

Greece National Day Special

Long history of strong and fruitful relations

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AMBASSADOR OF GREECE



Greeks in Greece and around the world celebrate today, March 25, as our National Day. This landmark date symbolizes the 202nd anniversary of the declaration of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1821, which eventually led to the establishment of the modern Greek state in 1830.

In commemorating the independence revolution and celebrating two centuries of our history in modern times, we pay tribute to our ancestors for their sacrifice, to the Philhellenes around the world

for their continuous support, and to our nation's enduring resilience. Today is a day of immense pride for Greeks and an opportunity to look back on the successes and mishaps of the past and draw valuable lessons.

Looking back over the past 202 years of its existence, Greece has emerged as a vibrant democratic society, an active member of the international community and a nation committed to democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law. Greece is a reliable member of the European Union and NATO, and a strong economic partner in Southeast Europe. Over the years, Greece has forged partnerships and cooperation with friendly states, with which we share the same values and principles and jointly support freedom, international peace, democracy and the rule of law. Adhering to these principles

has proven to be crucial today, at a time when their validity is threatened by unlawful actions.

Japan is one of the nations with which Greece maintains strong and fruitful relations in modern times. The establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries took place 124 years ago and our relations have grown stronger ever since. Our nations have longer histories and rich culture and share common traditions and characteristics. Both Greece and Japan have laid valuable foundations in science, art and philosophy and set standards for others to follow. Also, Japanese and Greeks share a living and loving relationship with the sea and maritime life.

More recently, in January, the bonds between our two countries were reaffirmed and strengthened when Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, accompanied by a government and a business delegation, visited Tokyo and held high-level and timely meetings with their counterparts in the leadership of government and business.

After almost two decades since the previous summit between our two countries, the two heads of government reaffirmed their shared values and common understanding on international and security issues, and their will to expand further the bilateral relations in economics and trade, in international cooperation, in culture and in diverse joint projects. The two sides signed a joint statement on strategic cooperation between Greece and Japan and

several agreements on a wide spectrum of cooperation.

It is significant that this year's Greek National Day finds our two countries at such a high level of cooperation. During difficult times, such as the ones our world is facing, Greece and Japan remain steady in their support of partnership, shared democratic values and a rules-based society. From our side, as we honor past accomplishments, we are determined to look ahead with optimism so that we can accomplish even more together in the years to come.

Warm greetings on our National Day and long live the friendship between Greece and Japan.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Prime Ministers Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Fumio Kishida greet each other during a summit meeting in Tokyo on Jan. 30. EMBASSY OF GREECE



Hydra, an island in the Argosaronic Gulf, is famous for its history, architecture and, thanks to a lack of motor vehicles, many happy cats. GNT0

Congratulations to the People of Greece on Their Independence Day

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