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Beyond departure: the Greek in Egypt, 1962-1976

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PART II: Agency, Negotiation and ‘Readjustment’ on Institutional Level: The Case of Alexandria

Part I examined the personal and local histories of *Egyptiots*, and their diversity based on geographical, social, economic and individual context. It demonstrated how the *Egyptiot* community was an active community of people who tried to make a living for themselves and their families, despite the changing economic and political environment and the impact of the departures of the majority of the *Egyptiot* community and others. Through the narration of their local and personal histories, I have illustrated that socioeconomic changes and departures not only raised challenges for *Egyptiots*, but also offered opportunities. I examined this through the ways *Egyptiots* responded to these challenges and opportunities, demonstrating their perseverance, agency and adjustment.

The different conceptions of ‘readjustment’ discussed in the introduction concerned, among others, how the *koinotētes* engaged and responded to the changes taking place in Egyptian society. Part II explores the challenges and opportunities *Egyptiots* encountered on an institutional level, and the ‘readjustment’ goals they pursued to make their residence permanent. Through the case of the *Egyptiot Koinotēta* of Alexandria (EKA), I demonstrate how the Alexandrian community, via its representative body, demonstrated agency and resilience, and developed and even expanded its activities, in a period of demographic decline. I analyze the institutional life of *Egyptiots* through the examination of the EKA for two main reasons. First, the institution of the EKA is the oldest and most prestigious community institution among the thirty-five *Egyptiots’ koinotētes* established in Egypt. As I explore in this part, its status as the most significant and privileged *koinotēta* in comparison to others, and in some instances across the Greek diaspora *koinotētes*, was provided as moral and financial support by representatives of the Greek state to the institution on several occasions. Hence, due to its reputation and its economic organization in a harbor city, it was

chosen to be the main recipient of Greek government subsidy, something that empowered its position as a local and diasporic institution. Second, despite the EKA not including all Alexandrian *Egyptiots* as members, it had an instrumental role in determining their quality and organization of life to a large extent, especially through its economic, political and educational activities. Therefore, Chapter Four examines the EKA's management of properties. It shows how the EKA's agency was manifested, but also guaranteed, through the ways it managed its property. Chapter Five follows with an analysis of the educational matters that concerned the *Egyptiot* community and the EKA, specifically the teaching of the Arabic language and technical education, issues that concerned *Egyptiots'* position in the labor market and their residency in Egypt. Both chapters analyze the ways *Egyptiots*, through their *koinotēta*, tried to respond to, negotiate and adjust to their place in Egypt.