



The European Heart Project

Let's learn from history ...

Episode 3

The Day that Changed Modern Greece

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Layout

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1 Introduction

Welcome!

In this booklet you can put into practice what you have learned so far about basic human needs and about helpful and less helpful strategies.

Here you have the opportunity to experience history in a completely different way: Historians from Austria, Greece, France, and Sweden have worked intensively on the question of what we can learn from the history of Europe. They have described exciting episodes from the perspective of the 5 basic needs. You now have the chance to slip into the roles of the people involved in an episode and experience the scene from their individual point of view!

If you haven't heard of the basic needs according to the concept of William Glasser, you should first familiarize yourself with the booklet "Needs and Strategies", because this knowledge is already assumed for the following exercises.

Of course, you can always refer to the booklet "Needs and Strategies" if you are not sure about one or the other question. This is not a test or a school assignment ;-). You can also do your history experience in pairs with a friend and talk about it with him or her in between.

2 Turning points in the history of mankind



What do we mean when we talk about milestones or turning points?

At such turning points in history, a decision was made in some way to leave the old behind and try something new and better.

In order for you to experience these fundamental decisions as vividly and intensively as possible, historians from Greece, France (La Reunion), Austria and Sweden have come together and compiled their knowledge:

- *How and under what circumstances people lived at that time*

- *What image of the world they had?*
- *What they believed in*

What we can't know is how they felt and what they thought. And this is where you come in: The second part of this booklet is all about bringing the people who acted back then back to life by putting yourself in their shoes.



Would you like to join in?

3 How you can work with this booklet

Join us and travel with us into the past! Experience history from new perspectives! In this chapter, you will find a selected episode that set the course for major changes in history.

First, familiarize yourself with the historical background of the episode (Step 1). Here you can get to know the situation and learn about the circumstances that led to the following episode.

In the chapter "The Situation" you will find a description of the challenge people faced.

And now you can already take action: In the chapter "The People Involved," different people who were at the scene at the time will tell you about the situation from their point of view. Choose one of the people for your historical experience.

Of course, you will also learn how the story continued according to the historical accounts, but for that we ask you to be patient. After all, it would be half the fun if you knew everything in advance. Instead, go to the second part of this booklet, take on the role of the person you have chosen and experience the story from their point of view. What is on your mind when you are in that role? How would you act?

Follow the steps, and only at the very end, see how the story actually went. If you want to know more about it, ask your history teacher, he or she will be happy about your interest and will tell you more about it.

4 The individual steps

Ready to go?

Then, let's turn back the clocks and dive into history!



What you should know about this time

Athens, September 1843. Greece is ruled by the royal couple of the Bavarians King Otto and Queen Amalia, who, a few months before, had moved to their new palace. 22 years before, in March 1821, the Greeks started a revolution to gain their freedom from the Ottoman rule, one that lasted for five centuries. The liberation struggle was difficult and longlasting. In 1827, while the military operations were on, the Third National Assembly passed a new, more democratic Constitution and designated Nafplio as the capital of the Greek state. Ioannis Kapodistrias was selected as the first governor. While the armed struggle continued in the unredeemed areas, the Governor was negotiating hard with the great powers of Europe to achieve the expansion of the limited borders of Greece. At the same time, he tried to organize the state and to improve its administration, its economy and its educational system. His conflict with the interests of certain groups led to his assassination in September 1831.

After the assassination of Kapodistrias, the great powers, England, France and Russia decided to impose monarchy on Greece. They selected the young Otto, son of King Ludwig of Bavaria, as monarch of Greece. Otto arrived in Greece in 1833. He debarked in Nafplio and was warmly welcomed, as the people were disappointed with the anarchy and riots that followed the assassination of Kapodistrias. However, he was a minor and so three of his compatriots were appointed to stand in his position, forming a state of "Regency", taking over the government for three years. The Regents tried to organize the administration of the state but the advancement of Bavarians over Greeks in critical positions displeased both the Greeks and the great powers.

On June 1, 1834, the coming of age of Otto was celebrated in Athens (which since 1834 had become the new capital of the Greek state). In a festive atmosphere, Othon was proclaimed " Dei Gratia King of Greece".

In November 1836, on a trip to Bavaria, King Otto married his compatriot Princess Amalia of Oldenburg, who was only 17 years old. The marriage took place in secret as Otto and his father King Louis wanted to avoid the pressures of the three great powers, each of which was promoting its own chosen prospective wife. Amalia was enthusiastically welcomed by the Greeks, with the hope that she would give them a successor, who in fact would embrace the orthodox doctrine. The young queen tried to reconcile the warring social groups; on the one hand the aristocratic Phanariots and on the other the revolutionaries, to whom she showed special sympathy, often choosing their daughters as ladies of the court. She engaged in charitable works and aimed at beautifying the city. Her idea was to create gardens according to European standards. She created the large national garden behind the palaces for which she had to import over 500 species of plants.

On the other hand, King Otto was trying to organize the state. During the first years of his rule, the National Bank, the University of Athens and the Polytechnic School were established, as well as the first National Theater in a city that did not resemble a European capital at all. The narrow streets were made of dirt, there was no public lighting, no water supply and sewerage system, and no transport network except for the occasional donkeys. In order to carry out these projects, the country needed to get large loans from the European powers. His vision was the "great idea", that is, to manage to integrate in the newly formed Greek state, the so called unredeemed areas; areas populated by Greeks, but belonging to the Ottoman Empire. It was a plan in which the great powers intervened, each serving its own interests. He also tried to organize the army but staffed it mainly with Bavarian officers, setting aside the old fighters of the Revolution, which caused a lot of resentment. And while the people dressed in traditional frocks, worked hard and spent their free time in the traditional cafes, an aristocratic class began to be formed, dressed in "Frankish clothes", using imported luxury goods and having fun at the rich dinners of the palace.

