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January 2019

The ratification of Prespes Agreement
"Historic Moment" according to Theresa May

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Agenda

The ratification of Prespes Agreement "Historic Moment" according to Theresa May

The ratification of the Prespes agreement has been announced by the Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, shortly after the vote in the Greek Parliament. "Today is a historic day. Greece is protecting an important part of its history, the heritage of ancient Greek Macedonia". Those were the first words of Alexis Tsipras, who in his personal Facebook and Twitter account stated; "Today we write a new page for the Balkans. The hatred of nationalisms, conflicts and arguments give their place to friendship, peace and cooperation... The next generations in both countries will owe a debt of gratitude to the deputies who, with courage and daring, laid the foundations for a future of peace, solidarity and harmonious co-existence between the two peoples."

Tsipras also noted that "North Macedonia, which was born today, will be a friendly country. An ally and supporter of Greece in its efforts for safety, stability and joint development in the region"

The ratification of the agreement was welcomed in a very enthusiastic way by political leaders and executives around the world. Theresa May in her Twitter account stated; "Historic moment for Greece and the wider region with positive vote for Prespes Agreement. Congratulations to Greece's parliament and government". Following that, two Conservative MP's, Sir Alan Duncan and Jeremy Hunt, showed their support in the matter. Sir Alan Duncan on his personal Twitter account stated; "Excellent news that the Greek parliament has voted in favour of the agreement to change Macedonia's name. Congratulations to all involved in this sensible, forward-looking, historic decision.", while Jeremy Hunt with his personal message congratulated Greece for the decision; "Welcome Greece's Parliamentary vote to ratify the Prespes Agreement. UK fully supports this historic Agreement which has taken great courage on all sides."

The Prespes Agreement was ratified by the Greek Parliament with a majority of 153 votes, with 146 voting against and one deputy abstaining with a vote of 'present'.

*Information for this article
has been gathered from
www.amna.gr*

British PM Theresa May congratulates Greece, the Greek Parliament and the Greek government after the positive vote for Prespes Agreement, hailing the "historic moment". Mrs May tweeted this afternoon: "Historic moment for Greece and the wider region with positive vote for Prespes Agreement. Congratulations to Greece's parliament and government @atsipras"

United Nations diplomat Matthew Nimetz, who has mediated talks between Athens and FYROM on the name dispute, has said that failure to ratify the so-called Prespes accord would have "profound" consequences for both sides. Mr Nimetz ruled out the possibility, as some have suggested, of a renegotiation of the Prespes Agreement if it does not come into effect. "If the Prespes agreement does not come into effect, the consequences of the failure will be profound and both sides might well reconsider many elements that had been agreed to," Nimetz said in an interview with Athens-Macedonian news agency. The American diplomat said he did not believe a "quick fix" would be likely in that case. "An agreement was finally reached, after so many years of intense discussion and hard negotiation, because each side believed it had achieved the essential elements of its national interests, and that peace, security and friendship were more likely to occur with this agreement than by continuing the dispute."



Greece's PM Alexis Tsipras and his counterpart Zoran Zaev have been selected to receive the prestigious 'Ewald von Kleist' Award, according to a report by DW Deutsche Welle, in recognition of their efforts to resolve the differences between their two countries and the signature of the Prespes Agreement, which changes FYROM's name to North Macedonia. This year's award will be presented to Tsipras and Zaev at the 55th Munich Security Conference (MSC) on February 16, as announced by MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger on his Twitter feed on January 25. Aiming to honour leading figures in security policy that have made an outstanding contribution to international peace and conflict management, the award to Tsipras and Zaev acknowledges the importance of the Prespes Agreement for security and stability in the Balkans and Europe.

Nobel Prize winner for Peace in 2015, Wided Bouchamaoui, has formally nominated Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and FYROM's Prime Minister Zoran Zaev as candidates for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

Loukas Tsoukalis, Emeritus Professor of the University of Athens and President of think tank ELIAMEP, was interviewed on Euronews Tonight (25.01) on the importance of the Prespes Agreement for Greece and FYROM as well as for the wider Balkans region. Tsoukalis argues that the ratification of the Agreement by the Greek Parliament puts an end to long and divisive dispute. He points out that, although the road for NATO has indeed opened up for FYROM, accession to the EU is a much more difficult and time-consuming prospect. He finally cautions against looking at the agreement as a zero-sum game between the West and Russia in the Balkans, stressing that we shouldn't "try to recreate a cold war" in the region.

"The Prespes agreement is very important in that it sets off the process of disentangling Greek foreign policy from the 'name issue' that has deadlocked our diplomacy into an absolutely sterile confrontation with our northern neighbour", stated Othon Anastasakis, Director of South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX), based at St Antony's College. Othon Anastasakis at an interview to the Greek News Agenda talked about the Prespes Agreement to rename FYROM to North Macedonia.

**«Europe's response to the Challenge of Migration and Security»,
EU Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos at the LSE Hellenic Observatory**



The EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Mr Dimitris Avramopoulos spoke to a great audience at London School of Economics (LSE), on Wednesday January 23rd, about «Europe's response to the Challenge of Migration and Security». The event was presented by Prof. Kevin Featherstone, Eleftherios Venizelos Professor in Contemporary Greek Studies and Professor in European Politics, Director of the Hellenic Observatory of the LSE, who also coordinated the discussion with the audience.

The key points of Mr Avramopoulos' speech could be summarized as follows:

- The unity of Europe has been increasingly put into question for the last two years because of the financial crisis, the immigration crisis, terrorist attacks, disinformation campaigns, Brexit,

continuous rise of populism and nationalism. These however are not the worst and most difficult times in Europe's history. About 60 years ago Europe faced dark times. But against divisions and destruction Europe has demonstrated solidarity and responsibility.

- In 2015 Europe was confronted with thousands of desperate people. EU and the member states were taken by surprise and were totally unprepared to deal with the situation. But we couldn't afford to stay unprepared, we had to act with several concrete and immediate measures: We set up hot spots in Italy and Greece, registration procedures, fully pledged border and coastal guards, cooperation with Turkey and north African countries. We had to start building the architecture of immigration policy from scratch. And from the very beginning all solutions were based on solidarity and responsibility, which are the founding principles of the EU. Moreover, the Global Impact for Migration project was led and inspired by EE and now it has been embraced by UN engaging international community in an issue that is global.

- The European priorities of its immigration policy in the Aegean were first to save lives, second to better manage European borders and third to fully implement the EU-Turkey Agreement.

- We should not plan just emergency measures. We have to be bold enough to plan long term measures and provide for legal and regular mobility. Short term thinking, fear and xenophobia erode the links and trust between citizens. Certainly we all want to become safer but it is not by building mental

“From the very beginning all solutions were based on solidarity and responsibility, which are the founding principles of the EU”



“The European project is the most important historic achievement of all times”

by populists and nationalists for their purposes. But these elections are about something bigger and fundamental. The essence of the elections is whether we build walls and chose to live behind closed borders or whether we can work together and create vital space for our Union.

- Terrorist attacks threaten our security. Security has no borders. No country can face alone security threats. We have been working to build a more secure Union. We have strengthened the cooperation between countries within and outside Europe (USA, Canada, Turkey, Middle East countries) to monitor the radicalisation, protect cyber security, cut terrorist finance, improve information sharing and information exchange.

- Implementing the European immigration policy is a national responsibility, a responsibility of the member states. EU is responsible to coordinate and to provide technical, financial, operational and practical support to the member states and to local authorities. The real power is not in the hands of the EU but in the hands of the member states.

and physical walls that we become safer, we only become more isolated.

- “Dublin I” of 2001 was not designed to respond to a crisis of such a scale. It would be unfair to be implemented for first line countries that have all the burden. Now we are finalising New Dublin and we are pressing countries to finalise it before European elections. It is important to have a common policy.

- There is a misconception between “patriot” and “nationalist”. Europe has suffered from nationalism. One can be patriot and at the same time be European. Europe was not built on fear but on solidarity and on the spirit of trust.

- Many believe that the immigration issue will decisively influence the debate about the upcoming European elections. Immigration is a vehicle used

“Short term thinking, fear and xenophobia erode the links and trust between citizens.”

- Europe will never become a fortress. Schengen is a tangible example of European integration. We have to defend Schengen. By defending it we defend and protect Europe. But EU protects its borders and has adopted rules that should be respected by those who wish to enter Europe. Besides Europe will need the migrants in the future, but whoever wants to come to Europe has to respect the European legal migration regulations.

- There is a misunderstanding between “migrants” and “terrorists”. Terrorists are home grown nationals who turn against their country.

- Do we need more Europe? We have to move forward, to complete the European project and adopt a common foreign, security and economic policy. The European project is the most important historic achievement of all times.

Richard Clogg: "I am continually struck by the ignorance of the recent history of Greece that exists in the UK"



Richard Clogg portrait

Richard Clogg is one of the most widely read British academics writing about modern Greek history. In an interview with @GreeceInUK he talks about his travels and research in Greece and his decision to study the country's "fascinating modern history". He is struck by the ignorance of Greece's contemporary history in the UK, noting that "the focus on ancient Greece, both in Greece itself and in the world in general, has sometimes been at the expense of understanding the rich, and at times tragic, history of the Greeks in modern times". Moreover, he talks about the "bitterly fought civil war" (1946 to 1949) and the military junta (1967 to 1974) and calls for further research on the important role that the BBC Greek service played in the anti-Colonels' campaign.

Coming to modern times, Clogg argues that the debt crisis that struck Greece has inflicted hardship on much of the Greek population, but reminds us that "Greece did prove to be able to recover from two earlier crises in the twentieth century." He highlights the benefits from being part of the EU and welcomes the fact that "unlike the UK, there is no serious movement in Greece to leave the EU". Speaking about the Balkans, he notes that "the Prespes agreement holds out the prospect of a peaceful settlement to a long-running conflict."

Richard Clogg is an Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. He was previously Professor of Modern Balkan History in the University of London.

He has written widely on the modern history of Greece and also on Greek politics. His *Concise History of Greece* (Third edition Cambridge 2013) has been translated into thirteen languages, including all the languages of the Balkans. His most recent publication is *Greek to Me: a Memoir of Academic Life* (I.B. Tauris 2018).

1. In the first chapter of your book "Greek to me: A Memoir of Academic Life", writing about your first encounter with Greece, you mention that "the beauty of Greece had been breathtaking and its inhabitants extraordinarily friendly and hospitable, and I decided that I wanted to learn more about the country". How did your studies of Greece affect you as a person and an academic?

I first visited Greece on leaving school in 1958, when foreign tourists were something of a rarity. There were two hundred and fifty thousand visitors in that year. In 2018, over thirty million tourists visited the country. I have always been glad that I chose to study the fascinating modern history of Greece. For many years I taught at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies where I was virtually the only person studying a country that was part of the 'free' world and a visit to Greece to carry out research was a positive pleasure compared to the grim conditions existing in many Soviet bloc countries.

"I am continually struck by the ignorance of the recent history of Greece that exists in the UK.

A case in point was when David Cameron paid his first visit to the US after becoming leader of the Conservative party in 2005. He gave an interview on American television in which he spoke of the Americans fighting alongside Britain against the Nazis at the time of the blitz. The blitz began in September 1940, whereas the US did not enter World War II until December 1941.

The reality is that Britain's only active European ally in the desperate years 1940 and 1941 was Greece"



Richard Clogg with Professor Kevin Featherstone at the launch of *Greek to Me: a Memoir of Academic Life*. The event was hosted by the LSE Hellenic Observatory in December 2018

2. Whereas in Britain there is a long tradition of studying ancient Greece and much admiration about Greece's classical past, there seems to be little knowledge about modern Greek history. How could interest in modern Greek history and culture be invigorated?

I am continually struck by the ignorance of the recent history of Greece that exists in the UK. A case in point was when David Cameron paid his first visit to the US after becoming leader of the Conservative party in 2005. He gave an interview on American television in which he spoke of the Americans fighting alongside Britain against the Nazis at the time of the blitz. The blitz began in September 1940, whereas the US did not enter World War II until December 1941. The reality is that Britain's only active European ally in the desperate years 1940 and 1941 was Greece. I sought to correct this error in a letter to *The Guardian*.

3. You have done extensive research on the role of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), in giving aid and encouragement to the Greek resistance movement during World War II. How would you evaluate SOE's contribution to the Greek resistance?

The Special Operations Executive was very active in Greece during the German, Italian and Bulgarian occupation. It achieved some spectacular acts of sabotage, but most of these required collaboration with the Greek resistance. It is a pity that most

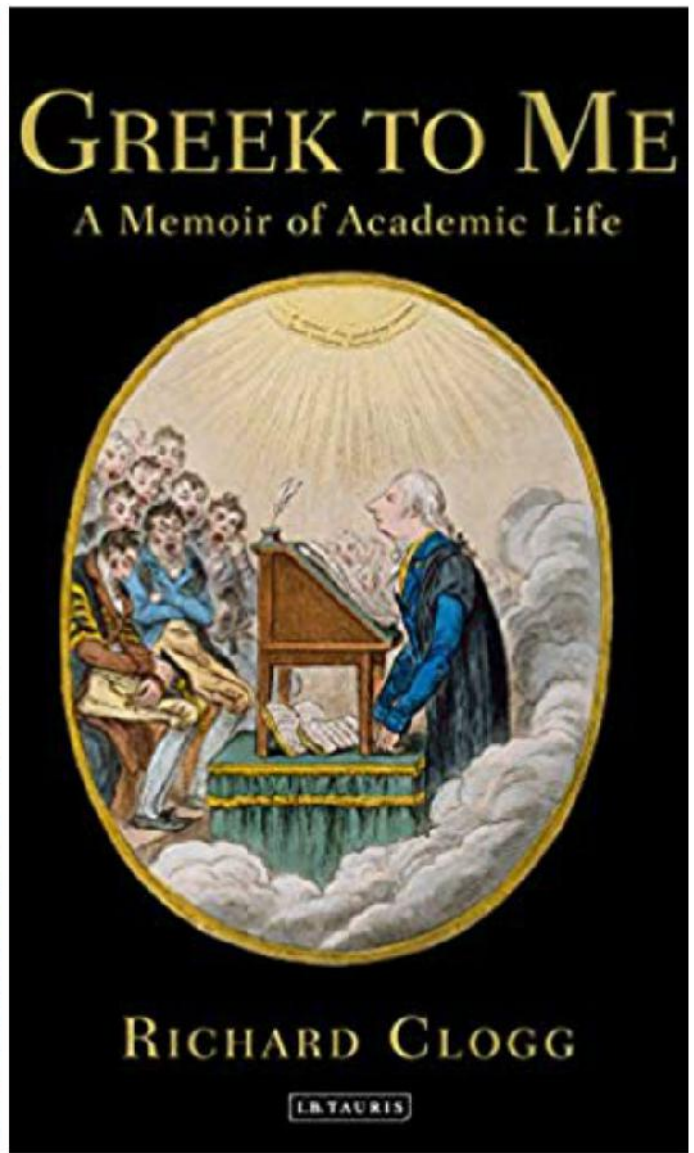
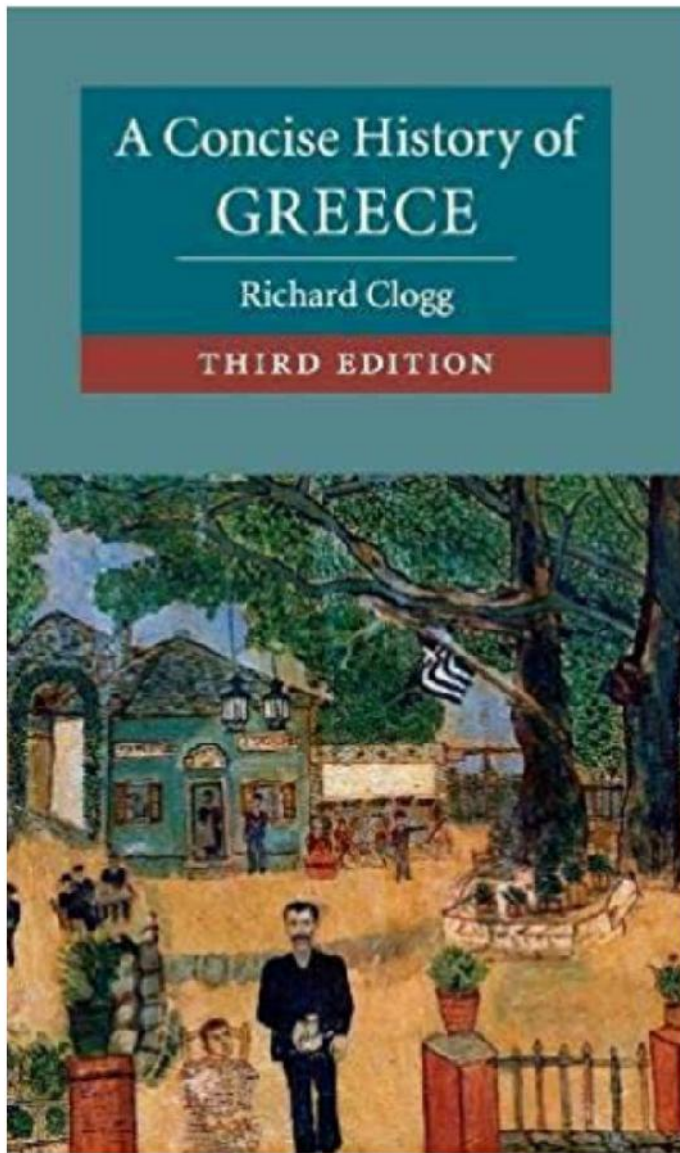
people's knowledge in the UK of the resistance in Greece is limited to the famous kidnapping of General Kreipe in Crete in 1944, about which a film was made. This operation was carried out with great skill and bravery, but it served little military purpose and resulted in fearful reprisals. It is a pity that some of the other operations of SOE and its Greek collaborators are not better known.

4. During the junta (1967-1974), Britain seems to have been -to a certain extent- an ideological battlefield between apologists for the Colonels and campaigners against this "brutal, anachronistic and absurd" regime, as you describe it in your book. At that time you were a frequent broadcaster for the BBC Greek Service. What role did the BBC play in the anti-Colonels' campaign?

The BBC Greek Service, together with the German Deutsche Welle, played an important role in sustaining the morale of the many opponents of the junta Greece by providing balanced and accurate coverage of Greek affairs during the Colonels' dictatorship. I was pleased to play some part in this coverage. The Greek Service encountered problems with the Foreign Office, which at that time had responsibility for financial support of the service. The Foreign Office's policy was to retain what it termed 'a good working relationship' with the junta. This from time to time caused problems between the two organisations.

It occurs to me that a good book could be written about the history of the Greek Service. In the late 1960s and 1970s there were some individuals still alive who could have been interviewed about the Greek Service during the war, a time when the Greek Service employed the call sign of goat bells that had been used by Athens Radio in peacetime. But there is still a good amount of archival material available. Moreover, many of those who were working for the Greek Service during the seven-year dictatorship of the Colonels are still around to be interviewed.

"Balkans have in modern times been a source of conflict. In the 1990s, following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the region again erupted in violence. The Prespes agreement holds out the prospect of a peaceful settlement to a long-running conflict. Relations between the USA and Mexico are currently poor. The existence of a US state called New Mexico, however, is not the reason for this"



5. You often refer to the passions aroused by civil war in Greece many decades after its end in 1949. How far does the civil war legacy still affect Greek politics and society? Also, to what extent can the political use of history be avoided?

It was inevitable that the bitterly fought civil war between 1946 to 1949 should have cast a long shadow over Greece even after the end of hostilities. The Colonels' dictatorship that misruled Greece between 1967 and 1974 can be seen, in some sense, as an attempt to stop the trend towards the liberalisation of politics and society that by that time was under way. But one consequence of the dictatorship's downfall was the legalisation of the Communist Party of Greece, which was an indication of how much the political climate had changed in the country. It is important always to bear in mind the saying that history tends to be written by the victors.

6. You seem to adopt a critical stance towards the "progonoplexia" (ancestor fixation) and the

"arkhaiolatreaia" (excessive, obsessive reverence for antiquity). In a similar vein, you denounce the belief that there is an unbroken continuity between ancient and present-day Greeks, which expands well beyond the linguistic continuity to include race and culture. How has this belief affected Greece's history and to what extent is it still alive and relevant today?

Given the extraordinarily rich heritage of ancient Greece, it is understandable that some Greeks are given to progonoplexia, which has been translated as ancestoritis. But the focus on ancient Greece both in Greece itself and in the world in general, has sometimes been at the expense of understanding the rich, and at times tragic, history of the Greeks in modern times. I try to avoid using terms such as Modern Greece and Modern Greeks. I prefer to use the terms Greece, Byzantine Greece and ancient Greece. I call my short history of Greece in modern times *A Concise History of Greece*, although it begins in circa 1770. An Oxford colleague John Boardman has written a book with the title *The Greeks Overseas*. One might expect such a book to be devoted to the

world-wide Greek diaspora in modern times. It is, in fact, a study of Magna Graecia, the Greek colonies in antiquity

7. In your book you refer to the controversy over the Macedonian issue. To what extent is this controversy related to the troubled history of the Balkans? In your opinion, how could the Prespes agreement affect the future of the region?

The Balkans have in modern times been a source of conflict. In the 1990s, following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the region again erupted in violence. The Prespes agreement holds out the prospect of a peaceful settlement to a long-running conflict. Relations between the USA and Mexico are currently poor. The existence of a US state called New Mexico, however, is not the reason for this.

8. Greece is recovering from an 8-year crisis which has had major effects on its political system and society. In the latest edition of your book "A Concise History of Greece", updated in 2013, you expected the road to recovery to be "long, arduous and painful" but remained hopeful that "on past precedent" recovery could be achieved. Which historical precedents account for this optimism?

The current crisis in Greece has inflicted hardship on much of the Greek population. But Greece did prove to be able to recover from two earlier crises in the twentieth century. The first was the catastrophic defeat in Asia minor in the early 1920s, which led to the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey and the influx of over a million refugees into a country with an existing population of five and a half million. This caused considerable strain, but the resettlement of the refugees was a remarkable achievement. In fewer than twenty years, however, Greece was to experience a barbarous occupation by Germany, Italy and Bulgaria. This was accompanied by one of the most serious famines to occur in Europe in modern times. Alongside this was one of the most serious inflationary outbreaks ever recorded. Moreover, when the occupation ended, Greece experienced a bitterly fought civil war. But, despite the disasters of the decade of the 1940s, Greece in the forty years after the end of the civil war experienced a remarkable recovery, and went from being a poor country to a relatively rich one. In comparison with her Balkan neighbours during the same period, Greece was a marked success.

