

THE IONIAN ISLANDS AFTER NAPOLEON*

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Haris DAJČ
Jelena TODORVIĆ
Faculty of Philosophy,
University of Belgrade, Serbia

The Congress of Vienna and the Second Treaty of Paris marked not only the year of the final Napoleon defeat but the sealing of the European system that was supposed to last. The Ionian Islands were the British prey during the Fifth and the Sixth Coalition against Napoleon and, after the 1815, their status under British protectorate was established. The islands were a free and independent state under the immediate and exclusive protection of the British Crown. The Lord High Commissioner – the new Provveditore Generale appointed by the British Monarch, was to regulate the forms of the convocation of a Legislative Assembly. The result of that was a new Constitutional Charter of the States that had to be ratified by the British Crown. The situation at the Ionian Islands, which had changed already four administrative systems since 1797, was very unpromising with the civil war fought between different islanders' sides. By the Treaty of 1815, the Ionian Islands were supposed to have far more control of the internal affairs but the situation on the ground was encouraging to the very rigid Constitutional Chapter of 1817. The consular dispatches that are the most important archival source show the fear of the anarchy. The experience of internal fights among islanders was important for understanding of the attitude of the Great Powers towards the Greek Revolution at its first stage in the early 1820s. Both Greeks of the Mainland and the islanders from the former Septinsular Republic (Repubblica Settinsulare) shared a lot of common experience in both governing and fighting since the last decade of the 18th century.

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In the years after the 1815 with the outbreak of the Greek Revolution, their cooperation and experience had an important role in changing of the Ottoman borders.

Key words: Ionian Islands, Great Britain, Treaty of Paris 1815, Congress of Vienna, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zakynthos, Napoleon, Ali Pasha, Thomas Maitland, Lord Byron, Lord High Commissioner

FOR SEVERAL DECADES, FROM BEGINNING OF 1770s till the end of the Napoleon's Wars in Europe, the Ionian Islands¹ were Mediterranean islands with most frequent changes of administration. To understand history of Ionian archipelago it is necessary to go back to the year 1744 and the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca that turned Russia into a Mediterranean power. The Russian fleet under count Alexei Orlov was already in warm waters during the war against the Turks, which provoked a strong reaction of the allies. The presence of Russian fleet caused commotion in Peloponnese that was in Turkish hands for less than half a century, since the Peace of Passarowitz 1718 (Ingrao, Samardžić and Pešalj 2011, 9–38). Uprisings of the Greeks that followed were not limited just to Turkey and its Balkan provinces, but they had a significant impact on the nearby archipelago that was the last and the most important Venetian territory² outside of the Adriatic Sea. The reason why the Russian appearance in those waters brought disturbance among a part of Greek population was not a simple one, and reactions could not have the same intensity on each of the islands in Venetian possession (Dajč 2013, 102). Venice became aware of a growing Russian influence and tried to build good relationship with them without disturbing the peace with Turkey. This was rather obvious given the generous trade privileges given to Russia that caused complaints from the countries with much longer trade tradition.³ Peloponnese had influence on the Ionian Islands because for grain islands depended on it and

1 The Ionian Islands in Venetian possession consist of: Corfu, Zakynthos, Cephalonia, Lefkada, Ithaca, Paxos and Cythera, but also continental ports: Parga, Preveza, Vonica, and Butrinto.

2 The archipelago stayed in Venetian possession until 1797.

3 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/1 Zante, 22nd June 1783, Peter Sergeant to Lord Grantham.

nearby Turkish provinces. Besides, commercial, later turned into political, links established between archipelago aristocracy and the Russians had a prominent role in the years following Venetian loss of independence with the Treaty of Campo Formio. The example of Cephalonia (Panzac 1992, 189–206) is especially significant, although some noble families of Corfu (Grimsted Kennedy 1969, 120–201) achieved more than others in Russian service.

