

THE TRAGEDY OF GREECE

Q & A

Τάσσος Συμεωνίδης
(RIEAS Academic Advisor)

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The international community is heaping praise on PM Tsipras for narrowly winning an acrimonious confidence vote and saving his lame duck government from resorting to a snap election. Is this good or bad for Greece?

The meaning of words in Greece has suffered irreparable damage since the 2010 collapse and the transformation of the country into a de facto Brussels protectorate. Thus, to Greece's foreign "friends, "good" has come to have meaning only in relation to what Berlin, Brussels, and the creditors *want* and "bad" when one refers to what the Greek people *desire or hope to see* as their country struggles to return to "normalcy."

The two objectives –that of the EU et.al. and that of the Greek people—are mutually exclusive: Greece's "partners" relentlessly seek to drain the country of all of her lifeblood by pursuing full payment of an insurmountable amount of sovereign debt; and the Greek people desperately wish to avoid seeing their country climb down to the level of basket case 3rd and 4th World countries, a direction that appears unavoidable as Hellas remains locked in debtor's prison burdened by a tottering economy and a dramatic demographic crisis.

Tsipras proved himself the most unexpected fantastic boon to the creditors. The former high school agitator and Bolshevik "revolutionary" has been miraculously transmogrified into a staunch servant of all those he accused of "exploiting the people" and being "killers of nations" during his previous anarcho-communist life.

History indeed proves that such “traitors to the cause” become the most obedient and enthusiastic servants of those who wish harm to their countries. Hence, the outpouring of effusive lead stories in the international press, painting a Tsipras success story, is in direct contrast to what the majority of Greek voters believe about Tsipras and his rabble.

Mrs. Merkel visited Greece and did her own congratulatory round in Athens. What was this all about?

The outgoing chancellor, along with her former finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble, was the key architect of the vicious austerity that wrecked the Greek economy and brought Greek society to its knees. She arrived in Athens to pat “Tsiprakos” (‘little Tsipras’) on the head and offer her penultimate congratulations for his performing the now infamous political *kolotoumba* (‘somersault’) in 2015 that led to more draconian austerity heaped upon an exhausted country by the lenders.

In fact, Merkel had every reason to embrace the former anarcho-communist because he was indeed the right man in the right place in late 2015; by deftly exploiting the leftist bend of many Greeks, Tsipras legislated crippling cuts whose mere *verbal mention* could have led to the burning of Athens under a non-communist government.

That Tsipras and his rabble have orchestrated an orgy of corruption, undermining already fragile and infective state institutions, is of no interest to Merkel and her subordinates in the EU. In fact, her attitude allowed “Tsiprakos” and his cohorts to boast they have the “full approval” of Greece’s EU “partners”— and thus their unraveling of what is left of a broken economy and state apparatus can be christened “needed reform.”

For all of the above, foreign media continue to find many positives in the Tsipras administration. What are they missing?

They are missing the low-intensity urban warfare waged by both “common” criminals and anarcho-terrorists in the streets of Athens and elsewhere, with Tsipras et.al. mere spectators, if not active encouragers, of the thugs. They ignore the fact of a

major part of central Athens being a no-go area for law enforcement as it is controlled by anarchist, terrorist, and criminal gangs.

They ignore the manipulation of the judiciary to smear and persecute political opponents. They wish to know little, if anything, about the breakdown of infrastructure and the collapse of public services. They know the economy is still threatened by the same old diseases but they won't go into detail since the Greek crisis isn't really "sexy" any longer; meantime, the average Greek is crushed by brutal taxation so that Tsipras may demonstrate lender-imposed budget surpluses of 3.5 pc unprecedented for even thriving economies.

They ignore bankrupt rathole public hospitals and disabled ICU departments. They ignore universities occupied by drug dealers, illegal immigrant peddlers, junkies, and dangerous anarchists beating up professors and intimidating anyone who appears to be "against the people." They ignore schools without teachers housed in crumbling buildings.

They ignore the slow socio-political rot growing across the land thanks to illegal immigration, with the Tsipras rabble refusing to take drastic measures to control the situation.