"It is important always to bear in mind the saying that history tends to be written by the victors"

9. You have studied not only the history of Greeks who lived within the borders of the Greek state, but also the history of the large Greek diaspora. What is the contribution of Greece's diaspora to the development of modern Greece? How could the 'new diaspora' – the large number of young Greeks who left Greece during the crisis of the last decade – contribute to Greece's recovery?

Greece is a classic diaspora nation. Rather like Scotland in the 19th century, poverty gave a powerful impetus to emigration, which, is reflected in the sizeable diaspora populations in the USA, Australia and elsewhere. One of the great successes of the diaspora was that the Greek-Americans were able to mobilise and exert pressure to get the British government to partially relax its economic blockade at the time of the famine, enabling food to be imported. Sadly, one of the consequences of the recent crisis is a further migratory wave, which has led to significant numbers of young Greeks once again taking the path of emigration. Whether those making up this 'new diaspora' will in time return remains to be seen.

10. Greece's historically close relations with Britain entered a new phase when Greece joined the EU in 1981. What has Greece gained from its EU membership?

Greece has certainly benefitted from membership of the EU, which, above all, has succeeded in keeping the peace in a continent devastated in two world wars during the twentieth century. It is noteworthy that, unlike the UK, there is no serious movement in Greece to leave the EU. In the current climate of instability in the world, Greeks have had the sense to realise that membership of such a union affords a degree of stability and protection which they would not have if their country were not a member of the EU.

11. You retired from St Antony's College at Oxford in 2005, but you remain active in your field. What are you currently involved in and what are your plans for the future?

It's an old cliché that a person is often never busier than in retirement. One of the advantages of academic life is that one can carry on working, writing and researching, if one wants to. I am currently working on what will very likely be my last book. This will examine the role of the Special Operations in Greece during the occupation, a project on which I have been working for many years.

Greeks Celebrate Christmas in London

In churches and in schools Greeks celebrate united

Christmas is a sacred institution for the Greek people. Being one of the first regions to embrace Christianity as a religion, Greece has a strong bond with it. Carrying the traditions and the values of Christianity for centuries, through war, slavery and revolution, modern Greeks still embrace and enjoy those values and celebrate those traditions. However, living outside the small borders of Greece, could make the celebration of Christmas in Greek style harder to achieve. It is our will to bring the Hellenism of London together, and in days such as these, we celebrate united.

On Christmas day, the Orthodox Christmas service took place at the Cathedral of Divine Wisdom (Aghia Sophia) here in London, under the presidency of Archbishop Gregorios.

During the ceremony, a message of love and joy from the Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew was read by the reverent Father Theonas;

Venerable brothers and beloved children in the Lord,

We glorify the Most-Holy and All-Merciful God, that we are again deemed worthy this year to reach the festive day of Christmas, the feast of the pre-eternal Son and Word of God's Incarnation "for us and for our salvation." Through the "eternal mystery" and "great miracle" of the divine Incarnation, the "great wound," namely humankind sitting in darkness and shadow, is rendered into "children of light and day," while the blessed road of deification by grace is opened for us. In the theandric mystery of the Church and through her holy sacraments, Christ is born and takes shape in our soul and existence. Maximus the Confessor theologizes that "the Word of God, though born once in the flesh, is ever willing to be born spiritually in those who desire Him. Thus, He becomes an infant and fashions Himself in us by means of the virtues; indeed, He reveals Himself to the extent that we are capable of receiving Him." God is not an abstract "idea," like the god of the philosophers, or an unapproachable God enclosed in absolute transcendence. He is "Emmanuel," "God with us," closer to us than we are to ourselves, "more akin to us than our very own selves."

Faith in the inaccessible and fleshless Divinity does not transform our life; it does not remove the polarization between matter and spirit; nor does it bridge the gap between heaven and earth. The Incarnation of the Divine Word is the revelation of truth regarding God

and humankind, which saves the human race from the dark labyrinths of materialism and anthropomorphism, as well as from idealism and dualism. The Church's condemnation of nestorianism and monophysitism signals the rejection of two broader tendencies of the human soul: on the one hand rendering anthropocentrism absolute, and on the other idolizing an idealistic understanding of life and truth, both of which are especially widespread deviations in our age.

Contemporary "nestorianism" is expressed as a spirit of secularization, as scientism and the absolute prioritization of utilitarian knowledge, as the absolute autonomy of economy, as self-saving arrogance and atheism, as the "non-civilization" of individualism and eudemonism, as legalism and moralism, as the "end of decency" and identification of sacrificial love and repentance with the so-called "morality of the weak." By the same token, "monophysitism" is today represented by tendencies to demonize the body and natural man, by puritanism and the syndromes of "purity," by fruitless introverted spirituality and various mysticisms, by disregarding the intellect, art and civilization, by denying dialogue and rejecting differences, with the dangerous expresser—supposedly in the name of the "one and only truth"—namely a religious fundamentalism nurtured by absolutism and rejections, while feeding violence and division. It is evident that both a nestorianizing deification of the world and a monophysitizing demonization of it leave the world and history, civilizations and cultures, exposed to the powers of the "present age," cementing their autonomy and impasses.

Christian faith is the certainty of our salvation by the God of love, who graciously assumed our nature and once again granted us "the likeness" lost through the fall, making us worthy of true life in His Body, the Church. The theandric mystery is expressed throughout the entirety of life in the Church. The Incarnate Savior received "the flesh of the Church" and showed, "first and alone," "the true man, who is perfect on account of both character and life as well as all other aspects." The Church of Christ is the place of "common salvation," "common freedom" and hope in the "common kingdom." It is the way of living the liberating truth, the core of which is expressing the truth in love. This love transcends the boundaries of mere human action, because its source and prototype lie in divine philanthropy, which transcends human reason. "In this the love of God was made manifest

among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us ... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." God is present wherever love exists.

This saving truth must also be expressed in the way we celebrate the sacred Nativity of our Savior, who visited us from on high. A feast is always a "fullness of time," a time of self-knowledge, of thanksgiving for the magnitude of divine philanthropic love, of witness to the truth of the theandric mystery and of freedom in Christ. The Christ-pleasing celebration of the Divine Word's Incarnation is an act of resistance against secularization, against discoloration of the feast and its conversion into a "Christmas without Christ," as well as against a celebration of Having, of consumerism and vanity—indeed, into a world filled with social tensions, reversal and confusion of values, of violence and injustice, where the "Jesus child" is once again faced with the inexorable interests of numerous, multifaceted powers.

Honorable brothers and beloved children,

Generations come and pass, while forthcoming developments are difficult to foresee. Genuine faith, though, does not face dilemmas. The Word became flesh, the "truth has come" and "darkness has subsided." We already participate in the Kingdom while still on our journey toward the completion of the incarnate Divine Economy. We possess the unshakeable certainty that the future belongs to



Christ, Who is "the same yesterday and today and forever;" that the Church of Christ is and shall remain a place of holiness and godliness, a renewal of man and world, a foretaste of the glory of the Kingdom; that it will continue "to give the witness of the Gospel" "to distribute the gifts of God in the world: His love, peace, justice, and reconciliation, the power of resurrection and expectation of eternity." The contemporary ideology of some "post-Christian" age is baseless. "After Christ," everything is and remains "in Christ" to the ages.