The islands were one of transit and dormant parts of Mediterranean until the last quarter of the century and the appearance of the Russians, as already stated. But the event that gave the Ionian Islands one of the most prominent roles in control over the Mediterranean was certainly French annexation in 1797. From that moment on, the Ionian Islands together with Malta were one of the most important war targets for members of anti-Napoleon coalitions (Milosavljević 1995, 5–26). In the same period, during the last years of the 18th century, the first signs of British fear from the possible Russian control of the Ionian archipelago were visible (Milosavljević 1995, 5–26). Also in 1798–1799, as a result of Napoleon's eastern expedition, for the first time an alliance was formed by arch enemies: Russia and Turkey. Their most significant success was conquest of the Ionian Islands, complemented by the fall of Corfu after a long admiral Fyodor Ushakov's offensive. This conquest was not just a military victory of Russia-Turkey alliance, but also showed that it was very difficult to defend possession of the islands without good links with continental neighbourhood, the one dominated by Ali Pasha of Yannina.⁴ He had a very important role in history of the Ionian Islands, especially since the Mediterranean wars and the first French conquest of the islands. French started to import large quantities of timber and grain even before 1797.⁵ Greek merchants were in charge of the transport, while the merchants from islands Spetses and Hydra had a particularly prominent role. The power that Ali Pasha had was also due to the wars waged in the southern Italy. Anyway, his authority in the matters of the Ionian Islands was most obvious given that he was a person the islanders feared most, for several reasons: most of the grain was imported from the lands under his control; he openly expressed his conquering ambitions towards ports and islands themselves, especially towards Lefkada and Corfu. Ali Pasha ac-

4 Also known as Ali Pasha of Tepelena, was one of the most important *ayan* in the late 18th and 19th century.

5 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/1 Zante 10th August 1790, Spiridon Foresti to Duke of Leeds.

completed his plans at least as far as continental ports are concerned, for he took them all except for Parga (Kocić 2013, 205–221).

In the period that followed, the Russian and Turkish conquest with assistance of the British ships was a turning point in the history of the Ionian Islands, and it also set the example for the Christian uprisings that marked first half of 19th century in the Balkan provinces of Turkey. After the fall of the Corfu fortress in 1799, the key issue was organization of islands themselves. Citizens of the Ionian Islands also took part in shaping future constitution: through their representatives in Istanbul and Saint Petersburg (Milosavljević 1995, 147) they tried to increase their odds to ensure the power was shared. Such a situation resulted from the social tensions between aristocracy who had been privileged under Venetian rule, and the more numerous citizen class led by the merchants, who themselves got rich and became an important factor. Besides, long-lasting French rule brought some novelties the effects of which no one could have predicted. Once the golden books with lists of local aristocracy were burnt, everything indicated the system was changeable. The diarchy of two states that held islands in protectorate was a unique case in relations between Russia and Turkey, something that happened never again. The new constitution, often referred to as *Turkish Constitution*, came as a result of very active lobbying of a part of island aristocracy, who advocated abolishment of the changes introduced in 1799. The constitution was ratified in November 1801, to great joy of island's aristocracy. Consequently, the constitution incited frequent clashes between islanders in period to come.

The Ionian Islands were recognized not only by parties in Russia-Turkey alliance, but also by two most important powers in the Mediterranean: Great Britain and France. Acknowledgment of their autonomy was important for two reasons: security of islands and admitted priority in commerce, but also international recognition of autonomy of these islands that become example for other Balkan Christians. Details of relations between Russia and Turkey were arranged by the Convention of March 21, 1800 (Milosavljević 1995, 148), which formally stipulated the supreme command of the sultan over islands. However, much more important for the islanders was that the internal organization was left to citizens of the islands, alluding the original proclamation of admiral Ushkov in autumn 1798.⁶ It was stipulated that the islands would have the same status the

6 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/4 Corfu 14th July 1800, Spiridon Foresti to Lord Grenville.

