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Athens

The New Encyclopædia Britannica

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MACROPÆDIA
Volume 2

Knowledge in Depth

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tonomy. According to Existentialism and secular humanism in their multiple forms, the negation of theological transcendence is necessary in order to guarantee the absolute character of freedom; so state such thinkers as Dewey and Sartre. This radical existential freedom, however, has real meaning only if it is based on each individual's ability to choose his own happiness according to an absolute criterion of good and evil. According to the Christian Existentialist Søren Kierkegaard and the Jewish thinker Martin Buber, such a choice means being and putting oneself "before God."

The problem of evil

Finally, the existence of evil has been at all times the strongest argument on the existential level in favour of the denial of God. Evil refers either to physical evils (such as natural disasters and cataclysms, poverty and war, sickness and death) that deprive man of sensual happiness or especially to moral evils (such as errors and injustices, betrayals and hostilities, hate and violence) that oppress the spirit of man. The horror of evil is that it often strikes the weak and the innocent. How are such phenomena compatible with the existence of an omnipotent and good God? To this question the theist observes that the denial of God and of immortality does not change the sorrow and suffering but only aggravates the situation by depriving the suffering individual of any hope of liberation from evil and by depriving the innocent individual of any right to obtain justice from an absolutely perfect and independent judge, whom men have called God. Christianity further claims that sorrow and suffering have been sanctified by the example of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ.

During the 1960s, in a movement arising under the convergent influence of the German theologians Paul Tillich and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a "theology without God" was proclaimed. According to one of the theologians espousing it—most of whom are of the English-speaking world—the "death of God" is not a metaphysical category but a cultural one; contemporary man, in this view, is just not fitted to understand any real repentance through an exterior principle like the transcendent God: "Bonhoeffer invites us to accept the world without God as given and unalterable." According to the same author the second idea that marks Bonhoeffer's influence and importance is his plea for a nonreligious or religionless Christianity. Because the world has grown up and transcended its dependency situation, "the God of religion, solving otherwise insoluble problems, meeting otherwise unmeetable needs, is impossible and unnecessary." A last and more profound ground of this "theological atheism" is the kenotic movement, according to which the God who died in Christ is the God who thereby gradually ceases to be present in living form, emptying himself of his original life and power. According to another of the "death of God" theologians, Thomas J.J. Altizer, the death is, thus, "an inevitable consequence of the movement of God into the world, of spirit into flesh."

The possibility of universal atheism and even the atheism of large masses in wealthy modern society have placed all men really for the first time face-to-face with the basic alternative of being either with God or against God. But even for sophisticated modern man the decision is complicated by the danger of nuclear catastrophe, which threatens to destroy all the values of civilization, man himself, and his cosmos.

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(C.F.)