The Situation

And this is where we enter our story...

It's September 2, 1943. In Athens the atmosphere is electrified. The problems are growing. The land is concentrated in the hands of a few big land owners, monasteries and the state, resulting in much of it being left barren and uncultivated and the farmers being impoverished. Land and property prices in the capital have skyrocketed, usury and exploitation plague the residents. The staffing of the army with Bavarians and the removal of the revolution fighters has infuriated the latter. Athens and its environs are at the mercy of predatory gangs that

make travel dangerous. The country is in a dire economic situation. A few months ago, King Otto announced that he was unable to repay the loan of 60 million francs he had received with the guarantee of the three protecting forces. He was thus forced to lay off civil servants and the military, cut salaries and recall Greek ambassadors from abroad. The palace now gathers general hatred. Minor uprisings have intensified in recent times, as the authoritarian way of governing is added to all the problems.

It's getting late. At this time usually fewer and fewer people are found in the streets. But something strange is happening tonight. From the outskirts of Athens, the thudding of the footsteps and the rampageous voices of the soldiers approaching the capital is slowly getting bigger and bigger. They are many. They may be up to 2000. There is commotion in the palace. King Otto has summoned his supporters. There was information earlier on that something serious was going to happen tonight. He orders the gendarmerie to go to Colonel Makrygiannis' house. The Colonel was a writer and a former fighter of the Revolution. They were ordered to arrest him. It had long been known that Makrygiannis opposed the palace. He had also set up an organization to claim a constitution, in which party leaders and army chiefs had gradually been initiated.

In fact, in the last few days, his enthusiasm made him spread the word that they were planning an uprising for March 2, the day of the national anniversary. The gendarmerie arrives at Makrygiannis' house and surrounds it. Dimitrios Kallergis, a military commander of Athens who was initiated in the plans of the revolutionaries, incites the officers. Slogans are heard from everywhere. "Long live the nation!" A group arrives at Makrygiannis' house and releases him. Another group opens the Medrese prisons setting the prisoners free. Kallergis himself on horseback heads to the palace at the head of the army. He has already sent military units to occupy the mint, the National Bank, the Treasury and the various ministries. The course of the army and the enthusiastic slogans stir up the people. More and more people join the crowd and head to the palace. King Otto's last attempts to prevent the uprising fall on deaf ears. Two of his envoys were arrested by the army while the third preferred to side with the rebels.

It is past midnight. In the city, however, no one sleeps. Thousands of people have now surrounded the palaces. Slogans calling for a constitution shake the atmosphere. King Otto comes to the window. He wants to talk to Kallergis. He is the one who will formulate the demands of the revolutionaries: The people demand a constitution!

Step 2: Choose a person whose footsteps you want to follow

In the following section, we have selected four characters for you, who can give you an insight into the emotional and mental world of people at the time.



Dimitrios Kallergis, Colonel,
military commander of Athens



Rosa Botsari, Lady in honor of
Queen Amalia, daughter of the
fighter of the Liberation War,
Markos Botsaris



Lambros, Waterseller from the
outskirts of Athens



Queen Amalia, Bavarian
Princess, King Otto's wife,
Queen of Greece

Whose role do you want to take on now?

- Choose a person and read the role card carefully. You will learn a lot about their circumstances, thoughts and feelings.
- After you have read through the role card, fill the thought bubbles with all possible adjectives that could describe the person's situation, feelings and thoughts.
- Then, go to step 4

Attention! Please read only the text for the one person you have chosen and then go on to step 3.

- **Person 1: Lambros, Waterseller from the outskirts of Athens**



I am Lambros and I am a waterseller. I started working when I was very young, so that I could help my father. I did not go to school; education is for the rich people only, my father says.

We woke up at dawn today, as we do every day. We filled our barrel at the spring, loaded it on our donkey and headed to Athens from Maroussi where we live.

Two hours on the road, but today it didn't feel long at all. I kept turning over in my mind again and again what I had heard whispered yesterday in the barracks by the cavalry of the Bavarian officers. While my father was filling their tank, I was feeding Spyros, our donkey. Without intending to, I overheard them whisper about the "big events" that were about to happen. I only heard scattered words, but I realized that they were worried because a big riot was being prepared. The Greek military personnel were furious with the king and his accompanying foreigners. I also heard people talk about Makrygiannis, whom my father admired so much, that he was with them, but also about some other "big ones" who had secretly promised to help them. When I asked my father what all this was about, he told me to shush and stay out because I would find myself in great trouble. I did not speak again, but from that moment on, I could not take it out of my mind. I was looking forward to our today's route; I knew that we would deliver water to the cafes, where for a long time I have heard all the discussions about politics. I have seen and heard a lot over the years, after all no one pays attention to their words when they are in front of a small waterseller boy. Lately, the conversations have been heating up and the quarrels end in rows. Recently, two young people who disagreed about the political situation picked a fight and the gendarmes came to separate them.