Republic of Dubrovnik had had within Ottoman Empire. For the security of the islands themselves, it was important that Turkey took obligation to guard citizens and their property against North African pirates who were very active in these waters. Possibilities given to islanders caused a lot of friction between different interest groups. The first constitution the citizens of the Ionian Islands got after 1799 was known after admiral Ushakov, that constitution was very progressive and didn't give nobility option to take over complete control over islands. Disgruntled nobility was not happy with it and wanted to abolish the rights given to second rate citizens in 1799 (Milosavljević 1995, 167). What creators of the 1801 constitution overlooked were large differences among different islands and their residents, but even more the differences between citizens of the archipelago and merchants who were not willing to accept their marginalization in political life of the islands (Vaudoncourt 1816, 410). The last constitution was passed in 1803 due to count Demetrio Mocenigo and support of Russians, who used dispense of constitution to consolidate their position in archipelago and slowly squeezed Turkey, something that became obvious after Tilsit agreement between Napoleon and Alexander in 1807.

Legal status of the Ionian Islands and their autonomy wouldn't be of much importance for citizens if they couldn't use it for commercial development. Ionian merchants used neutrality of their country for the successful increase of their commerce in the Mediterranean. What was the extent of their progress was shown best in the port of Livorno, since that port was most of the time under French control and Greek merchants from the Ionian Islands used it for their trade expansion (Galani 2010, 179). On the other hand, exchange with Crimea also became very important. The flag of independent the Ionian Islands in the period from 1800 to 1805 enabled huge commercial prosperity for this archipelago (Panzac 1992, 189–206). The Ionian Islands were important as a military base that could control naval routes in the Adriatic, in the Ionian Sea and in waters around Peloponnese, but also as producers and exporters of different products, the most important being oil and currants. The oil was the most important product in Corfu and Paxos while the leading role in producing and exporting of currants was held by Zakynthos and Cephalonia (Vaudoncourt 1816, 426–433). These products were very important during Venetian rule, but also during the administrations that followed, as was the case of Great Britain after 1814, one of the biggest importers of currants,

especially those from Zakynthos.⁷ Besides, at times of naval and trade blockades the control over these islands facilitated greatly the import of necessary raw materials from Turkish provinces, grains and wood for navy and merchant shipyards being most important among them.⁸

The Tilsit agreement also marked the passing of the Ionian Islands under the French control, for the second time after August 1807. That change is interesting, for Alexander I decided to hand over the Ionian Islands and Cattaro, despite large number of Russian ships and soldiers present there.⁹ Judging by reports sent by English consul in Zakynthos, later the plenipotentiary minister, Spiridion Foresti, we know that Corfu senate was formally informed of Tilsit agreement on August the 10th by count Mocenigo. Little before the French navy fleet from Otranto entered Corfu.¹⁰ Right after their arrival, French proclaimed new government led by Governor Commander General Berthier. Once this government became stable, cessation of the Septinsular Republic's constitution, in power until French arrival, was proclaimed. At the same time, it was confirmed that the islands were to be controlled by the government led by General Berthier.¹¹

Correspondence between English military and diplomatic representatives and London shows that after signing of the agreement between Alexander I and Napoleon and the official hand over of the islands, the plans of bringing the islands under British rule started already in 1807¹². From this matter, it was utterly important the diplomatic mission of British captain William Leake at Ali Pasha's court (Leake 1835, 11). His reports show that the Turkish pashas, Ali Pasha in the first place, found very inconvenient that French became their closest neighbors. At that time, as well as in the years to come, Ali Pasha was very skillfully manipulating

7 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/9 Kew Surry 23rd November 1807 William Mayer to G. Kerimord.

8 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/9 Kew Surry 23rd November 1807 William Mayer to G. Kerimord.

9 Fleet consisted of 14 ships of line and a number of frigates and smaller warships, while ground forces from southern Italy to the Ionian Islands and Cattaro counted 13,000 men.

10 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/9 Corfu 11th August 1807, Spiridion Foresti to Lord Colingwood.

11 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/9 Malta 3rd October 1807, Foresti to George Canning.

12 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/9 Malta 3rd October 1807, Foresti to George Canning.

