

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899¹

Article 1

The island of Crete with the adjacent islets is a completely autonomous state under the terms decided by the four Great Powers.

Article 2

The territory of the Cretan State is inalienable, nor is slavery allowed in it.

Article 3

The country's defense and the maintenance of internal order entrusted to local militia (guardia civile) and Gendarmerie.

Service in the local militia is compulsory.

Article 4

Following the departure of the armies of this occupation, foreign troops cannot stay on Crete, nor cross the island without relevant law.

1. Translation of the Cretan Constitution from Katharevousa* (Greek) to English. Katharevousa was an artificial form of the Greek language conceived in the late 18th century, which combined Ancient Greek vocabulary, grammar and syntax together with Modern Greek linguistic features. The translation in English is not word by word, in some cases, in order to give the best meaning of the Constitution articles.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 5

The official language of the Cretan State is Greek.

Article 6

Those who enjoy Cretan citizenship:

- a) are the ones born and settled in Crete before the 1st January 1897, if at least one of their parents was Cretan.
- b) are the ones born to Cretan Ottoman citizens who are born or live in any place.
- c) are the ones born in Crete to unknown parents.

If the aboved described persons benefited from non Ottoman citizenship in the past, they can obtain Cretan citizenship with a simple declaration before the Cretan municipal authority completed at the latest within a year from the publication of the herein Constitution regarding an adult, within the same period of time from becoming an adult, if it concerns a minor.

Acquisition, through naturalisation and loss of Cretan citizenship is regulated by this Law.

This Law shall be published within a trimester from the publication of the herein Constitution and shall offer particular facility with the acquisition of Cretan citizenship to:

- a) expatriates and those settled on a long-term basis on Crete.
- b) those with Cretan descent of any nationality either born or live in any place.
- c) those having participated in Cretan fights for liberation.

This Law should be established through an act of legislative power, the granting of Cretan citizenship to those who have offered great and remarkable service to the State.

Article 7

Cretans of any religion are equal before the Law and benefit from the same rights.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

Article 8

All Cretans are eligible for public service, irrespectively of religion, based on their ability and morality.
Only Cretan citizens are eligible for public service, except in the case where law permits foreign people's employment.

Article 9

All taxes are imposed and collected only for the common good, as every person contributes to public expenditure in proportion to his income or assets.

Article 10

Everyone is free to profess any religion he prefers. Proselytism is prohibited.
This prohibition should not be employed as a pretense in order to illegally limit the individual liberty of those confessing any religion in public.
Any difference in religion does not influence the acquisition or loss or exercise of any personal right or right in rem, as well as not relieving any legal obligation.

Article 11

The external worship of all recognised religions is free and protected by the State, given it complies with laws and police regulations.

Article 12

All Cretans can move unhindered anywhere within or out of the country and reside wherever they wish, provided that police regulations do not forbid that.

Article 13

Personal liberty is inviolable. Nobody is persecuted, arrested, imprisoned or restricted, except when required by law.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Except for the act of committing a crime or in case of martial law, no one is arrested or imprisoned without a reasoned judicial warrant, which must be notified at the time of arrest or detention. Only in the act of the crime can the arrest be made without a judicial warrant and the latter must be notified within at least 24 hours.

Article 14

No one can remove the appointed judges without their will, nor is punished with a defining punishment by the law.

Article 15

The house of each individual is an asylum. No search of a home shall be carried out, apart from the time and in the way that the law orders.

Article 16

Slavery is forbidden. Every one who has been bought or is a slave must be considered as a free man when coming to Crete.

Article 17

No kind of work, crafts or agriculture may be excluded, if not contrary to the interests of public morality, safety or the health of the residents.

Article 18

Monopolies are not allowed in Crete except the ones established by the law for the increase of the public revenue or in the interest of public safety.

Article 19

No one is deprived of his property except for public need, when and as the law requires, always preceded by compen-

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

sation. A Special Law can arrange the ownership and disposal of mines, quarries, archaeological treasures and spas. No real right on adjacent islets can be obtained without Government permission. During the transfer of such rights the State has the preemptive right.

