The 1924 Plebiscite for Democracy

For the Symposium I suggest a paper that will present the plebiscite for democracy that took place in April 1924 in Greece, based on unpublished material that have been found in Public Record Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France. The title of the paper will be “The plebiscite of 1924” and it will focus on questions about the meaning of the specific plebiscite and the way it was made. Until today, the impression is that the specific plebiscite expressed the true feelings of the Greek people about Monarchy and lead to the establishment of Democracy. Through this paper, the mentioned view will be disputed. The purpose is to examine the reasons why the people voted for Democracy and to make an analysis of the plebiscite based on figures found in primary sources.

The first part of the paper will present the political situation of Greece following the elections of 1923, when the issue of the regime arose, until April 1924 when the plebiscite took place. The above presentation seeks to make an introduction to the general context of the Greek political scene of the period, in order to facilitate the understanding of the analysis of the plebiscite. Hence, the second part of the paper will focus on the analysis of the plebiscite, presenting firstly the figures found. The inquiring of the reasons why people voted for democracy as well as the means that were used by the government in order to assure the positive vote for democracy will follow. Finally, based on the previous analysis, an attempt will be made to explain the significance of this plebiscite for the political scene of that time.