



# Liberalism and the Foundations of the Modern Greek State (ca. 1830-1880)

Lecture by Michalis Sotiropoulos,  
The 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek  
Studies, British School at Athens

Q&A moderated by Simos Zenios, Associate Director,  
UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture

Unknown artist, 19th century, collection of L. Eftaxias, Museum of the City of Athens. Image in the public domain.

## Abstract

How was the modern Greek state built? To what ideas, concepts and practices did the authorities of the new state turn to produce and legitimize its legal and political system? What intellectual and institutional disputes and different reform projects did this process entail? This lecture addresses these questions by looking at nineteenth-century Greek liberalism and the ways in which it engaged in reforms in the Greek state after independence from the Ottomans (ca. 1830-1880). By focusing on the thought and actions of a group of legal scholars whose influence and public role went far beyond the academy, the lecture challenges some of the assumptions of Western-centric histories of nineteenth-century liberalism.

## Bio

Michalis Sotiropoulos, FRHistS, is a historian of modern Europe specializing in the intellectual history of the Greek world during the long nineteenth century. He is currently the 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies at the British School at Athens, while in October 2024, he will join the University of Edinburgh as a Lecturer in Modern Greek Studies. Sotiropoulos has published on a number of topics, while his monograph *Liberalism after the Revolution: The Intellectual Foundations of the Greek State, ca. 1830-1880* was recently published by Cambridge University Press.

## Saturday, March 16, 2024

4:00 pm at 314 Royce Hall, UCLA  
Event is free; Reception to follow

Please RSVP:  
<https://forms.gle/ujzxWjb5tbXDtn8C6>

Website:  
<https://hellenic.ucla.edu/event/michalis-sotiropoulos/>

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