Article 20

Cruelties or general confiscation are forbidden.

Article 21

Education is unbiased, provided that it is exercised by individuals who have acquired it by law, specific in ability and morality under the surveillance of the competent authority, as far as morals, public order and respect to the laws of the State are concerned.

Article 22

Every person has the right to express their thoughts freely orally, in writing or through the Press in compliance with the laws of the State.

The law punishes the abuse of this right.

Article 23

The Law regarding the press must also include the following provisions:

- a) In order to publish a newspaper or magazine a license of executive authority is required.
- b) In order to publish a newspaper or magazine containing political material, the petitioner must provide a solvent guarantee of two thousand drachmas so that potential pecuniary penalties and compensation are paid.

In case of a finally determined conviction of a publisher with a pecuniary penalty or compensation, the newspaper or magazine's publication is suspended until pecuniary penalty or compensation is reimbursed.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

- c) The petitioner is necessarily granted with license, if he/she holds the said legal qualifications and provides the mentioned above guarantee.

The seizure of a newspaper, leaflet or magazine and any document is permitted in case of:

- a) an offense to the known and worshipped religions on the island,
- b) an insult against Hegemon and,
- c) provocation among residents induced by these publications so that public order could be disturbed.

Seizure is lifted ipso jure, if it is not ratified by a judicial order.

Biased censorship is prohibited.

Article 24

The mail delivered to the Post Office is protected from any investigation.

Article 25

Cretans have the right to come together quietly and unarmed, according to the laws, which refer to this right, without previous permission.

The congregations in the countryside are excluded and must comply with the police regulations.

Article 26

Cretans have the right to cooperate, if the purpose of the cooperation or in the means of this cooperation there is nothing illegal, immoral or dangerous to the State. The law regulates the exercise of the right of the cooperation, aimed at the compliance of public security.

Article 27

Every person possesses the right to address reports to the authorities signed by one or more people.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

CHAPTER TWO

The Hegemon (Ruler)

Article 28

The Hegemon is the sovereign Ruler of the State. He legislates before the Parliament of the representatives of the people, exercises the judicial powers with the guidance of responsible Councillors and confers justice through the courts.

Article 29

The Hegemon shall not be held liable and is immune, as specified by law.

Every act of His must be countersigned by his competent Councillor, who with his signature alone, shall be rendered responsible for this act.

His countersignature is not required either for the establishment of the Metropolitan and Bishops or for the appointment of additional members of Parliament or the appointment or dismissal of Kadedes (Ottoman judges) and Mouftedes (Ottoman deacons), Councillors of the Ruler, the President and Public Prosecutor in the Court of Appeals and Prefects.

Article 30

The Hegemon represents the State, concludes conventions that Parliament is requested to vote, makes currency and grants the established decorations.

Article 31

The Hegemon is the commander in chief of military forces of the State, who confers military ranks and appoints and dismisses civil servants in all posts, as specified by law, including Mouftedes (Ottoman deacons) and Kadedes (Ottoman judges) under the permission of Seyhu-

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

lislamis (Ottoman superior authority) in order to exercise the profession of Ierodikis (religious affairs judge). He can provide his consent to the establishment of elected Metropolitan of Crete in the Ecumenical Patriarchate and elected Bishops in the Synod of Bishops as well as have the right to ratify statutes voted by the Parliament, publish them and promulgate necessary decrees to be executed. However, he can not suspend the validity of laws after their publication nor exempt anyone from them.

Article 32

The Hegemon convokes Parliament and proclaims the commencement and termination of its operations as he possesses the right to suspend, adjourn, prolong or dissolve Parliament. The suspension, adjournment or prolongment of this session may not be extended beyond a period of forty days nor be repeated during the same session, without the consent of the Parliament itself.

The decree concerning the dissolution must simultaneously define the convocation of the new Parliament within three months.

