



The John S. Pronger Sr.
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



«Battle Scene from the Greek War of Independence,» oil on canvas by George Perlberg. This painting idealizes a battle fought near the ruins of the Temple of Zeus in Athens during the Turkish siege of the Acropolis in 1826-27.

MARCH 25th, 1821 – VICTORY OVER TYRANNY

When the Greek nation declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire 194 years ago, the Greeks once again proved their mettle, throwing the yoke of tyranny off their backs and regaining their freedom after centuries of domination under a ruthless overlord. History is clear, so we need not recount the innumerable injustices the Greek people had to suffer at Turkish hands to realize that the Greeks have always been consistently gallant when confronting totalitarianism.

From the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC; to manning the walls of Constantinople in 1453; to the Greek Revolution of 1821; to the repulsion of Mussolini's Fascist forces in 1940 which, in turn, delayed Hitler's march on Russia, Greek soldiers fought bravely to the last man, shedding proportionately more blood for the sake of liberty than any other race on Earth. Greece is doing so even now... on the economic front:

With its economy in shambles, Greece has been forced by its own "allies" to send 20 percent of its surplus to finance debt, even though full reparations for the brutal German Occupation of Greece have never been made. Yet Germany, whose own World War II debts were completely forgiven by the London Accord of 1953, has led the charge front-and-center to keep Greece on bended knee since the global financial meltdown of 2008. What nation can be reasonably expected to survive such punitive economic measures? What nation has ever had to endure so much expenditure of blood and treasure in the face of such military menace or economic oppression?

But Greece's struggles throughout its long history nonetheless continue to inspire the human spirit, and that's why the Greek War of Independence is still relevant today:

If a handful of heroic Greeks could vanquish far larger Ottoman armies – if a small country with such a constricted economy can compel larger European powers with much stronger economies to reassess overall economic strategy – then America and the West should also be able to overcome similar threats and problems today. The Greek struggle for national independence and identity in 1821 and Greece's endeavor for economic justice today provide the world with shining examples that victory over tyranny of any kind ultimately belongs to freedom-loving people everywhere.

ZHTΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ!