greater personal content can obscure the more factual, which is presented without fail in an official despatch.

It is this more factual, official view of pre-Unification Germany, as seen through various British eyes, which is presented here. This volume serves as a substantial appetizer for the forthcoming second instalment covering the longer period of 1829–66, during which the Industrial Revolution really began to take off in Germany, and the different German states began to move more quickly towards their unification. For this reason alone, the second volume will be eagerly awaited by those who value the contribution made here by the first, giving us an insight into the early development of a nation which would go on to play such an important part in the history of the twentieth century.

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Thomas W. Gallant, *Modern Greece*, London, Arnold, 2001; xiv + 264 pp., 0340763361, £45.00 (hback), 034076337X, £12.99 (pbk)

*Modern Greece* is an excursus on modern Greek history, which stretches from the era of Greek independence to the end of the 1980s. Discarding the linear narrative of history, the book provides the reader with an unusual, but well-ordered analysis of the Greek experience. It dwells on long-term, as well as short-term, phenomena and explains their impact on the formation and development of the Greek state, society and politics. By stressing the interplay of internal and external factors and actors in modern Greek history, Thomas Gallant, Professor of History at the University of Florida and one of the leading academics in the field of modern Greek Studies, deconstructs historical myths which were perpetrated in Greek nationalist thought and in modern European historiography.

The book is divided into big themes, each exploring a different aspect of Greek history. Chapter one discusses manifestations of the Ottoman legacy in Neo-hellenic culture by looking back at their birthplace: the organization of pre-revolution Greek social life. The role of the church, local administration, the phenomenon of intense stratification as an offshoot of the economic and political system and the Greek Diaspora are recognized as primary manifestations and factors in the formation of modern Greek identity. Chapter two explores the forces that were involved in the institution of the modern Greek state. Gallant explains how European nationalist and
Enlightenment thought were coupled with specific Greek aspirations and problems to generate a revolutionary milieu; and how the Greek War of Independence brought to the surface internal, socio-political tensions. The following chapter extends these debates, examining the role of the monarchy in Greece. It also unfolds the impact of constitutional developments on the political structure and life of the Greek kingdom.

Nationalist thought and irredentism constitute the themes of chapter four. The problematique unfolds in an intriguing way: first Gallant considers the implication of the Cretan and Macedonian questions in Greek foreign policy. The analysis focuses on the organization of an irredentist agenda and the price that the Greek state paid for it. However, the chapter ends with acute reflections on the apparatus of nationalist thought in Greece, its rituals and its cultural borrowings from European, especially French, thought. If the first part of this chapter provides the reader with essential information on the politics of modern Greek identity and its irredentist expression, the latter places the analysis in more recent debates on the nature of nationalism.

Chapter five revisits the question of social change following the institution of modern Greece. Not only does it link together economic, demographic and social developments, but it also visits the long-forgotten life of marginal or ‘inferior’ social groups, such as women, peasants, shepherds, sailors and artisans. The anthropological approach of the chapter opens a window to the fascinating world of everyday life, family, gender relations and popular beliefs.

Chapter six looks into the Greek experience of the First World War, Venizelism and the first national schism. It also prepares the reader for Chapter seven, which opens with the Asia Minor War (1919–22) and its multiple impact on Greek society. The rise of authoritarianism in inter-war Greece is discussed last, preparing the ground for the analysis of the Second World War and the Greek civil war (Chapter seven). The role of international politics in the civil war is extensively discussed and, again, linked back to previous debates. Thereafter, Gallant delves into the consequences of the second national schism (Chapter eight); the re-emergence of the traditional Greek theme of nationalism (the Cypriot question); and constitutional developments (the last dictatorship of 1967–74 and the political restoration) (Chapters nine and ten).

The book is written in an elegant but accessible academic style, and its main characteristic is innovation. It is true that in a few hundred pages Gallant manages to offer an outline of Greek history which is suitable for leisure reading. However, his ability to cross disciplinary boundaries and to employ recent scholarship in his
analysis without confusing the reader with unnecessary jargon makes the book first and foremost an excellent manual for university students and academics. The extensive bibliography is also cross-disciplinary and aims to familiarize scholars with new approaches to modern Greek history. Escaping the trap of pure narration, Gallant shows that historical ethnography, sociology, political science and archaeology can provide the historian with valuable analytical tools. 

Modern Greece is a work of many virtues. First, it engages with microhistory and everyday practices, which are usually ignored or obscured in historical works. Second, it is theory-driven, thus inviting the student of history to think critically on a number of subject areas. Last but not least, it comprises an unbiased and provocative scholarly analysis of the Greek character because it does not rely on partial historiographical accounts. It is a work ranking next to Richard Clogg’s classical historical survey, but far more challenging. Modern Greece is an excellent choice for those who want to update their knowledge of modern Greek history.

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On the evening of 28 May 1694, Augustus — the new Elector of Saxony — decided to practise his marksmanship. Despite the lengthening shadows, his servants hastily set up targets in the grounds of his palace at Moritzburg and handed the young prince his pistols. However, as he turned them over in his hands, he sent the hammer thundering down onto the priming pan, igniting the powder charge and propelling a ball out of the muzzle and into the breastbone of one of his chamberlains, Baron Nostitz. The unfortunate courtier ‘dropped immediately’ and in his dying moments chose not to cry out, or to rebuke his sovereign, but only to beg him, in the most humble and pitiful of terms, to provide for his family (80).1 Never prosecuted, or even openly criticized for the shooting of his friend, Augustus was in the words of his 1693 Declaration of Sovereignty ‘an all commanding Sovereign King’ responsible ‘to none on earth’ for his actions (175).

The elector certainly did appear to combine all of those attributes that have traditionally been most closely associated with the devel-