



LANDS AND PEOPLES

Lands and Peoples

T H E W O R L D I N C O L O R



VOLUME III

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UNATIONS

SHEPHERD OF CENTRAL GREECE

Only about one-fifth of the soil of Greece can be planted to crops, but the arable land is farmed with skill. Large areas, however, are better suited to the raising of sheep and goats, and there are more sheep and goats in Greece than people. This shepherd with his staff wears the traditional tunic, tight trousers and turned-up slippers with pompons.

THE GREEKS OF TODAY

Modern People in a Land of Ancient Culture

The Greek people have the oldest recorded history of the European nations, and the Greek language today, though its form has changed in many ways, is obviously the tongue used by Homer, who lived about 1000 B.C. The Greeks, or Hellenes, besides being unequalled in art and literature, were also clever and brave warriors. They were not, however, a united nation, but merely a collection of city-states which combined only in times of stress. It was not until 1832 that, for the first time, this race of ancient culture became a united nation. Today it is a monarchy. Here we shall learn something of modern Greece, with the exception of Athens, which is so important historically as to deserve a separate chapter.

THE very mention of the name Greece brings to our minds that country of long ago in which the best in art and literature was produced. Most of us know little of the Greece of today and were we to go there, we would probably neglect the present in order to reconstruct those scenes of long ago.

A map shows us that Greece is a peninsula extending into the Mediterranean at its easternmost end. While the Mediterranean forms its southern boundary, two upraised arms of that great sea, the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea, determine its western and eastern limits. To the north are the Balkan countries of Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

One notices that the Grecian peninsula is in two parts and that the southern portion seems to dangle from the mainland by a mere thread of territory, the Isthmus of Corinth. It is really severed entirely for a canal is cut through to give trade ships a shorter route.

Although the west coast consists of high mountains with no harbors, the east coast is full of bays and havens for ships. Nearly all the large towns—Athens, the capital and most important city, Piraeus, the chief port, and Thessaloniki (Salonica), a thriving town in Macedonia—are on the eastern side of the country. In this respect Greece differs from Italy, whose principal cities, with the exception of Venice, lie on the western coast. The mountain barriers to the west and north and the fine natural harbors on the east made Greece from the very beginning a maritime country. Trade was carried on

in the earliest days with the Aegean Islands, with Africa and with Asia, and the contacts thus made with older and more civilized countries had no little influence on the civilization of Greece.

The approach by water to the eastern side of Greece is through the Aegean Archipelago, and the scenery which it presents is unmatched in any other part of the world, for the sea is studded with many islands and groups of islands, varied in shape and size and color, rising out of the purple-blue waters. In ancient days, some of these islands were separate states and commerce as well as warfare was carried on among them.

When the history of Greece opens, many centuries before the birth of Christ, this land was known as Hellas and the people were called Hellenes. Their own explanation of their origin is not unlike our story of Noah and the Ark. Zeus, "father of gods and men," had brought about a flood in order to destroy wicked mankind, but Deucalion and Pyrrha, who had been forewarned, survived this catastrophe. In order to repopulate the earth Deucalion and Pyrrha were commanded to throw stones behind them and for each stone Deucalion threw, there sprang up a son and for each one that Pyrrha threw, a daughter. One of the sons was called Hellen and it was from him that the Hellenes or Greeks were descended. Historians believe, however, that tribes of Indo-European origin came down from the north and the east and made this land their home.

These Hellenes did not exist as a nation, but were split up into many little states