Article 33

The Hegemon possesses the right to grant pardons, commute or reduce sentences pronounced by the courts, according to his opinion, in terms of political and press crimes and relevant issues, after consulting with the Council of Justice. He has the right to grant amnesty only in the case of political crimes.

Article 34

The Hegemon shall proclaim, as specified by decree, countersigned by every member of his Council, martial law on the whole island or part of it.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

Article 35

Every resolution of the Assembly, concerning the Hegemon, shall be adopted by a majority of two-thirds through open voting.

Article 36

The Hegemon's grant is determined by law. His Royal Highness Prince George of Greece's annual grant is defined to be two hundred thousands drachmas.

CHAPTER THREE

The Parliament

Article 37

The Parliament shares legislative power with the Ruler. It consists of members elected by the People and members appointed by the Hegemon.

Article 38

To be elected or appointed as a Member of Parliament one must have Cretan citizenship, have resided on Crete for at least five years and be at least thirty years old as well as have all the necessary qualifications as specified by the electoral law.

Article 39

The duties of a Member of Parliament are incompatible with the job of a paid civil or municipal servant, representative or functionary of a foreign State, religious servant or a member of forces, except for these who have been demobilised or dismissed. The latter shall not be elected or appointed as Members of Parliament, if their dismissal is the result of improper conduct while serving in the military force.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 40

A Member of Parliament shall not be two years prior to his election or appointment, awarded in a paid civil or municipal post except for that of the Councillor of the Hegemon.

Article 41

The members of the Parliament are elected per region with a universal suffrage, based on one MP to five thousand residents or a fraction of that number and with a voting system that ensures the best possible representation of the minorities.

Article 42

Ten members of Parliament are appointed by the Hegemon. They are judged in proportion to the population of all the prefectures and they are distinguished citizens both in their morality and experience.

Article 43

A candidate who failed to be elected during the parliamentary elections shall not be appointed as a member of the session that was to be elected. Furthermore, the same person shall not be appointed as a member of two consecutive parliamentary sessions.

Article 44

Every MP represents the whole island and not just the electoral region where he was elected.

Article 45

The investigation of disputed election results shall be conducted by the Supreme State Court, judged in the plenary session.

Article 46

Members of Parliament are elected or appointed for two years and the Parliament convenes in a regular session once every two years.

Article 47

The duration of a regular session shall be two months. At the termination of the session, a Member of Parliament resigns from the position and title of a Member of Parliament.

Article 48

Under the circumstances of a state emergency, the Hegemon shall convoke Parliament in an extraordinary session and prior to the two-year period.

The duration and programme of functions of an extraordinary session are defined by a Hegemon's decree. The Parliament, upon an extraordinary session, shall not discuss any issues except for the ones included in the predefined programme.

Article 49

In extremely urgent cases, the Hegemon shall convene, in an extraordinary session, the Members of Parliament of the terminated session, if he does not wish to order elections for new Members of Parliament.

Article 50

The Parliament shall assemble in an open sitting, and only behind closed doors, if previously determined.

Article 51

Before undertaking their duties, Members of Parliament shall take an oath before Chamber in a public sitting ac-

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

cording to their own religion that they will conscientiously carry out their duties keeping faith in the Country and the Hegemon as well as obeying the laws of the State.

Article 52

The Parliament shall determine the manner of its operation in accordance with its regulations.

Article 53

Members of Parliament elect the President, Vice-President and Secretaries at the beginning of every term session.

Article 54

The Parliament executes, through its President, its own policing. The President alone shall give orders to the guard of the Chamber.

None of the armed forces shall enter the Chamber without the consent of the President.

Article 55

The Assembly cannot discuss and decide anything without the presence of at least half of the members plus one, and for a valid decision, the absolute majority of the members is required to be present. However, in the case of a tie in votes, the proposal is rejected.

Article 56

Provided that he participates in the business of Parliament, each Member of Parliament receives ten drachmas, on the grounds of compensation.