The roads today, after yesterday's rain, were muddy. It took us a little longer to get there, but we finally reached Katsikadika, the neighbourhood close to the palace. It's us who bring water to this neighbourhood, since the watersellers have divided the neighbourhoods. The men are missing at this time, they are all shepherds and go with their goats to other neighbourhoods to distribute milk. I rang the cowbell and the women came out the doors carrying their cans. Father was filling their cans with water from our barrel - a penny a can - and I was throwing

our proceeds into my pouch that I had tied around my waist. In recent days, fewer and fewer housewives come to the door when the cowbell rings. Poor people live in this neighbourhood, forcing themselves to make a living selling the milk of their livestock. They even cut down on their water supplies. Many fill out their cans and metal buckets only on Saturdays. I do not like that at all. I may not have learned to read and write, but I have eyes and I can see. With our donkey we go around all the neighbourhoods; I know Athens like the back of my hand! The other day we went through the queen's garden and I was left with my mouth open staring at it! What a garden! Just like a forest, with some very tall trees almost reaching the sky! You can't find them anywhere else in our country, they are brought from abroad, they say, to remind the Queen of the palaces of her homeland. But most of all I wondered where they find all this water needed to water them. As this is my job I know just how many tins these poor people in Katsikadika would really fill with all this water! But the father says not to care about these things; I should just mind my own business...

Water delivery ended late in the afternoon. After a short break to lunch on bread and olives and to let Spyros rest, there came the time I had been waiting for. It was the time to deliver water to cafes. We started from the neighbourhood of Psyrri. There, all the cafes where only Greeks frequented were gathered, most of them are elderly people, dressed in the long traditional skirts called fustaneles, or in islander's culottes, wearing tsarouchia on their feet. Many of them were in fact fighters who fought against the Turks in the Independence War. The debates, drowning in clouds of smoke from cigarettes and hookahs, almost always revolved around one subject: the "great idea", when the rest of the Greeks would finally be liberated from the Turks, and the unredeemed areas would unite with the new Greek state. Still, I was looking forward to our last stop: the "Cafe Greece". 'I knew that if there was something big to happen, that was the place to learn about it. This shop was opened by an Italian. All the eminent Greeks and foreigners frequent there. I even heard them say that the King and Queen often pass by, during their walk, to deduce by the applause of the spectators if the people agree with their decisions.

We stopped our donkey as always at the back door of the cafe. We did not ring the cowbell here, as it was not right to upset the customers. My father was waiting outside and I entered the store to call Nikolas to bring the metal buckets out. Here we would empty our barrel; ten buckets were filled at a time. After the work was finished and we were paid, Nikolas always offered my father a coffee cooked on embers with plenty of cream and a vanilla scoop in icy water for myself. Today, however, I did not sit down to enjoy its sweetness.

While my father was talking to Nikolas, I slipped into the cafe. In the first room, as usual, foreign diplomats were gathered, travellers and Greek aristocrats too, in European Frankish clothes. Some of them were gathered around a large table and were hitting some balls with a long stick. It was a game they played in Europe, as Nicholas had told me, called billiards. I hurried over and entered the second room. The guests there were only Greeks, most of them young. The atmosphere was tense. A young man had stood up and was giving a passionate speech! "How long, my brothers, will we tolerate arbitrariness? How long will we be silent and accept the oppression of the monarchy? Now is the time! Stand up against it!" Another man, a little older, disagreed: "But what are you saying? "They will send the army out in the streets, there will be a bloodshed!"

"The army is with us! Colonel Kallergis has reached a secret agreement with Makrygiannis and Metaxas, the leader of the Russian party. "Everything is arranged."

"I have great news!" a third man rushed panting into the cafe. "The gendarmerie has surrounded Makrygiannis' house. "Kallergis incited the army, one battallion is heading to Makrygiannis's house to free him, others are heading to the mint and the National Bank!"

"Let's go, what are we waiting for?" the first man shouted. "History is being written today and we are the ones who will write it! Everyone in the palace!"

They all rushed out shouting cries like "Long live Greece" "Long live the nation!". Without thinking, I followed them. I tightened my pouch on myself and ran with the crowd on the muddy streets. More people were joining in from the alleys, adding their voices to ours! We arrived at the palace. It was already dark and the brand new illuminated palace looked so impressive! The sound of the clapping of the horses mingled with the voices of the growing crowd. I sat as far aside as I could and watched. The army soon arrived. There were thousands of soldiers. Colonel Kallergis stands out proudly riding his horse. I had never seen him before, but I heard my neighbours whispering to each other that it was him. It was from them that I heard about the arrival of politicians, militants and foreigners. Everyone was there. The battle cry spread fast; "Constitution, we want a Constitution" shouted the crowd and the voices echoed all over the night Attic sky.

- **Person 2: Rosa Botsari, Lady in honor of Queen Amalia**



I am Katerina. That is my real name. But they call me Rosa. The color-as they say-of my lips reminds them of a red rose. I've been living in the palace for three years now. Queen Amalia chose me as one of her maids of honour. They proposed myself, as they said, because of my beauty, but I know it was not my beauty which moved the queen. It was my last name. Yes, my full name is Katerina Botsari and I am the daughter of a hero: Marko Botsaris.

I vaguely remember my father. I was only five years old when he was killed fighting another brave battle against the Turks. "That was the year," they said, "that lost its spring." They buried him with all the honours of a nobleman in Mesolongi. And it wasn't just the Greeks who cried. Lord Byron swore in his name to fight for the freedom of the Greeks. European poets glorified him, painters portrayed him on their canvas in his most heroic moments. I realised all these on the trips when I accompany the queen to the European salons, where everyone asks me what it is like to be Botsari's daughter. What am I supposed to say to them? What are they going to understand?

As soon as the revolution broke out, I was arrested by the Turks along with other women and children and led to the Serai of Mahmut Pasha Dramalis. I was very young, but I remember the older children and women crying and praying for our salvation. But I also remember the Turkish women of the harem, with their faces covered. Only their beautiful, benevolent eyes stood out. They protected us for as long as we stayed with them.

