

## THE 125 YEAR OLD IDEA ABOUT THE GREEK-ALBANIAN

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this paper is the presentation of the 125 year old idea about the Greek-Albanian confederacy, the reasons leading to it, its stages of development, the causes of its abandonment as well as the products it brought about. The accomplishment of the paper is aimed at through the presentation of historical facts and analyses of a social, cultural, geopolitical and ethnic character. The idea of the Greek-Albanian confederacy is a product of converging and diverging factors. Among the converging factors are the long coexistence between the two nations on the basis of common elements of origin and tradition. This determined even the need to collaborate for liberation from the Ottoman Empire. Against this backdrop, the movement of the New Greek ideology materialized in the 1821 revolution got a positive reception from the Albanians of Epirus. Parallel to this, prominent figures of this movement did not give up on the idea of a Greek-Albanian confederacy. The idea of the Greek-Albanian confederacy goes back to 1822 and its author is Th. Kolokotronis, one of the leaders of the Greek revolution. It was later ensued by the initiator of the Great Idea of Hellenism, I. Koletis, who had many friends among Albanians. In 1829, the idea of a common state was supported by a letter sent to the primeminister Kapodhristria by 50 aghas of Labëria. The same idea is resumed by Zenel Gjoleka in 1847 in a letter sent to King Othona. It reaches its climax after 1860s when the decline of the Ottoman Empire in the European territory loomed large. The movement for the Greek-Albanian confederacy state began to lose momentum when the geopolitical interests of the powers of the Adriatic and Turkey itself became prevalent in the region. In a weaker form, this idea will appear even after the establishment of the Albanian state. It was introduced by King Zog at the beginning of his flight. At the beginning of the year 1944, two representatives of Balli Kombëtar presented the idea of the confederacy to the Greek military troops in the Thesalonika region. In conclusion, it turns out this idea unfolded great ideas of coexistence and cooperation between the two people. Even though in a spirit of romanticism and propaganda, this movement left behind a precious philological heritage, which, to this day, contributes to bringing the two people closer together.

**Keywords:** *movement, confederacy, revolution, renaissance, coexistence.*