Article 57

A Member of Parliament shall not be prosecuted or be under investigation for expressing his opinion or voting

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

during his position of office. During the parliamentary term, the Members of Parliament shall not be prosecuted or arrested or imprisoned without prior permission granted by Parliament, except in the case when they are caught in the act of committing a felony.

Article 58

No law is valid if not voted for twice by the Assembly, article by article over two different days and if not validated by the Hegemon.

The Budget is voted for only once.

A bill is voted for by the Parliament and in case it is not ratified by the Hegemon within two months from the termination of parliamentary term, it is considered to be null.

Article 59

The authentic interpretation of laws shall rest with the legislative power.

Article 60

The Hegemon possesses the right to introduce laws. Laws brought about by the Parliament concerning remuneration, superannation or any other personal benefits are introduced only by the Hegemon.

No proposals by Members of Parliament resulting in other expenditures increases shall be introduced into a debate by the Parliament, if it is not previously approved by the Committee dealing with the budget.

Article 61

No new tax shall be imposed or collected without a statute voted by Parliament and ratified by the Hegemon, nor loans nor contracts resulting in pecuniary obligations of the State shall be agreed and pensions or fees shall not be provided by the State Fund.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 62

At the beginning of every regular session, the budget of revenues and expenditures of the following two years and the financial assessment report of the two years elapsed are submitted.

Before the budget is voted on or the financial statement report is ratified, they are referred to the competent committee of the Parliament for examination and consultation. In case the financial statement report cannot be promptly composed, it shall be definitely submitted in the next regular or extraordinary session.

Article 63

If the Parliament eliminates or reduces any of the registered credits of the budget, it shall justify its resolution indicating, at the same time, the way in which to achieve the relevant cutback, without infringing on the obligations according to the written laws imposed upon the state or those whose undertaking can be pursued through the court.

If Parliament, after having given the necessary explanations, insists on the renunciation of the said credits or in the case of the termination of the term, the submitted budget is not voted upon, then, the Hegemon shall, through a decree signed by every member of its Council, declare that the previously approved budget is also applicable for use, provided that this budget was correctly drafted, deducting the already reimbursed registered amounts.

Article 64

Under extraordinary circumstances of an urgent and unforeseeable need, the Hegemon shall, with the unanimity of his Councillors and under their responsibility, introduce expenses not predicted by the budget, on condition that they shall not exceed the amount of one hundred thousand drachmas for every two-year period.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

For these expenses, the confirmation is required directly by the hereupon regular or extraordinary session of the Parliament.

CHAPTER FOUR

About the Councillors of the Hegemon

Article 65

The Councillors of the Hegemon are appointed and dismissed according to His approval.

Article 66

The Councillors sit in the Chamber of Parliament and participate in its debates, though without having the right to vote.

Article 67

A Member of Parliament appointed as the Councillor of the Hegemon shall rescind his position as a Member of Parliament and his seat in the Parliament will be considered as vacant.

Article 68

The Assembly has the right in a special Court of Justice to bring charges against every councillor who intentionally:

- a) Signed or executed a decree of the Hegemon which violated a provision of the Constitution or the Laws or the issued decrees of the Hegemon ordered by the legislative power.
- b) Executed the decree of the Hegemon which was not signed by the competent councillor or ordered the execution of this decree.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

- c) Published or executed a decision or an order, which violated a provision of the Constitution or the Laws or the issued decrees of the Hegemon ordered by the legislative power or ordered the execution of this decision or order.
- d) Forgot to execute an order of the Constitution or the Laws or the issued decrees of the Hegemon, ordered by the legislative power, or to order the execution of this decree.
- e) Signed, in order to validate as a law of the State, an act, which had not been voted by the Assembly, according to the regulations in the Constitution for the drafting of laws, and published or ordered the execution of this.

Article 69

A councillor is immediately accused by the Parliament before the Special Court, who during his office:

- a) Forced certain penal provision of current laws, whose infringement is punished with criminal or correctional sentence
- b) And without violation of the explicit provision of Constitution or laws or command of legislative power of published decrees of Hegemon, harmed by intention via his action or omission, the interests of the State.