One of them, Emine, loved me so much that she wanted to adopt me to keep me close to her. One day, she came crying to me and hugged me. She told me she had to say goodbye to me forever. My family had come to an agreement with Pasha and they would exchange us with Turkish prisoners.

So we took the road back. The years that followed were difficult for my country and its people. There was poverty and political unrest. Among others, I found myself in Athens too, when it became the capital of Greece. It was just a village then, with muddy roads and people struggling to survive in difficult conditions. Yet, after a while Athens started to change. It was filled with builders from Anafi, marble workers from Tinos, water well makers from Naxos who all worked to change the face of Athens. My father's name led people to help me and make me stand out. In fact, I was offered a place at the Hill School, which had recently been founded

by an American priest, where only the girls of wealthy families studied. It was there that the people of the palace found me and introduced me to the queen who was looking for maids of honour.

I will not forget our first meeting. I was so impressed by Queen Amalia! I had heard that we were about the same age, but I imagined her as distant and cold. She had grown up in the salons of Europe and was now a queen! But no, that was not the case at all. As soon as she saw me, she seemed excited. She said that it was so important for her to meet the daughter of Markos Botsaris! She did not think for a moment. She told me to follow her to the palace, which would now be my new home.

Three years have passed since that day. My life has changed so much! The queen always keeps me by her side, appreciates me and trusts me. She says that apart from my heavy last name origin, she distinguished me for my kindness and sociability. I am her necessary companion in all her travels in Europe. The truth is that both my language skills and the education I received at school helped in this. The experiences I have had with her are unforgettable. Wherever she introduces me, the Greek woman from Messolonghi, the European aristocrats express their admiration and enthusiasm. I look forward to our next trip to Munich, which will take place in a few months. The queen confessed to me that a great German painter wanted to make my portrait and place it in the "Gallery of Beauty" along with those of the most beautiful women of our time and King Louis of Bavaria, father of King Otto, is thinking of honoring me with the golden cross!

My life next to the royal couple is exciting but that has not made me completely happy. I was lucky, it is true. But I cannot forget. I may live in the palace, but my heart belongs to the people. My father fought and sacrificed himself for their freedom. The Greeks may have finally won their freedom, but the situation has become increasingly difficult in recent years. I am not deceived by the comforts of life in the palace. I keep my eyes and ears open and I understand what is happening. As if their poverty or the division that prevailed between them was not enough, they must tolerate on top of these all the foreigners who interfere in our affairs, each pursuing their own interest. In recent days the situation is getting worse. I heard that the king imposed new measures due to the bankruptcy and the army was added to the dissatisfied. They are preparing something big, so I've heard from my family, which maintains relations with my father's old fellow combatants. I wonder what he would say if he was alive and saw what is happening Who would he support?

I have not met the Queen since early today. She has been locked up with the king and his men in his office.

But what fuss is this? Sounds like the clapping of horses approaching. Crowd shouts and slogans are also heard. I can not wait any longer, I'm rushing to see what is happening.

■ Person 3: Dimitrios Kallergis, a soldier



I am Dimitrios Kallergis, a soldier, but above all a Greek. I have always been ready to fight for the good of my country. These two qualities brought me here today, on my horse, leading the assembled crowd. I am now in front of the brand new palace that has been housing the Bavarian kings of Greece for a few months now. I am waiting for King Otto, who is inside the palace, to show himself in the window. He sent out his adjutant to talk to me earlier, so as to be informed of our demands and to try to reach some kind of compromise. I did not agree to come to any

agreement. My responsibility as a representative of my people would not allow it. The king must appear in person and listen to our just demands. The people demand a constitution and will not back down. As for me, I committed myself to representing my compatriots and I will keep my promise at all costs. I could not do otherwise. I dedicated my whole life to serving my nation and people, I will not let them down now.

I was born on the island of Crete and my family has its roots in the Byzantine Empire. My father died when I was young and so I found myself in Russia first and then in Vienna to study Medicine. When the Greek revolution broke out in 1821, I did not think about it for a moment. My country called me. I dropped out of university and found myself fighting on the front lines. I experienced victories and defeats, captivity, even the mutilation of my ear. No price is too high when fighting for freedom.

After the liberation from the Turks, I served at the side of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first Governor of the free Greek state. Educated, capable but above all patriotic, Kapodistrias worked for the common good. After his assassination, the European Allies decided that monarchy should be established in Greece. The Bavarian Prince Otto Friedrich Ludwig, second son of King Ludwig I of Bavaria, was selected to be the first King of Greece.

When the 16 year old Otto Friedrich Ludwig arrived in Nafplio from Bavaria to be crowned king, I did not share the enthusiasm of some, who believed that the new monarch would grant a Constitution, as the European powers had assured us. Unfortunately, my fears were confirmed. Until the minor king would come of age, the place was ruled by "the Regency", a

committee of Bavarians, which applied a harsh policy, replacing all Greeks from their positions of responsibility with Bavarians. We soon found out that the Turkish authority had been replaced by the Bavarian authority. At that time, being a prisoner was added to my experiences. My habit of expressing my views openly and my contacts with people who belonged to the Russian party were enough for the Bavarian regents to order my imprisonment.

