

Creating History Together

PL - GR - HU

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an eTwinning project

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GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

What is the Greek revolution

The Greek War of Independence, also known as the Greek Revolution was a successful war of independence waged by the Greek revolutionaries between 1821 and 1832 against the Ottoman Empire.

The preparation

Even several decades before the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453, most of Greece had come under Ottoman rule. During this time, there were several revolt attempts by Greeks to gain independence from Ottoman control. In 1814, a secret organization called the Filiki Eteria was founded with the aim of liberating Greece

The first revolt

The Filiki Eteria planned to launch revolts in the Greece, the Danubian Principalities, and in Constantinople and its surrounding areas. However, as the plans of Filiki Eteria had been discovered by the Ottoman authorities, the revolutionary action started earlier. The first of these revolts began on February 22, 1821 in the Danubian Principalities, but it was soon put down by the Ottomans.

The first steps

On March 25 in 1821 the revolution was officially declared and by the end of the month, the Peloponnese, a Greek region was in open revolt against the Turks. By October 1821, the Greeks under Theodoros Kolokotronis had captured a city named Tripolitsa. The Peloponnesian revolt was quickly followed by revolts in other regions as Crete, Macedonia, and Central Greece. Meanwhile, the makeshift Greek navy by Konstantinos Kanaris and Andreas Miaoulis was achieving success against the Ottoman navy in the Aegean Sea and prevented Ottoman reinforcements from arriving by sea.

The war continues and the change of stance

The war was continued for several years and it was very fierce. Meanwhile, the British, France and Russia changed their stance towards Greece.

British prepared the Treaty of London (6 July 1827) with France and Russia. This provided that the Allies should again offer negotiations, and if the Sultan of Turks rejected it, they would exert all the means which circumstances would allow to force the cessation of hostilities.

The Navarino naval battle

On 20 October 1827, the British, Russian and French fleets entered the Bay of Navarino in Peloponnese to make sure that the Egyptian-Turkish fleet did not slip off and attack Hydra (a Greek island). When a British frigate sent a boat to request the Egyptians, the allies of Turks, to move their fire ships, the officer on board was shot by the Egyptians. A full naval battle was begun which ended in a complete victory for the Allies and in the annihilation of the Egyptian-Turkish fleet.

Kapodistrias' government

In 1828, the Greeks regrouped and formed a new government under Kapodistrias. They then advanced to seize as much territory as possible, before the Western powers (British, France and Russia) imposed a ceasefire.

The first Greek independent nation

As a result of years of war and negotiation, Greece was finally recognized as an independent nation in 1832.

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