Article 70

Parliament shall prosecute a Councillor of the Hegemon before a Special Court, if he was illegally involved in the elections.

Article 71

Criminal prosecution against the Councillor is permitted, if he, due to inexcusable negligence, has infringed, through his commissions or omissions, the provisions of the Constitution or laws or by the Hegemon issued decrees following a mandate of legislative power, thus causing damage to substantial interests of the State.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

Article 72

A Councillor, who does not participate in the perpetration of the above offences, is accountable at least as perpetrator, if he consented to them via action of the Council that carries his signature.

Article 73

A Councillor is exempted from the responsibility for the infringements that are fixed in the previous Articles, if the infringement emanated from a forgiven and justified fallacy regarding precise significance of the violated Law.

Article 74

For penal action or omissions, that the current laws characterise as delinquencies or felonies and that can be committed also, either by any private individual, or by only public servants, or by both, the Councillor, who committed them at the implementation of his duties, is punished with the sentence, that the aforementioned laws specify for such action or omissions.

Article 75

For each infringement of the Constitution or the laws, during the implementation of duties of the Councillor, for which there is no explicit sentence by law, the offending Councillor is punished with imprisonment from three months to two years and a pecuniary sentence of up to five thousand drachmas if he acted with intention, imprisonment for up to six months or a pecuniary sentence of up to five thousand drachmas if acted through unpremeditated negligence.

Article 76

The guilty party for the fixed infringements in Article 69, section b is punished with imprisonment of between two months to one year.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 77

If he is found guilty, the pursuant in Article 70 on the defined crime, is sentenced to pay one to five thousand drachmas as a punishment.

Article 78

If the offence for which the Councillor was condemned, was committed through intention, the condemnation involves from three to ten years' deprivation of political rights.

Article 79

The condemnation of the Councillor for action or omission due to unpremeditated negligence, involves from two to five years loss of the right of the condemned to undertake a civil servant's position.

Article 80

Anyone punished for one of the above offences is eliminated from the two regular parliamentary sessions from the moment the Councillor was removed from service.

Article 81

Should the charges be filed during the Councillor's service, the Hegemon shall ask him to remain in his post until the issuance of a committal order on behalf of the Court Committee.

Article 82

The Court Committee consists of three members, persons who after drawing lots shall also form the Special Court.

Article 83

The Special Court is comprised of the president of the Court of Appeals, as chairman of the Special Court, and

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

by six other members, received via draw from the following persons, appointed before the prosecution, for instance public prosecutors, assistant attorney of also judges of Courts of Appeal and chairmen and public prosecutors of Judges of a Court of the first instance.

The draw takes place in front of the president of the Parliament in a public session.

At the same time, the Parliament elects the ones that will undertake the duties of the examiner and the Public Prosecutor in the Special Court. The Secretary is appointed to the Special Court.

Until the issuance of a special law concerning this, the Special Court shall regulate the procedure, complying with the provisions of Article 90 of the Constitution on promulgation.

Article 84

The Hegemon is able to grant pardon to a Councillor condemned under the above provisions, only with the consent of the Parliament.

Article 85

The resolution of the Parliament on the charges against the Councillor and any relevant resolutions are adopted only by the majority of the elected members of the Parliament.

Article 86

The crimes of the Councillor irrelevant of his State duties shall not be subject to the above mentioned provisions.

Article 87

The civil action for compensation against the Councillor and in favour of the wrongly accused, according to the re-

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

ported offences in the above Articles, are brought only in front of the political courts, and judged according to the provisions of the common good.

CHAPTER FIVE

About the Judicial Power

Article 88

Justice shall be administered in the name of the Hegemon by judges appointed by him with the consent of the Judicial Organisation.

Article 89

The Judicial Organisation shall arrange the formation of the Council of Justice, which shall comprise of the President and Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court and three judges of this Court as well as their legal deputies, who could act on their behalf.

After the formation of this Council, no judge or public prosecutor shall be appointed or promoted without a proposal, or transferred without a consultation, either temporarily or permanently dismissed without a prior decision by this Council. The President and Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals are exempted.