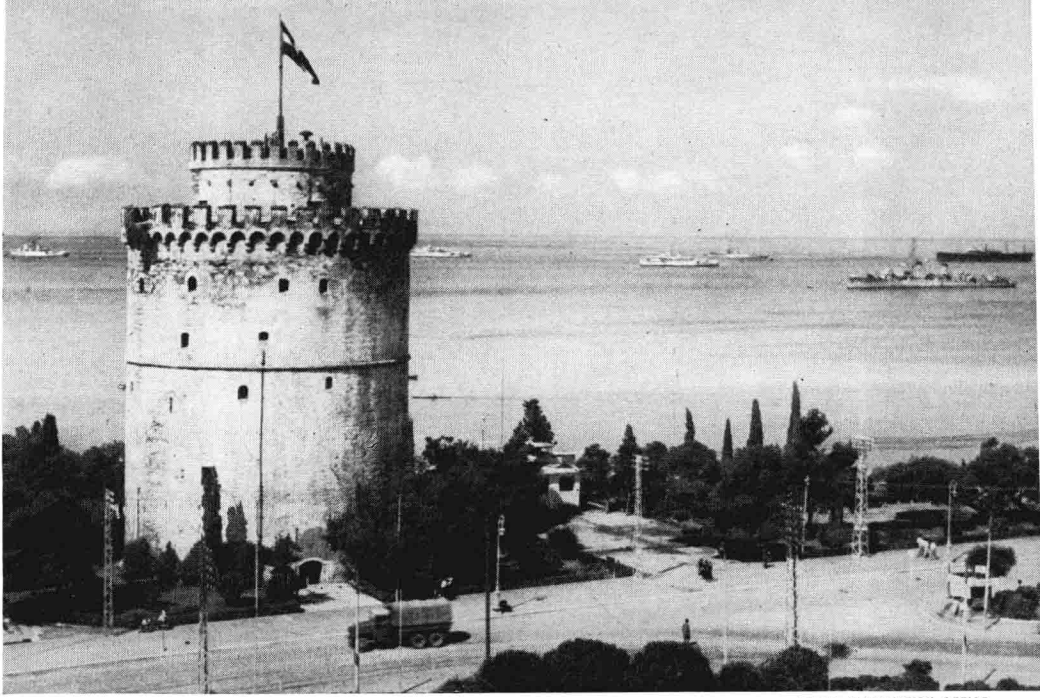


BILDARCHIV FOTO MAREBURG

RUINS OF THE GREAT AMPHITHEATER AT EPIDAUROS

The ruins above, unearthed by the Greek Archaeological Society, are the outstanding example in existence today of a Greek theater. Although the actors performed on the circular stage that we see far below, this huge theater, built by the famous architect Polyclitus, was so constructed that

all the 16,000 spectators, even those seated farthest away, could hear every word of the plays. On the plain beyond the theater is the ruined temple of Esculapius, the god of healing. Invalids flocked here during the yearly festivals in his honor to beseech him for a divine cure.



GREEK INFORMATION OFFICE

THE WHITE TOWER NEAR THE HARBOR OF SALONIKA

Probably dating back two thousand years, the ancient tower still guards the modern port of the second largest city of Greece. Salonika (Thessalonike), in Macedonia, was founded during the fourth century B.C., and St. Paul later found Christian converts there. Today it is an important trading center and seaport of the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.

usually with a city as a centre. The geography of Greece partly explains this lack of unity, since it is divided into small sections by the great mountain ranges, and each of the sections had a ruler, laws and customs of its own. There was little sympathy between the city-states, as we call them, and the record of their relations with each other is one of jealousy, quarrels and wars.

In the fifth century B.C., the Persians, who at that time made up the most powerful nation in all Asia, came to Greece with a mighty army to subject these people. Even the danger of conquest failed to unite the Greeks, for they became allies only to defeat the enemy and immediately after, again went to war among themselves.

The greatest of the city-states was Athens, capital of Attica, which at its zenith was a great sea-power, and the home of literature, of art and of learning—that wonderful culture which we associate with ancient Greece. The story of Athens, however, we shall reserve for the following chapter.

West of Athens was Boeotia with

Thebes as its capital and in the extreme south, known as the Peloponnesus, was Sparta, noted for its courageous warriors. So great was the Spartan desire for supremacy that they killed all the babies who did not measure up to their standard of physical fitness and trained the surviving male children in hardship and endurance in preparation for military life. Thus Sparta became a powerful state. These three were the most important although there were over 150 in all, counting the many island states.

Alexander the Great succeeded in conquering the city-states, but even he failed to weld them into a nation. They fought for him and helped him to conquer all the parts of Asia and Africa that were then known. At his death, however, in 323 B.C., his vast empire was broken up and about 200 years later Greece was taken by the mighty Roman Empire. Greece later became a part of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire, whose capital was at Constantinople. This might be called a Greek Empire, for so great was the influence of

the Greeks on their Roman conquerors that Greek became the official language. In the fifteenth century, the Turks broke into Europe, conquered the country and held it until the nineteenth century, ruling the people very harshly and very badly. It was not until 1832 that Greece shook herself free from them and, helped by Great Britain, France and Russia, was recognized as an independent kingdom with a Bavarian prince as king. Since then, there have been many political changes. In 1924, Greece became a republic, but disorderly uprisings frequently occurred. A royalist party gained control of Parliament in 1933, and the King returned to the throne in 1935.

War Years and After

After conquering Albania in 1939, Italy invaded Greece in 1940. The Greeks fought off the enemy for six months, but fell to the Axis in 1941.

The German occupation was brutal. It lasted three and a half years and during that time 400,000 Greeks died of starvation. Many resisted with constant guerrilla warfare, and many were killed for their valiant show of patriotism.

British troops invaded Greece and with the resistance troops drove the Germans from the land by November 1944. In withdrawing, the German Army looted villages and executed thousands.

Unfortunately the guerrillas did not lay down their arms upon the defeat of Germany. Fighting continued against the new Greek Government, with neighboring states sending aid to the rebels. Not until 1949, after American aid had arrived, were the guerrillas defeated and peace restored to the peninsula.

The havoc wrought by the German occupation and the civil war has kept Greece from achieving a decent standard of living. The country has suffered from inflation, a shortage of machinery and poor transportation. Though these conditions have been relieved to some extent by outside aid, the country's greatest source of income—export trade with central Europe—has as yet not been restored.

Nevertheless, Greece was able to send

men to fight alongside the United Nations troops in Korea. And there are other signs of recovery. The Greek merchant marine now ranks tenth in the world. Roads, railways, airfields, bridges, ports and canals have been built.

Agriculture the Chief Occupation

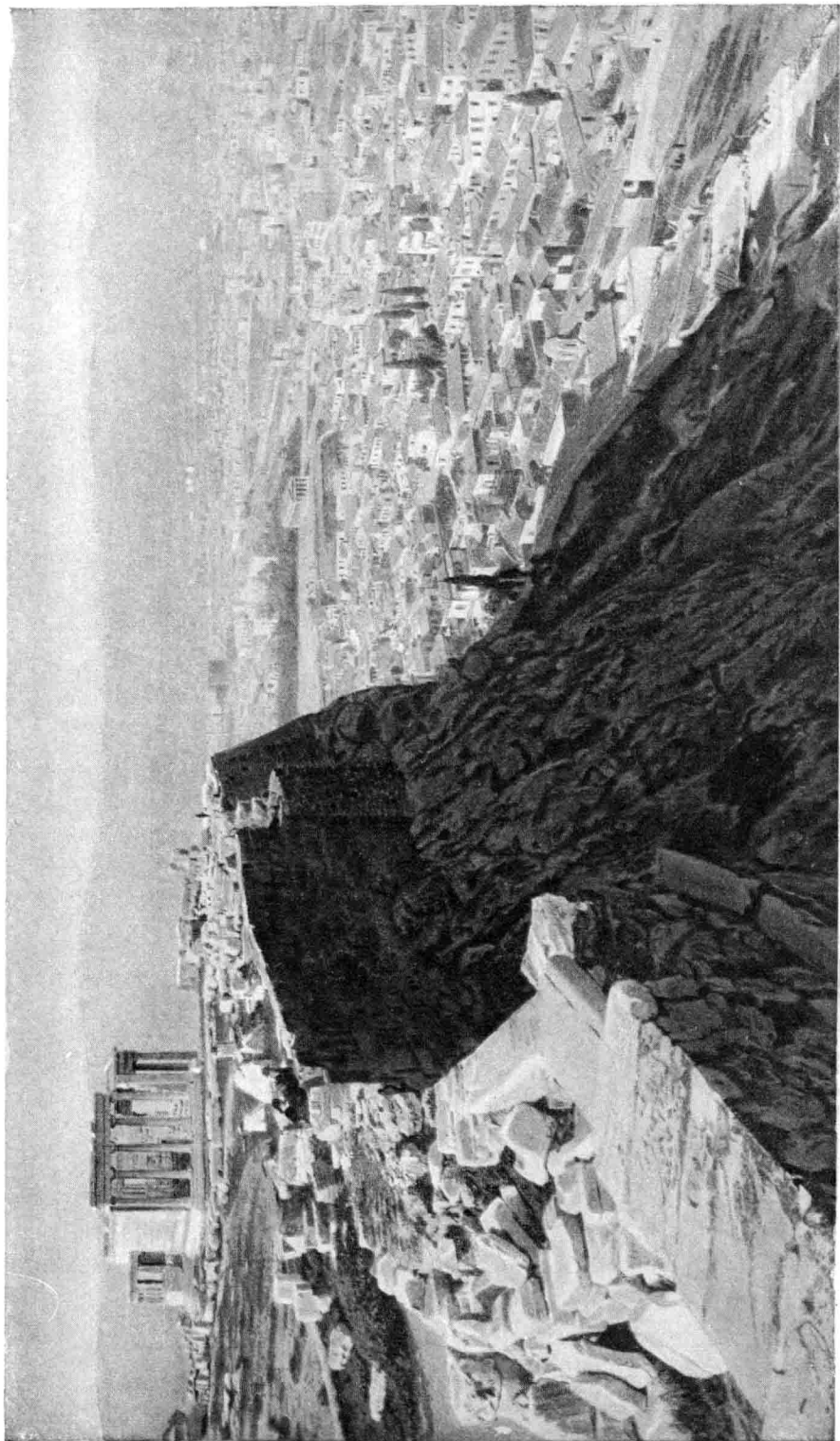
Greece is mainly an agricultural country, although mountains cover four-fifths of its surface. The rivers are small and often dry up, and the rainfall is scanty. There are great stretches of undeveloped and uninhabited land and many of the hills are bare, but there are large tracts covered with forests and olive groves. The plain of Thessaly is the granary for the rest of the country, while the slopes and hills in the vale of Sparta are covered with orange and lemon groves and vineyards. Grape-currants, tobacco and wheat are also grown, and sheep-raising is carried on extensively.

Until recently there were few factories, and goods were made in little neighborhood shops. Industry is developing, however, and olive oil, wine, textiles, leather and soap are made. Since the coming of the refugees, rug and carpet factories have been started, for many of them had been weavers in Asia Minor. There are a few cotton, silk and woolen mills, and many flour mills.

Marble, in great quantities, is supplied by Greece's mountains. Dazzling white marble of the finest kind from the Island of Paros, and Mount Pentelicus, marble veined with blue or green, black marble and marble in colors, the same that the ancient Greeks and Romans used for their statues and buildings, still supplies Greece and other countries. There is considerable iron, copper and zinc, but since there is no coal and little wood for fuel, the ores are scarcely worked.

Old Customs Preserved

If we go to any of the districts situated in the heart of the country we shall see the peasants wearing the national costume, living their lives in the manner of their forefathers and keeping up old customs. Even in many of the larger towns, particu-



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ATHENS, since ancient times the most famous of Hellenic cities, is situated in Attica on and around a group of hills. It is about three miles from the coast and five miles from its port, the Piræus. As we stand upon the northern ramparts of the Acropolis, or citadel, we look west-

wards across the city towards the Theseum to the distant hazy Poikilon Hills. Athens was made the capital of Greece in 1833 after the War of Independence, and has since grown rapidly in size and importance, but its chief attraction is in its historic ruins.



