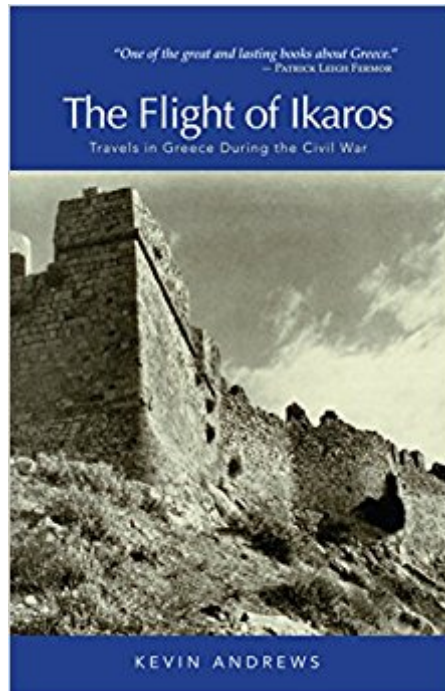




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The Flight Of Ikaros: Travels In Greece During The Civil War



Synopsis

"One of the great and lasting books about Greece."—Patrick Leigh Fermor"An intense and compelling account of an educated, sensitive archaeologist wandering the back country during the civil war. Half a century on, still one of the best books on Greece as it was before 'development.'"—The Rough Guide to the Greek Islands"He also is in love with the country…but he sees the other side of that dazzling medal or moon…If you want some truth about Greece, here it is."—Louis MacNeice, The Observer"One of the best and most honest books about the modern Greeks."—E. R. Dodds"Kevin Andrews experienced the dangers of the countryside during the civil war. The Flight of Ikaros, the book he produced from his travels, remains not only one of the greatest we have about postwar Greece—memorializing a village culture that has almost vanished—but also one of the most moving accounts I have ever read of people caught up in political turmoil…Flight was first published in 1959 and last reprinted by Penguin in 1984. For too many years, this rare account has languished out of print."—Wall Street JournalIn 1947, at the age of twenty-three, Kevin Andrews received a Fulbright Fellowship to study medieval fortresses in the Peloponnese. Andrews spent the long summers of 1948 to 1951 traveling through the region and the winters writing in Athens. This opportunity to travel through little-frequented areas during Greece's postwar civil war—and before the advent of tourism, industrialization, or easy communications—brought Andrews into immediate contact with village populations, shepherd clans, and the paramilitary vigilantes who kept their own kind of order in the provinces, as well as with the displaced peasants of the Athenian slums. The close experience of all these lives took shape in The Flight of Ikaros, first published in 1959. Paul Dry Books is pleased to return to print this modern travel classic.Kevin Andrews (1924–1989) was a writer and archaeologist. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he attended Harvard University and then traveled to Greece on a Fulbright fellowship. In addition to The Flight of Ikaros, he wrote many other books about Greece, where he became a citizen in 1975.

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Kevin Andrews and *The Flight of Ikaros* "One of the great and lasting books about Greece." — Patrick Leigh Fermor "An intense and compelling account of an educated, sensitive archaeologist wandering the back country during the civil war. Half a century on, still one of the best books on Greece as it was before 'development.'" — The Rough Guide to the Greek Islands "He also is in love with the country — but he sees the other side of that dazzling medal or moon — If you want some truth about Greece, here it is." — Louis MacNeice, *The Observer* "One of the best and most honest books about the modern Greeks." — E. R. Dodds "Kevin Andrews experienced the dangers of the countryside during the civil war. *The Flight of Ikaros*, the book he produced from his travels, remains not only one of the greatest we have about postwar Greece — memorializing a village culture that has almost vanished — but also one of the most moving accounts I have ever read of people caught up in political turmoil — Flight was first published in 1959 and last reprinted by Penguin in 1984. For too many years, this rare account has languished out of print." — Wall Street Journal

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Kevin Andrews received a traveling fellowship from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens after graduating from Harvard University in 1947. He lived in Greece most of his life, writing a number of books, including the bestselling *Flight of Ikaros*.

I was fortunate enough to spend 10 days in Greece in February 2001, splitting the time between Athens and the island of Hydra. In both settings, I quickly discovered that Greeks are some of the most generous, most friendly people I've ever had the pleasure of visiting. But, I also discovered that residing underneath the generosity and friendliness was a strong undercurrent of (for lack of better term) tension. To the foreigner/tourist, this tension typically manifested itself in the attitude that it was acceptable to take a bit above that which was owed. To the fellow Greek, this tension seemed to not only include the attitude depicted toward foreigners; it also had the capability to quickly manifest itself into anger, and sometimes violence. While that attitude can be found in many cultures (including American culture), the dichotomy between the generosity and the tension in Greeks with whom I interacted was stronger than that which I've found in other cultures. Hence, it was only a mild surprise to me that Kevin Andrews found and portrayed that same dichotomy in his masterful book, *The Flight of Ikaros*. Residing in Athens right after the Greek Civil War in the late 1940's, Andrews originally intended to write a scholarly book on medieval castles in Greece. However, his interactions with various Greeks during his research changed his book into a travel journal/sociological study. With his sharp attention for detail, Andrews clearly depicts the characteristics of the people he met and the "split personality" embodied within their culture. Nowhere does Andrews summarize their attitude better than in his depiction of a discussion he had with Andoni, a peasant whom Andrews befriended. Andoni had arranged for Andrews to have a coat made by a local tailor. Instead of cash payment, Andoni had told the tailor and others who contributed to the making of the coat that Andrews would "pull strings" with various government offices to obtain favors for them. When Andrews protested, Andoni replied, "All I have done is tell a few lies about you.... With Greeks, you have to tell lies." Andrews also takes great care in pointing out that the emotions resulting from the Greek Civil War were amplifying the basic tendencies in Greek culture. Andrews' portrayals make it clear that while the fighting may have ceased, the grudges left over from that conflict were still shaping the actions of Greeks residing in their country. While the book is memorable, there are some flaws with Andrews' writing. His transitions from one scene to the next are often jarring, leading one to occasionally re-read the text to see how

Andrews got from one scene to another. Additionally, each Greek's stories sometimes seem so similar that the text occasionally falls into monotony. Still, these weaknesses don't overwhelm the book's strengths. Even though the book is set in the late 1940's/early 1950's, the insights that Andrews provides the reader into the Greek psyche are still relevant today. Thus, *The Flight of Ikaros* is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the dichotomy that is the Greek character.

An excellent description of a traveler through Greece after WWII. Most people are not aware that the Greek people were the first to stop the Axis (Italy) invasions at the start of WWII. Not only did the Greeks suffer under the Germans, but also the Italians and Bulgarians. The Axis retreating from Greece was only the beginning of Greece's trouble. Immediately following the Axis retreat from Greece, a civil war struggle broke out that impacted and set the country back years. This story gives the reader a better understanding of what the Greek people had to endure. The civil war was an even greater calamity than the Axis invasion. Kevin Andrews making this trip took a lot of courage. He wasn't Greek and initially learned the language on the fly which made it even more challenging. This book describes a sad event in modern Greek history that few people are aware of.

Superb and unforgettable. Could not put it down. Great writing, interesting and/or remarkable personages. Thanks to all who recommended it. Gary T. Klee

Must read for anyone interested in modern Greece.

I bought this to get free shipping from but finished reading it and to my surprise it has become one of my favorite books - I especially love the initial description of the time Kevin Andrews had with the family he was staying with - so beautiful!

Good read.

Very good book

An excellent memoir describing the savagery of conditions during and right after the Greek civil war, written in a lively style of prose.

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