

GREECE, THE NEW EUROPE, AND THE CHANGING
INTERNATIONAL ORDER, HARRY J. PSOMIADES, STAVROS B.
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This volume contains the papers presented at a conference jointly sponsored by the City University of New York - Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (Queens college), the Center for European Studies (the Graduate Center of the City University of New York) - and the Hellenic Center for European Studies (EKEM) of Athens, on May 1991. The papers are classified in three sections:

Part I: Culture, Politics and Society

Part I: The Economy

Part III: Defense and Foreign Policy

Eighteen experts in various fields such as culture, economics, sociology, politics and law have collaborated to produce this interesting publication.

The first section - Culture, Politics and Society - deals with the notion of identity, with the Greek participation in the European integration process, the situation of the Greek State since 1974 (subordination of the State bureaucracy to the party that assumes power) and the Greek culture in the new Europe. As one of the contributors to this volume has mentioned, the entry of Greece in the European Union "provides a final answer to the age-old question of whether Greece belongs to the West or to the East" (Argyris Fatouros, p.23). In fact the present crisis in the Balkans revives the idea of an Eastern Greek identity related with orthodoxy and tradition, real or mythical, especially because of support from Europe to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

The section on the economy deals with "Greece's position, prospects and responsibilities within the emerging European economic order from a variety of perspectives". (p.15) Greece has to solve a number of problems such as public deficit and inflation in order to fully participate in the economic and monetary union of the European Union. On the other hand, the Greek economy faces serious structural problems in a world of market integration. The country's economic relations are analysed not only from the point of view of the European Community but also from the one of countries of Eastern Europe. Also the Greek public sector (including the pension system and social security) is examined from the perspective of its competitiveness with public sectors in Europe.

There is no doubt that the second part of the volume on the economy is the most important.

The part on defense and foreign policy, refers to Greek-US relations, the

Cyprus problem with regard to the triangle Greece-Turkey and US, Greece and the Balkans and Greece and the European Community.

As the editors mentioned, Greece faces at this time - it was in 1992 when most papers were completed but it is also true today - " a critical period of lively debates and self-examination concerning its values, institutions, and place in the universe" (p.11). The end of the Cold War and the crisis in the Balkans with the triumph of nationalism pose a challenge to Greece. On the other hand relations with Turkey over the Cyprus question and the Aegean remain tense.

The debate over the national culture and identity in a time of globalization and integration, especially European integration, is very important for a small country like Greece. Greek culture and Greek identity are, if not in peril, in a situation of siege.

This volume provides comprehensive analysis of the challenges that Greece faces in this period of transition as a new international order arises, as the European Union is enlarging and as the zones of influence in the Balkans are redrawn.

Nevertheless a collective work poses some difficulties when the authors deal with so many issues. Indeed this volume focuses on so many different aspects of Greek life that it makes it difficult sometimes to pass from one subject to another; for exemple, from problems of internal order like institutions and society, bureaucracy, culture to problems of external order like relations with the US, Turkey, the European Union and the Balkans, or to problems touching both of them like the economy.

But *Greece, the New Europe, and the Changing International Order*, has the advantage of presenting a global vision of Greece and giving an interesting account of what is going on in this country. From this point of view, the book is an interesting contribution towards the understanding of the Greek position in the new European and international order.

The editors stress that "the purpose of this volume is to provoke inquiry into the major issues and policy choices confronting Greece and the forces that will shape them in the post-Cold War era" (p.11). It is obvious from the different papers that they succeed in achieving this goal.

This book is also welcomed for another reason: its bibliography on Greece, a rather rare item that fills partially the vacuum.

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