Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

Zisis Fotakis

Greek Naval Policy and the Great Powers 1931 to 1940

This paper focuses on the naval history of Greece in the 1930s the time when the geographic importance of the country from the naval perspective, and the potential of its navy were of some interest to the powers. Within this context, the response of the great powers to the naval importance of Greece and the ensuing relations between Greece and those powers will be explored. This will largely be achieved through the discussion of Anglo-Greek naval relations, an important element of which was the activities of the British naval missions to Greece. The related themes of the competition between Britain, France, Italy and Germany for Greek naval procurements and naval influence and Greek-Turkish naval relations will also be mentioned.

In discussing Greek naval history during this period, the conception and the implementation of the naval strategy and the programme of the Greek state will be examined; the extent to which these were influenced by the proposals of the British naval missions to Greece, the Greek Naval Staff and Greek and foreign politicians will also be treated. In addition, the degree of success of the re-organisational and educational activities of the British naval missions to Greece will be studied, thus bringing out the strengths and limitations of both the foreign reformers and the local recipients of their efforts. Ultimately, Greece, her Navy and the Foreign Factor, 1931 to 1940 will be an examination of the difficulties and rewards involved in the relationship of a small but not insignificant naval power with the great naval powers of the time.
**Brief CV**

Zisis Fotakis graduated from the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Athens in 1995. He pursued a Masters in Economic and Social History and a Doctorate in Naval History at the University of Oxford. His doctoral thesis was published by Routledge (2005) under the title Greek Naval Strategy and Policy 1910–1919. Dr Fotakis has recently been elected to a lectureship in Naval History at the Hellenic Naval Academy.