

KAPODISTRIAS' TIMELINE

1776: Ioannis Kapodistrias is born in Corfu.

1796: He studies Medicine in Padua, Italy (1795-1797).

1797: The Republic of Venice is overthrown by the French.

1798: His father Antonios Maria is arrested and is put under house arrest by the French because of the Kapodistrias' family resistance against the French rule.

1799: The Napoleon Wars break out (1799-1815). Kapodistrias is appointed chief medical director of the military hospital in Corfu.

1800: The Septinsular Republic is established (1800- 1807)

1802: George Mocenigo, an envoy of the Russian Tsar governs the Ionian islands

1803: Kapodistrias is appointed secretary of The Septinsular Republic. He participates in writing the new Constitution.

1804: Alexander I awards Kapodistrias the rank of a college advisor

1807: Kapodistrias together with bishop Ignatios are sent as delegates to Lefkada which is threatened by Ali Pasas. He meets with Greek chieftains.

1809: He arrives in St Petersburg having been invited by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to join the Russian Diplomatic Corps.

1811: He writes the memorandum *Memoire sur l'etat actuel des Grecs* for the Russian diplomatic services. He is sent to the Russian embassy of Vienna as a supernumerary attaché

1812: Ioannis Kapodistrias is appointed director of the diplomatic office of the Russian army in Bucharest.

1814: The Tsar assigns Kapodistrias the task of settling the Swiss matter. In Zurich he meets Eynard.

1815: Ioannis Kapodistrias signs the Paris Peace Treaty on behalf of Russia, by which the Ionian islands are proclaimed an autonomous state under the protection of the British Empire.

1816: Ioannis Kapodistrias is appointed joint foreign minister of Russia together with Nesselrode.

1817: Stourzas drafted the first version of the treaty of the Holy Alliance, from the penciled notes of the Tsar Alexander I.

1818: He becomes a member of the Science Academy of St Petersburg

1819: In Corfu Kapodistrias writes a letter with which he asks the Greeks not to rebel.

1820: Kapodistrias refuses to become the leader of the *Filiki Eteria*, a post which is accepted by Alexander Ypsilantis

1821: In the Congress of Laibach, the Holy Alliance condemns all reforms which come from rebellious movements. Ioannis Kapodistrias takes part in it as a member of the Russian delegation. The Greek Revolution breaks out in Moldavia in February and in the Peloponnese in March.

1822: The public hanging of Patriarch Grigorios V in April together with the killing of Christians that followed, made Kapodistrias try to persuade the Tsar to strongly oppose the Ottoman Empire. The First National Assembly of Epidaurus declares the independence of the Greek nation.

1826: Ioannis Kapodistrias writes the memorandum *Apercu de ma carriere publique depuis 1798 jusqu'a 1822*, which he submits to the Tsar.

1827: In collaboration with Ignatius Mostras Mocenigo and Spyridon Narantzis and other members of the *Philomousos Etaireia* (Society of the Muses) he continues the foundation of schools and orphanages in Trieste, Venice and Ancona as well as the hospitalization of orphans and refugees of the Greek Revolution. On the 2nd of April he is elected Governor of Greece by the Third National Assembly. The London Treaty is signed Naval Battle of Navarino.

1828: Ioannis Kapodistrias arrives in Aegina. He applies a series of measures for the organization of the newly found state.

1829: The Fourth National Assembly is convened in Argos. Kapodistrias founds an orphanage in Aegina and the "Central School"

1830: The Protocol of Independence of the Greek State is signed. Adamantios Korais writes against Ioannis Kapodistrias. The opposition against him expands.

1831: The opposition start their rebellion with a riot in Mani, the burning of the Hellenic Navy's fleet in Poros and the publication of the "Apollon" newspaper in Hydra. Ioannis Kapodistrias is assassinated in Nafplion.

№. 1438. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ.

Ο ΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ.

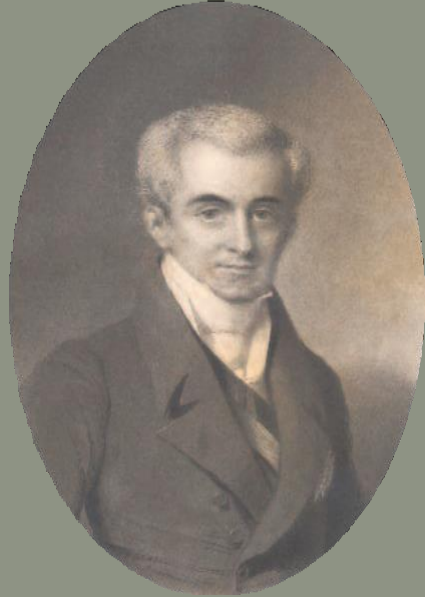
Νομὸς τῶν Νομίδων ὑπὸ Προεδρίας.