French and English expectations. At the time of French comeback to archipelago he was unhappy they took possession of towns Parga and Preveza, the latter being most important port for commerce with Epirus. The new period of French rule finished for majority of islands after important British naval victory over French in waters of Zakynthos on October 2, 1809.¹³ After that victory, Lord Byron came for the first time in those waters after Spiridion Foresti convinced him to change his route and instead to Smyrna, come first to the Ionian archipelago (Beaton 2013, 4). English fleet took over all the islands from French very quickly. This time, the French were better organized than in 1798 and withdrew majority of their soldiers to Corfu, which had been well fortified and supplied to withstand long siege.

The period 1809–1814 was a very peculiar period for the Ionian Islands since there were two different administrations simultaneously: the French one at Corfu and the British one at the rest of the islands, while in continental ports that for long time under jurisdiction of the Ionian Islands, there was the Turkish administration. The connection of islands and mainland was necessary for obtaining the islands' grain supply from Peloponnese and from Epirus. That was the reason why Ali Pasha role was very important. This was one of the most significant reasons while the role of Ali Pasha had such a weight in this entire period.

The period after September 1809 provides a full picture of the obvious and indisputable influence of Great Britain. How well islanders perceived that shift of power witnessed the letter which Ithaca citizens sent to the first secretary of British government George Canning, in October 1809, only few days after British fleet took control of the island.¹⁴ Islanders knew very well which the victorious side was at sea and who would be their best protector. It is interesting to note that Russian influence in two major islands, Cephalonia and Zakynthos, was weakened heavily after surprising Russian departure in 1807.

Later on, after the First Treaty of Paris in 1814, islanders gladly remembered British administration because of the independence proclaimed to the citizens during the 1809 offensive. However, during the last years of Napoleonic wars the Secretary of State and Colonial Secretary of Great Britain was Lord Bathurst and his vision of islands' future didn't include giving independence to the Ionian Is-

13 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/11 Zakynthos 17th October 1809, Spiridion Foresti to George Canning.

14 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/11 Ithaca 11th October 1809, Gerasimo Draculi, Spiridion Carracia, Demetrios Basopelo to George Canning.

lands (Paschalidi 2009, 76). Being afraid that the ideas of the French Revolution could spread, he belonged to the group of conservative and rigid politicians and the most prominent British statesmen that shaped colonial policy of the Crown. The First Secretary in charge of foreign policy, Lord Castlereagh (Paschalidi 2009, 78) shared opinion with Lord Bathurst concerning foreign policy and those countries that were considered zones of British influence. British army was formally invited by islanders to free them from French¹⁵, but actually neither the majority of islanders did invite them, nor did they get independence or liberation that was promised. After successful military missions in 1809 and 1810, all islands except Corfu and Paxos came under British control, and there were no indications their status would change during Napoleonic wars.¹⁶ The islands were very important for British plans as ideal military base for protecting Strait of Otranto, invasion to eastern shore of Apennine peninsula or expeditions into the Adriatic Sea and threatening French in those waters. The islands were ruled by military commanders with assistance of councils of selected citizens in whose election major role was played by reliable British people, like Spiridion Foresti.¹⁷ Great Britain made preparations to take Corfu and Paxos from French just after 1814, and to sort out their status after that. Their attempt was successful but the fortress was never conquered as in 1799 as general Donzelot surrounded the fortress just after he got the instructions to do so in June 1814.¹⁸

Great Britain was the only power on the winning side at the Congress of Vienna that did not belong to the future Holy Alliance, and its more modern approach in contrast to others can be seen from its stance towards that issue, simply from the fact that British politicians did not consider any solution to be the only one or the best one. The Cabinet members had different visions of the islands' future: commander of British forces in the Mediterranean, Campbell, and Lord Bathurst were in favor of annexation of the islands (Tumelty 1952, 14). Such standpoint made clear that possession of the Ionian Islands, together with bases

15 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/11 Zakynthos 17th October 1809, Spiridion Foresti to George Canning.

