



The Hellenic Society Prometheas

Invites you to a Book Presentation:

Queen of Cities: A Historical Novel on the fall of Constantinople

by **Professor Andrew Novo**
of the National Defense University

The story of the fall of Constantinople is one of the greatest dramas ever recorded by history. It is a story of ambition and deception, genius and greed, heroism and sacrifice, tragedy and triumph. It shook the world to its core, extinguished a thousand year old empire, confirmed the presence of a Muslim superpower in Europe, and helped spark and spread the Renaissance. Its aftershocks reverberate to our own age in the tensions between Christianity and Islam, in the identities of Europe and Turkey, and in the concept of Western civilization itself.

For all those grand themes, the story is also intrinsically human. It is the story of a widowed, middle-aged emperor attempting to preserve an imperial legacy a thousand years old against impossible odds; the story of a young sultan defined by relentless ambition and restless genius. It is a story of greedy businessmen, selfish politicians, heroic soldiers of fortune, and Machiavellian courtiers, culminating in a two-month siege in the spring of 1453 that reshaped the world. New technologies were deployed and both warfare and world affairs entered a new age.

The author will discuss the book's perspective in bringing the dramatic and deeply personal elements of the story to life, but also in relating these events to their enormous historical legacy.

Friday, November 16, 2012 at 8:00 pm
The Hellenic Center
6506 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

A reception and book signing will follow the discussion

Born in New York City, Andrew Novo holds a doctorate in history and a master's in international relations from the University of Oxford. He is Assistant Professor of Strategic Studies at the National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs. Dr. Novo is a specialist in the history of the Mediterranean world, both ancient and modern. *Queen of Cities* is his first novel.