



WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

In the environment where diplomatic, economic, and cultural activities are still restricted due to COVID-19, our March newsletter looks at bilateral relations and friendships between Serbia and Greece, Tunisia and Pakistan, the countries which have celebrated their national holidays this month.

On March 8, some of the most significant achievements of women in the development of society were brought back in the limelight. With the strongest support for their equality in the future, we also remind below of the rights previously established in some of the countries as mentioned.

We also introduce you to one of the rare buildings of the romantic style in Belgrade from the portfolio we manage - Shkarka's villa, occupying an exceptional place in Belgrade's interwar architecture. It was designed by Dragisa Brasovan, one of the leading figures in Serbian architecture. Along with Gencic Villa, it represents the most successful example of Brasovan's architecture of city villas.

Enjoy!



The Republic of Greece and the Republic of Serbia

FREINDSHIP IS ESSENTIALLY A PARTNERSHIP

- Aristotle

The arrival of Serbs to the Balkans in the seventh century also meant the first historical encounter between the Greek and the Serbian people.

Civilisation achievements of ancient Greece continued to live under Byzantium, the Empire which was determining the development of Serbia in many ways. While, on the one hand, Serbia`s independence arose from the Byzantine territory, the growth of its culture, education, health, architecture, religion and art was deeply rooted in Byzantine grounds.

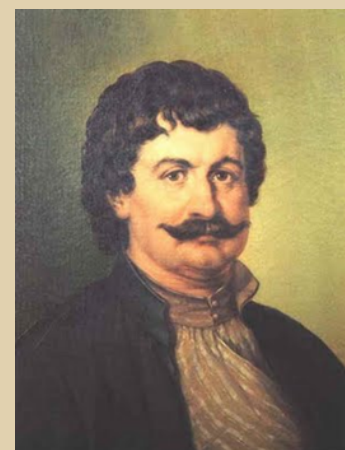
In 1453, Mehmed II the Conqueror won the battle for Constantinople. The last Byzantine emperor, Constantine XI Palaeologus Dragash, whose mother was of Serbian origin, lost his life defending the city. Thus, both Byzantium and Serbia symbolically disappeared from the Balkan scene as independent and strong states and fell under the Turkish rule for the next five centuries.



Monument to the Byzantine emperor Constantine XI Palaeologus Dragash

The connection between the two countries in the beginning of the resistance to the Ottomans is illustrated in the character of the Greek revolutionary Rigas Feraios (1757-1798). His vision for the fraternization of the Balkan peoples and the consolidation of human values of freedom and democracy inspired the initiators of both the Greek and Serbian uprisings against the Turks.

This revolutionary was detained and executed in the Nebojsa Tower in Belgrade, which has been turned into a museum of the liberation struggles of Serbs and the life of Rigas Feraios. Until the First World War, the street named after him was the only street in Belgrade named after a foreigner.



Rigas Feraios



Partnership of Greece and Serbia over centuries

Modern Greek state was created in 1830 after winning the war for independence against the Ottoman Empire. The first agreement between Serbia and Greece was signed in 1867, by which Prince Mihailo Obrenovic and King George I laid the foundations for future cooperation. The diplomatic mission of Greece in Belgrade was opened on January 18, 1879.

King Aleksandar Obrenovic attended the opening of the first modern Olympic Games held in Greece in 1896. Before the end of the Second World War, King Peter II Karadjordjevic married Greek Princess Alexandra on March 20, 1944, who turned out to be the last queen of Yugoslavia.

Although earlier in war against Byzantium, Serbia has never conflicted with Greece. The countries were allies first in the Balkans and then in both world wars.

One of the greatest testimonies of the friendship between the two countries is related to the Salonica front. Thousands of Serbian soldiers, brought to the verge of death, were transported to Corfu, called the Island of Salvation, where the work of the Serbian government was also organized. After the end of the war, it was decided that all the victims would be buried in a common cemetery - Zeitenlik.



Djordje Mihailovic

(Source: Svetisrdj, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

The most touching memories of this period still live today in the guardian and guide of Zeitenlik - Djordje Mihailovic. His grandfather Savo Mihailovic, volunteer from Grbalj near the Bay of Kotor, was the first keeper of the cemetery. His father, Djuro Mihailovic, was protecting the cemetery and its relics from the Nazis during World War II.

The two countries were also allies in World War II. During the NATO bombing in 1999, the Greeks organized protests in Athens. Today, Greece is among several

NATO and EU Member States which have not recognized the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija. This country abstained during the vote on Kosovo's admission to UNESCO in 2015.

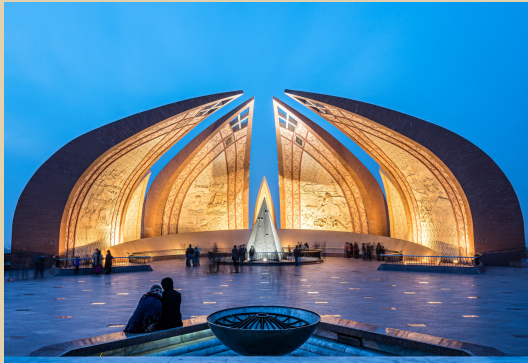
Strong political friendship between the two countries has been strengthened by many economic and cultural ties which are constantly improving.