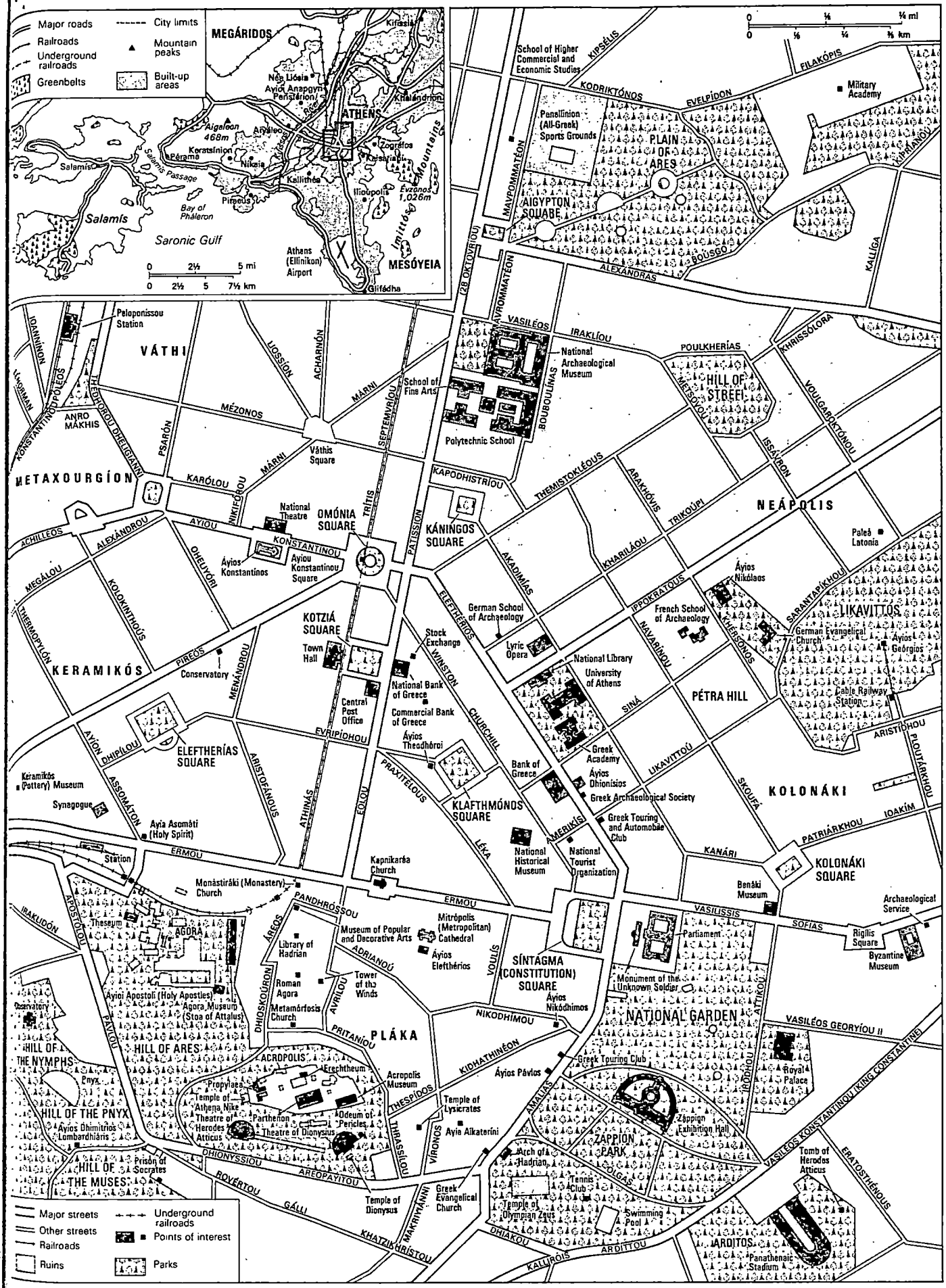
Athens

The capital of the kingdom of Greece and generally considered the nursery of Western civilization, Athens (Greek Athínai) lies five miles from the Bay of Phaleron, an inlet of the Aegean (Aigaion) Sea where Athens' port, Piraeus (Piraiévs) is situated, in a mountain-girt arid basin divided north–south by a line of hills. Greater Athens has an area of 167 square miles (433 square kilometres) and was the home of a little more than 2,500,000 people in the early 1970s. The central city, the old municipality, had over 862,000 inhabitants. The Kifisós River, a trickle in summer, flows through the western half; and the Ilisós River, often actually dry, traverses the eastern half, while the surrounding mountains of Párnis, 4,635 feet (1,413 metres), Pentelicus (Pendéli), 3,631 feet (1,107 metres), Hymettos (Imittós), 3,365 feet (1,026 metres), and Aigáleon, 1,535 feet (468 metres), add to the impression of barrenness. Yet such considerations are superficial when compared with the fecundity of Athens' spiritual bequests to the world, such as its philosophy, its architecture, its literature, and its political ideals.

THE ATHENIAN LEGACY

The Acropolis. Many of these concepts (all, if the theatre of Herodes Atticus may be regarded as an embodiment of the city's literature) are expressed in and around the Acropolis, the natural focus of Athens. Rising some 500 feet above sea level, with springs near the base and a single approach, the Acropolis was an obvious choice of citadel and sanctuary from earliest times. That it could be something more is evidenced in the Parthenon, one of the brightest jewels in mankind's treasury, let alone Athens'. As deceptively simple as Socrates' conversation, this columned, oblong temple is the expression—without a trace of strain or conflict—of a human ideal of clarity and unity. The architectural genius is concentrated in the exterior, for within was a shelter for the goddess Athena—the patroness who lent her name to the city—not a place for mass worship. Its spiritual quality, the sensation of being almost afloat, is enhanced by the lack of a single, straight, vertical line in the peristyle (the colonnade surrounding a building or court); each vertical is almost imperceptibly bowed, theoretically meeting some 11,500 feet up in the sky. The columns, of diminishing thickness toward the centre of the colonnade, with diminishing space between them, lean toward the centre,

The Parthenon



Central Athens and (inset) its metropolitan area.

