

The Mission of the Hellenic Museum of Michigan

The overall mission of our Museum is to present, promote and teach about Hellenic Culture, Heritage and History. As part of its overall mission, the Museum also chronicles the struggles, accomplishments and many contributions of a vibrant Greek immigrant community's journey to Michigan. This is done by exhibits, oral and written history programs, guest lectures and cultural events.

In fulfilling its mission, the museum informs and educates the public across seven broad periods of Greek history including: Ancient Civilizations; the Archaic Period; the Classical or Golden Age of Greece; the Hellenistic Period of Greece; Byzantium; Ottoman Oppression; Greek Independence; and, the Modern Era.

In the **Ancient Civilization** period both the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations were renowned for their seafaring mercantile activities and advanced plumbing systems. During the **Archaic Period**, the first Olympics were held in 776 BC and the Homeric epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey were written. In the **Classical or Golden Age**, the Parthenon was built and there were numerous accomplishments in the fields of Philosophy, Democracy, Medicine and the other Sciences, Literature, Mercantilism, Architecture, Theatre and others. These achievements led to the belief that Greece was the birthplace and cradle of Western civilization. In the **Hellenistic Period**, the conquests of Alexander the Great spread the Greek empire as far east as India and led to the melding and interaction of not only European and Middle Eastern societies of the world but, also for the first time, Far Eastern and Oriental influences. The **Byzantine Period** was one in which the captive Greeks, through their rich culture, tamed and took captive their conquerors, the Romans. The fall of the Byzantine Empire led to the **Age of Ottoman Conquest**. This ushered in the rise of Ottoman-Muslim power and the East-West friction that exists today. With the fall of Constantinople many Byzantine scholars and artists fled to the West with their knowledge and artistic talent, thus playing an important role in the **Renaissance Period** in Western Europe.

The War of Independence from the Ottomans ushered in the **Modern Era** of Greece. This era includes many notable issues such as: the Armenian Genocide and uprooting of the Greek population in Asia Minor; the role of Greece in WWI and WWII, especially its critical role in WW II in the defeat of Nazi Germany; the Greek Civil War; the 45 years of extremely harsh rule of Communist Albania; the dictatorial Junta/colonels' regime; the Turkish invasion of Cyprus; the development of NATO and the ascendancy of Greece into the European Union; the 2004 Olympic Games and the new Acropolis Museum; and the recent and current Greek financial crisis.

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NIKE: GREECE'S CRITICAL ROLE IN NAZI GERMANY'S DEFEAT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

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