

# **GREEK SECURITY CHALLENGES IN 2016: A SYNOPSIS**

***Tassos Symeonides, Ph.D.***  
**(Academic Advisor)**

**Copyright: Research Institute for European and American Studies ([www.rieas.gr](http://www.rieas.gr))**

**Publication date: 1 November 2015**

## **NATIONAL OVERVIEW**

In 2016 Greece will enter the sixth year of the debt crisis. The Greeks economy shows no sign of revival. Socially, Greece has experienced an unprecedented collapse that continues unabated. Unemployment remains above 25 percent, with the government massaging the figures at will to prove otherwise. The average family has lost at least 40 percent of its pre-crisis income. The internal devaluation, forced upon the country by Europe and the IMF, has caused a catastrophic collapse in property values. Politically, the situation remains brittle. The Syriza government has lost its claimed identity as a "radical left" party since it accepted the third bailout in July 2015, which is now universally recognized as another debacle and an exercise of "kicking the can down the road." Opposition parties are in disarray, save the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn, and disabled as alternatives to the Syriza government.

## **SECURITY THREAT OVERVIEW**

Externally, Greece faces [the slide](#) of neighboring Turkey toward a rogue Islamic dictatorship and chaos. The invasion by Muslim illegal aliens, originating in Turkey, continues to choke the Greek islands nearest the Asia Minor coastline and disrupt the whole country. This is expected to continue well into 2016. The possibility of serious disturbances by illegal aliens cannot be excluded. Domestically, the inability of the Tsipras government to deliver firm administration and decision-making heightens the sense of insecurity and favors the further expansion of extremist forces. Loss of sovereignty to the lenders has led to a condition of "soft occupation" (i.e. no boots on the ground) which confirms Greece as the first debt colony in the EU, a condition expected to expand during 2016. Greek constitutional order has been put on hold and the creditors have demanded, and have won, *the license to review Greek legislation before it is introduced in parliament*. This is an unprecedented evolution not seen since the German Nazi Occupation of 1941-44.

## **THREAT: TURKEY**

For years Turkey has deployed illegal immigration as a strategic weapon against Greece. Added to Turkish military challenges in the Aegean, illegal immigration is now the number one national security threat emerging from the neighboring country. At the same time, increasing turmoil inside Turkey, as Erdogan is attempting to expand its Islamist agenda and institute a theocracy, poses the expanded risk

of an uncontrollable Greek-Turkish common frontier. Both the Syriza government and Europe ignore this developing critical security crisis.

### **THREAT: DEBT & CREDITORS**

The third bailout is destined to fail like its predecessors. In 2016, Greece will most likely achieve two more records that are dismal: unemployment at, or over, 30 percent and cumulative collapse of GDP by 30 percent as well. *Debt and creditors comprise a strategic threat equal, if not greater, to illegal immigration and Turkey.* Already, the lenders are dissatisfied with Syriza's handling of their demands and pushing for more "concrete action." But, Mr. Tsipras has no solutions: his government is already repeating the mistakes of its predecessors, fuelling the spiral of economic malaise. In his effort to be compliant to the EU "soft occupation," Mr. Tsipras should be expected to slide further toward eroding the domestic economy and pauperizing large swaths of the population.

### **THREAT: ILLEGAL ALIENS PARKING**

The Syriza decision to accept Germany's demand for Greece to become a holding or "parking" facility for Muslim illegal aliens has critical security implications. Greece has no capabilities to host large numbers of potentially hostile and desperate people. Reports of increasing tensions in European countries that have already received swaths of "migrants" and "refugees," without any effective identification and registration, herald what is in store for Greece. Nevertheless, Mr. Tsipras appears thoughtlessly immune to such fears. His latest initiative is to provide illegal arrivals with the state health card. While this is a symbolic gesture, since Greece's public health care is broken beyond repair, providing the card could stretch severely depleted resources to extinction.

### **COMMENT**

The permanent austerity trap created by EU *diktat* will continue to kill Greek hopes for a rebound into the distant future. The collapse of the economy, and the shackling of the banking system by the European Central Bank (ECB), translates into a severe security threat. In broader terms, the treatment of Greece as an occupied country without constitutional rights poses fundamental questions of democracy. Obedience to creditors and refusal to address alternatives, which are no worse than the current situation, define the inability of Greek political elites to act in the national interest. Ultimately, this is the most severe security threat capable of dissolving the country.