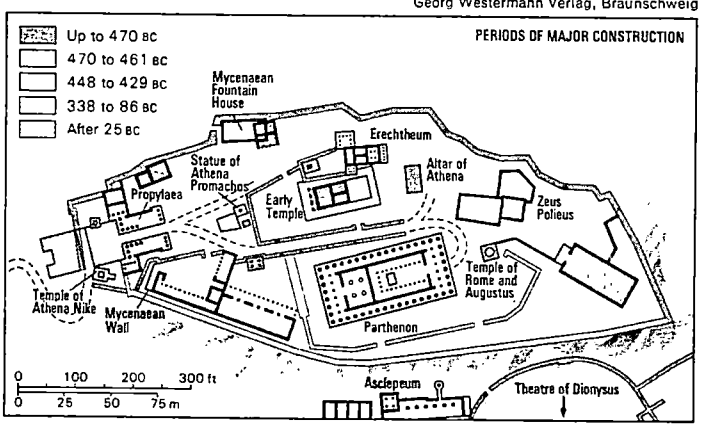
The Parthenon

too; all these differences are virtually invisible to the beholder. Even the 20 flutings (grooves) of each column diminish in width as they rise, and the humblest details of craftmanship are perfect.

On the northeast corner of the interior are faint traces of Christian wall paintings, dating from the temple's service as the Church of St. Mary, and in the southeast corner of the porch is the stair leading to the minaret that poked through the roof when the building was a Turkish mosque. The Parthenon was also used as a powder magazine, when, on September 26, 1687, Venetian artillery, attacking the Turks from the Hill of the Muses, scored a direct hit. A member of the party with the field commander, General Königsmark, wrote, "How it dismayed His Excellency to destroy the beautiful temple which had existed three thousand years!" Conversely, Francesco Morosini, the commander in chief, when reporting to the Venetian government, called it "a fortunate shot." Wishing to bring home more than just good news, he also tried to lower Athena's horses in the centre of the west pediment, but his men's dexterity was not as highly developed as their marksmanship and the masterpieces smashed to bits on the rock below.

The Turks regained possession of the Acropolis the following year, and later began selling "souvenirs" to Europeans. The Duc de Choiseul, lately French ambassador in Constantinople, picked up a piece of the frieze and two metopes (space between two triglyphs, or ornaments in the frieze). Fourteen years later the British ambassador, Lord Elgin, arrived with an imperial decree permitting him to pull down Turkish houses on the Acropolis to seek fragments of sculpture. Among the 50 pieces he took home (the shipping charges were £75,000, a huge sum for those days) was most of the remaining Parthenon sculpture, which he later sold to the British Museum for £35,000. The Greeks have forgiven the clumsiness of the Venetian engineers, the accuracy of her cannoneers, and the vandalism of the Turks, but still nurture rancour against Elgin. His lordship also removed one of the caryatids (draped female figures serving as columns) from the Erechtheum, a temple of Athena called after a shrine dedicated to the legendary King Erechtheus or to Poseidon Erechtheus, but replaced her with a plaster cast. From London he graciously sent a town clock for Athens, duly erected in the Agora (marketplace) and lost in the fire of 1885.

Adapted from *Westermann Grosser Atlas zur Weltgeschichte:* Georg Westermann Verlag, Braunschweig



Plan of the Acropolis, Athens.

The Erectheum (5th century BC), which later became a church under the Byzantines and subsequently the Turkish commander's harem, was originally dedicated to both Athena and Poseidon and was the most venerated of the Acropolis temples.

The Propylaea, the matchless entryway into the Acropolis, was the only opening in the surrounding wall. Just in front of it and to the left is the 27-foot-high pedestal for the thank-offering to Agrippa, the victor of the Battle of Actium, who interceded for Athens, which had supported the loser, Mark Antony. To the right was the temple of Athena Nike (Giver of Victory), 27 feet long and 18½ feet wide, which stood untouched until the Turks demolished it in 1686 to use the stones as defenses against the Venetians. In 1836 it was badly restored, and 100 years later its foundations began to slip into previously undiscovered Turkish cisterns, revealing the 6th-century foundations, of Peisistratus' earlier shrine to Artemis Epipyrgidea (Artemis on the Tower). The temple was then more accurately reconstructed. The northern wing of the Propylaea, the Pinakotheke, was used by the Frankish dukes, who reconstructed the interior to make a two-story building. In the 12th century, Greek Orthodox bishops lived in the Pinakotheke, and in the 14th century, the Acciajuoli dynasty of Athenian dukes from Florence turned the Propylaea into a fortified castle with a Tuscan tower, which Heinrich Schliemann, the German archaeologist who discovered Troy, paid to have dismantled in 1875.

The Pi-
nakothe

When the Turks, who had occupied Athens since 1456, departed, they left the monuments in a state of ruin, the ground covered with garden plots, and 300 small huts. After Greece won its independence, Otho, the first king of the Hellenes, had everything that postdated the classical period swept away, set scholars to work identifying the remains, and encouraged some reconstruction.

