



ΠΕΙΡΑΜΑΤΙΚΟ  
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΛΥΚΕΙΟ  
ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗΣ

# Life in Greece

# Facts About Greece

- Name of the country: Ellas, Ellada
- Size: 131.940 sq. km (land 99%, sea 1%)  
Coastline: 13,676 km
- Population: just under 11000000 (46% men, 54% women)  
Language: Greek (Ellinika)
- Highest mountain: Mt Olympus, 2917 m  
Capital: Athens

- Natural resources: petroleum, marble, hydropower, magnetite, lignite, bauxite (and gold)
- Natural hazards: earthquakes
- Currency: EURO €  
Religion: 98% Greek Orthodox, 1,3 Muslim, 0,7 Other  
Literacy: 95%
- Life expectancy: 82,21 (women), 76,98 (men)
- Work branches: 8,3 % agriculture, 27,3 % industry, 64,4 % services  
Unemployment: 8,3% (2007)

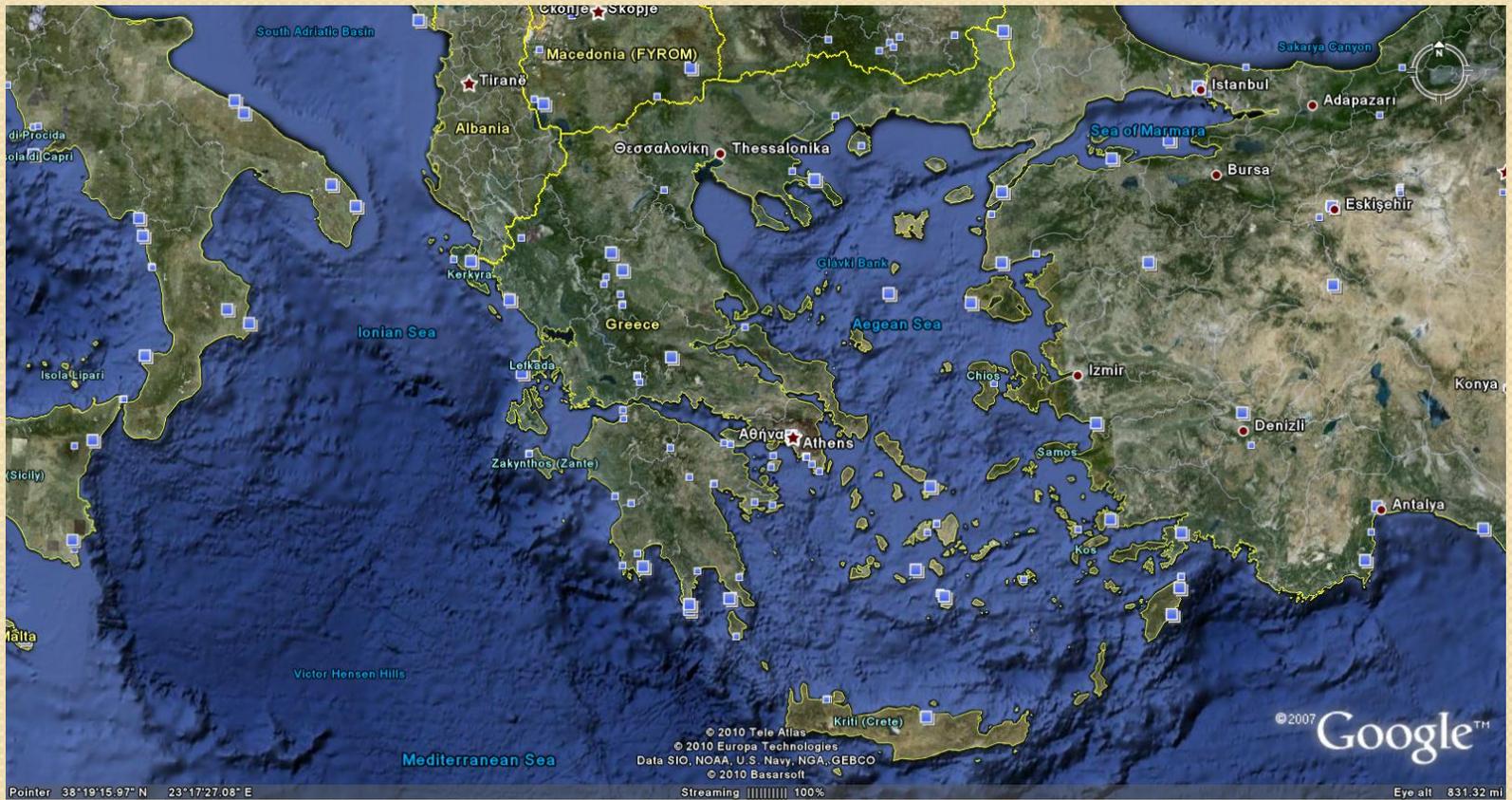
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- Industries: agriculture: food, wine, tobacco, dairy products, olives, tomatoes, potatoes, meat, corn, wheat, barley, sugar beets Tourism, textiles, Chemicals, Metal, Mining, petroleum.
  - Government: parliamentary republic, until 1974  
monarchy

