

# The CORONA Digital Atlas of Greece: A New Open-Access Platform for Assessing Historical Landscapes

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## Abstract

Manifold digital atlases are critical tools in the documentation and protection of historical landscapes on both a local and regional scale. Historians and archaeologists increasingly use online platforms such as Google Earth to identify new features of cultural interest, assess diachronic landuse patterns, optimize the implementation of archaeological fieldwork, and monitor the degrees of site destruction caused by anthropogenic or environmental factors. Typically, digital atlases are a compendium of recent high-resolution satellite imagery, aerial photographs of the previous decades, and historical and current topographical plans. In this paper we discuss the creation of a new open-access, interactive digital atlas of Greece comprised of CORONA satellite images (“CORONA Digital Atlas of Greece”) which was developed between 2018-2020 by the GeoSat ReSeArch Lab of the Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas (FORTH). The Atlas is an interactive database of the earliest satellite pictures of a country rich in historical monuments. Crucially, the imagery largely predates the drastic land-use changes and urban expansion that affected Greece in the latter part of the twentieth century. As such, the Atlas is an important and unique instrument for research purposes, not only in the assessment of archaeological contexts but also in the characterization of modernization in post-war Greece.

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