



31st Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture gathering with guest speaker Iosif Maravelakis
14 May 2024, 6.00 pm (UK time)

From Crete to London: A Case Study of British Influence in the 19th-Century Ottoman Empire

In my book I tried to open a new perspective in the field of foreign policy by examining the exercise of the British foreign policy and power in a region of British interest, namely the Ottoman Crete, but this time by the lower levels of the consular authority during the middle 19th century. On a second basis, I attempted to demonstrate the divergences and convergences between the consular and the official policy on the island and the extent which the first one could affect the second. In the introduction, I explain the reason of choosing Crete, as a region to explore how the consuls could balance their personal interests and sensibilities with the exercise of their duties, since the island constituted a place of strategic importance that combined a growing insurrectionary political climate with the commercial opportunities which could provide the agricultural economy of the island.

Since the late 20th century, in the historiographical debates of British imperialism regarding the portrayal of the imperial experience from the metropole and the periphery, there have been studies about networks of power and information from the periphery to the center and vice versa. There have also been historians who have conducted serious research on the connections of the British officials with the local element. However, these studies have been undertaken mainly for places of official colonial rule, such as India. What I consider as originality in my research is the use of a similar viewpoint in the field of the foreign and not colonial policy or in other words in a place of the British informal empire, if someone accepts the term given by Gallagher and Robinson.

In my study the different stories of four consular officials who violated or exceeded their duties are illustrated. In the beginning of my research, I did not expect the discovery of four different ways and motivations behind the violation and exceedance of consular duties. This achievement would not have been accomplished without the combination of the official correspondence and the local archives during the research process. What I also aim to capture is the impact of their consular behaviour not only on the consular district of Crete, but also out of the borders of the island, such as the cases of Dickson, Sandwith and Ongley. > [read more:](#)

Booking essential: <https://iosif-maravelakis-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>



Iosif Maravelakis is a historian with a keen interest in the political, diplomatic, economic, and social dynamics of the Eastern Mediterranean region during the 19th century. Born in 1986, Iosif embarked on an academic journey that spanned multiple disciplines, beginning with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Macedonia, Greece. However, his passion for history led him to pursue further studies, culminating in a Bachelor's degree in History and Archaeology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Driven by a desire to delve deeper into European and Mediterranean history, Iosif pursued a Master's degree in European History at the University College of London. This served as a foundation for his subsequent doctoral research at Ludwig Maximilian University, where he obtained a PhD in Modern History. Iosif Maravelakis' book, titled "From Candia to London: An example of a bottom-up exercise of British power in the 19th-century Ottoman Empire," explored the intricate mechanisms of British influence in the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century, shedding light on lesser-known aspects of foreign policy and imperial dynamics.

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