



Orthokostá: A Novel (The Margellos World Republic of Letters)

By Thanassis Valtinos

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First published in 1994 to a storm of controversy, Thanassis Valtinos's probing novel *Orthokostá* defied standard interpretations of the Greek Civil War. Through the documentary-style testimonies of multiple narrators, among them the previously unheard voices of right-wing collaborationists, Valtinos provides a powerful, nuanced interpretation of events during the later years of Nazi occupation and the early stages of the nation's Civil War. His fictionalized chronicle gives participants, victims, and innocent bystanders equal opportunity to bear witness to such events as the burning of Valtinos's home village, the detention and execution of combatants and civilians in the monastery of Orthokostá, and the revenge killings that ensued.

As a transforming work of literature, this book redefined established methods of fiction; as a work of revisionist history, it changed the way Greece understands its own past. Now, through this masterful translation of *Orthokostá*, English-language readers have full access to the tremendous vitality of Valtinos's work and to the divisive Civil War experiences that continue to echo in Greek politics and events today.

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Orthokostá: A Novel (The Margellos World Republic of Letters) By Thanassis Valtinos Bibliography

- Rank: #1736799 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-06-28
- Released on: 2016-06-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

“The confusions and contradictions of the story mirror to perfection the confusions and contradictions of civil war.”—Thomas Michael Duncan, *Words Without Borders*
(Thomas Michael Duncan *Words Without Borders*)

“This chilling, arresting novel . . . complicates the once-proud legacy of Greek resistance to Nazi occupation.”—*Publishers Weekly*
(*Publishers Weekly*)

About the Author

Thanassis Valtinos was born in the Peloponnese, in southern Greece. He has established himself as one of the country’s most innovative writers, revered and imitated by many. **Jane Assimakopoulos** is an American-born translator living in Greece. She is currently a translation editor working on a series of books by Philip Roth. She lives in Greece. **Stavros Deligiorgis** is a University of Iowa professor emeritus in English and Comparative Literature. He is the author of books and articles on literary theory and translation. **Stathis N. Kalyvas** is Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science at Yale. He is the author of, among other books, *Modern Greece: What Everyone Needs to Know*, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, and *The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe*.

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