After King Otto came of age, the country was liberated from the state of Regency. Although the king showed that he loves Greece and that he makes efforts to make the young state stand on its own two feet, the mistakes of the past and the excessive borrowing led the situation to a dead end. At the beginning of the year, the allied great powers France and England announced that they were not going to lend money to Greece again, and Russia, which had already lent money, asked for it back. King Othon, in order to get by, took measures that made the life of my people even more difficult. There were wage cuts, cuts in government spending, stopping public works and many more, which of course were imposed only on Greek citizens. No Bavarian lost their place, no Bavarian salary was reduced. Public dissatisfaction went sky high. It was soon announced that the allied Great Powers would control Greek economic policy in order to service the loans. This was the drop that overflowed the glass.

These events found me in Argos, where I served as a cavalry colonel. People close to Colonel Makrygiannis came there and found me. The Colonel had won the love of the Greeks with his military action and with his patriotic articles in newspapers. I was informed of his plans to organize a revolt against King Otto by demanding that he grant a Constitution. Makrygiannis had already succeeded in making the politicians go with him. I was asked to secure the support of the army in the plans of the revolutionaries. It was not difficult for me to decide. I completely agreed with their views too, sharing their demands. I explained to them, of course, that I needed time to convince the other soldiers and that it would then be good to be in the capital so that I could control what was happening. It was not difficult to convince the army. Most officers were already outraged by the latest developments. They saw their incomes getting smaller and smaller making them more and more insecure, while their Bavarian colleagues continued to enjoy their privileges. Shortly afterwards, I was informed of my transfer to Athens. The conspirators had managed to get me close to the center of events.

The last twenty-four hours have passed very quickly. Developments were fast and we had to be on alert. The plan was for the uprising to take place on March 25 to be on the same day with the celebration of the anniversary of the revolution of 1821. However, Colonel Makrygiannis' enthusiasm made him reveal our plans to more people than he should. Our secret was known and we were forced to speed up. This afternoon (September 2, 1843) we would meet for the final details. However, we received the news that the king sent his men to

arrest Colonel Makrygiannis. We had to move fast if we did not want our plans to fail. My actions from then on can be described as daring, but history will be the judge of that. I became the commander of the army of Athens and we went through the capital on horseback. Everything had to be done quickly in order for the risky surprise to succeed. Within a short time, we surrounded the house of Colonel Makrygiannis, where he was being held, we opened the prison of Medrese, in the same neighborhood, and released the prisoners. We occupied the most crucial public buildings, we restricted pro-monarchist officials. More and more people went out in the streets joining our voices: "Everyone in the palace! We want a Constitution! "

For the last five hours I have been here, outside the palace. I am waiting for the king to respond to the message I sent him with his adjutant.

It is past midnight. But no one leaves the place. The cries vibrate the atmosphere: "Constitution, we want a Constitution!".

■ Person 4: Queen Amalia



I am Amalia of Oldenburg, Queen of Greece. When I arrived in Greece, my new homeland, I wrote to my beloved father how much I was enchanted by the moonlit nights of Athens. When there is a full moon, there is enough light to even read! Today, though, heavy clouds loom over the Athenian horizon. I'm in my room; I needed some time alone, to think. I realize that tonight's events have made the situation critical, and if not handled properly, the king may even risk losing his throne. It's only just a month since we moved to this palace, our new home, and Otto has just revealed

his fears to me; that we might be forced to leave forever.

How did we really get here? How can I even think about leaving Greece? It seems just like yesterday when I saw Greece for the first time, even though six years have really passed since then. I was only 18 years old, full of dreams and enthusiasm for the new life that was waiting for me! I had just married Otto, king of the Greeks. Otto or Othon and I have known each other since we were children. So my family immediately accepted the proposal of his father, King of Bavaria, to marry his son and become the queen Greece.

I will never forget the warm welcome I had from the Greeks when Othon officially presented their queen for the first time! The day chosen was significant, March 25, the date when the revolution against the Turks started in 1821. My new homeland immediately fascinated me!

Athens may have been a small village that in no way resembled a European capital, but its clear blue sky and the ancient remnants of its glorious past, which you could see everywhere, tipped the scales to its favour. As the country had never had a monarchy before, there was no palace to house the royal couple. So we first settled in a house more suitable for a bourgeois family. But Othon assured me that plans were already being prepared for the construction of the palace, which would be a real jewel of the capital!

I had a very strong bond with my beloved father – after all, I was raised an orphan as my mother died when I was 2 years old and my father took great care of my upbringing and education - but nostalgia did not take over my heart. I had so much to learn, so many new things to get to know! Full of enthusiasm, I rode my horse through the narrow streets of the city. A queen was something unknown to the people of this country, let alone a queen on horseback which must have been a very strange sight! Equally so, the customs of these people were so strange to me that I set out to get to know them better by travelling as much as I could. On carriages, steamships or any other means I could find, I visited every corner of the territory. I met people who were kind, warm and stusious. Of course, there were also funny moments, like when a woman of plebeian origin approached me and started giving me advice on childbearing as the rumour had already spread that the royal couple might not be able to have a successor.

Despite my enthusiasm and love for my new homeland, which was constantly growing, I soon began to worry about the situation prevailing in the newly formed state. I did not intend to get involved in Otto's affairs, but I knew it would be necessary. The king, being indecisive and somewhat timid, would find a reliable adviser in me, whom he needed because of the very complicated situation he had to face. Greece, which had just been established as a sovereign country after the liberation from the Turks, still had very limited borders. Beyond them, the struggle of the Greeks for the liberation of other unredeemed areas continued. It was a fair fight and of course the king and I, supported it with passion from the beginning until today. This attitude is frowned upon by the great powers of Europe - England, France and Russia - who also did not like my marriage to Otto. From the moment they had decided to create an independent Greek state and had chosen Otto as its king, they considered it their self-evident right to find a bride of their choice for him and also dictate how he is supposed to rule.