16 The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office 136/5 Corfu 27th February 1816, Maitland to Bathurst.

17 The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office 136/5 Corfu 27th February 1816, Maitland to Bathurst.

18 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/15 Corfu 21st June 1814, James Campbell to Viscount Castlereagh

in Gibraltar and Malta, enabled control over Mediterranean and part of its fairways all the way to Peloponnese. Other influential politicians, like Lord Castlereagh, were pleading islands to be surrendered to Austria. That possibility was abandoned primarily because of the Austrian position that insisted not to become islands protector, but to take full sovereignty over them. Sir Edward Church was advocating independent islands under protection of Great Britain. An important role at the Congress of Vienna was played by Russian minister of foreign affairs, Ioannis Capodistria, who was not delighted by the idea of annexation of the islands, either by Britain or Austria. He proposed islands should be independent and under protection of just one of the victorious powers. However, he represented a power that had those islands under its protection and was willing to try that again. The Congress of Vienna was coming to its end and status of the Ionian Islands was still unsolved, almost 6 years after promises Great Britain gave to islanders. Eventually, the opinion of Lord Castlereagh outweighed others, and he concurred with Capodistria except that he interpreted protection of the Ionian Islands in a manner that suited British interests. In November 1815 in Paris the Second Treaty of Paris was signed also pertaining to the Ionian Islands.

The formal cause for conquering Zakynthos, and later on the other islands, was invitation of the islanders. Spiridion Foresti was among the most important citizens of Zakynthos, with enough influence over his compatriots to make Zakynthos the first island to invite British fleet to liberate them from French¹⁹. The Treaty of Paris recognized the Ionian Islands as single, free and independent state, but at the same time under exclusive protection of the British Crown, and stated that the British Monarch “will employ a particular solicitude with regard to their legislation and the general administration of those States will therefore appoint a Lord High Commissioner to reside there, invested with all the necessary power and authorities for this purpose” (Tumelty 1952, 21). The Lord High Commissioner was responsible for the forms of the convocation of a Legislative Assembly and a new Constitutional Charter for the Ionian Islands with the ratification of the British Crown (Tumelty 1952, 21). Despite detailed description of the flag and coat of arms of the islands that were supposed to follow the suite of former Septinsular Republic (1800–1807), many things remained unclear, especially those concerning internal constitution of the islands and British interference. One of the biggest

19 The National Archives, Foreign Office 42/11 Zakynthos 17th October 1809, Spiridion Foresti to George Canning.

paradoxes was that that old Constitutional Charter remained in power until new one passed, but neither the old one existed nor the bodies that declared it had authority to do that anymore. The last constitution to be passed was the ‘Turkish’ or ‘Byzantine’ constitution, and it was finally passed by Corfu senate that, at that time, was not authorized to do that.

The Treaty of Paris left the Ionian Islands in a limbo between British protectorate and independence. That is confirmed by the fact decisions were referring to current constitution that wasn’t ratified. The islands got their constitution only in 1817. To what extent situation was unclear it is best evident from the debates in the House of Commons arising throughout 1816, when a group of MPs led by Sir Charles Miles Lambert Monck very openly solicited full independence of islands and requested forming of parliamentary commission that would investigate situation in the Ionian Islands. Major argument was that Great Britain gave promise of liberation, but didn’t do much better than French the islanders had been freed from (Paschalidi 2009, 87). Sir Monck was especially critical towards period 1810–1814 that passed without Great Britain showing any intention whatsoever to help the Ionian Islands gain autonomy. For him, the Treaty of Paris turned British promise of 1809 into deception. Further, he claimed: “They were told that they enjoyed independence; but it was the will of a power to appointed their protector. Their legislature was declared free; but there was a British commissioner, who was empowered to regulate its proceedings” (Paschalidi 2009, 78). However, Monck and his argument that the Ionian Islands were not a colony like those across the ocean and that it was necessary to give them representative forms of rule didn’t gain majority in the House of Commons. The period between the Treaty of Paris in 1815 and the proclamation of the constitution in 1817 was very important for the method of British rule in the Ionian Islands was formed precisely in that period. From the correspondence between Thomas Maitland and his colleagues in the Secretary of State prior to his arrival to the Ionian Islands in February 1816 it can be concluded that the instructions he received and affirmatively responded to were to control the islands not as independent territory, but as a colony.²⁰ Appointment of Thomas Maitland or “King Tom” (Bayly 1989, 198), as the first Lord High Commissioner in the Ionian Islands was called, shows quite clearly what was the nature of administration in the years immediately after 1815. He was the second