BLACK STAR

A GIRL OF THE GREEK VINEYARDS SHOULDERS A LUSCIOUS BURDEN

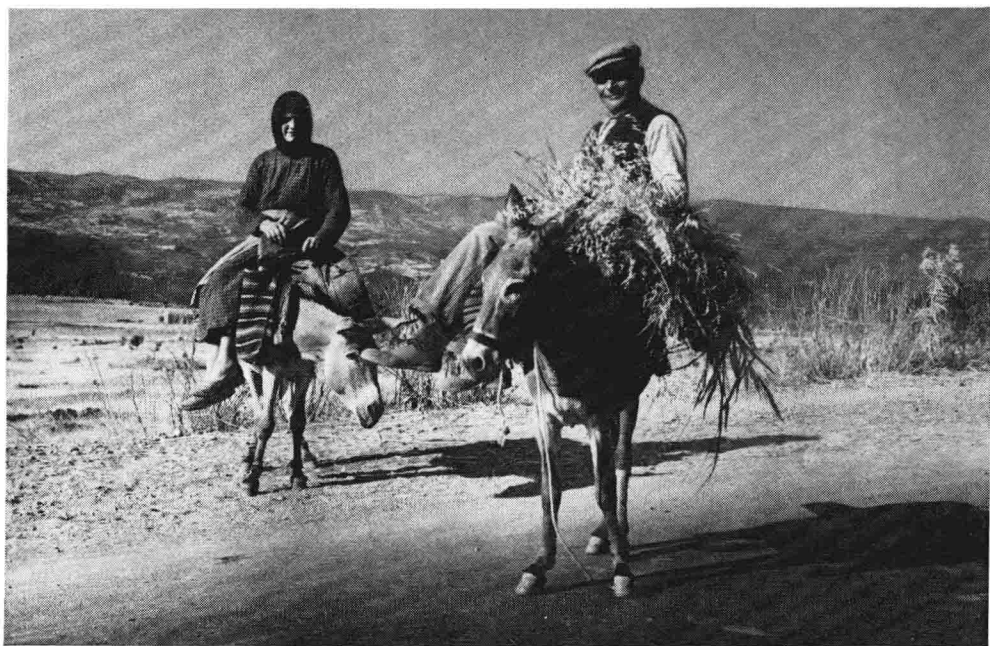
The most valuable grape of Greece is the currant—not the currant of jams and jellies, but a kind of raisin that takes its name from the Corinth region where it grows in abundance.



ECA

A BUMPER RICE HARVEST WHERE ONCE THERE WERE SALT FLATS

Marshall Plan aid has turned a wasteland into fertile fields near the mouth of the Spercheios south of Lamia. The modern reaper cuts the stalks, husks the kernels and sacks the rice.



UNATIONS

THE TRUSTY MULE, A FAMILY TREASURE IN A MOUNTAINOUS LAND

To market, to church or to the fields, the Greek farmer packs his mule and is off. His slow ride is bumpy, to be sure, but is a safe one without a worry about engine or tires.



VILLAGE FOUNTAIN, source of water for most of the houses. Running water at home is a luxury out in the country, and buckets must be filled every day.

THRESHING TIME and the whole family and their beasts join in to beat out the ripe grain. Greek farms are usually small, less than ten acres.

PHOTOS. MAYNARD WILLIAMS FROM SHOSTAL



THE GUY ROPES of boats seem to web the old houses clinging to the water's edge at Hydra. It is the port of the rocky little island of Hydra, about four or five hours by steamer south of Athens. The colorful port attracts many artists.