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- Administrative divisions: 13 administrative districts
  - National Holiday: 25 March (1821 Day when the war of independence broke out.)
  
  - Prime Minister: Georgios Papandreou, Socialist party (PASOK) since October-06-2009
  - Elections: every 4 years  
Parliament: 300 seats, the MP's are voted by the people for four years.
  - Last election (4 October 2009)

# LOCATION



Greece is located at the southernmost tip of Europe and has one of the most unique geographic formations of any country in Europe. Borders to: Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of FYROM, Bulgaria, Turkey



Greece is washed on three sides by seas: by the Ionian Sea to the west, the Aegean Sea to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the south.

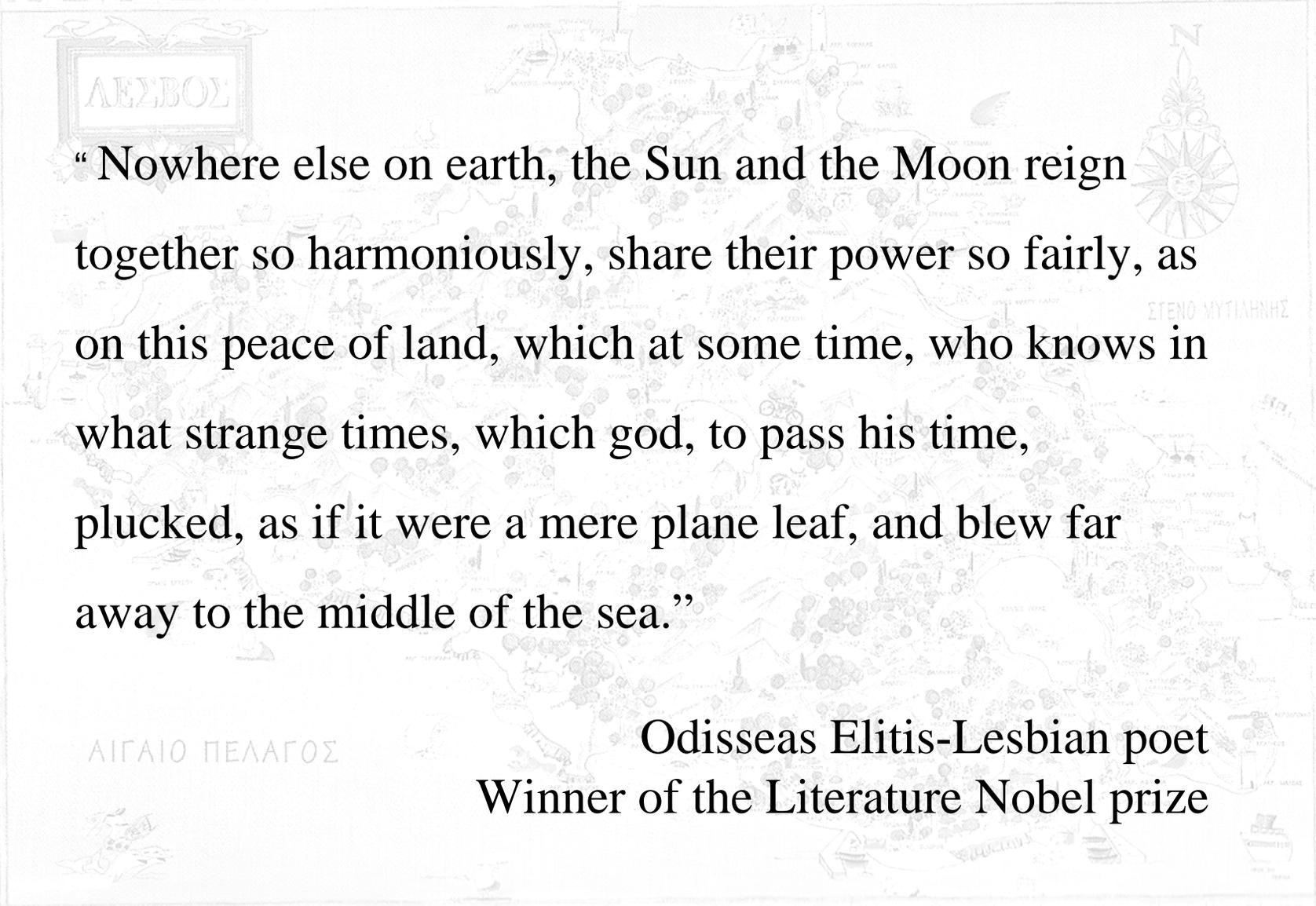


- Some four-fifths of Greece's land territory is mountainous.
- Its coastline, with its many gulfs and inlets, is one of the longest of any country in Europe.



LESVOS

OUR BIRTHPLACE



“Nowhere else on earth, the Sun and the Moon reign together so harmoniously, share their power so fairly, as on this peace of land, which at some time, who knows in what strange times, which god, to pass his time, plucked, as if it were a mere plane leaf, and blew far away to the middle of the sea.”

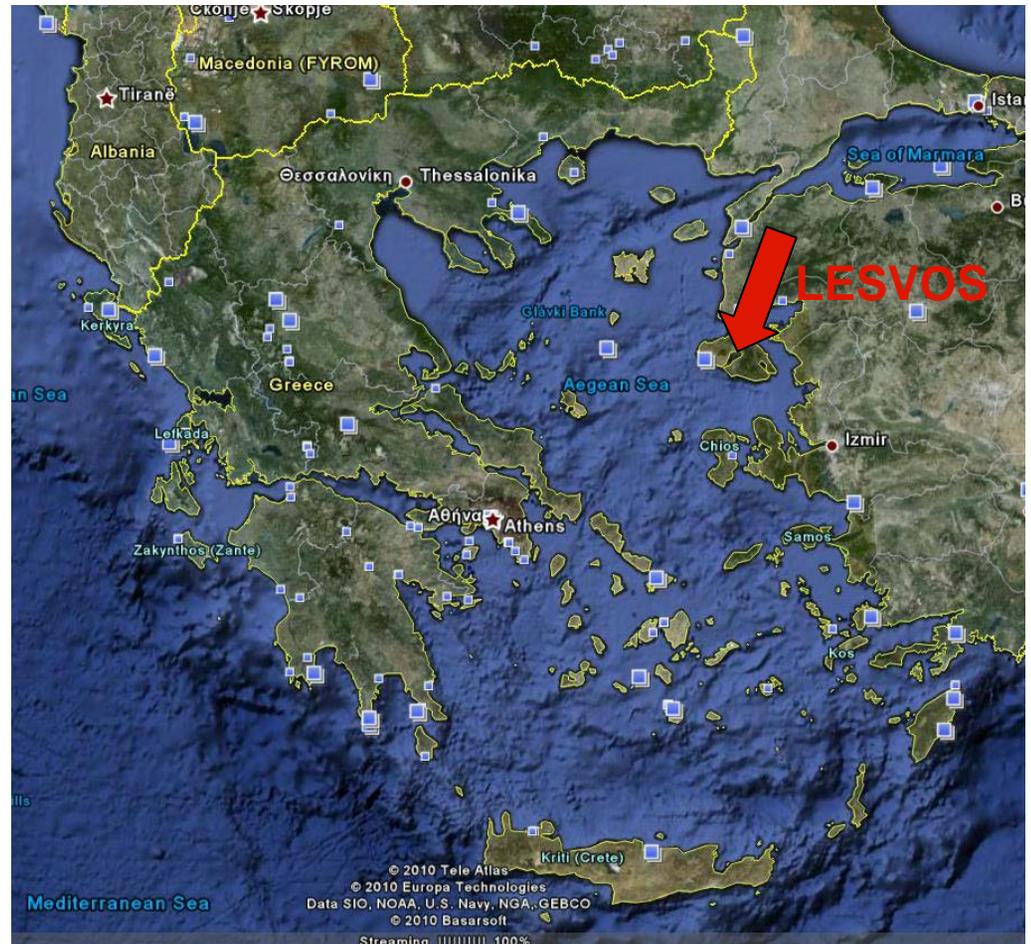
Odiseas Elitis-Lesbian poet  
Winner of the Literature Nobel prize