We humbly kneel before the Divine Infant of Bethlehem and His All- Holy Mother, who holds Him in her arms, while venerating the Incarnate "most perfect God," and bestow upon the children of the Holy and Great Church of Christ throughout the world—from the ever-vigilant Phanar—our Patriarchal blessing for the Holy Twelve Days of Christmas, wishing you a healthy, fruitful and joyous new year in the Lord's favor.

Christmas celebration of the Greek Primary school of London

"The Blossom of the Seashore" (To Anthos tou Yialou) written by Alexandros Papadiamantis was displayed by the students of years A, B and C of the Greek Primary school of London. The event took place in the events hall of Saint Nicolas (Aghios Nikolaos) church, on Tuesday 18th of December 2018. The theatrical play was edited and supervised by the teachers of the school; Christina Vasiliou, Stella Koupadi and Xanthipy Petrili. The music teacher, Eliza Vounotrypidou, directed the choirs in which all students of the school took part in. The chosen carols, were specially picked from various regions of Greece, in the attempt to preserve the traditions of our Fatherland. English carols were sung too. In the company of the children's voices were the sounds of violin and guitar, beautifully played by Alexandros Dimitriades and Constantinos Dimopoulos respectively. All efforts combined, contributed to a blissful evening.

The Greek carols are displayed in Acton

On Thursday 20th of December 2018 the students of the Greek Primary School in London alongside with their supervising teachers, wearing red Christmas hats and holding Greek traditional music instruments, gave happiness, smiles and warm wishes to their elderly neighbors at the Torkington elderly care home. Second stop the central square of West Acton where pedestrians showed great interest.



*Alexandros Dimitriades and Constantinos Dimopoulos
playing the violin and the guitar
during the Christmas celebration
of the Greek Primary School of London*



Photos Courtesy of St Sophia's School

Christmas Celebrations at St Sophia's School

1. On Saturday 12th January St Sophia's School (www.stsophiaschool.com) had the traditional cutting of the Vassilopita. Parents, teachers and children wished each other happy new year and enjoyed the traditional cake whilst the lucky ones received a beautiful 2019 charm!
2. On Saturday 15th December St Sophia's School (www.stsophiaschool.com) had their Christmas Celebration. Attendees were treated to an amazing reciting, lovely singing and enthusiastic acting by young and older students alike!
3. On Saturday 26th January St Sophia's School (www.stsophiaschool.com) celebrated the Three Hierarchs Day at St Sophia's Church. The children attended a special liturgy, received the Holy Communion and learnt about the life and works of the patron saints of education listening to the interesting presentations that A Level students prepared.



Some of the Season's Greetings we received from all of you. We wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2019





A group of students of the Greek High School of London have sung traditional Greek carols at the Greek Embassy of London. Happy faces, smiles, loud clear voices, tuned all Embassy staff and citizens at the Consulate to the joyful and festive Christmas spirit!



Photos Courtesy of the Hellenic Hub

**“Christmas breads and holiday hearts...
this is the way the holiday starts”**

A very fun day organised by the Hellenic Hub (www.hellenic-hub.com) and the Hellenic Centre (www.helleniccentre.org/), with the support of the Greek Library of London (<http://www.ekivil.org/>) filled with all sorts of festive activities, a seasonal play, traditional baking and exciting arts and crafts.

Celebrating Christmas at the St Panteleimon Greek Community



Christmas Dinner (photos 1 &2),

Christmas Market of St. Agatha Ladies' Sisterhood

Students of the Greek School sing the carols on Christmas day, at St Panteleimon and Sta Paraskevi

Christmas homeless hosting at St Panteleimon



Vasilopita on New Years Eve at the Church of St Panteleimon



Epiphany at the Church of St Panteleimon



Vasilopita of Young Scientists Society

Increase of the National Minimum Wage



The Labour Minister, Effie Achtsioglou, announced the increase of the National Minimum Wage to 650 euros from 586 euros. This is an increase of an 11% for citizens over 25 years of age and a 27% for citizens up to 25 (the previous minimum wage for under 25 was 510). Effie Achtsioglou stated "We proceed with a flagship action for our government. The increase of the minimum wage as we had committed." The announcement came shortly after the Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, called his cabinet to approve his proposal on the National Minimum wage increase.

The increase in the minimum wage is a critical step toward a revival of the labour

market, Labour Minister Effie Achtsioglou said in an interview with News 24/7.

"With the increase in the minimum wage and the abolition of the embarrassing sub-minimum wage for young people under the age of 25, we are implementing our top commitment and our debt to the workers and youth of the country," the minister stressed.

"The increase in the minimum wage is a critical step in the process of reorganising the labour market, a goal that we have been serving from the first moment with institutional interventions to protect and strengthen labour rights, by reducing unemployment, by combating employers' offences, by re-establishing collective agreements in the country," she added.

"Therefore the exit from the memoranda and the development of the economy acquire real meaning, through the improvement of income and living standards," she underlined.

Achtsioglou reiterated that the government's efforts for the improvement of the labour market are constant and that it continues to prove this in practice.

*Information for this article
has been gathered from
www.amna.gr*

minimum
wage increase
up ahead



Offers picked at 10 billion Euros for the new 5 year Greek government bond



The bond auction for the new GGB resulted in a yield of 3.6 percent and a coupon of 3.4 percent. Greece is to raise 2.5 billion Euros. The issue was more than 4 times oversubscribed as investors bid for more than 10 billion Euros.

Welcoming the results of Greece's attempt to tap the markets, Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said the yield of the country's first post-programme five-year bond issue had "exceeded all expectations".

The minister said it was extremely positive that several long-term investors were among those making bids to buy the syndicated five-year bond, thus greatly restricting the number of speculative funds.

Briefing the parliament plenary on the results of the bond issue, Tsakalotos said he was convinced this marked the start of a shift from hedge funds to normal investors.

"... Today we had a successful issue, we offered the markets a five-year bond of 2.5 billion euros with a yield of 3.6 pct and a coupon below 3.5 pct. That 2.5 billion euros are 36 pct of our total demand in 2019. You will see at the Public Debt Management Agency that the plan for accessing the market was for 7.0 billion euros and today we raised 2.5 billion," Tsakalotos said, addressing MPs.

The most important thing, he added, was that the participation of investors showed a very significant shift from hedge funds to normal investors, indicating that "from this issue, Greece is changing league."

*Information for this article
has been gathered from
www.amna.gr*



Setting up a Company in Greece

Enterprise Greece is the official agency of the Greek State, under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Development, to promote investment in Greece, exports from Greece, and make Greece more attractive as an international business partner. Enterprise Greece, has issued a publication on “Setting up a company in Greece”, providing useful information regarding the different forms of companies, the procedures, time and cost required for setting up a company in Greece.

Depending on the legal form and the type of the constitutional documents the following options are provided:

a) When the “Model AoA” is used, the one stop shop service for any form of company can be: i) the General Commercial Registry, namely the GE.MI. ii) a Notary public iii) the Electronic One-stop shop Service (e-YMS).

b) When the “Model AoA” is not used, the one-stop shop service for the Company Limited by Shares (Soci t  Anonyme) and the Limited Liability Company (E.P.E.) is a Notary public, while for Personal Companies (O.E. and E.E.) and Private Capital Companies (IKE) the one-stop shop service is either the General Commercial Registry of the competent Chamber of Commerce or a Notary public.

c) In cases where by specific provisions a notarial deed is required for a specific activity or for the transfer of contributions in kind, then, independently of the legal form, the establishment must be done by a notary public.