According to Pausanias, the Greek traveller and geographer of the 2nd century AD, the colossal, 30-foot-high bronze seated statue of Athena Promachos (Athena Who Fights in the Foremost Ranks), by the 5th-century Athenian sculptor Phidias, was set up in the open behind the Propylaea, her gleaming helmet and spear visible to mariners off Cape Sunium (30 miles away). The 6th-century Byzantine emperor Justinian carried her off to Constantinople, just as Phidias' ivory and gold statue of Athena had been taken from the Parthenon by his predecessor Theodosius II. Both of these masterpieces were lost to other looters in the Crusaders' sack of Constantinople in 1204. Other statues stood in profusion amid small temples, such as the sculptor Myron's group of Marsyas and Athena, his Perseus, and his heifer; Phidias' Lemnian Athena and his Pericles; and a gigantic bronze effigy of the Trojan horse. There was an altar to Athena Hygeia (the Health Giver), a precinct sacred to the goddess Artemis Brauronia (named after a statue of her, brought from the town of Brauron), the Pandroseum (a building named after Pandrosos, a girl associated with Athena in legend), where the sacred olive tree of Athena grew, and beyond the Parthenon the great altar of Athena.

Other notable buildings. Below the Acropolis sanctuary, on the southwest slope of the hill, Herodes Atticus, a rich Roman, built a 5,000-seat odeum as a memorial to his wife in AD 161. A conventional Roman theatre, save that the semicircular auditorium was hollowed out of the rock, it was roofed in cedar and had a three-story facade of arches. Repaired but roofless, it is now used for the Athens summer festival of music and drama. A 300-yard-long portico stretching toward the theatre of Dionysius had been built some 300 years earlier. The Dionysiac theatre itself, scooped out of the south slope early in the 5th century, replaced the Agora stage as the drama centre. It also replaced the Pnyx as the meeting place for the popular assembly. Rebuilt many times, the ruined theatre now visible is largely Roman, the last construction work on the stage probably dating from the early 3rd century AD. The Dionysia, the spring festival, which drew crowds from many parts of Greece and colonies in Asia Minor and Italy, was held in this theatre, which had 13,000 seats in 67 rows. The jury had larger front seats and the ecclesiastical dignitaries small stone thrones, on which their titles can still be read. Three tragic and four comic plays were presented in competition for the prize. Production costs were met by private sponsors who, when their choruses won the prize tripod, displayed it in an elaborate memorial in the Street of Tripods to the east of the theatre. The only one of these monuments still standing is that of Lysicrates, erected 335/334 BC, a small circular temple 21½ feet high, its six columns an early example of the Corinthian order. Preserved through incorporation into a convent (in which the English poet Lord Byron had a study), the monument influenced British Georgian and Regency architecture through the engravings of the Edin-

burgh artist "Athenian" Stuart. Farther east lay the Odeum of Pericles, and to the west are traces (420 BC) of the precinct of Asclepius, the god of healing, which took the form of a hospital portico for patients and temples decorated with votive reliefs.

The Pinakothek

On the Hill of Ares, the god of war, to the right of the descent from the Propylaea, a legendary jury of gods spared Ares from execution for the murder of the sea god Poseidon's son. Trials for homicide continued to be heard on this hill through the ages, and the Supreme Court of Greece still bears the name.

Other hills of Athens

Across Apostólou Pávlou (Apostle Paul Avenue) are the Hill of the Nymphs, where an Austro-Greek, Baron Sina, built an observatory in 1842; the Hill of the Muses, crowned with the remains of the marble monument to Philopappus, a Syrian who was Roman consul in the 2nd century AD; and the middle hill, the Pnyx, meaning "tightly crowded together," the meeting place of the Ecclesia, the assembly of 18,000 citizens who heard the great Athenian orators. (In fact, attendance of over 5,000 was rare, but it would still have been crowded.)

The Agora. The avenue leads down to the Agora, which the American School of Classical Studies started restoring in 1931, paying $2,500,000 compensation to the several hundred families living there. Financed by, among others, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Marshall Plan, and the Greek government, the work went on until 1960. It includes what has been called "the pitiless replica of a 180-columned portico of the 2nd century BC," which serves as a museum.

At the approaches to the Agora is the best preserved of all Greek temples, the Theseum (5th century BC). Although virtually intact and absolutely genuine, it has all the deadness of a latter-day reproduction. The beauty, the mystery, and the genius that render the Parthenon incandescent eluded the architects and builders of the Theseum.