They ignore an emasculated national police prevented by the communists to act as it should. They appear upset by convicted terrorist killers leaving prison on furloughs but refrain from condemning those (read: Tsipras rabble) who make this outrage possible. And they ignore over one and half million pensioners reduced to utter life-threatening poverty after back-to-back cuts imposed by the lenders.

Who could possibly correct Greece's course against the backdrop of so many crises? What political means are available to attempt such correction?

Modern Greek political history is a succession of disasters which historians still try to explain by means of comparative politics theory and socio-economic factors. Still though there are no satisfactory answers, especially in finding workable formulas for positive change. There is no dearth of published work detailing the various political dead ends that have shaped modern Greek existence and one of the key conclusions is almost always the same: unless Greeks reform their notorious "national character" progress won't be possible.

This may sound simplistic, yet it points to a harsh truth. Greece, even after nearly ten years of devastating crisis, is incapable of absorbing the unforgiving lessons of the last ten years. Even worse, Greece still practices “old” behaviors that can only cause disaster as they did in the recent and more distant past.

The optimist’s view here is that modern Greece is barely two hundred years old when it took centuries to transform other European states into the modern societies of today. This historical standard, however, isn’t reassuring for the present and many future Greek generations; it appears Hellas needs to experience many more disasters, like the one currently eating her alive, before she can declare herself safe and relatively secure among the “family” of nations—if she survives in the long run.

The Prespes agreement has raised a storm of protest on the domestic front. Greece’s EU partners and the US, however, are elated that this decades-long dispute is being settled to their liking. How does Tsipras propose to balance these conflicting conditions?

The average Greek voter is convinced the Prespes agreement was literally dictated to Tsipras by his “partners” with the added “obvious” instruction to make it happen or else. Whether this is true or not is irrelevant in the current political turmoil. Tsipras already heads a minority government as he barely survived the confidence vote with the help of six renegades from other parties.

The agreement will most likely survive the parliamentary test but the political damage already done won’t go away any time soon. Prespes has again brought to the surface the deep fissures separating the left “progressives” from the large popular majority constantly ridiculed by the “modernists” as backward and uneducated.

Tsipras, for all his manipulative talents, will face an uphill struggle as he tries to extend the life of his government against the Prespes uproar and rapidly deteriorating polls. His emergency plan thus focuses on the old tactics of distributing handouts en route to the next election and reopening headlong hiring in the public sector, a tactic strongly opposed by the creditors. Since Greece is still under close surveillance by the “institutions,” i.e. the Brussels monitors who will continue visiting Athens regularly although the EU “bailouts” have officially expired, a renewed clash with the EU “partners” seems inevitable.

Tsipras's ego is being inflated by the current obvious friendly bias of foreign leaders toward his person. That, and "Tsiprakos's" notorious opportunism, promises troubles down the road that will further deteriorate a domestic condition that is already on the verge thanks to Prespes.

Tsipras has repeatedly boasted in recent weeks about his government "saving" Greece from economic catastrophe and pulling her from under the EU bailout bus. How true are these statements?

There isn't a political leader worth his salt who wouldn't exaggerate both his real and imaginary "accomplishments" and promise better days ahead. Tsipras, however, is such an extreme boaster, sugar coater and bamboozler that *anything he says* can be dismissed without much debate.

While his pronouncements are music to the ears of Greece's overlords, bare-knuckled lies cannot change the still ballooning sovereign debt, the tuberculous state of the economy, empty-cell "systemic" banks whose paper is traded for a few euro cents, a society overwhelmed by extreme taxation, the country's exclusion from the markets, potential investors keeping their cards to their chest fearing yet another imminent Greek crisis, and abominable crimes against the country as in Tsipras [willing to sell even the country's ancient treasures to the creditors.](#)

In many ways, the Tsipras phenomenon is not all that distant from "useful idiot" leaders of "secondary" states, like Greece, willing to literally sell their soul to the devil in order to stay in power – and thus lead their countries to ruin. His government enters the convoluted history of Modern Greece as perhaps the most ruinous, opportunistic, and patently immoral ever—with possible only exceptions the three quisling governments appointed by the Nazi Germans during the country's occupation, 1941-44. There's literally no light at the end of the tunnel.