

The **Megali Idea**, which translates to 'Great Idea' in English, was a nationalistic concept that emerged in the 19th century in Greece. It revolved around the aspiration to unite all Greek-speaking populations and territories, which were spread across various regions including the Ottoman Empire, into a single Greek nation-state.

To understand the Megali Idea, we need to look back at the historical context:

- **Greek War of Independence (1821-1829):** This was a successful battle against Ottoman rule, leading to the establishment of modern Greece. The desire for independence ignited national pride and the dream of expanding Greece's borders.
- **Historical Claims:** Many Greeks believed that territories like Constantinople (now Istanbul) and parts of Asia Minor, which were historically Greek regions, should belong to Greece.
- **National Identity:** The Megali Idea became an essential part of Greek national identity, encouraging the idea of a greater Greece that incorporated all Greek-speaking Christians.
- **Political Movements:** Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this idea influenced several political and military actions, including wars and international negotiations.
- **Consequences:** The aspiration for Greater Greece led to conflicts, like the Greco-Turkish War (1919-1922), and had a lasting impact on Greek-Turkish relations and the region's stability.

In summary, the Megali Idea was about a dream of uniting Greeks and reclaiming historical lands. While it created a strong sense of national pride, it also led to conflicts that shaped modern Greek history.