Article 90

The sittings of the Courts shall be public, except when the Court orders, by virtue of moral principles or common order, to be behind closed doors.

Article 91

Every court judgment must be justified and announced in a public sitting.

Article 92

The jurisdiction of Ierodikes [Religious Affairs Judges] shall also include, apart from mere religious actions, the following cases:

- a) those that concern the composition or dissolution of a marriage or personal relations of spouses,
- b) those concerning the upbringing of minors,
- c) those concerning tutelage, custody or emancipation of minors,
- d) those regarding the obligation, as specified by law, of a person to provide an alimony to another. The amount of the alimony is defined by regular courts.
- e) Those regarding trials of inheritance and succession on the Vakouf regarding its administration. But if the decisions of the Ierodikes [Religious Affairs Judges] concerning these cases are not accepted by all interested parties, they can be appealed against in regular courts.

In case the issue of inheritance should incidentally appear in another trial or in the said trial and the person involved is not Muslim, its hearing shall go directly through the regular courts.

In every trial concerning inheritance or succession on the Vakouf and its administration, the law of inheritance is exercised.

The compulsory execution of any decision of the Ierodikes (Religious Affairs Judges) shall be subject to the regular courts.

CHAPTER SIX

About the Civil Servants

Article 93

As a base for the qualifications and the institution of the competition, a special law will arrange the nomination and the promotion of civil servants, apart from the excep-

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

tions that are reported in the laws, where those who have offered personal services to the country are preferred. The same law will arrange the way and the reasons for the dismissal and transfer of the same employees.

Article 94

In case of discreditation of civil servants, the State is responsible for any damage or injury caused by their negligence, abuse of power or wrong actions towards citizens. A special law shall define the cases and the extent of the responsibility.

CHAPTER SEVEN

About the Administration

Article 95

Every Prefecture is a unique legal entity. For every Prefecture there will be a prefectural council, in order to consider and decide on the special needs, which contribute to the prosperity of the Prefecture. The prefectural councils will have at their disposal the sources which will set the legislative power, in order to serve the special needs of the prefecture and will have the right to impose additional taxation for certain special needs of the prefecture within the limits that will be set each time by the legislative power. The same [Article] is in effect for the municipalities.

CHAPTER EIGHT

About the Martial Law

Article 96

Martial law is proclaimed:

- a) When the residents oppose the executor of a law or decree or regulation legally enacted by the Hegemon.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

- b) In the case of an armed movement or serious riots, if the conventional organs of authority are unable to restore order.

Article 97

The decree, proclaiming martial law, shall be justified and published in every municipality where it will be exercised, thus obtaining legal validity.

Article 98

Martial law will be lifted when the cause is eliminated.

Article 99

The results of the proclamation of the martial Law will be fixed by law for this purpose.

CHAPTER NINE

About the Revision

Article 100

The provisions of the herein Constitution shall be subject to revision after a lapse of five years, when the Parliament, during a regular assembly, by a two-third majority requested through its own act, shall define the provisions to be revised.

Article 101

According to the previous article of revision, the present Parliament is dissolved ipso jure and the Assembly convenes.

The elections for the Assembly are conducted within eight months after the resolution of the revision. This Assembly convenes within ten months from this period.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 102

The Assembly comprises of only elected members, double in number compared to the Parliament elected in the same way.

Article 103

The Assembly decides on the revised provisions by an absolute majority of the total number of its members, being limited within the framework of the programme which was defined by the previous Parliament through its act on the revision.

Article 104

After the operation has been accomplished for which the Assembly convened, it is dissolved ipso jure.

Article 105

Upon the provision of the majority of votes in Article 41, it shall be amended by a simple law, after a lapse of five years from the publication of the herein Constitution.