Ioannis Kapodistrias

'Man doesn't live, live his work'

Young Historians of
Europe 2018-2020





CORFIOT ARISTOCRAT

Ioannis Kapodistrias was born in 1776 in Corfu, during the period of Venetian Rule. Along with his other eight siblings, he was raised in a strict patriarchal and religious family. The Kapodistrias family is one of the oldest families on the island; it is said that its ancestors arrived in Corfu at the end of the 14th century for the city of Capo d' Istria, which was situated in today's Slovenia. Although their family name was Vittori, it wasn't long before their dominant name became the one that indicated their place of origin: Kapodistrias.

Ioannis, like many other young noblemen of his time, studied Medicine in Padua, Italy (1794 – 1797); after completing his studies, he returned to his home country, where he practiced medicine. He returned at the time of the end of the Venetian Rule and its subsequent replacement by the arrival of the Republican French in the island, who attempted to enforce a drastic change in the island's social structures. In 1799, after a four-month siege of Corfu by powerful joint Russian and Turkish military forces, the Republican French left Corfu. In 1800 was the Septinsular Republic was founded – the first Modern Greek State formation, under the principal control of the Russians. Ioannis Kapodistrias became actively engaged in politics. As Secretary of State on Foreign, Naval, and Trade Affairs of the Septinsular Republic, he worked systematically for the implementation of the Constitution, the education of administrative officers, the building of new schools and the defense of the Republic. However, in 1807 the Septinsular Republic was terminated and the Ionian Islands were ceded to the Imperial French with the Treaty of Tilsit.

EUROPEAN POLITICIAN

In 1808, Czar Alexander I invited Ioannis Kapodistrias to Russia, to serve in Russia's Foreign Ministry. This was not unusual for the time; the Russian Empire was acceptant of capable men of noble origin regardless of ethnicity – men who would be devoted to the Supreme Ruler and would faithfully serve the Empire. During the course of his political career in Russia, Kapodistrias rose to become a key figure not only of Russian diplomacy, but also of European diplomacy.

In 1813, he was appointed head of the first Russian diplomatic mission in Switzerland, which would contribute to the formation of the Swiss Federation and the drafting of the new Swiss Constitution. Soon afterwards, in 1814, Kapodistrias became a close associate of Alexander I at the Congress of Vienna, assembled to arrange the post-Napoleonic order in Europe. It was in this Congress that Kapodistrias gained the reputation as a speaker equal to the great diplomats, such as Metternich, Talleyrand and Castlereagh. In 1815, he was tasked with carrying out, on behalf of Russia, the final peace negotiations with France, and he signed the Treaty of Paris. During the same year, Kapodistrias aided Alexander I in his decision to grant a Constitution to the Kingdom of Poland.

In 1816, Kapodistrias, as close associate of Alexander I, was appointed joint foreign minister of Russia, along with Karl Nesselrode. He remained in this office until 1822, when he resigned from his post and retired to Switzerland following a disagreement with Alexander I over the Greek affair. In 1827, he officially resigned from Russian service.

GOVERNOR OF GREECE

Upon arrival in war-torn Greece, Kapodistrias was determined to reform the country on the basis of a very specific plan – and in order to implement this plan, he had to practice a concentration of powers. Initially, he managed to safeguard the cooperation of representatives from all leading groups; thus, he won domestic peace, provided a rudimentary organization of government, operated the mechanism of government with some degree of adequacy, and also provided care for orphans and generally for all his fellow countrymen left with no protection. The country gained security and Kapodistrias set the foundations for a stable course. For the Governor, the top priority was to drive the Turkish and Egyptian armies out of the Peloponnese and mainland Greece, and also to ensure the wider possible borders for the long-term survival of the newly-formed State.

In Kapodistrias's view, Greece in 1828 was not yet ready for a constitutional regime. It was more important to liberate the country and gain its international recognition, to define safe borders and to distribute lands to farmers. Kapodistrias's policies prioritized the expansion of basic education through mutual teaching schools, and also the creation of a Central School for the education of future teachers.

In his effort to create a State modeled on European standards, Kapodistrias gained many political rivals. This came as a result of many factors; the new reality brought to the forefront new politics and social powers with opposite interests. Many hopes held by the revolted Greeks were crushed by the bitter reality of a small, poor country forced to take its first steps dependent on the aid of European Powers. Kapodistrias also maintained a centralized system of governance that displeased those who believed in the power of democratic procedures.

Reaction against Kapodistrias was made flesh in the members of the Mavromichalis clan. On a Sunday morning on September 27th, 1831, the Governor was assassinated on the steps of the church of Saint Spyridon by the son of Petrobeys Mavromichalis, aided by Petrobeys's brother. A chapter closed for the new State of Greece. The Governor's body would be handed to Ioannis Kapodistrias's brother Avgoustinos, who, in April 1832, brought it back to Corfu for burial in the Monastery of Platytera, next to the grave of Ioannis's father, Antonios Maria Kapodistrias.