I am really sorry to hear the gathered crowd shouting slogans against us because I know how many fights we have given to defend their interests. From the first moment I settled in the country I realized that I would have a very difficult task: I saw the division and I set as a goal to do what I can to stop it. On the one hand there was the aristocracy, the Phanariotes and the educated Greeks from abroad who considered that the positions of responsibility rightfully belong to them and on the other hand there were the uneducated but heroic fighters of the

revolution of 1821 who gave the country its freedom. I admit that I loved the latter more because of their authenticity. In fact, my choice to prefer their daughters as ladies of honour was highly criticized by our Bavarian courtiers. Of course, little did their opinion interest me. From the first moment I disliked these compatriots that I found already settled in the palace. They behaved arrogantly and underestimated the people. I am also well aware that the situation we are experiencing today is largely due to them.

Before Otto became an adult, Bavarian regents ruled the country. Even today he sometimes seems powerless towards them and that makes me angry. He should have put them in their place a long time ago, so we might have avoided the worst. Their own waste of state money handed over an indebted state to Otto and now he needs to dissatisfy his people by imposing necessary but unbearable measures. The gathered crowd is now protesting against these measures. Makrygiannis and the others incited common people to demand a Constitution. But how many of them really understand what this means? In fact, they are simply shouting their anger at the difficult financial situation and how it is affecting their lives. On the one hand I understand them, on the other I would very much like them to be able to see the whole truth clearly.

I am sad that they see us as their enemies, as the cause of their misery, at a time when our only concern is their good. Who will deny this? Who does not realize how much I loved this city and how much I tried to make it as beautiful as its glorious past deserves? My plans for the royal garden have already been implemented. I will bring the rarest and most beautiful plants from all over the world, such that even the best gardens in Europe have never seen before. Work has already begun on the construction of the country's first hospital and orphanage to stop orphaned children from wandering in the streets and falling victim to exploitation. I love children. I am saddened by the rumors that I may be to blame for the reaction against us. I want so badly to give King Othon a successor, but unfortunately I'm afraid I will not succeed. This is another weapon in the hands of our enemies who believe that a monarch without a successor is doomed.

We have so many plans with Othon and now everything is in danger of being lost forever. The cries of the crowd outside grow louder. Othon is still locked in his office. He had earlier sent his lieutenant to talk to Colonel Kallergis, but the crowd arrested him. I am afraid that the king has been overwhelmed by timidity, he stands indecisive and passive in the face of the current events. If he does not react immediately, it will be too late...

5 Needs and strategies



Now it is your turn!!

You have already had experience with the five basic needs, and now it is a matter of putting yourself in the position of the people who were there at that time and were involved in some way. If all people all over the world have these basic needs, we can assume that these people had them then, too. Do you agree?

You now have the opportunity to help shape history as one of the actors of that time! The more you have familiarized yourself with the circumstances of the time in the previous chapter, the better you can now put yourself in the position of the person you have chosen and their circumstances.

If you do that now, just follow the instructions in this chapter. It will guide you step by step through your historical experience.



Step 3: Instant History – Be the person

Put yourself in the shoes of the person you chose as best you can and imagine that you are that person for this historical experience at the time of the first women's movement.

Now answer these questions:

- *What does the situation look like from your point of view?*
- *Describe in the first person what you are thinking/feeling right now.*
- *Start with "I am (e.g., Lambros.)".*
- *Which people in your environment are in the same or a similar situation?*



Step 4: How are you?

You are still in the role of your chosen person. Now tell us about your needs. Take time to answer the following questions:

Survival

- *Is your need for security and survival threatened somewhere? By what?*
- *Is your need for safety and survival met anywhere? -Where?*

Love and Belonging

- *Is there someone you currently feel a sense of belonging to? Who is that?*
- *Who do you want to stand up for?*

Fun

- *Do you find the situation rather boring or rather exciting right now - why?*
- *What possibilities does this situation hold for you to discover something new?*
- *What are you curious about right now? How could you satisfy your curiosity?*

Freedom

- *In what areas do you feel free?*
- *In what areas does someone else rule over you?*
- *For whom do you have responsibility?*
- *For whom do you feel responsible?*

Power/Influence

- *Do you currently feel more powerful or powerless?*
- *What areas of the situation do you have influence over?*
- *What areas of the situation do you have no influence on?*

Step 5: What would you do?

How would you act now? Which of your needs would you most like to fulfil in this situation?

Decide on two needs that you find most important at the moment and answer the questions about them:

Survival

- *What can you do right now to feel safer?*
- *Who needs protection the most in this situation?*

Love and belonging

- *How can you gain the trust of another person?*
- *Who could you give pleasure to now, - through what?*

Fun

- *What could you do right now to make someone laugh?*
- *How would that affect the situation?*

Freedom

- *What could you decide right now to improve your situation?*
- *What consequences would this decision have for you?*
- *What consequences would this decision have for others?*

Power/Influence

- *What action could you take to improve the situation for yourself and the people you care about?*
- *What skills do you need to do this?*
- *Who do you need to do this?*
- *Who would benefit from this act, who would be harmed?*

Step 6: Stopover!

Wow, those were some turbulent times back then, weren't they?

If you want to know how the person you have now put yourself in the shoes of actually acted back then, read on here in the corresponding box:

But beware! Read only this one box, otherwise you will lose the excitement of the other characters!



Box 1: Lambros, water seller

Lambros suddenly felt a tap on his back. Instinctively he clenched his pouch to his chest. Then the familiar voice of his father was heard: "Here you are at last! I was worried crazy. Let's get out of here quickly, things are getting worse. " If the king calls his guards, there will be a bloodshed! " Lambros looked at him decisively. He took off his pouch and gave it to him. "Father, be careful," he said and disappeared into the crowd.



