

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

The flaw of Papandreou's opponents

Although popular opposition to Papandreou's government is growing, there is no leadership to polarize the movement for the Greek nation.

Two and a half years of Papandreou's socialist government has produced nothing but a still-growing avalanche of serious popular opposition in Greece.

For months now, a steady stream of reports from both big cities and rural districts have brought in news of impressive mass mobilizations of rank-and-file citizens against the policies of Papandreou's government.

I know most of these people, either by family name or by social type. They are mostly rough-hewn, simple patriots, grandfathers who fought as cavalymen in the campaigns of 1922, fathers who were privates and sergeants in the battles of the Second World War, sons who fought as reserve officers in the Civil War, or who later did their mandatory service in the peacetime army.

Their outlook and expectations on public life have traditionally been simple: Keep a closely knit family, educate the children, work hard, go to church on Sunday, and revel with the others on the big national holidays and commemorations.

Their revolt against Papandreou has been fueled by his government's destruction of national public education, in which the teaching of the classics has been outlawed; the return of mass unemployment and high inflation rates in the economy; the massive and sudden introduction of drugs and pornography in a society which had been bypassed by the countercultural outbreak of the 1960s and 1970s; the

destruction of the armed forces; and the adoption of a pro-Soviet foreign policy.

These people, as the rank-and-file mainstay of national life, many of whom had voted for Papandreou to become prime minister in 1981, have been seen throughout the country organizing anti-Papandreou electoral victories in a great number of local, municipal, and professional association elections, putting together impressive anti-Papandreou public rallies.

If an honest election were to be held today Papandreou's vote would be reduced to 25% from his 48% in 1981.

Greece's problem is that this nationalist popular revival has not crystallized in the formation of a political party which would adequately lead the new mass movement. The current ostensible bearer of the nationalist cause, the New Democracy Party of Mr. Evangelos Averoff-Tositsas, is pitifully unprepared for such tasks.

The New Democracy Party's leadership is now made up of an old guard, typified by Mr. Averoff-Tositsas himself, which believes in relying unflinchingly on the old ties with the Western alliance as those had developed in the 1940s and 1950s—but does not realize that the leadership of the alliance has been taken over by the Kissinger-Carrington betrayers of the West—and the new guard, typified by such leading parliamentarians as Miltiades Evert and John Palaiokrassas,

which is in the midst of an attempt to transplant what they imagine to be the neo-conservative economic doctrines associated with the policies of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. One might call them the Greek section of the Heritage Foundation.

Both the old guard and the new represent tragic ineptitude which would likely lead to a national calamity unless remedied—or replaced.

The problem among these people who are at the present, by historical accident, at the helm of the Greek nationalist movement, is that they are, essentially, dependent in a cultural and psychological sense on their big brothers in what appears to them the conservative West. Though in their public speeches they pose as champions of Western civilization, what is, to them, Western civilization?

My own difference with the New Democracy Party leaders is two-fold in the following sense:

Unlike them, I was enabled to identify, some 16 years ago, that the fight for the preservation of the most cherished values of Western civilization would be centered around the cause of the American Lyndon LaRouche, a matter of which the New Democracy Party leaders were informed, but chose to ignore—either out of cultural banality, or worse.

Also unlike them, I was not tainted with complicity in the murder of classical education in Greece. They, however, not only aided and abetted but even prompted the Socialists' successful effort to shut down classical education, further adulterate the Greek language in the short span of 10 years, and bring up to voting age a new generation of ignoramus. Pity those who live under the shadow of the physical remnants of Plato's Academy and seek the quintessence of Western civilization in the utterings of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.