

= Geographia Neoteriki =

Geographia Neoteriki (Greek : ?????????? ?????????? Modern Geography) is a geography book written in Greek by Daniel Philippidis and Grigorios Konstantas and printed in Vienna in 1791 . It focused on both the physical and human geography features of the European continent and especially on Southeastern Europe , and is considered one of the most remarkable works of the modern Greek Enlightenment . The authors of the Geographia Neoteriki adopted new geographical methodologies for that time , which were primarily based on personal examination of the described areas and used as sources a number of contemporary European handbooks .

The work , written in a vernacular language , also described the contemporary social developments and expressed ideas that were considered revolutionary and anticlerical , and addressed the political and economic decay of the Ottoman Empire . Geographia Neoteriki was welcomed with enthusiasm by western intellectual circles , especially in France , but on the other hand , it was largely neglected by Greek scholars .

= = Background = =

A category of historical and geographical literature , focused on regional history and geography , emerged during the 18th century among Greek scholars . This kind of literature combined the collection of ethnographic data with a conviction in geography 's moral and religious purpose . Major representatives of this field were two scholars and clerics , Daniel Philippidis and Grigorios Konstantas . They came from the village of Milies in Thessaly , modern Greece , and were nicknamed Dimitrieis , from the ancient name of their birthplace (Dimitrias) . Both scholars were active members of the Greek diaspora in the Danubian Principalities , in modern Romania , where they studied and taught at the courts of the Greek Orthodox Phanariot and the Princely Academies of Bucharest and Iași . This environment offered in general a special attraction for ambitious and educated Greek people from the Ottoman Empire , contributing to the enlightenment of their nation . Philippidis ' and Konstantas ' work Geographia Neoteriki , published in Vienna in 1791 , belongs to a body of contemporary texts which strove to map out the European parts of the Ottoman Empire and Greece in particular .

= = Content = =

This work was the first and only volume by Daniel Philippidis and Grigorios Konstantas , and their intention was not only to define and describe the lands that were populated by Greeks , but also to describe the current social developments in the wider region . With this work they gave a precise delimitation of European Hellas (Greece) of that time , a few decades before the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence (1821) . According to their description this area would not only include present @-@ day Greece , but also Albania , the Republic of Macedonia and the southern half of Bulgaria , an area that included all the areas ruled by the Macedonian Kings , in addition to those of classical Greece incorporating most of the Orthodox populations of the Balkan peninsula , which was during that time under Ottoman rule .

They concluded that the ' Greek lands ' are located in a privileged geographic location at the crossroads of three continents : Europe , Asia and Africa , however , as the Ottoman administration was incapable of reinforcing the rule of law , economic activity couldn 't flourish . Thus , they addressed the political and economic instability of the Ottoman Empire that struggled to maintain control over different ethnicities and huge territories . As a consequence of that lack of control , many Greeks were impelled to seek protection outside the Ottoman Empire , while the ones that had not abandoned their lands , suffered under a terrible Ottoman regime , and had no educational rights .

Reflecting a new revolutionary era in the European history after the outbreak of the French Revolution , the authors expressed sharp social criticism , castigating the corruption of the church authorities , the idleness of the monasticism , and popular superstition . They also appealed for

reform of the language , education , and change to the social mores as a way to overcome backwardness and to renew people 's mentality with a more western view . They claimed that Greece is positioned within a Europe defined by the dynamics of political reforms from old and corrupt monarchical regimes to new republican communities . The modern innovative spirit of *Geographia Neoteriki* was also expressed in the use of a lively and malleable vernacular (Demotic) language with very few ties to the *katharevousa* , a more archaic form of Greek , which was commonly used by most Greek scholars of that time .

The book introduced a number of new ideas in the field of human geography and social organization models , that had been developed in the western world during the 18th century . Among the sources that the authors used to compose *Geographia Neoteriki* , were the *Géographie Moderne* by Nicolle de La Croix , the *Géographie Ancienne* , and the *Géographie Moderne* , which were part of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* by Charles @-@ Joseph Panckoucke . Additionally , the authors had personally examined the areas described in the work . This element served both as the work 's primary organizing mode as well as the basis for their historical approach .

= = Popularity = =

In general , *Geographia Neoteriki* , was welcomed with enthusiasm by western intellectual circles . Jean @-@ Baptiste d 'Ansse de Villosion , professor of modern Greek in the *Ecole des Langues Orientales Vivantes* , used it as a textbook for his students . French geographer Barbie du Bocage published a review after the book 's publication along with a translated passage . Moreover , travellers who published accounts during the early 19th century , frequently cited the text . François Pouqueville , William Martin Leake , Henry Holland , and Lord Byron mentioned this work , and used it as a source of information . The book also enjoyed some popularity in the non Greek regions of the Balkan peninsula , while 19th century Bulgarian authors of geographic textbooks used it as a model .

On the other hand , especially due to the vernacular language used , this work was largely neglected among the Greek scholars , especially by Adamantios Korais and Dimitrios Katartzis , and was never used as an academic work , or even as a school textbook . It was also negatively received by the Church hierarchy , as well as conservative Greek scholars , due to the vernacular language it used and the liberal views it expressed . It is worth noting that the work 's linguistic form disappointed even Dimitrios Katartzis , the intellectual mentor of the two authors , while Philippidis himself , never used such vernacular style language again in his future works . However , *Geographia Neoteriki* inspired a number of similar geographical works published in Greece during the 19th century .