GREECE
Confronting the Past,
Building a Future
Jews, Jewish Culture and Judaism in Greece

- Hellenistic period
- Roman Greece
- Byzantine Empire (330-1204)
- Late Byzantine Era (1204-1453)
- The Ottoman Empire (1453-1821)
- Independent Greece (1821-1940)
- Post-war community (1945-present)
- Zionism and antisemitism in Greece
Hellenistic Period to 1940

“Blood on the steps of the garden gate. On the pavement.”
Nikos Gabriel Pentzikis
Who are the Lords of Truth?

Honour... Duty... Liberty... Love...

What are the Universal Values?

Peace... Charity... Honesty... Respect...
Why do we study history?
What is the historical method?
What is history for and who writes it?
What about the past is important to know?
Whose individual experiences matter?
What can one story tell us about the history of a country and a people?
"The belief in a hard core of historical facts existing objectively and independently of the interpretation of the historian is a preposterous fallacy, but one which it is very hard to eradicate."
Philosophy of History

- What is the proper unit for the study of the human past — the individual? The polis? The civilization? The culture? Or the nation state?

- Are there broad patterns and progress? Are there cycles? Is human history random and devoid of any meaning?
Study and Uses of History

- How does history teach lessons?
- How does the study of history encourage active citizenship?
- How does studying history predict or shape the future?
- Who, or what matters when studying history?
Historians define history as landmark events that irrevocably changed the course of human civilization.

Anonymous social, political, and economic forces are oftentimes ignored.

However, individuals, acting alone or together, can and do alter the course of history.

From individuals we can get:
- spiritual and political ideas,
- scientific and technological advances,
- leaders both influential and monstrous,
- cultural works of great beauty.
Answers Will Lead Us to Other Questions:

- How do communities deal with catastrophic events?
- How do communities make sense of, and respond to catastrophic events?
- How do historians interpret catastrophic events, and community responses to them?
Will the World Ever be the Same?

So what makes a particular individual or historical event important or worthy of record?

Three possible criteria:

- The event fundamentally changed history
- The aftermath of the event changed history
- The event and its impact still resonate with us today.
Your Mission

✔ You are an historical historian
✔ You will determine whether or not your assigned document(s) is/are worthy of entry into the historical record and could be used in a court of law as reliable and accepted evidence
✔ Use the Historical Method to determine your analysis
✔ Use your historian’s Historical Reasoning to evaluate your decision
History on Trial

- Case Study #1 - Ioannina
- Case Study #2 - Monastir
- Case Study #3 - Rhodes
- Case Study #4 - Salonika
- Case Study #5 - Zakynthos
Case Study #1 Ioannina
Case Study #2 Monastir
Case Study #3 Rhodes
Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!"
cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

"The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, 1883
Case Study #4 Salonika
Demetrios of Thessaloniki

Saint Demetrios:
Despair not, my birthplace,
beset by tyrants,
from whom deliverance
through me thou seekest to find....

Thessaloniki:
Through thy intercession
from woe was I rescued,
under thy wings
kept safe forever...

Help me, Demetrios...
Hail, Demetrios.

- From "Thessaloniki and Life", Mother Thessaloniki, Nikos Gabriel Pentzikis
Edward Lear, Salonika
Case Study #5 Zakynthos
Hymn to Liberty

I shall always recognize you by the dreadful sword you hold as the Earth with searching vision you survey with spirit bold

From the Greeks of old whose dying brought to life and spirit free now with ancient valour rising let us hail you, oh Liberty!

Dionysios Solomos - 1823
Historical method

- The historical method comprises the techniques and guidelines by which historians use primary sources and other evidence to research and then to write histories in the form of accounts of the past.

- The question of the nature, and even the possibility, of a sound historical method is raised in the philosophy of history as a question of epistemology-study of knowledge.
Handouts Checklist

- Historical method overview
- Historical Historian’s Historical Reasoning
- Readings and Excerpts
- Determining Truth worksheet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historians</th>
<th>Lord Acton</th>
<th>Simon Schama</th>
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Team One

Case Study #1 - Ioannina

Herodotus

Lord Acton

Simon Schama
Case Study #2 - Monastir

Thucydides

E.H. Carr

Auguste Comte
Case Study #3 - Rhodes

Titus Flavius Josephus (Yosef ben Matityahu)

Frederick Jackson Turner

George Macaulay Trevelyan
Team Four

Case study #4 - Salonika

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch)

Michel Foucault

Niall Ferguson
Case Study #5 - Zakynthos

Edward Gibbon

Fernand Braudel

Eric Hobsbawm
What is truth? And what is fiction?
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Now....

- Read your handouts
- Answer the questions on the worksheets
- Prepare so you will be able to explain and elaborate on your documents so you can describe the people, places and events presented in them
"Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past."

– George Orwell
And finally, a last word from Deutschland.....
Have you taken my parking space? Then take my disability!