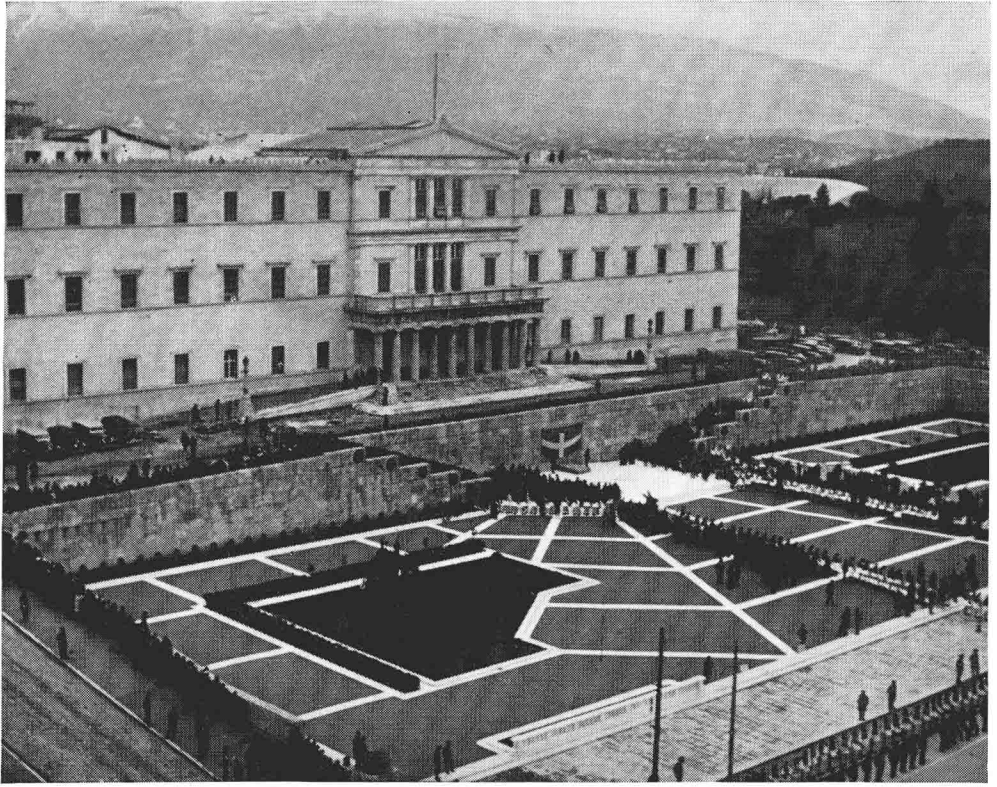


BOUCAS FROM MAGNUM

FREDA CLOSS FROM SHOSTAL



GAY RUGS lie on historic ground—Delos, the smallest island of the Cyclades. It was sacred to Apollo, in Greek myth, and in ancient times was a proud independent city-state.



BLACK STAR

THE SEVERELY SIMPLE GRAY LIMESTONE PALACE AT ATHENS

The Royal Palace, completed in 1838, is not a beautiful building. But it marks an important turning point in the history of Greece. In 1833, when Athens was selected by the newly established Greek kingdom as the site for its capital, there was nothing here but a few fishermen's huts which stood around the base of the Acropolis with its remnants of ancient glory.

Early on market days, we may still see the native dress—the men in their full short linen kilts, or fustanellas, the women in their beautiful dresses with richly decorated bodices and aprons. It is very pleasant to pay a visit to these people for they are most hospitable and kind and take a great interest in foreigners.

They are, perhaps, seen at their best when at their daily work or enjoying their simple pastimes. How simple their pleasures are is indicated by an ancient custom which still survives at Tenos. This is known as the "evening sitting" and is nothing more than a meeting of groups of people after the day's work is done to listen to the older folk telling stories, which they relate night after night with a gusto that makes them sufficiently exciting to hold the attention of their audience.

The Greeks are very fond of their old customs, and of none more than their ancient dances. These are danced both by the peasants and by the more educated people at the balls in the large towns. In order to preserve these dances at least one or two are performed at the beginning or end of every ball, and in the army and navy only these national dances are permitted.

Birthdays, as we know them here, have little significance in Greece. Their place is taken by what are termed "name days." Most Greeks are called after some patron saint, and when a saint's day comes round all people bearing his name take occasion to celebrate. Friends call and offer presents of flowers and cakes just as we receive presents on our birthdays.

