



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
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An Attempt to Sketch the Life and Work of Ioannis Capodistrias

In celebration of the Greek Revolution of 1821, on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 3:00 pm Chicago time, Hellenic Link-Midwest will present historian *Christos Loukos*, Professor Emeritus at the University of Crete, in a lecture titled "*An Attempt to Sketch the Life and Work of Ioannis Capodistrias.*" This will be an online lecture. A live streaming of the lecture will be projected on a large overhead screen at the lecture hall of The Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois. Admission is free. For those who cannot attend the lecture at the lecture hall of St. Haralambos, a Zoom link to the live streaming is provided: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86748110034>

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Capodistrias built his career through sacrifice and persistent efforts. He vigorously sought an active position in the Russian diplomatic service, and when it was given to him, he quickly demonstrated his abilities. In pursuit of his goals, he was hard on himself, sacrificing joys from his personal life. In difficult times, he drew strength from his deep Orthodox faith and the ideas that his father had inspired in him. He was fortunate enough to be noticed by Emperor of Russia Alexander I and appointed as his trusted associate. At his side, he found himself at the center of the most important developments of the period 1814-1822 and, with his ideas, advice and interventions, he contributed to important decisions for the fate of post-Napoleonic Europe.

Capodistrias refused the leadership of the Friendly Society and tried to prevent the outbreak of a revolution. He believed that the timing of the revolution was not right, especially since he knew that the Emperor would not support it, as it happened. But when it broke out, he tried to exploit Turkish atrocities to make Russia the regulator of developments. Ultimately, his insistence on adopting his own positions would displease Alexander and their separation would be inevitable.

He finally accepted his election by the Third Greek National Assembly as Governor of Greece, after having previously secured his resignation from Russian service. According to Capodistrias, the Greece of 1828 was not ripe for a constitutional regime. However, despite all his intentions for some future and conditional constitutional concessions, in Greece in 1828-1831 power was concentrated and exercised by one person—with all the positive and negative implications this solution entailed, and in contrast to the democratic tradition of revolutionary constitutions. His assassination relieved those who feared any form of extension of Capodistrias' power, but it plunged the country into civil war and disrepute, which perhaps only he had the ability, by making some concessions, to prevent.

Christos Loukos graduated in 1967 from the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Athens. He attended postgraduate studies in Paris and received a PhD degree in History at the University of Athens. In 1992 he was elected Assistant Professor and in 1996 Professor at the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Crete where he taught undergraduate and postgraduate students. The subjects he specializes in are the Greek Revolution of 1821, Social Issues of Modern Greek Cities, Issues of the History of the Greek State, History of Greek Typography, and Introduction to the History of Latin America. His publications, books, and articles in journals and collective volumes deal mainly with these topics.

He is a founding and active member of the Society for the Study of Modern Hellenism, which, among other things, publishes the historical review *Mnemon*. He had the general supervision of the classification of the Municipal Archives of Hermoupolis and the municipal-community archives of Ano Syros, Kea, Amorgos, Vilia, Aigio, Symi, Oinousses, Serifos and Santorini. Since 1994, he is the Director of the research program "*The City in Modern Times*" at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (Rethymno, Crete). From 2012 he is Emeritus Professor of the University of Crete, and in 2012-2013 he taught undergraduate and postgraduate students as visiting Professor at the University of Cyprus.

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