

**THE CITY OF CORFU –
THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND THE CAPITAL OF THE NEW TIMES
GREEK NATION'S FIRST STATE, AS THE STAGE OF MULTI-CULTURAL
INFLUENCES: BYZANTINE, VENETIAN, FRENCH, ENGLISH,
WHATEVER YET – WHY NOT RUSSIAN? (THE RECOLLECTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SEVEN UNITED ISLANDS' HISTORY – 1799-1807)**

Vladimir Krogius

Email: andi@pol.ru

It has to be said at once: the supposition set forth above is not more than an idea. Well really, why it couldn't be true? The dominance periods of Byzantines and Venetians in Corfu were of centuries; Britishers – of a half century; but Frenchys – only less than a decade. All that has been fixed in the ICOMOS report, which forestalled of the Corfu Old Town inscribing into the World Heritage List. But hasn't been said anything about the role of the first seven years of 19th century, when there was here the first attempt to establish the Greek state of New Times, namely – the Republic of Seven United Islands. The Russians were the active participants of this attempt and protectors of this state; and as a representative of ICOMOS/Russia I thirst for justice. Let's remember the Russian admiral Theodore Ushakov – the genial navy commander and smart administrator (he had took Corfu from the Napoleonic soldiers by storm and initiated the new state establishment), his Turkish colleagues – admiral Kadyr Bey (the personification of the rather strange in these times short military union, may be the early precursor of the modern Mediterranean cooperation), the count of G. Mocenigo (the person with Venetian name, who was however the Russian official representative in the new Republic) and another count of Joannis Capodistriasis, the native of Corfu, who had began his outstanding state career here as the minister of intern and later of foreign affairs in the Republic of Seven Island (yet more later he became the high level member in the Russian government in St Petersburg and at last the first Head of the independent Greek State with the capital in Navplion, 1829-31). We see that could be only our groundless speculations, but why don't imagine that in new time town planning development of Corfu could be found some traces of this 19th century's first decade activity, which was inspired with the recent Russian experience of massive cities planning reconstruction on the regular modes, by the Catherine the Great times. That would be fine and tempting if such traces could be found here.

The Scientific Symposium of the ICOMOS/CIVVIH in the City of Corfu, Greece,
18th of April 2008