

Recensions/Book Reviews

ELIAMEP, *Epeterida 1995 (Annual Review)*, Athens, 1995

IDIS, *Epeterida 1996 (Annual Review)*, Athens, 1996

We are considering here two recent annual reviews published by the two most important centers for the study of international relations (IR) in Greece: The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and the Institute of International Relations (IDIS).

Although an Institute of Public International Law and International Relations has existed in Thessalonike since the early sixties, the scientific analysis of IR came relatively late to Greece. Previously IR were dominated by the traditional academic treatment of a historical and legalistic orientation. Only with the reestablishment of democracy in the mid-seventies and Greece's entry into the European Community in the early eighties did political science finally enter the field of IR in full force.¹

ELIAMEP was established in 1988 as an independently funded body to study Greek foreign and defense policy. Headed by University of Athens professors Theodore Couloumbis (Chairman), Christos Rozakis (Secretary General), Thanos Veremis (General Director) and Yiannis Valinakis (Research Director), the foundation includes generals, admirals, ambassadors, journalists, industrialists, artists and other outstanding citizens interested in international relations.

In addition to ongoing research programs, ELIAMEP organizes periodic lectures, seminars and conferences; the results of which are eventually published as monographs or articles. Some of these are written in English and are included in the *Southeast European Yearbook*.

Since 1992, ELIAMEP has published its annual *Review of Defense and Foreign Policy* in Greek. The 1995 issue is a 400-page volume covering the current burning issues of Greek external affairs focused on the Balkans, Turkey, EU, US and NATO.

The Review leads off with an optimistic retrospective of the year's developments by Professor Valinakis, followed by four presentations from representatives of the main political parties of Greece. The rest of the Review contains 17 articles written by academics, politicians, journalists and other specialists in IR. Finally, this annual includes a documentary, statistical and bibliographical section, noting the year's key events, figures, publications and 35 short book reviews.

Among its leading articles are speeches by PASOK Defense Minister Gerassimos Arsenis on "Greece in Balkan Security and Cooperation" and his Nea

Dimokratia equivalent Ioannis Varvitsiotis on "Collective Security in Foreign Policy." Also noteworthy is an article by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Albania, Anastasios, on the religious situation in that country.

Shortly after the establishment of ELIAMEP in 1989, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens instituted the only Greek academic center exclusively devoted to IR. Led by the former Rector of the University, Dimitri Conostas, the scientific council of IDIS is thereby composed by professors from its department of political science.

Like ELIAMEP, IDIS is actively involved in research, lectures, seminars, conferences and publications, on a wide range of topics relating to Greek foreign policy. Last year it moved to a renovated neoclassical building in Plaka, the famous old town of Athens, where it expanded activities and inaugurated a monthly publication in English, the *Cosmos Newsletter*, designed especially for the Greek diaspora, as well as its first annual review in Greek.

The 1996 Review, a 340-page volume, is quite similar to that of ELIAMEP, in that it treats the moot points and 'hot spots' of Greek diplomacy. Introduced by the director of the institute, the IDIS Review contains 25 articles by various academics and professionals, 3 speeches by diplomats and politicians, as well as 4 documents and 15 bibliographical notes.

Among its outstanding contributors are the PASOK Minister of External Affairs, Theodore Pangalos, Nea Dimokratia Leader, Miltiades Evert, as well as Political Spring Party Leader and former Nea Dimokratia Foreign Minister, Antonis Samaras. Most of the other articles are by noted academics associated either with Panteion or with Athens University.

From a professional point of view, however, the most interesting articles are those on the state of the art of IR in Greece. These articles go beyond the summary description or usual analysis of current events which very often seem indistinguishable from journalistic reviews or commentaries and enter into a heated debate on theoretical and ideological divisions of the Greek intelligentsia.

What comes out of this debate is the confrontation of the two main schools of IR: the Realist and the Idealist. In this perhaps oversimplified dichotomy, it would appear that IDIS belongs to the former and ELIAMEP to the latter school. Representing each side, the intellectual duel between Professors Panayiotis Ifestos and Christos Rozakis is most revealing of the rivalry and antagonism between the two sides.²

The crux of the argument is the issue of Greece's adopting a strategy of national interest in a realpolitik balance of power game, or rather a Eurocentric policy of international interdependence in a post-modern global system. This stark alternative poses a question not merely esoteric and exciting only to IR

specialists, but also presents a practical difference to official policy-makers. Of course, the answer may not be simply one or the other option, but both or neither. The choice is thus important in conceptualizing and conducting IR, not only in Greece but in the world at large.

In any event, these two Reviews, not only highlight the salient events of Greek foreign policy and defense strategy, but bring us up to date with the academic turmoil surrounding the contemporary study of IR in Athens. We will be awaiting further developments on all fronts in next year's Reviews.

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NOTES

1. See Stephanos CONSTANTINIDES, «Greek Foreign policy: Theoretical Orientations and Praxis», *Études helléniques/Hellenic Studies*, (Montreal), Vol. 4, No 1, Spring 1996, pp. 43-61.

2. *Ibid.*

Irène LAGANI, Le "rapt" des enfants et les relations gréco-yougoslaves

1949-1953, Athènes, Sidéris 1996

Au cours de la guerre civile grecque, vingt-huit mille enfants ont été transférés en Yougoslavie et dans d'autres démocraties populaires sur ordre du parti communiste (KKE) sous prétexte de les sauver de la "barbarie monarcho-fasciste". Irène Lagani, spécialiste des Balkans, expose dans son dernier livre l'histoire étrange de ces jeunes grecs dont beaucoup ne reviendront pas dans leurs foyers. Elle s'interroge sur l'attitude du gouvernement hellénique qui après avoir essayé de les rapatrier à l'issue de la guerre civile semble, dès janvier 1950, se désintéresser de leur sort pour des raisons politiques et idéologiques.

L'ouvrage d'Irène Lagani, fondé sur une enquête et des témoignages ainsi que sur un travail d'archives, en particulier du ministère des affaires étrangères d'Australie, pays où certains des enfants de la guerre civile grecque vinrent rejoindre, dans les années cinquante, leurs parents qui y avaient émigré, constitue un document utile pour comprendre un sujet qui demeure encore tabou dans la Grèce d'aujourd'hui.

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