The typical time required for the establishment of any form of company is two (2) working days.

A. Forms of Companies/Enterprises

Individual Enterprise (Sole Traders/Freelance Professionals)

This form of enterprise is easy to set up and gives high flexibility and initiative to the entrepreneur as regards the enterprise decisions, the type of

activity involved, the selection of the adopted technical methods and, up to a point, the volume of production. On the other hand, the entrepreneur is wholly responsible for any liability for taxes and debts in general. There is no minimum capital requirement.

Personal Companies

1) General Partnership (G.P./O.E.)

A general partnership is defined by law to be the association of two or more (natural or legal) persons, whose partners are jointly responsible against third parties for the company’s obligations. A general partnership is a company with legal personality. There is no minimum capital requirement for the establishment of a general partnership, since the assets of the company are not distinguished from the partner’s asset and partners are liable with their personal assets for all of the partnership’s obligations.

2) Limited Partnership (E.E.)

A limited partnership has the same characteristics with a general partnership, since it is a variant of it. The main difference between a limited partnership and a general partnership is within the scope of responsibility meaning the existence of partners with or without limited personal responsibility and the limitation of the management of the limited partners. The same general rules applying to a general partnership must also hold for a limited partnership. A limited partnership is a commercial company and it has company assets. There is no minimum capital requirement set by law for the establishment of a limited partnership. Partners must pay out their common contributions in cash, in kind, in labor etc.

3) Joint Venture

A joint venture is a company without a legal personality (L. 4072/2012, A’86). When registered



at the GE.MI. or appears outward, it acquires, as a union of persons, legal capacity and bankruptcy ability. For a joint venture, which was formed with the purpose to coordinate its members' activity, the provision of the law for the civil society shall apply. The contract of the joint venture may provide that its members will be jointly liable for its debts. If a joint venture performs a commercial activity, then its registration at the GE.MI. is mandatory and the provisions of the law for the general partnership shall apply.

4) Office/company of Law 89 as revised by Law 3427/2005 (A'312)

Foreign companies may establish an office or a company in Greece with the purpose of providing exclusively services, namely consulting services, centralized accounting support, quality control of production, procedures and services, preparation of studies, designs and contracts, advertising and marketing services, data processing, receipt and supply of information and research and development services to their head offices or to their affiliates that are not established in Greece, via bank remittances.

Main prerequisites set by law

- (a) The personnel of the legal entities established within this legal framework must be at least four (4) persons at the end of the twelve-month period following the date on which a relevant Ministerial Decision is issued by the competent Minister of Economy and Development.
- (b) The annual operating expenses incurred in Greece must be at least €100,000.

The legal representative of the company in Greece is held jointly and in full liable with the latter for any infringement of the legislation on the entry and residence of foreigners in Greece regardless of any criminal liability he may have.

5) Office/branch of foreign shipping companies of Law 27/1975 (A'77)

Foreign shipping entities may establish an office or branch in Greece. The office/branch may engage exclusively in activities related to the management, operation, brokerage, chartering, average adjustment and insurance of nonpassenger ships (Greek or foreign flagged) of registered tonnage over 500 tons and the representation of foreign ship owning entities or of other foreign shipping entities engaged in similar activities.

The Company, as a law 89 Company, enjoys certain tax exemptions (mainly from any tax, levy,

Table 1: The Unified Fee Note

LEGAL FORM	Compulsory			Optional
	Hellenic Competition Commission Fee (only for SA)	Fee Note for the Establishment at the one stop shop service	Fee for the company's registration at the GE.MI.	Company name and distinctive title control on a national level
Company Limited by Shares or "SA"	1% of the capital stated in the company's Articles of Association	60	10	30
Limited Liability Company or LLC or Ltd (E.P.E.)		60	10	30
Private Capital Company or P.C. (I.K.E.)		60	10	30
General Partnership or G.P.		50	10	30
Limited Partnership or L.P.		50	10	30

contribution or withholding in favor of the State or in favor of any third party for the income derived from activities or the provision of services that are specifically mentioned in the license issued for the establishment of the branch office.

Capital Companies

1) Limited Liability Company (E.P.E.)

A Limited Liability company is a commercial company by law, even if its AoA do not state that it has a commercial object and irrespective of the business purpose actually pursued by its directors and partners. One or two partners are required for the formation of a limited liability company. A limited liability company is liable for its debts with its assets. The partnership capital is determined by partners with no restriction. The statutory seat of a limited liability company is located in the Municipality of the Greek territory referred to in its statutes. The duration of a limited liability company is definite and it is defined in years.

The establishment of a branch office or an agency in Greece by a limited liability company based in an EU member State or a European Economic Area (EEA) member State is done by its registration at the GE.MI. service of the competent Chamber of Commerce.

The establishment of a branch office or an agency in Greece by a limited liability company based in a non-EU country requires the Approval of the competent Division for Companies of the General Secretariat of Trade and Consumer Protection/Ministry of Economy and Development or by the Department of Companies of the competent Region.

2) Private Capital Company (IKE)

A simpler and more flexible corporate form, namely the Private Company (IKE), has been introduced by Law 4072/2012 (A'86). IKE is a private capital company which has capital and the liability of its members for the company debts, except for those with guarantee contribution, is limited. A private capital company is established by one or more natural persons (founders). Participation to a private capital company requires the acquisition of one or more company shares.

The private capital company has capital of at least one (1) Euro. Partners may participate with capital, non-capital or with guarantee contributions. The capital must be paid out in full when establishing the company or when raising capital. The capital company has legal personality and it is a commercial company even if its business purpose is other than trading.

Table 2: Legalization documents of the founders					
LEGALIZATION DOCUMENTS	CATEGORY OF FOUNDERS				
	Natural Persons				
	Domestic	European member-state citizens	Non-EU country citizens		
			Forms of Companies		
		Private Capital Companies (S.R.L.)	Limited partners of a Personal Company	General partners of a Personal Company	
a) ID card	✓	✓			
b) Valid Passport		✓			
c) or other travel document recognized by international conventions with entry visa where required			✓	✓	✓
b) Statement of responsibility of Article 8 of Law 1599/1986 (A 75), Appendix I of the MD 63577/2018, declaring their intention to remain permanently in the country and			✓	✓	
c) Provided that they stay or they want to stay permanently in the country, a residence permit or a relevant certificate proving the lodging of an application for a residence permit			✓	✓	✓

* The above mentioned residence permit, granted or requested, must be in compliance to Greece's immigration legislation. A copy of the residence permit can be either submitted to the one stop shop service (YMS) or be electronically searched by the one-stop-shop service.

	Legal Persons	
	Domestic	
Genuine copy of the codified Articles of Incorporation of the founding legal person's. If the founding legal person is already registered with the GE.MI, the one-stop-shop service will search ex officio for its Articles of Incorporation in its electronic database, according to § 2 and 3 of Article 8 of Law 3419/2005, free of charge.	✓	
Decision of the relevant corporate organ or the partners for the participation of the legal person in the company under establishment and the determination of a representative for the completion of the establishment procedure. Certified copy of the proxy document for the appointment of the company's legal representative or its representative in Greece. All the above are submitted according to international law (as appropriate, apostille stamp, consular visa by the Greek consulate or as provided in international treaties ratified by Greece) with their official translation.	✓	
	Foreign	
Copy of the company's Articles of Incorporation.	✓	
Written confirmation of the competent National Register, issued during the last quarter, from which must at least occur its registration number and that it is not in a state of dissolution-liquidation, bankruptcy or in any state collective creditor satisfaction process.	✓	
A special notarial proxy document, in case the legal person's representative is a different person from its legal representative. If the company's incorporation is done with a private document, an authorization with a genuine signature of the legal representative of the company verified according to the provisions of §1 of Article 11 of Law 2690/1999, is sufficient, if this capability is provided by its Articles of Incorporation or by a relevant decision of the company's partners.	✓	

The company's statutes may be drafted in any of the official languages of the European Union. The statutory seat of a private capital company is located in the Municipality of the Greek territory referred to in its statutes. A private capital company can establish branches, agencies or other forms of secondary establishment in other areas of Greece or abroad.

