

## #1191 The Patmos Revolution – The Greek War for Independence

**The end of the Byzantine rule over the Greeks.** The Byzantine Empire, with its capital at ‘Second Rome’ Constantinople, retained (from Rome) Roman government and legal traditions. However, the Byzantine Empire preserved the ancient Greek literature and philosophy of the region. The Byzantine Empire was Greek in culture. The Byzantines spoke Greek. Government officials learned to read and write the language of ancient Greece. Christianity was the official state religion, developing into the Greek Eastern Orthodox Christian religion.

**The Ottoman rule over the Greeks.** Ottoman Turkish rule began to spread throughout the Greek lands of the Byzantine Empire during the 1300’s. In 1453 A.D., the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople (now Istanbul), making it the capital of the Ottoman Empire. They ruled almost all of the Greek lands by then. The Greeks were allowed religious freedom to continue practicing their faith as Greek Eastern Orthodox Christians.



**The Greek War for Independence.** A Greek *national revival* developed during the 1700's toward ending Turkish rule. On September 14, 1814, three young Greeks in Odessa, Russia, formed the Friendly Company. This group organized the movement against the Ottoman Turks that led to a Greek revolt, which began in 1821. Fierce Greek fighters defeated the Turks in the Peloponnese in southern Greece, in Rumely, the region of central Greece, and on many islands in the Aegean Sea. The Greeks held out against repeated Turkish attempts to regain these regions. In 1825, Egyptians allied with the Turks and invaded the Peloponnese. A Turkish army moved in from the north. Though they overran the regions that had been freed by the Greeks, they could not defeat the Greeks nor end the revolution.



Greek Revolution 1821 – Greek boy defending his wounded father, by Ary Scheffer (1795-1858)

In 1827, the great empires of France, Great Britain, and Russia agreed to use force if necessary to end the fighting and make Greece a self-governing part of the Ottoman Empire. But the Turks refused to give up control of Greece. On October 20, 1827, a combined fleet of the three European powers destroyed the Turkish-Egyptian fleet in the Battle of Navarino, fought in Navarino Bay on the west coast of the Peloponnesian peninsula. Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire in 1828, and the Turks left Greece to fight the Russians. The Egyptians withdrew in 1829, and Greece became independent.

The naval Battle of Navarino (1827). Oil painting by Carneray.



In an agreement called the London Protocol of 1830, France, Great Britain, and Russia recognized Greece's independence and pledged to protect it. In 1832, they named a Bavarian prince, Otto, as the first king of Greece. They also established Greece's borders. But the new Greek kingdom contained fewer than 800,000 people and covered less than half of present-day Greece. About 3 million Greeks lived in what remained Turkish territory. Greece's expansion to include more territories and become what it is today (and the hoped-for inclusion of the land along the west coast of modern-day Turkey, all of which belonged to the

Greek civilizations of the past) became known as the *Great Idea*. It was the nation's supreme goal.

Here is **#1191–Doc 1**, which shows **the expansion of modern Greece**.

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*Revelation 1:9 (KJV) **I JOHN**, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, **WAS IN THE ISLE THAT IS CALLED PATMOS**, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

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