# The island of Lesbos

Lesvos lies in the NE Aegean Sea opposite Asia Minor which is 5-8 miles away and north of Chios.

It has an area of 1630 sq. km and a coastline of 370 km with a population of about 100.000 inhabitants.

It is the third largest Greek island after Crete and Evia.



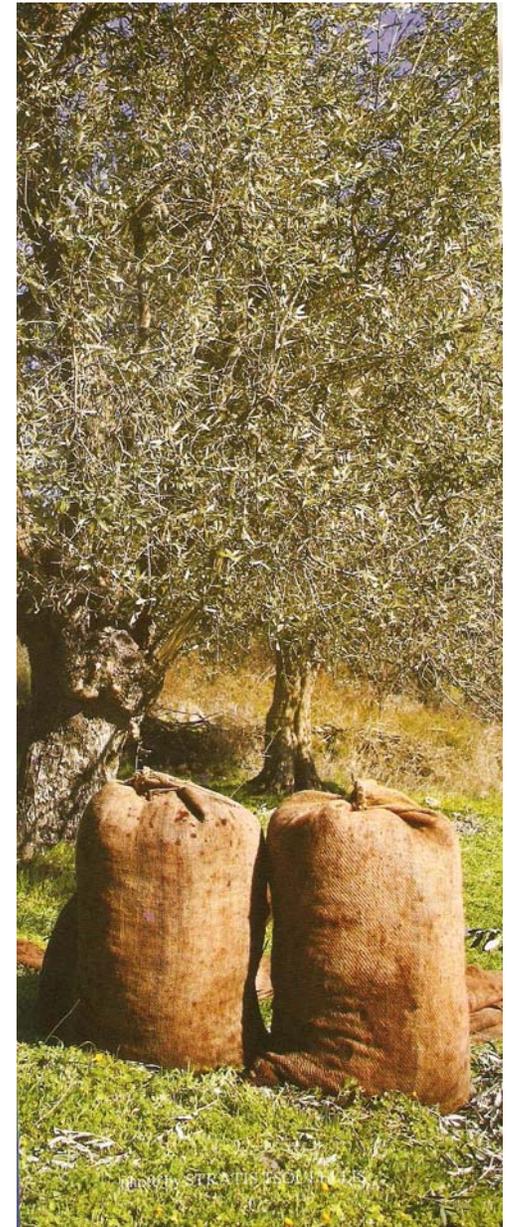


The climate of Lesvos is mild and temperate.

The warm period starts in April until October.

The largest amount of rainfall is recorded from December to March

The olive groves cover a large area of the island as do the wooded areas from pine, oak trees, walnut, almond, fig and also an impressive variety of herbs.





In the south, Olympus, with a height of 967 m, is the most important mountain.

In the western part of the island, dominates the region of the petrified Forest. It constitutes an entire forest ecosystem that was fossilized on the spot because of intense volcanic activity.

Scientists consider this natural monument as a unique “window” on the geological development of the Aegean over the past 20 million years.





# **Mytilene**

**The capital city of Lesbos**

# Brief history



Mytilene is the capital city of Lesbos. According to Homer, it acquired its name from Mytilene, one of the daughters of the first settler and legendary king of the island Makara, son of Helios, the god of sun.

It lies on southeast coast of the island and faces the coast of Asia Minor with which it had direct contact through trade and culture until 1922.