The Horologium and the Orthodox cathedrals. Another monument is the octagonal, 42-foot-high marble Horologium of Andronicus of Cyrrhus, usually called the Tower of the Winds because each side bears a weather-beaten figure of the wind from that particular compass point. It used to have a sundial, a water clock for telling the hour on cloudy days, and a weather vane. The Turks left it unchanged, believing it to be the tomb of two local prophets, Sakhratis and Aflatun (Socrates and Plato).

In the shadow of the 19th century, Neo-Byzantine Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Mitrópolis) nestles the old Mitrópolis, Áyios Elefthérios, one of three genuine Byzantine churches still surviving. It is red brick like the others and tiny, its Pentelic marble ruddied with age, its outer walls artfully, if promiscuously, decorated with classical Greek tidbits: panels, votive tablets, and morsels of frieze. Like its sisters, this retired cathedral is charming, unassuming, and comforting. (B.E.)

THE EARLY HISTORY OF ATHENS

The city in antiquity. *Factors inducing settlement.* The climate of Athens is benign: frost is rare (the minimum temperature is 32° F, 0° C) and snow seldom lies, while the summers, though hot (maximum temperature is 99° F, 37° C), are dry, and a fresh northeasterly wind often blows by day. The nights are always cool. All of this permits outdoor activity the year around and has had an important effect on both the style of architecture and the life and political institutions of the city.

Evidence of early habitation

The site of Athens has been inhabited since the Neolithic Period (before 3000 BC). Evidence for this has come from pottery finds on and around the Acropolis but particularly from a group of about 20 shallow wells, or pits, on the northwest slope of the Acropolis, just below the Klepsydra spring. These wells contained burnished pots of excellent quality, which show that even at this remote period Athens had a settled population, with high technical and artistic standards. There are similar indications of occupation in the Early and Middle Bronze ages (3000–1500 BC).

The earliest buildings date from the Late Bronze Age, particularly about 1200 BC when the Acropolis was the citadel. Around its top was built a massive wall of Cyclopean masonry (a type of construction using huge blocks without mortar). The construction of this wall probably marks the union of the 12 towns of Attica (the department in which Athens lies) under the leadership of Athens, an event traditionally ascribed to Theseus. The palace of the king was in the area of the later Erechtheum, but almost no traces of it have been identified. The town, insofar as it was outside the Acropolis, lay to the south, where wells and slight remains of houses have been found. The principal cemetery lay to the northwest, and several richly furnished chamber tombs and many smaller ones have been discovered in the area that later became the Agora.

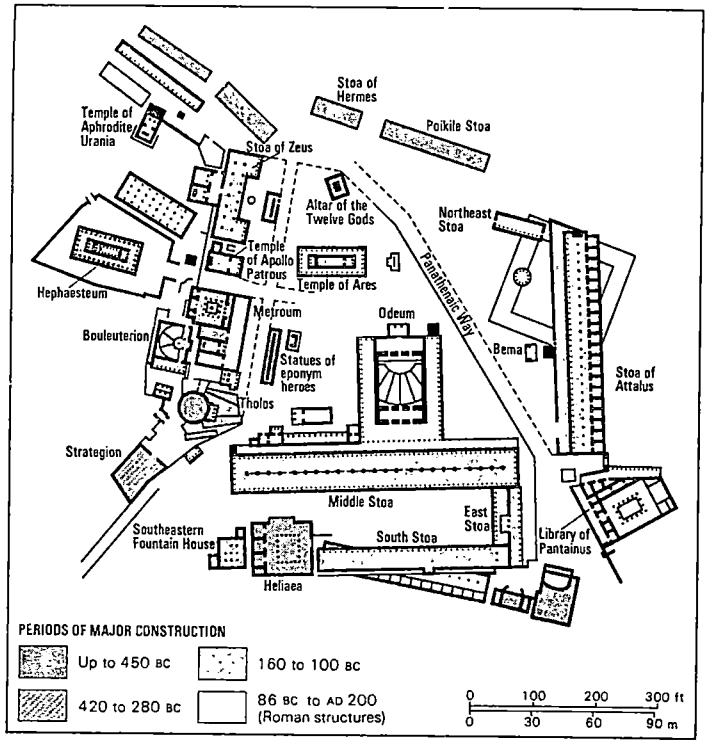
Whether through the strength of its walls, the valour of its citizens, or its geographical position away from the main route to the Peloponnesus, Athens seems to have weathered the Late Bronze and Early Iron ages, troubled times, better than other, more important centres. There is no evidence of complete or widespread destruction, as at Mycenae and Pylos; in fact, the pottery styles show an unbroken development through sub-Mycenaean (a style later than the Mycenaean but not yet Greek) to Protogeometric (the earliest phase of Geometric) and Geometric (a style of pottery in vogue from 1000 BC to 750 BC). Furthermore, there is positive evidence that from about 1000 BC the city began to expand in a northwesterly direction, into the area that had previously been confined to cemeteries. Wells appear, indicating occupation by the living, and any graves in the area are increasingly confined to restricted plots or placed along the roads outside the town limits. The Agora and some of the public buildings seem, to judge from scattered notices in later writers, to have been located west and northwest of the Acropolis. Though there are few remains of buildings, the wealth and prosperity of the city can be appreciated from late Geometric graves found in the area of the later Dipylon and Erian gates. These graves were adorned with large vases, sometimes over five feet high, richly decorated with geometric patterns and having figured scenes of battles, processions, and funeral ceremonies.