²⁰ The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial 136/300, London 26th November 1815, Bunbary to Maitland.

son of James Maitland, Earl of Lauderdale, and in his four decades of service one of the most successful colonial officials. His first significant experience was gained in India. Later on, he took part in the war against Toussaint L'Ouverture in Hispaniola, where he had to retreat in front of Black Napoleon. Best recommendation to get position of Malta's governor in 1813 was his very successful five-year service in Sri Lanka. The governor appointment brought him a lot of respect in London for the efficient administration of the island (Lord 1896, 47). What is evident is that he gained his experience in the environments that hadn't have much in common with the Mediterranean, but he was just the administrator that could guarantee protection of British military and trade interests in the Mediterranean region.

The archival sources in the War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office, namely the archives with the original correspondence with the Ionian Islands²¹ and the correspondence Lord High Commissioner had with London in the period 1816–1817 convey an intention of shared power with local population. Having thoroughly analyzed all the past administration systems (Venetian, French, Russian-Turkish, then French again) King Tom deduced that the islanders were not capable of controlling the islands on their own. To this connection was his observation that they fought unmercifully against each other, like in class wars.²² This was a rather remarkable consideration for the Soviet and Russian historians came to the same conclusions a century after Thomas Maitland had written it. Examples he gave had range from America and Malta, where he was proponent of firmer control that in most important lost colony, to Madras and Sri Lanka, and finally concluded administration functions best when all responsible officials are English.²³ Aforementioned correspondence and the constitution of 1817 show that for Lord High Commissioner it was necessary to stand above all levels of power: legislative, judicial and executive.²⁴ The beginning of the constitution was very encouraging for the Greeks regarding some less important matters. For instance,

21 TNA the National Archives, Kew Garden, London, United Kingdom. Records on War and Colonial Department and Colonial, following boxes are important for the Ionian Islands: CO 136/1, CO 136/15, CO 136/187, CO 136/375, CO 136/376, CO 136/377.

22 The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office 136/5 Corfu 27th February 1816, Maitland to Bathurst.

23 The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office 136/5 Corfu 27th February 1816, Maitland to Bathurst.

24 The National Archives, War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office 412/330, Constitution Chapter the Ionian Islands.

the Article 3 stated that the official religion was the Greek Orthodox Christianity, with a respect for all other Christian denominations. The following article cited Greek as official language, while the Article 5 contradicted it stating that in the circumstances where Italian was already in use, it was not possible to use Greek; hence Italian was to remain in use until further notice. Civil authorities were comprised of Legislative Assembly, Senate and judicial authorities. The Articles 6 to 23 regulated the General Organization, namely the key governmental bodies. Apart from the introductory part, the constitution consisted of six sections²⁵ that regulated administration of the islands into tiny details. This constitution would have been very liberal with high degree of liberties and responsibilities, if it hadn't been for the Lord High Commissioner who had the actual power: he had the right to name the officials, the right of veto and even the right to dissolve all forms of rule. The islanders had their representatives on the state positions in the new Republic of united islands, but under a very strict control. Furthermore, the islanders that were electable were exclusively those considered to be friendly to the British authorities.