# Time chart

## Serious Events

**10th century BC:** The establishment of Mytilene as a city-state

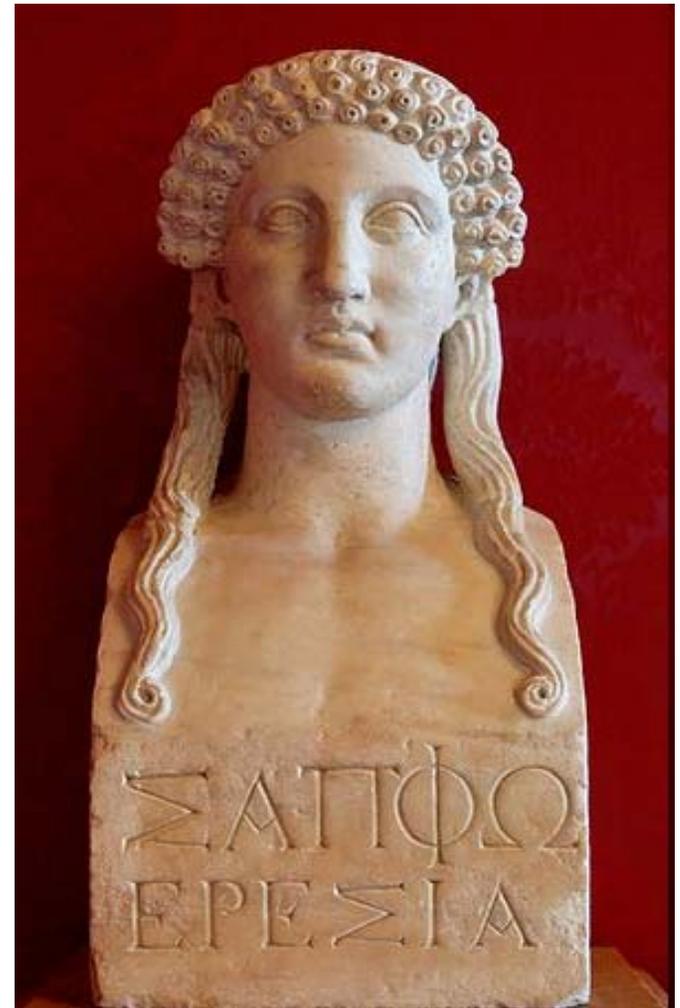
The center of the city was located on the peninsula of the castle, at that time an island separated from the land by a channel.



**7<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> cen BC:** Important people are born in the town

- The great ruler Pittakos.
- The famous lyrical poets Sappho and Alkaios

**424 BC.** During the great war between Athens and Sparta , Mytilene defected from the Athenians alliance and was punished severely by Athenians.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> century BC:

Lesvos and Mytilene enjoyed great prosperity.

A great monument of this period, is the ancient theater with seats of 15000 spectators. Pompey, the Roman emperor ordered a similar one to be built in Rome.



## Medieval years (330 A.D- 1462 A.D):

The island is part of the Byzantine empire.

Repeated invasions from Vandals, Arabs, Ottomans and the Crusaders.

**1355:** The island was given by the Byzantine emperor as a dowry to Francisco Gatelusi an aristocrat from Genoa.

**1373:** He rebuilds extensively the castle of Mytilene which is considered to be the largest defense work in the East Mediterranean.

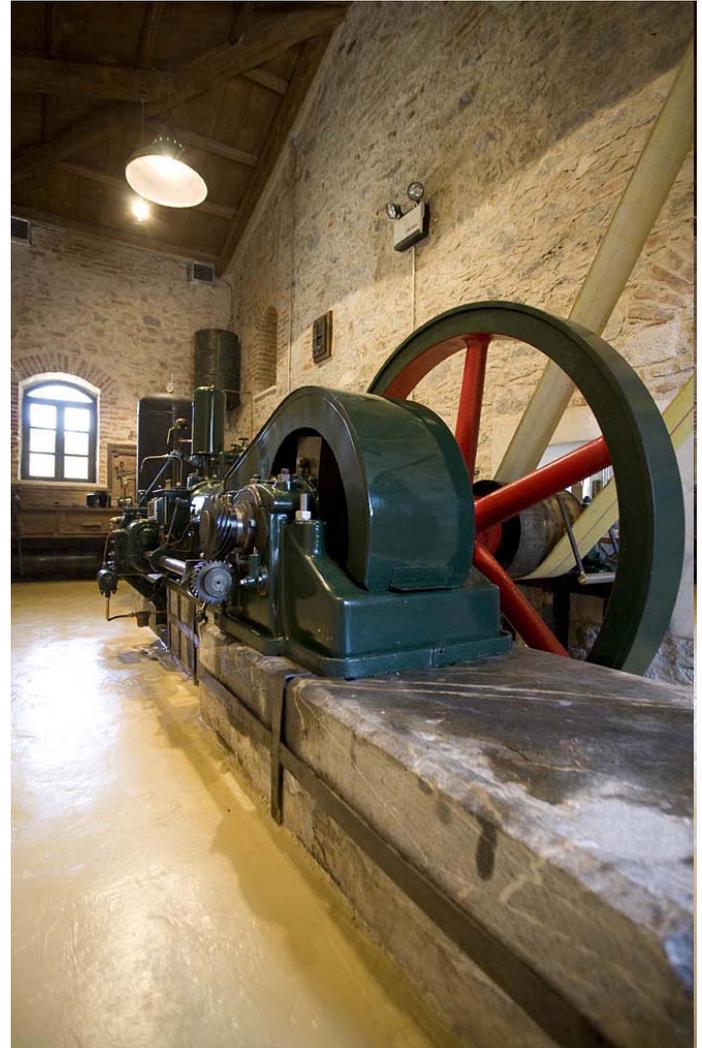
**1462:** Capture of Mytilene by the Ottomans.