Box 2: Rosa, Maid of Honour

Rosa came out of her room. There was commotion in the corridors of the palace. She was immediately informed of the terrible news. She went back to her room and opened the window. She could clearly see the gathered crowd. Among them she distinguished some of her father's old co-fighters. They were no longer in their prime but stood out among the crowd as they were standing up proudly wearing traditional costumes and waving the Greek flag. For the first time since entering the service of the palace she felt that she did not belong there.



Box 3: Colonel Kallergis

Colonel Kallergis is waiting patiently. Shortly afterwards, the king's adjutant with the army minister get out of the palace to judge the situation. The colonel orders his men to arrest them.



Box 4: Queen Amalia

Queen Amalia headed to King Othon's apartments. She found him alone sitting at his desk. His looks revealed his embarrassment and frustration. She approached him and gently touched his hand. "My King, it is time to make your decisions," she told him in a calm and steady voice

- *Lambros*: I can't forget what happened that night. So much time has passed but I still wonder if I got scared of something. Was it the shots? Was it the people who pushed me yelling slogans towards the palace? Ha... but not! I was worried about my father! I knew he was in a hurry to get us away from the commotion quickly. And yet! When he appeared in front of me and pulled me to get on our donkey, the fear disappeared! I felt taller and stronger. I took the pouch with the money off me, gave it to him and without a second thought I moved on. "Constitution, we want a Constitution!" I joined my voice with the crowd and walked towards the palace without looking back. I can not forget what happened that night.

- *Rosa Botsari*: My Queen! I know I'm just a maid of honour. I'm indebted for what you have done for me. You took me close to you and cared for me as if I were a member of your family. I will never forget that. But I will not forget my father, Markos Botsaris, who sacrificed himself for the freedom of our people. These people are now out of the palace asking for a Constitution. If you allow me to express my opinion, I think you should listen to them.

- *Queen Amalia*: Ah... these people! Did they ever realize how much their king and queen cared for them? From the first moment we saw this country we felt that this is our homeland! For us, they are our people! King Otto is struggling for their own good. But you know Rosa? I often believe that we are just two more strangers for them, like the ones they consider responsible for all their sufferings. And not unjustly!

- *Roza Botsari*: It is very important that you acknowledge this, my queen.

- *Queen Amalia*: The king is not really free to decide either. For so many years the great powers have been trying to impose their own decisions. And yet, I wish the Greeks could see that we are working for their own good. How many dreams we still had for this country. How many plans to help them! The orphanage, the hospital, the garden... I made everything with so much love. And yet! I will always be the queen who failed to give them a successor, the new orthodox king. I'm afraid they can not forgive me. And now the people are here! And they yell for the king to come out. We can not wait any longer. The King must make his decisions. Right now!

- *Lambros*: I was carried away by the crowd like a wave! "Constitution, we want a Constitution!" I shouted my heart out. I did not quite understand then what all this exactly meant. Of course, I had heard the conversations in the cafe "Greece" when we went for water with my father. I had even seen the quarrels between customers. On one occasion, a Bavarian gendarme entered and arrested some people for rioting against the king. But my father always told me not to interfere and just mind our business. That night, in the same cafe, I

realized that great things would happen. I heard them say that Makrygiannis and Kallergis will ask for the "rights of the people". "The rights of the people" I kept thinking as I ran with the crowd until we got out of the palace. And then I saw him! It was him! Colonel Kallergis, always first in the battles of the Greeks for freedom! "Let the king go out, the people demand a Constitution," he shouted.

- *Colonel Dimitrios Kallergis*: I have served these people all my life. I will do the same now. The great powers of Europe imposed the monarchy on the country. Bad management has led to our bankruptcy. This country gave birth to democracy, how can its people now accept to be governed without laws? No one will leave tonight! We will all stay here until King Otto comes out and accepts our demands.

- *Lambros*: And we all stayed. The night was long. Our voices stirred the whole city. Shots were heard from the neighborhoods. The guard ordered to the gathered crowd to disperse, but none of us moved. It was dawn now. King Otto and Queen Amalia appeared at the window. They said something to Kallergis. He raised his hands and shouted.

- *Colonel Dimitrios Kallergis*: We made it! We now have a Constitution!

- *Lambros*: And immediately after that the crowd yelled << Long live King Otto! Long live the Constitution! >> That night I was not the little water seller. I was Lambros who was not afraid. I was Lambros who joined his voice with the crowd "Constitution, Constitution!" Even though I did not understand exactly what that word would mean. For one thing I was certain! That night we shaped the history of Greece



Step 7: Now you have the choice

Did you find it exciting to dive into the story and put yourself in the shoes of one of these characters? If you have time and feel like it, you can now choose another person whose role you would like to play. So go back to step 3 and choose who you want to be next.

If you decide you don't want to play another role in this episode, you'll find out what happened in the Greek story in the next chapter.

6 How the story goes on

It is already past two in the morning but in Athens no one is sleeping. The cries of the crowd "Constitution, we want a Constitution" continue to vibrate the atmosphere. Soon shots are heard near the Roman Agora. A group of General Makrygiannis' supporters managed to break the cordon of the gendarmes who had blocked his house. A gendarme falls dead. Makrygiannis is released and heads to the palace together with his supporters. As they pass through the narrow alleys of the city, more and more people join them.