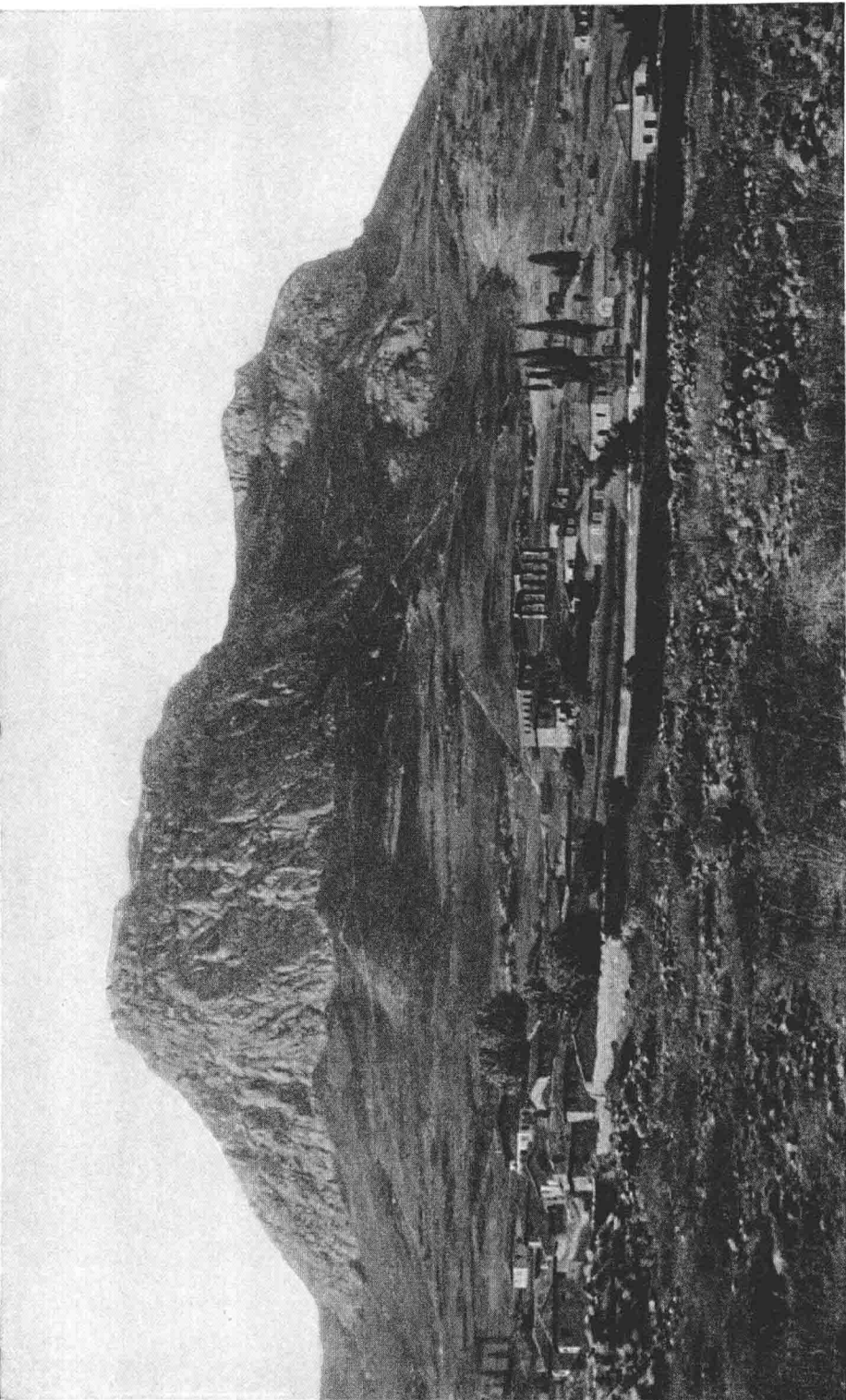
It is interesting to know that the many



TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

COLORFUL GREEK EVZONES GUARD THE ROYAL PALACE IN ATHENS

In a strictly military sense, the evzones are simply riflemen. But their history is as colorful as their uniforms. Traditionally, the members were recruited from the mountains and trained from an early age to be fierce, valiant fighters. They are famous for their heroism and wear with pride the full circular skirts and tufted shoes of their regiment.



© E. N. A.

RUINS OF ANCIENT CORINTH, which in olden days was the most prosperous and one of the fairest of Greek cities, dot the slopes beneath the rock of the Acrocorinth or citadel. The seven columns that we see in the center of the photograph are all that remain of the once splendid

temple of Apollo, now surrounded by other ruins. A few miles away there has sprung up a new city of Corinth which, although its trade brings it considerable prosperity, does not enjoy the commercial greatness that belonged to the ancient city visited by St. Paul.