## Late 18th-19th centuries:

Due to the gradually social and religious rights given by the Ottomans, economic development began to take place:

- Olive oil trade was permitted to markets abroad
- Many people are involved in maritime transportation (new steam technology) and make fortunes.
- The city was on the trade routes of the time.



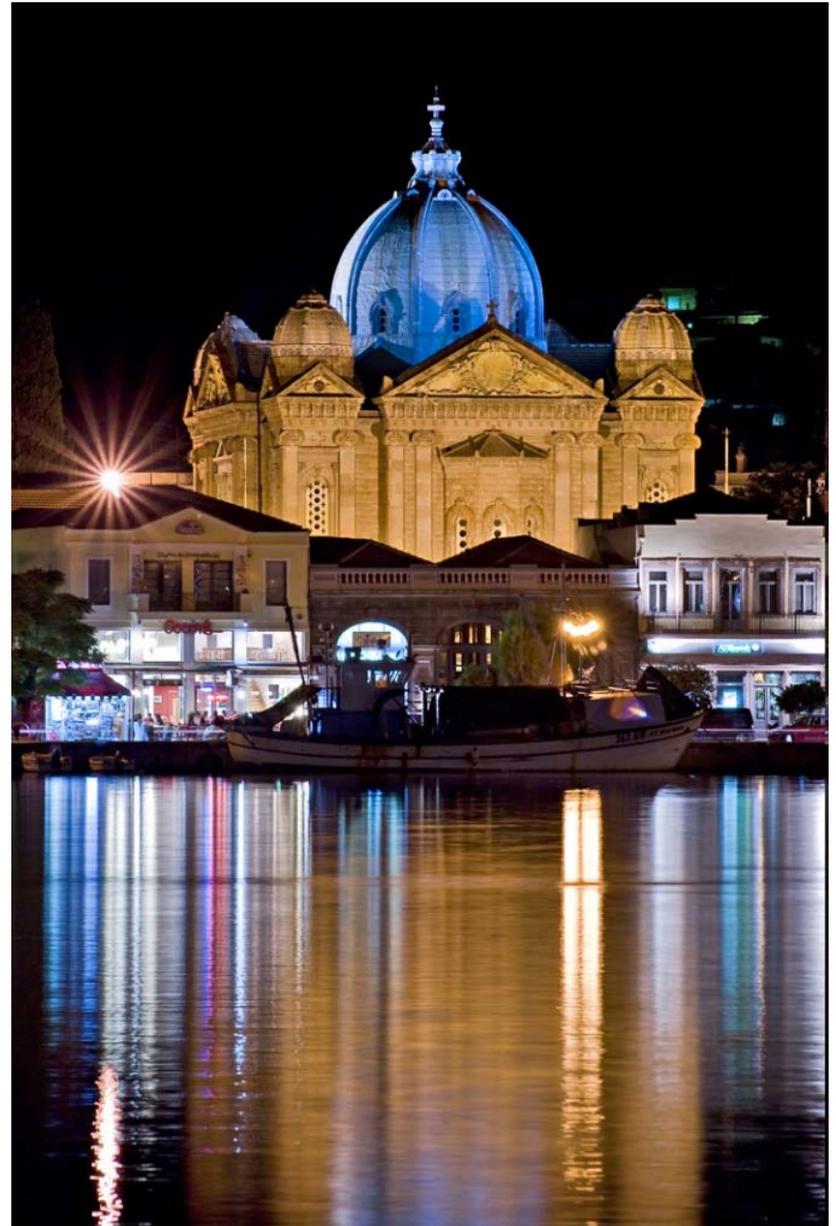
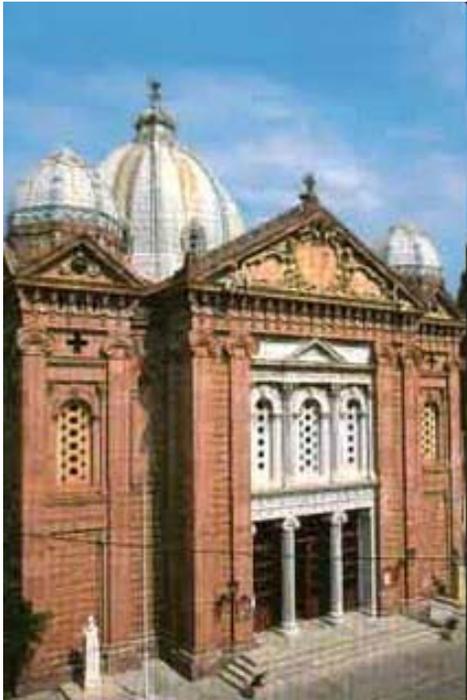
Evidences of this growth are:



