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For Greeks, the heroic exodus of Missolonghi implies the last resort

Sir, Despite Desmond Lachman's claims (Letters, March 30), "exodus" has nothing like the positive connotations for Greeks that he suggests — or if it does, not in the way he suggests.

Indeed, we should rather think of "the heroic exodus of Missolonghi" of Palm Sunday 1826. After the city was besieged by the Ottomans and Egyptians and the inhabitants had been reduced to starvation, they decided to leave. But the plan was betrayed and as they left the gates they were fired upon by the enemy and slaughtered or sold into slavery. Delacroix memorialised this in his picture "Greece on the ruins of Missolonghi". For Greeks the term "exodus of Missolonghi" implies an action of the last resort and with little expectation of success.

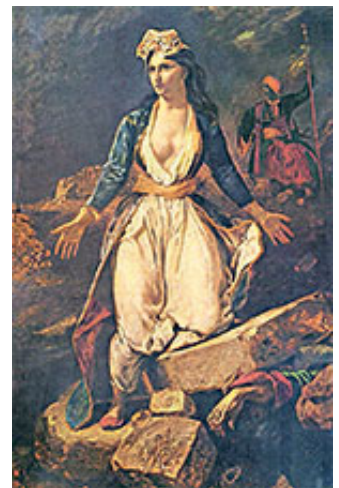
The only good thing that came out of it was the tragedy being sufficient to move the governments of Great Britain, France and Russia to join with the Greeks in participate in the battle of Navarino (1827). There, a decisive victory laid the way to the country's independence. Will history be repeated?

Bernard H Casey

Vasileios Bougioukos

Hellenic Observatory,

London School of Economics, UK



'Greece on the ruins of Missolonghi'



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