Changes in the 6th century BC

Athens' expansion. The 6th century BC was a period of phenomenal growth, particularly during the tyranny of Peisistratus and his sons (*c.* 560–510 BC). On the Acropolis, the old primitive shrines began to be replaced with large stone temples. About 580 BC a temple to Athena, known as the Hekatompedon, or "Hundred-Footer," was erected on the site later to be occupied by the Parthenon. The pediments (triangular spaces forming the gable) of this temple were decorated with large-scale sculpture in gaily coloured, porous limestone, representing groups of lions bringing down bulls, and with snaky-tailed monsters in the angles. These sculptures are now displayed in the Acropolis Museum. In 566 BC Peisistratus reorganized the Panathenaic Games in honour of Athena on a four yearly basis. About 530 BC a large peripteral temple (one having a row of columns on all sides) to Athena Polias (Guardian of the City) was erected near the centre of the Acropolis, on the site of the old Bronze Age palace. It had marble pedimental sculpture representing the battle of the Gods and Giants. Besides these two major temples there were five smaller buildings, treasuries and the like, and a wealth of votive offerings in marble, bronze, and terra-cotta. The Acropolis was now a full-fledged sanctuary.

This change from citadel to sanctuary is also reflected in the arrangement of the entrance at the west. Instead of a winding path suitable for defense, there was, from about the middle of the 6th century BC, a broad ramp, designed as a ceremonial approach, leading up to the gate. This basic change of attitude toward the Acropolis must mean that the whole lower town was now surrounded by a fortification wall, and the Acropolis was no longer needed for defense. The ancient historians Herodotus and Thucydides tell of such a wall, but no trace of it has been found, and its course and date are uncertain.

In the lower town, too, the 6th century was a period of great growth and change. The old Agora, below the western approach to the Acropolis, was now inadequate, and



Ground plan of the Athenian Agora.

Adapted from *Westermann Grosser Atlas zur Weltgeschichte:* Georg Westermann Verlag, Braunschweig

Building of the new Agora

a new one was therefore laid out in the low ground to the northwest. This was accomplished by demolishing houses and filling in wells and gullies, to create a broad, open square, which was used for gatherings of all sorts: political, judicial, religious, and commercial. Dramatic contests were held here, too, before the construction of a separate theatre. Various public buildings and shrines were erected around the borders of the square, including the Basileios (Royal) Stoa, where the archon Basileus, one of the chief magistrates of the city, had his headquarters, the Old Bouleuterion (or Council House), and a large enclosure (100 feet square), which probably housed the Heliaia, the largest of the popular lawcourts. At the southeast corner of the square a small fountain house was built, which received water from outside the city through a conduit of terra-cotta pipes.

In 480 BC this flourishing city was captured and destroyed by the Persians. The Acropolis buildings were burned, and the houses in the lower town mostly destroyed, except for a few that had been spared to house the Persian leaders.

Athens at its zenith. When the Athenians returned, in 479 BC, they immediately rebuilt their fortification wall larger than before. About 20 years later the famous Long Walls were built, connecting the city with its port, Piraeus, four miles away. They were parallel over most of their course, forming a corridor 550 feet wide. These walls played a vital part in Athens' history during the Classical period, for they allowed it to carry the supplies brought in by its powerful fleet in safety to the city, even when enemy forces roamed the Attic countryside.

