonian tomb discovered in Amphipolis, Central Macedonia, in northern Hellas. The tomb is dated at the last quarter of 4th century B.C., and it is the largest burial monument ever discovered in Hellas and by comparison dwarfs the tomb of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, in Vergina.

The entrance to the tomb of Amphipolis





The mosaic of Amphipolis

It is a mosaic of 3 meters wide and 4.5 length depicting a man with a laurel wreath to drive a chariot dragged by horses and guided by the god Hermes.

The Culture Ministry announced that archaeologists believe that it is a mosaic of the 4th century, between 325 and 300 BC



The Caryatids

The excavation has brought to light two exceptional Caryatids. The West Caryatid has a wonderful, almost intact face, while the face of the East Caryatid has fractured, but many of the broken pieces are in place.

The total height of the Caryatids with the base/wall is 3.67 meters.