3) Company Limited by Shares - Société Anonyme (S.A.)

A Company Limited by Shares, namely the Société Anonyme, is a capital company with legal personality, which is responsible for its debts with its assets. The company's capital is divided into shares. A company limited by shares is a commercial company, even if its purpose is not the exercise of a commercial activity. The internal organization of a company limited by shares includes the General Assembly of Shareholders, the Board of Directors and the Auditors. Shareholders own shares of the company which are either registered or bearer shares. Shareholders are not personally liable and their liability is limited to the amount of their investment.

A minimum initial capital of 25,000 Euro is required for the formation of a company limited by shares to be

paid entirely or partially. Shareholders' contributions may be in cash or in kind. A Société Anonyme can be established by one or more persons (founders) or become a Single-member S.A. concentrating all its shares in one single person. A company limited by shares can also appeal to the public through a public offering to cover entirely or partially its initial capital requirements or for a share capital increase or for a bond issue.

More particularly, a society anonyme can issue the following securities: **Shares; Bonds; Warrants; Founding titles and Other titles according to special provisions.**

The company has its seat in the municipality referred to in its AoA. This municipality must be located in Greece. The Greek Société Anonyme can establish branches, agencies or other forms of secondary establishment in other locations in Greece and abroad.

B. Procedures, time and cost required for setting up a company in Greece

A company is typically established in Greece in two (2) working days. Once the application for the establishment is submitted, the one stop shop service (YMS) has to examine, within the same or at the latest within the next working day, the submitted documents and data and, if all the



requirements set by law are met, to complete the establishment procedure. The establishment can be automatically done through the electronic one-stop shop service (e-YMS) through the portal: <https://eyms.businessportal.gr>

The cost of establishment shall include:

The Unified Fee Note (L. 4441/2016, A'227), which is paid once to the one stop shop service for the establishment of the company.

The Duty paid to the Hellenic Competition Commission, which is only required for the establishment of the Company Limited by Shares (S.A.) and it is set at 1‰ of the capital stated in the company's AoA.

Table 1 presents the Unified Fee Note and its components for the establishment of all the available forms of companies in Greece. Part of this amount is compulsory for the establishment and registration of the company with the GE.MI. service and the fee for the checks of the company's name and its distinctive title is optional.

If the founders are more than 10 persons, the amount of the fee note is increased by € 3 for each additional founder.

When the establishment is done exclusively through the e-One stop shop service, then the cost of establishment is set at 30% of the Unified Fee Note, i.e. €18,00 for S.A., E.P.E. and I.K.E. and €15,00 for O.E. and E.E. and there is no extra amount for each additional founder irrespective of the total number of founders.

The company must have an active Greek Tax Identification Number (A.Φ.Μ./VAT) in order to carry out transactions.

Procedure for the payment of the establishment cost

The application for the establishment is completed with the payment of the Unified Fee Cost and the duty paid to the Hellenic Competition Commission required only for the Limited by Shares type of Company (S.A.)

The available payment methods are:

Cash; Electronic deposit to the bank account of the Central Service of the General Electronic Commercial Registry of Article 2 of Law 3419/2005; Electronic banking; Credit or debit card

Setting up a company online through the electronic one stop shop service (e-YMS)

Setting up a company online through the electronic one stop shop service (e-YMS) is made quickly in three steps. The establishment is done exclusively on line through the specialized digital platform available at <https://eyms.businessportal.gr>

Currently, only private capital companies (IKE), either single-person or multi-person, can be established via the electronic platform. Gradually and by the end of 2019, all the rest legal forms can be established.

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Greek Wine Tasting in London



On January 14th, 2019, A Trade Tasting, co hosted by Eclectic Wines and Theatre of Wine, took place at Pall Mall, to include a Celebration of the life and wines of Haridimos Hatzidakis, 1967 - 2017.

Photo Credits: Eclectic Wines

#TextMe_PaperFashion, ATOPOS cvc's Paper Dress Collection exhibited in London



The Hellenic Centre, London is hosting the #TextMe_PaperFashion project from January 16th to February 24th, 2019.

#TextMe_PaperFashion is a pop-up exhibition from the Greek cultural organization ATOPOS Contemporary Visual Culture's Paper Dress Collection. It has been especially created to mark UNESCO'S Athens 2018, World Book Capital, and the Hellenic Centre's 25th Anniversary.

In 2005, ATOPOS cvc started collecting paper garments for research purposes and for experimenting with new exhibition concepts in an object-inspired manner. The research focused on the 1960s popular, but short-lived, American fad of

disposable paper dresses. Destined to be worn once and then thrown away, these mass-produced paper dresses represent the main core of the ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress collection.

The #TextMe_PaperFashion exhibition investigates the relationship between text and paper in fashion through selected objects from the collection. Disposable Paper dresses from the 1960s, some printed with press cuttings from American and English newspapers, are displayed alongside garments made of recycled pages from account books such as the rare Japanese shifu underclothes from the Edo period.

Paper fashion: Another aspect of the American revolution of the 60s

Disposable paper dresses first appeared in the USA in 1966 when they were produced by the Scott Paper Company to promote its products. The paper dresses were addressed to a consumer public that was already using disposable cups, plates, napkins and tablecloths and many other everyday objects. The unexpected success achieved by the first samples of these dresses led to the creation of 'paper fashion', which inundated the US market for almost two years (1966-1968).

Fun, modern and liberating, these paper garments were made in the spirit of their times, where experimentation in new industrial materials based on plastic or metal was applied to everyday life and fashion. The new, non-woven materials used to manufacture the dresses, gave the impression of paper, even though, apart from cellulose, their components included cotton, rayon, polyester and new-technology synthetic fibres.

The designs and images used on the paper dresses were taken from visual stimulants of the time, thus contributing to their popularity. Op art, newspapers, Pop and psychedelic patterns, retro Art Nouveau designs, trademark logos and even the faces of the 1968 election candidates were used to adorn the dresses, thus creating an exciting and imaginative canvas of multi-coloured motifs.

After 1968 'paper fashion' went into decline because of its overexposure and the fact that the public was



turning its concerns toward ecology and a 'return to nature' – a new trend that did not hold disposable products in high esteem. Since its decline, however, the paper fashion fad of the late '60s has inspired contemporary fashion designers in experimenting with paper garments and recycling techniques.

The exhibits of the #TextMe_PaperFashion currently hosted at the Hellenic Centre include the 1968 Poster Dress of Allen Ginsberg's poem 'Uptown NY', Richard Nixon's 1968 electoral campaign dress, the after Andy Warhol 'Souper Dress', as well as paper dresses printed with press cuttings from American and English newspapers. Apart from the main core of the 1960's paper dresses, the ATOPOS cvc Paper Fashion collection includes key pieces created by

distinguished designers such as Hussein Chalayan, Demna Gvasalia, Issey Miyake, John Galliano, Kosuke Tsumura and Martin Margiela.