The artillery arrives in front of the palace at King Otto's command, in order to disperse the assembled crowd. But his leader suddenly orders his men to turn their cannons against the palace and get ready to set fire. The crowd glorifies him! Drums and trumpets sound in the night sky.

Inside the palace, King Otto (Othon) is still sitting at his desk. Amalia approaches the window and sees the cannons pointing towards the palace. "My King, the situation is now critical. "You can not wait any longer," she told him. With his eyes lowered, the King confessed to her that he had known about the plans of the revolutionaries for days. "As soon as I heard the clapping of the horses and the yells, I believed that the rebels had been arrested. I was betrayed. The army turned against me. Only the palace guards did not betray me. I am helpless and unwanted now." Amalia took him by the hand. In decisive words, she encouraged him and reminded him that his position does not allow a defeatist attitude. "At least you have to listen to them. I am sure that if you talk to them, a solution will be found".

The cries and yells have now stopped. Col. Kallergis has already ordered the military band to play in order to ease the gathered crowd. Suddenly he signals the band to stop. A ground floor window opens. King Otto appears. Standing next to him is the Bavarian colonel Ess, a person particularly disliked by the people, as he represented the hated Bavarian rule. The crowd bursts in yells and insults against the Bavarian official. Kallergis asks them to be silent. King Othon asks Kallergis what the demands of the revolutionaries are. Kallergis, always on horseback, answers: "Your Majesty, the people want a Constitution!". King Othon angrily demands the crowd to disperse and assures Kallergis that he will think about it and answer the next day. Kallergis rejected this proposal and explained to him that the people demand an immediate response, otherwise they will not disperse.

Shortly before 3 a.m. in front of the crowd, Othon agreed to give the palace meeting room to the representatives of the rebels in order to examine their demands. Among them, there were military personnel, politicians and old fighters of the revolution of 1821. During the meeting the army is guarding the building. The council hands their demands to the king: They demand a Constitution. They also demand the removal of all foreigners from the administration and within a month the convening of a National Assembly, which will work on the drafting of the Constitution.

King Othon, in order to gain time, asks to consult the foreign ambassadors. When the ambassadors of the great powers approach the gate of the palace, Col. Kallergis, with a decisive move, blocks them. He assures them that the king is safe but that they should let him meet with the revolutionary committee and decide together.

King Othon, pallid-faced, returns to his office. In a voice that reveals his nervousness, he reads the demands of the revolutionaries to Queen Amalia. When he finishes, he looks at her in tears. "This is it, dear. As you can see, I have no choice but to resign from the throne." Amalia strongly opposes him. She stressed that at such a critical moment this decision would be disastrous for the people. It would lead the country to anarchy and destruction. "My people, my king, do not have the maturity to take over their future. Your responsibility towards them is great at this time. If you give in to their demands you do not declare weakness. On the contrary, you save time and ensure legitimacy and peace in the country".

Queen Amalia's words were interrupted by gunfire heard from the city's neighborhoods. King Othon realized that he had to make his own decisions as the situation was critical and peace was hanging by a thread. He had now decided to accept the demands of the revolutionaries, when their delegation informed him they also demanded the following:

Appointment of a new cabinet, awarding of excellence to Col. Kallergis, Col. Makrygiannis and the other leaders of the uprising and the establishment of September 3rd as a day of national celebrations. These additions angered King Othon even more, so he tried to achieve their appeal through the intervention of the foreign ambassadors whom the rebels had recently allowed to enter the palace.

It was already dawn but the gathered crowd had not dispersed. Everyone was waiting for the official announcements, but they were late. The crowd starts banging angrily on the palace door. With yells and shouts they threaten that they will break it if the king does not appear. Soon King Othon appears on the balcony surrounded by foreign ambassadors and new ministers. Absolute silence prevailed in the square for a few seconds. Suddenly someone

shouted: "Long live the king, long live the nation!" People started repeating the slogan rhythmically. For a few minutes, King Othon stands on the balcony, while the crowd glorifies him. He then greets with an awkward smile and retreats inside the palace.

The crowd dispersed at three in the afternoon. It was September 3rd, 1843. The -almost-bloodless uprising and its aftermath soon spread throughout the country and caused great excitement. The Bavarians were removed from office, most of them from the country. The next day, the royal couple rode out into the city on horseback and were adored. A month later, a dinner was held in honor of the leaders of the revolution, including Col. Kallergis, who had been appointed governor of Athens and adjutant to the king. Life in the capital had regained its pace.

On September 3, 1843, Greece passed from a "God forbid" monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. The country would henceforth be governed according to laws to which even the king had to obey. The Constitution, finally promulgated in March 1844, was based on the French Constitution of 1830 and the Belgian Constitution of 1831. It even included the electoral law, which recognized - for the first time in Europe - universal suffrage for all male citizens.

The palace of King Otto and Queen Amalia today houses the parliament of Greece, whose state is a parliamentary republic. The area in front of King Otto's palace, where the events of that night unfolded, is today the always full of Greeks and foreign visitors "Syntagma Square".

7 Learning from history

Now share your experience and reflections with your classmates:

- *How was it? Did you manage to put yourself in the situation and the persons' shoes?*
- *Can you understand why they acted the way they did?*
- *Would you have acted the same way?*
- *What could have happened, if one of the characters acted in a different way? (Lambros: ..., Rosa: ..., Kallergis: ..., Queen Amalia: ...)*

Further questions to make the most of your experiences and insights with the episode

- *For whom did the solution (as described in the chapter “How the story continues” make life better?*
- *Were there also losers? Who were they? What did they lose?*
- *Are there situations similar to this episode of history in our world at the moment?*
- *What can we learn from this episode of history?*