Article 106

The provisions pertaining to the appointed by the Hegemon Members of the Parliament shall be amended or abolished by the majority of the elected only Members of Parliament, if it was thus decided upon in the third regular session from the publication of the herein Constitution.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

CHAPTER TEN

Transitory Provisions

Article 107

All Vakouf lands² of any category, the lands owned by citizens or associations or other legal entities shall be lands of full ownership in the hands of present owners and their general as well as special successors.

A Special Law, published within six months, shall define the compensation for the beneficiary for the dues to be paid or rights to be paid by the administrators to the Efkafti³.

The dues to be compensated for the lands, whose right of inheritance was not extended, shall be estimated one 1000th of the mentioned land's value in the last act of transfer.

In the meantime, the land shall be mortgaged, by preference over any other possible registered mortgage in order to assure the above compensation shall be paid.

From this provision, lands owned in the Efkafti or administrators of any Vakouf lands category are exempted. Similarly, lands owned by charities or those are in the hands of administrators are exempted. But if these lands, according to the relevant enacted special Law, are sold by the Efkafti, they shall be sold as lands of full ownership.

Article 108

After the lapse of the first eight years from the publication of the herein Constitution, the Hegemon shall, without exception, appoint to public posts Muslim Cretans, holding, as specified by law, the necessary qualifications of moral principles and ability, even if they have not acquired any disciplinary education or knowledge of the Greek language.

2. Lands endowed to mosques or dedicated to one charitable cause.

3. Efkafti: the branch of the Ottoman bureaucracy responsible for all buildings dedicated to charitable foundations.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 109

After the lapse of the first two years from the publication of the herein Constitution, the Hegemon shall be free to deny or grant, according to his judgment, a pursuant of the law on the press, the necessary license for publishing newspapers or any documents containing political material or revoke the already granted license.

Article 110

During the two-year period, the Hegemon shall possess the right to deport any Cretan citizen off the Island whose presence is considered to be dangerous to public order. The people deported by the international authorities or the ones to be deported according to this article, shall not return without the permission of the Hegemon.

Article 111

During the two-year period, Legislative Power is fully assigned to the Hegemon, within the limits of the Constitution and according to the unanimity of his Council and thus, he shall enact and exercise, through temporary decrees, whatever is necessary for the function of the Regime judicial, administrative, financial, military, educational and other laws.

During the two-year period, the Hegemon shall have the right, according to the unanimity of his Council, to:

- a) Conclude any convention regarding public works or the transportation of the country, provided that obligations will not be imposed upon the State fund except for the regular budget of the first two years.
- b) Concede, under terms of best interests, the right to found a Cretan Bank, with a department of real estate credit, providing also, if required, the benefit of publishing banknotes, excluding compulsory circulation.

Translation of the Cretan Constitution of 1899

- c) Arrange the taxes occurring from stamp duties, tobacco, toubeki (tobacco used for a waterpipe) and alcohol, increasing them if needed and arranging the relevant matters of salt monopoly.
- d) Define the mail and telegram charges.
- e) Provide the Prefectures and Municipalities with the ratification for imposing and collecting taxes concerning their needs, pursuant to Article 95.
- f) Conclude a loan up to four million francs in order to reimburse the deposits due to the Powers, if they are requested before the convocation of the Parliament, and cover the potential deficits of the first years' budget, providing specific revenues of the State as a guarantee of this loan.

Except for the above mentioned taxes and the existing ones, which shall continue to be collected in the same manner on the whole island until it is differently enacted by a regular legislative procedure, no other tax shall be imposed or collected during the two year period, nor other obligations shall be imposed upon the State, except for the regular budget of the first two years, nor personal grants or pensions shall be administered without the assembly of the Parliament.

Article 112

The Hegemon shall also have the right to proceed to communicate with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and define the manner of exercise of the Metropolitan and Bishops' establishment right, in accordance with Article 31.

Article 113

The power granted to the Hegemon as specified in the herein Constitution is exercised by His Royal Highness, Prince George of Greece, High Commissioner on Crete.

The political status of the Cretan State (1898-1913)

Article 114

The herein Constitution shall be applied from the day of its publication.

Chania, 16 April 1899

GEORGIOS