The residences of the rich families  
(mansions)



Magnificent churches  
(St. Therapon)



## Magnificent schools



The Experimental High School of Mytilini  
of the University of the Aegean

**Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 1912:** Greek military and naval forces conquered the town of Mytilene.

The island incorporates into Greece officially in 1923.

### **Contemporary times**

As a result of the Greek -Turkish War for Asia Minor (1920-22)

Lesvos as well as the other Aegean islands had to cope with the arrival and settlement of thousands of refugees.

Moreover the traditional trade market

that absorbed the island's olive oil (Istanbul and Ismir) were closed to it.



The suffering which burdened the island during the German occupation and the Greek Civil War was really huge.

In the 50's a large part of the population left the island to seek better luck abroad due to economical and social conditions.



Despite this difficult times arts and letters kept flourishing on the island to mention only two prose poets S. Mirivilis and H. Venezis, the renewed art critic and publisher Str. Eleftheriadis-Teriade, the folk painter Theofilos (1873-1934) and the great Nobel prize winner Odysseas Elytis (1911-1996).



From the 60's onwards due to the rise in land value and tourism a financial recovery began to become apparent.

Nowadays people from Lesbos face a very serious challenge:  
To keep the balance between the future tourist development and the negative consequences to the natural environment.





# **OUR SCHOOL**

**EXPERIMENTAL GENERAL HIGH SCHOOL  
OF MITILINI**

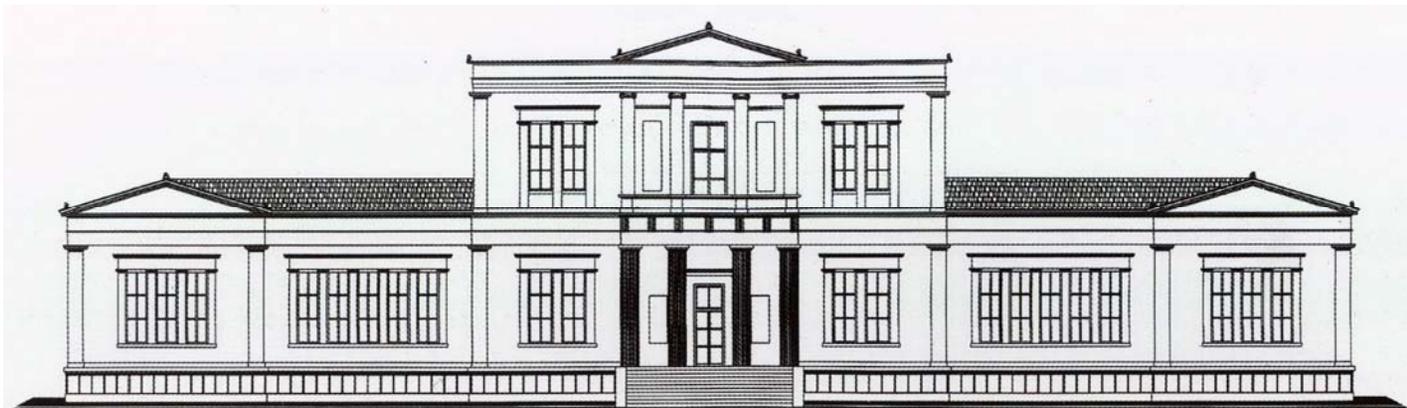
**OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN**

