

Fragkiadakis Panagiotis & Errikos Papadopoulos, "Nazi Germany and Soft Power: Strategies of Cultural Penetration in Greece 1939-1945"

The paper aims to investigate the cultural policy of Nazi Germany and the exercise of the soft power over Greece during the Second World War. The German cultural policy of this period included both Nazi propaganda against Britain, as for example throwing propaganda leaflets insinuating a possible return of the Parthenon Marbles after Germany's victory over the Allies, as well as efforts to strengthen and solidify the German language and the promotion of German cultural and educational institutions in Greece. Typical examples include the action of Franz Dölger in Athos, the German Archaeological School, the German Institute of Science and the German Academy in the context of the doctrine "Kultur und Kraft". Particular reference will be made to German cultural action in Thessaloniki both in the context of anti-Semitic policy and in the context of the strategic importance of the city as the "German port" of the Third Reich in the Balkans. The starting point of our research was the articles related on German-speaking culture and the strategies of cultural infiltration of the Great Powers in Greece during this period. The sources of our research come from the study of the Greek press (mainly that of Athens and Thessaloniki) during the period 1939-1945 and from the original propaganda material coming from a private collection. An analysis of the reasoning and a comparative study of the above sources will be undertaken in order to draw interesting conclusions on both German cultural action and on the methods and means used by Nazi Germany in the development of Kulturpolitik as its attempt to emerge as " world cultural power "through the case of Greece and Southeastern Europe.