In the early nineteenth century, French philanthropists and Hellenophone notables came together to further a method for mass popular education in Southeastern Europe. By exporting specific technologies for working-class instruction to the Balkans, French leaders hoped to shore up their country’s cultural and scientific prestige while simultaneously creating “relations of gratitude” that would render foreign populations more susceptible to their diplomatic and economic interests. Hellenophone figures in Southeastern Europe saw these partnerships as a means of “civilizing” and modernizing the region. This presentation explores the intersection of French and Southeast European figures’ goals and examines how they changed over time.