

Dear friends and compatriots, ladies, and gentlemen,

I am immensely proud and moved about all the events the University of Saint Louis in Missouri is organizing throughout the year to celebrate the Bicentennial of the 1821 Revolution. This celebration offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on the amazing achievements that our ancestors had the courage to accomplish during the Revolution. To contemplate the unequal battles they managed to win, to consider their passion for an independent Greece, to learn from the sacrifices made by the heroes and the heroines of the revolution of 1821 for the sake of freedom.

This celebration also invites us all to think about the important share the Greek diaspora had to the fight and to the final victory of the Revolutionaries. Korais, one of the most important personalities of this effort, was exchanging correspondence with one of the founding Fathers of the American Nation, Thomas Jefferson, which eventually influenced a great deal the American Philhellene movement.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2021 is the landmark bicentennial anniversary of the Revolution and the independence war of Greece. This milestone offers the opportunity not only to look back into our recent past, but also to reintroduce Greece to the world. Greece is a modern state, democratic and contemporary, an integral part of Europe and a solid ally within the western world.

The 200th anniversary is also a milestone towards the major aims and challenges ahead: The 4th industrial revolution, artificial intelligence, but also the new major inequalities, the refugees, the migration, and the climate change. Last but not least, the new health situation the pandemic of Covid-19 imposed to humankind.

We all have to face these challenges in the same spirit, as the spirit of the 1821 Revolution: Unity, focused efforts, struggle for the better, humanism, understanding, tolerance, outfacing the difficulties and the obstacles, fearlessness, bravery, and, above all, a vision for a better future for our children and the coming generations.

Thank you.

Ekaterina Dimakis

Consul General of Greece in Chicago.