Paper Fashion and contemporary designers

ATOPOS cvc has create the RIPPING ATOPOS project, in which contemporary artists and fashion designers are commissioned to create their own works of art, inspired by specific pieces or the whole of the collection. Artists and designers such as Robert Wilson, Howard Hodgkin, Demna Gvasalia, Jannis Varelas, Michael Cepress, Bas Kosters, Travis Hutchison, Angelo Plessas and Maurizio Galante, Angelos Frentzos, Yiorgos Eleftheriades, Angelos Bratis, Irini Miga, Zoe Keramea, either created new works of art or have transformed and



revisited original items from the collection in the spirit of creative re-cycling.

Issey Miyake designed nine work-in-progress pieces made from paper for the exhibition "XXIst Century Man", held at 21_21 Design Sight in Tokyo. With regard to textiles he believes that in about fifty years time paper will be the only fibre still available. So Miyake and his team spent months exploring various types of paper and processing techniques. The clothes that have been donated to the ATOPOS cvc collection are the results of the many experiments conducted during the design process. They are made from industrial packaging paper and, like the textiles in the "Pleats Please" collection, the paper was pleated and handcrafted. Consequently,

he donated these nine original and unique pieces to ATOPOS cvc, requesting only that they always be displayed as part of the collection.

Paper fashion in non-western cultures

During the course of its research ATOPOS cvc also acquired some rare examples of paper clothing and accessories from earlier historical periods and non-Western cultures, such as Japan and China. Most notably, the collection includes garments and accessories made in the Japanese manner of kamiko and shifu. The kamiko process has been known since the 10th century, where strong sheets of paper are softened and then starched with vegetable juice to produce a durable material. Paper weaving, or shifu, was developed in 16th-century Japan; in this



technique, strips of paper are twisted into threads and are then woven. These rare pieces and other historic items of the ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress collection serve not only as examples of the use of paper in the manufacture of clothing, but also as a surprise and a delight for the viewer.

RRRIPP!!: The paper fashion project around the world

Providing a comprehensive representation of paper clothing in the history of dress and design and numbering today more than five hundred items, the ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress collection forms the basis of the RRRIPP!! Paper Fashion exhibition, which ATOPOS cvc showed for the first time in Athens in 2007 (Benaki Museum). The success of the show

enabled ATOPOS cvc to collaborate with European Museums on new interpretations of the exhibition, first in Luxembourg (Musée d' Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean / MUDAM, 2008), then in Antwerp (Mode Museum / MoMu, 2009), Bologna (Fast Fashion Festival, 2009), Zurich (Museum Bellerive, 2010), Melbourne (Chadstone, 2011) and in Waiblingen (Galerie Stihl, 2013).

This is the first time the Collection is exhibited in London.

(Information for this article has been gathered from Hellenic Centre's website (helleniccentre.org) and ATOPOS cvc's website (atopos.gr). Photos courtesy of Hellenic Centre)

Different cinematography, brilliant writing and directing, outstanding acting
Yorgos Lanthimos's new film "The Favourite"



The Favourite, the latest film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, has got both critics and movie fanatics excited! It is a period tragicomedy based in the 18th century, Britain and France are at war, political tension occurs in the kingdom, and a frail monarch (Queen Anne) stands hopeless and unwilling to act.

The script was originally written by Deborah Davis and Tony McNamara in the 90s and was so perfectly depicted by Lanthimos, that he managed to be nominated for the best director Oscar awards, and to get 9 more nominations for the film.

The film has earned considerable acclaim amongst

film critics, with the Guardian describing the Favourite as brilliant. In Mark Kermode's "Film of the Week", he characterized Colman, Weisz and Stone as pitch-perfect! The three actresses drove the Lanthimos' film and brought it to a different level. Olivia Colman, in the role of a maudlin Queen, depressed, overweight with suicidal thoughts and lack of confidence to rule, constantly seeks the advice of her friend and lover Sarah Churchill (Rachel Weisz). Rachel Weisz, as Sarah, is the closest advisor and friend to the Queen, and with her fearless presence as well as her steely resolve is always there for the benefit of her Queen and country. The





chemistry between Colman and Weisz could be attributed to the fact that they have co-starred in another Lanthimos' film, the Lobster.

Kermode argues that "The Favourite occasionally resembles an unlikely mashup of Peter Greenway's *the Draughtsman's Contract* and the Wachowskis' *Bound*, all beautifully dressed by the great Sandy Powell", showing the elements of intrigue and lust that prevail in the film. In addition to this comparison, Kermode notices that Lanthimos has carried with him certain elements from his previous international break-through film, *Dogtooth*, such as the cruelty and the modernist absurdity.

Yet, this film is not a typical historical drama. It has a great sense of humour. The element of humour, can be found in other Lanthimos' films, with the difference that films such as the *Dogtooth*, the *Killing of a Sacred Deer* and the *Lobster* have a weird and dark sense of humour, while "The Favourite" it's a full force comedy according to Christopher Hooton of the Independent.

The review of the Independent gives *The Favourite* a 5-star rating, characterising it as "A period drama with a laugh rate on a par with *Airplane!*". The choice of the cast, and especially the protagonists, Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone, are "on top form in this deranged court comedy". The direction of Lanthimos gave "The Favourite" a realistic view on how that period was; "bawdy, bilious, ridden with gout and festering venereal diseases". Moreover, Lanthimos gave the right amount of humour to make it comparable to the "Airplane!", adding that extra ingredient to differentiate it from a classic period drama. According to Christopher Hooton, it is a sensational script, which makes "The Favourite" by far the best film that Lanthimos has directed so far!



Events to come

The Cloakroom Attendant

When: 10 Feb, 3pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, London, W1U 5AS

Ancient Invisible Cities

When: 12 Feb, 7 pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

MANI / Μάνη – Painting the Southern Peloponnese: In the Footsteps of Patrick Leigh Fermor, Meet the Artist

When: 13 Feb, 6.30-8.30pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

“Staging the Greeks in the 21st Century: Adaptation, Re-contextualisation, and the Ethics of Directing”

When: 14 Feb, 7pm

Where: Strand Campus, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

25th Meeting of the Greek Library of London

When: 17 Feb, 11am-5pm

Where: Flocafe Espresso Room, 77 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 5DU

Phaedra I—

When: 18 Feb, 7.45pm

Where: Tristan Bates Theatre, 1A Tower St, Covent Garden, WC2H 9NP, London

Walking Billboards or Wearable History? Paper Dresses from the ATOPOS cvc Collection

When: 19 Feb, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

Greece Facing Immigration and Refugee Crisis

When: 20 Feb, 6:30- 8 pm

Where: Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House, LSE

Walking through the Landscapes of Marina Adams

When: 21 Feb, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

Wagner and Greece

When: 22Feb, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

Maraveyas live at Mimi's

When: 22&23 Feb, 10:30 pm

Where: Mimi's, 19 Newman Street, W1T 1PF

Sustainable luxury: Fashion designers & other stories from Greece and the world

When: 24 Feb, 2pm

Where: Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, SW3 2JL

#TextMe_PaperFashion

When: till 24 of February

Where: The Hellenic Centre

Transforming the housing system: austerity and property taxation during the 'Greek Crisis'

When: 26 Feb, 6- 7:30 pm

Where: Cañada Blanch Room (COW 1.11), 1st Floor, European Institute, Cowdray House, LSE

Approaching Byzantine slavery

When: 26 Feb, 5.30pm

Where: Strand Campus, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

@GreeceInUK is a newsletter with a monthly roundup of news related to Greece, Greek Politics, Economy, Culture, Civil Society, the Arts as well as Greece's distinctive vibrant presence in the UK. Our ambition is to offer an accurate and rich source of information to those interested in Greece and her people.

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