Read more about the partnership between Greece and Serbia in our ***blog***.

THE LAHORE RESOLUTION AND THE GIRL WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Pakistan marks March 23 as a national holiday, commemorating the Lahore Resolution of 1940 and the adoption of the first Constitution of Pakistan on March 23, 1956.

The Lahore Resolution called for the establishment of an independent federation of Muslim-majority provinces in the then British India. This document laid the foundations of the future state.



Today, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with more than 200 million inhabitants. It is also one of the six nuclear powers. Throughout its history, the country has struggled to achieve political stability and sustainable social development.

A significant contribution to the progress of Pakistani and global society was recently made by a sixteen-year-old girl from Pakistan - Malala Yousafzai. She became known

around the world as the youngest winner of the Nobel Prize, earned for her struggle for girls education.

In her autobiographical work "I am Malala", she describes how she started writing a blog in 2009 under a pseudonym about the growing military activities of the Taliban in her hometown and about the fears that her school would be attacked. After revealing her identity, Malala and her father Ziauddin continued to advocate for the right to education. On October 9, 2012, the Taliban attempted to assassinate her while she was returning from school. Luckily, she survived and later recovered after a dedicated care of Pakistani and British doctors.



Malala Yousafzai

Her case prompted over two million Pakistanis to sign a petition for introduction of the right to education, and the National Assembly soon ratified Pakistan's first Law on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres appointed Malala as the United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2017 to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education.

Malala Yousafzai has become an international symbol of the struggle for the education of girls, and her actions and words have inspired and motivated people from around the world.

Tunisia Independence Day

STREETS FOR REMEMBRANCE AND NEW GATHERINGS

Tunisia gained independency on March 20, 1956, as a monarchy headed by Bey Muhammad VIII al-Amin as King of Tunisia. Prime Minister Habib Bourguiba overthrew the monarchy in 1957 and established a single-party state of which he became president.



Хабиб Бургиба

Bourguiba officially began the struggle for Tunisia's independence in 1934, when, together with his supporters, he founded a new party, Neo Destur, where he was elected secretary general. He encouraged Tunisians to oppose the colonial French authorities, and was often arrested and imprisoned.

Habib Bourguiba remained the president of Tunisia for the next 31 years. He was one of the main Arab leaders who advocated moderation in the Islamic world.

Bourguiba shaped the new republic in accordance with his personal vision. He introduced several civil laws. Significant innovations related to women's rights were adopted by the Code of Personal Status of 1956, a rather radical document for its time which, among other novelties, prohibited polygamy, provided legal equality of women and men, allowed women to file for divorce, introduced a legal minimum age for marriage and provided women the right to education. The school system was introduced throughout the country, and the curriculum was modernized to reduce religious influence.

In his time, Tunisia became one of the most liberal Islamic countries.

Bilateral relations between Tunisia and Serbia

Tunisia was a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, and President Bourguiba nurtured close relations with President Josip Broz Tito, one of the founders of the Movement. He attended the First Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Belgrade from September 1 to 6, 1961. Yugoslavia provided political support to the Tunisian struggle for independence within the UN and was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Tunisia.



In 1965, President Bourguiba became an honorary citizen of Belgrade.

In May 2019, Tuniska Street was opened in Belgrade. On its part, the Government of Tunisia opened a Serbian Street and unveiled a memorial plaque dedicated to Serbian soldiers died in the city of Bizerte during the Great War.

Thus, new paths have been symbolically set for cultivating friendship and developing strong relations between the two countries in the future.

More about the bilateral relations between the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Serbia can be found at our ***blog***.

OUR HIDDEN GEMS – SHKARKA`S VILLA

The house, which was built for Czech engineer Rihard Shkark who was the director of the Prague Credit Bank branch in Belgrade, was constructed in 1926 and 1927.

Shkarka's Villa was designed by Dragisa Brasovan, a leading figure in Serbian architecture in the interwar period. The villa is an example of the architecture of Belgrade civil society and is a work of Brasovan pre-modern period.

Shkarka's Villa is an object of significant architectural and cultural-historical value. Besides the Gencic Villa, Shkarka's Villa is the best example of Brasovan city villa design and is one of the rare buildings with a romantic spirit which has taken its place as an exceptional example of architecture in Belgrade's interwar period.

In 1927, the facade of Shkarka's villa was declared one of the most beautiful facades in Belgrade.

As a building of significant architectural and cultural-historical values, Shkarka's villa became a cultural monument in 2002.

This luxurious residence hosts the Embassy of Belarus today.





Impressions and recommendations

*"Providing such an environment
is also the greatest recognition we have received,
something that no one else has done for us so far."*

**Bozidar Maljkovic,
President of the Olympic Committee of Serbia**



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of our clients

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2019

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