The building which houses our school, was built in the place of the preexisting high school. It was founded after authorization of the Sultan in 1886 and it was also known as the Greek School of Mitilini.

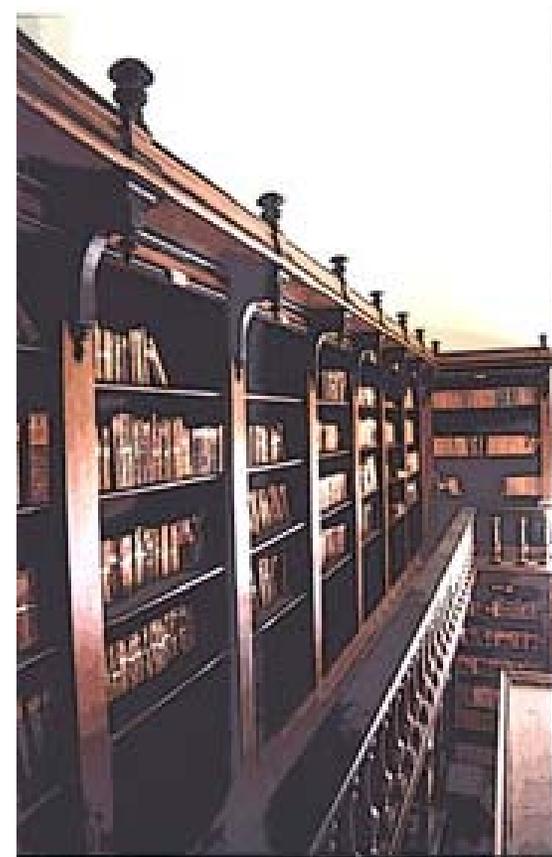
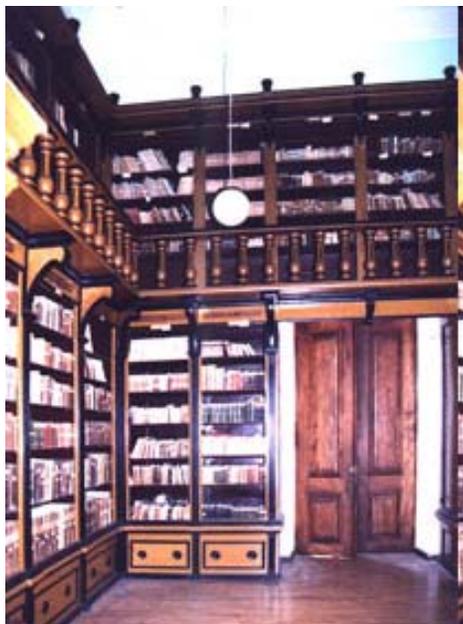


The construction started in 1887. The new building covered an area of 1800 sq.m. It was a combination of two architectural styles. Doric on the first floor and Ionic on the second floor. On the first floor there was the office of the director, classrooms and the laboratory of Physics. On the second floor there was the room for ceremonies, the library and the museum. A modern gym was built in the yard.

The opening ceremony of the new magnificent high school took place in the 18-9-1891.



Our school library is unique. It consists of 74 rare manuscripts dated from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century along with 1500 rare books published in Venice, Vienna and Paris during the first years after the invention of typography. One can also find recently printed books published by Oxford, Lypsia, Paris press. These books are mainly of philological and theological press



During the Greek-Turkish war, the High School was used as a military Hospital. Due to the lack of space, during the arrival of the refugees, the school was used to house and feed a great number of them.





This school has left behind a deposit of a great number of eminent school teachers, reformers that raised the spirituality and the morals of their students. These students later became the leaders of the island and the local society. They developed the economy and contributed to the literary development of the island.

**THE END**