Archive reports from first two to three years when the entire archipelago came under British rule yield obvious change in plans for organization of the islands after the war. After final Napoleon's defeat Great Britain remained with no important rival at the seas and showed no intention to lose any of the territories or to endanger the control it had over them. Same as when the joint naval actions of Great Britain, Russia and Turkey took place by the end of 18th century, British considered the Ionian Islands the utterly important territory for securing navy and merchant routes and protection of British interests. The important change took place in the same year when the Treaty of Paris was signed – the Ionian Islands received the treatment of an overseas colony, not of an independent country that invited Great Britain to liberate them. Insufficiently precise provisions of the Treaty of Paris made it possible for the British to avoid the promise of the islands' independence from 1809 and to manipulate in a manner that suited the Cabinet of that time. Key person in implementing the colonial control under the cloak of a formal protectorate over the independent republic was the first Lord High Commissioner Thomas Maitland who prepared and passed the constitution of 1817, the one that gave institutional basis for administration of the Ionian

²⁵ The Senate, the Legislative Assembly, the Local Governments, the Ecclesiastical Establishment, the Judicial Authority, Miscellaneous.

Islands same as in some overseas colonies. The nature of the responsibilities given to the islanders echoed those given to locals in some overseas colony. However, the experience the citizens of the Ionian Islands gained in the turbulent decades of Napoleonic Wars in the Mediterranean, as well as the links established between the islands and continent, especially Epirus and Peloponnese, turned islanders into very enterprising and capable people. Some of them, like the families Capodistria and Mocenigo managed to win some of the most prestigious positions in other European countries. The rigid authority embodied in the figure of a toughened colonial official who didn't release the power of unavoidable changes following the French Revolution and the first national revolutions, was taken by surprise by Greek Revolution. The new circumstances showed his own inability when the rigid measures he had established for controlling situation failed to prevent the citizens of the Ionian Islands from joining the Greek Revolution.

Two contemporaries illustrate the spirit of those times and help us understand it: Thomas Maitland and Lord Byron. They both came pretty much at same time to the Ionian archipelago and both died in the same year – Thomas of old age and Byron due to the siege of Missolonghi. The former was remembered as a successful colonial administrator, while the latter launched the largest wave of Hellenophilia among higher British military officials whose echelons took decisive role in the last years of the Greek Revolution and in forming of Greek independence. British administration in the Ionian Islands, established in years following The Treaty of Paris could not be abandoned, but events after 1821 in vicinity of the Ionian Islands and experience gained in those islands definitely changed opinion regarding Greek ability to run a state.

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Rezime:

Jonska ostrva posle Napoleona

Bečki kongres i Drugi pariski mir nisu samo obeležili slom Napoleona, već su bili restauracija sistema za koji se očekivalo da će trajati. Jonska ostrva su bila vojni plen Velike Britanije u toku Pete i Šeste koalicije protiv Napoleona, koja su nakon 1815. postale zvanično protektorat Velike Britanije. Arhipelag je bio nezavistan i slobodan entitet ali pod direktnom upravom Visokog komesara, koji je u svojim ovlašćenjima zamenio venecijanskog Generalnog providura. Visokog komesara potvrđivao je britanski monarh. Njegova najznačajnija uloga je bila u pripremanju Ustava koji je morao biti potvrđen u Londonu. Ustav koji su ostrva dobila 1817. davao je značajno manje sloboda nego što je bilo dogovoreno između Velike Britanije i Rusije 1815. Konzularni izveštaji koji su najvažniji izvorni materijal korišćen u ovom radu pružaju sliku u stanje na ostrvima iz koje se može zaključiti da je najveći strah postojao od izbijanja

pobuna i anarhije koja ostrvima nije bila strana. Upravo je strah velikih sila od izbijanja sukoba među samim ostvljanima doprineo usvajanju rigidnog ustava 1817. Ostrvljani su zahvaljujući čestim promenama administracija u periodu od 1797. stekli veliko iskustvo u administrativnim poslovima koje je postalo još značajnije u periodu nakon izbijanja Grčke revolucije 1821.

Ključne reči: Jonska ostrva, Velika Britanija, Pariski mir, Bečki kongres, Krf, Zakintos, Kefalonija, Napoleon, Ali Paša, Tomas Mejlend, lord Bajron, Visoki komesar.

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