

**Aspects of the December 1944 Crisis in Salonica:
Approaching Giorgos Modis' experience through his correspondence**

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Abstract:

The conflict of December 1944 despite the common factors that were characteristic throughout Greece differentiated at important elements. Most notable examples are the cases of the cities of Athens and Salonica, where the crisis developed in utterly different ways, due to the prevalent conditions. The events recorded in archival materials, which reflect in certain degree the personal experience and perspective of persons involved in the development of the events, as in the case of the letters of Georgios Modis', the political governor of Salonica. Appointed in this role by the central government, he found himself in a peculiar position during the conflict. While addressing the central government, political figures and diplomatic authorities, presents the political point of view and his own analysis of the events, his critique of political factors and factions, and even more his personal version of the situation.

Although, the correspondence does not document the events per se, expressed the person's experience in a politically acting role with personal views and sensitivities in the perception of the historical conjuncture in which he was placed and called upon to act. Furthermore, is witnessed the motion toward the evolution of Modis' political identity, influenced by demarcations that emerged during the short period of the December conflict. Attempting to trace the outlines of the overall picture are taken into account factors such as the timeframe of composition, language, style, expressions, recipients, and even the form of the correspondence.

Aiming toward highlighting unseen views of this period and to approach the state of affairs of those days with a differentiated historical perspective, extensive documentation was contacted. Most importantly were examined primary material from the Historical and Diplomatic Archives Service of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the archival unit of Philip Dragoumis, located in Gennadios Library, while approached supplementary evidence about the prevailing situation in Thessaloniki and the personality of Georgios Modis.

Keywords: December crisis, 1944, conflict, correspondence, identity, Greece, Salonica, Modis