For 30 years after the Persian destruction, the Athenians built only fortifications and some secular buildings in the Agora, notably the Stoa Poikile, or Painted Colonnade, with its famous paintings by Polygnotus and Micon, one of which represented the Battle of Marathon. The Tholos, the round building that served as the headquarters of the executive committee of the council, was also built at this time. Lack of attention to the Acropolis was partly the result of the oath, sworn before the Battle of Plataea in 479 BC, that sanctuaries destroyed by the Barbarians would not be rebuilt but left as memorials of their impiety. In 449 BC, however, peace with Persia was at last officially established, and the oath was annulled. Athens, moreover, now had ample funds, for the silver mines in the Laurium (Lavrion) Hills of southern Attica were in full production. These mines had always been exploited, but in 483 BC a big strike was made, the proceeds of which were used to build the ships that won the battle of Salamis, in 480 BC. Thereafter, the mines remained productive throughout the 5th and 4th centuries, providing Athens with the sinews of its strength in the great Classical age. Another source of revenue was the tribute that the allies had been paying, as members of the Delian League, to prosecute the war against Persia. Athens had been collecting and administering this money and now, even though the war was officially over, continued to collect it in spite of the protests of the allies, who degenerated into subjects of Athens. Pericles deemed it proper, over the protests of his opponents, to use this money on beautifying the city; in this way he could keep the money in circulation and provide jobs for the whole population. Thus began one of the largest and most enduring works programs in history.

Peace with Persia

In a period of 40 years the Acropolis was entirely rebuilt in gleaming white marble quarried from Mt. Pentelicus, ten miles north of the city. The first great work was the Parthenon, begun in 447 BC and finished, except for some details, in 438 BC. The architects were Ictinus and Callicrates, and Phidias was in charge of the whole artistic program. The building was considerably larger than was usual, having eight columns across the ends and 17 on the long sides, against six by 13 for the average temple. It was richly decorated with sculpture, having a running frieze all around the top of the cella (the walled-in chamber within the colonnade) wall outside, and sculptured metopes and sculptured pediments. Inside the cella stood the cult statue, the great gold and ivory figure of Athena, the work of Phidias. No sooner was the main work on the Parthenon completed than the Propylaea was begun. This was the monumental gateway with five doors at the head of the approach, designed by the architect Mnesicles. Its large outer vestibule was covered by a marble ceiling, supported by marble beams with a free span of 18 feet, about which Pausanias wrote, "the Propylaea has a ceiling of white marble which in the beauty and size of the stones remains supreme even to my time." Work on the Propylaea was nearly finished when stopped by the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War in 432 BC, but, as things began to go well for Athens, the little temple of Athena Nike was erected on the bastion in front of the Propylaea, perhaps in 425 BC. At the time of the Peace of Nicias (421 BC), or perhaps a year or two earlier, the Erechtheum was begun. This was a small Ionic temple of highly irregular plan, which housed various early cults and sacred tokens. When the building was about half-finished, work was suddenly interrupted, probably because of the disastrous Athenian expedition to Sicily (415–413 BC), but it was resumed in 409 BC, and the building was completed in 406 BC. The final defeat of Athens two years later put an end to all building, but the Acropolis had been completed, and in later centuries only secondary buildings and monuments were added.

The building of the Erechtheum

The second half of the 5th century also saw some building activity in the lower town. Even before the Parthenon, work was begun on the temple of Hephaestus (the Greek god of fire), the Theseum, which still stands on a low hill. In the Agora itself, a new Bouleuterion was built, and two colonnades, the Stoa of Zeus and the South Stoa, were constructed. On the south slope of the Acropolis, next to the theatre, Pericles built an odeom, a large enclosed concert hall, its roof supported by a forest of columns. Of the theatre itself there are no identifiable remains, but the arrangements were no doubt quite simple, and it is known that a theatre existed on this spot from the late 6th century BC because of the old temple of Dionysus (the god of wine) nearby, which dates from the same period. A sanctuary of Asclepius was founded on the south slope of the Acropolis in 420 BC.

Athens was slow in recovering from its defeat in the Peloponnesian War, but in 394 BC its admiral, Conon, won a decisive naval victory over Sparta off Cnidus, on the west coast of Asia Minor. As a result he rebuilt the Long Walls, which the Spartans had demolished to the

music of flutes ten years before, believing they were inaugurating the freedom of Greece. The walls of Piraeus were also rebuilt, and those of the city were repeatedly strengthened in the course of the 4th century, notably by the addition of a ditch or moat as protection against siege machinery.

Building in the late 4th century

Apart from military works, there was little building in 4th-century Athens until the years 338–322 BC, when the orator Lycurgus was in control of the state finances and there was great activity. On the Pnyx, the broad-backed hill west of the Acropolis where the Athenian popular assembly had met since the reforms of Cleisthenes (a 6th-century constitution maker), a large auditorium was constructed. At the same time, two large stoas were started on the terrace above. The theatre of Dionysus was rebuilt and greatly enlarged, with stone seats to accommodate the crowds. (Lycurgus did another service to the theatre by having definitive copies made of the old plays.) The Panathenaic stadium was also built about then, partly with state funds and partly by private contributions: the land was donated by a certain Deinias, and one Eudemus of Plataea provided 1,000 yoke of draft animals to level the ground. The period was one of lavish private expenditure in other fields as well. The tripods won in choral contests were displayed on elaborate monuments, sometimes even resembling small temples: the best preserved of these is that of Lysicrates (334 BC), a small round building with six Corinthian columns. Tombs also became increasingly elaborate, often portraying the whole family in high relief. In 315 BC a stop was put to all this extravagance by the sumptuary laws of Demetrius of Phalerum.

Meanwhile, the philosophy schools flourished. Plato (*c.* 428–348/347 BC) established himself in the Academy, a gymnasium that had existed since at least the 6th century BC in the great olive grove about a mile west of the city. Plato himself had a house and garden near by. Aristotle and his Peripatetics occupied the Lyceum, another gymnasium, just outside the city to the east, and his successor Theophrastus lived near by. Antisthenes and the Cynics used the Cynosarges gymnasium to the southeast of the city. Zeno held forth in the heart of the city, in the Stoa Poikile, or Painted Colonnade, in the Agora, and his followers were therefore known as Stoics. Epicurus and his followers had a house and garden in town.

Apart from its temples and public buildings and its great avenues, however, Athens seems to have made a poor impression. A 3rd-century-BC visitor complained that the city was dry and ill-supplied with water, that it was badly laid out because of its great antiquity, and that most of the houses were mean. The streets were in fact narrow and winding, and the houses, it is true, presented a blank wall to the street except for the entrance door, but then they were built around a central courtyard, off which the various rooms opened. There was often an upper story, and the court had a well. Water brought in by the aqueducts was not considered good because it was hard (containing salts of magnesium or calcium) and caused rheumatism. Waste water was carried off in an elaborate system of underground drains beneath the streets. (For related information, see GREEK CIVILIZATION, ANCIENT.)

The building of the Erechtheum

Hellenistic and Roman times. Athens in Hellenistic and Roman times depended for its embellishment less on its own resources than on the generosity of foreign princes. One of the Ptolemies (rulers of Egypt) gave a gymnasium, erected near the sanctuary of Theseus, and the Ptolemies were probably also instrumental in the founding of the sanctuary of the Egyptian gods Isis and Sarapis. More important were the donations of the Attalids of Pergamum (a dynasty of Asia Minor); Eumenes II (197–159 BC) gave a large, two-story colonnade on the south slope of the Acropolis near the theatre. His brother Attalus II (159–138 BC), who had studied at Athens under the philosopher Carneades, head of the New Academy, likewise gave a colonnade. This was a large, elaborate, two-story building more than 350 feet long with a row of shops at the rear. It was located on the eastern side of the Agora and has been reconstructed in modern times (1953–56) to serve as the Museum of the Agora excavations. The Stoa of Attalus was the first element in a large-scale reconstruction of the Agora. It was followed in quick succession by three buildings, the Middle Stoa, the East Building, and the South Stoa, which together formed a separate South Square in the southern half of the Agora.

Donations of the Attalids

The capture of Athens by the Roman general Sulla in 86 BC was accompanied by great slaughter and much destruction of private houses, but the only public building to be destroyed was the Odeum of Pericles, burned by the defenders of the Acropolis lest its timbers be used by the enemy. The Odeum was rebuilt on the same plan a few years later, through the generosity of King Ariobarzanes of Cappadocia.

Under the Roman Empire, Athens enjoyed imperial favour. A spacious market for the sale of oil and other commodities was laid out east of the old Agora with funds originally provided by Julius Caesar and supplemented by the emperor Augustus. In the old Agora itself, a new odeum, or concert hall, was built in the middle of the square by Marcus Agrippa, the emperor's son-in-law and one of his chief lieutenants. A large building, perhaps a law court, was also erected at the northeast corner. At the southeast corner of the Agora a handsome library was erected about AD 100, the gift of one T. Flavius Pantainus and his family. It was decorated with a group of marble sculpture representing Homer flanked by the Iliad and the Odyssey. On the Acropolis a small round temple was erected to the goddess Roma and the emperor Augustus.

Hadrian's devotion to Athens

The emperor Hadrian (AD 117–138) completed the great temple of Olympian Zeus, started over 600 years earlier by the Peisistratids. This temple formed the chief ornament of the new eastern suburb of Athens, and Hadrian gave the area a monumental entrance through a gateway, the inscriptions on which proclaimed, on one side, "This is the Athens of Theseus, the old city," and, on the other, "This is the city of Hadrian, not of Theseus." Hadrian also built a library, a gymnasium, and a Pantheon (a sanctuary of all the gods). His aqueduct, which brought water from the mountains to the north, has been reconditioned and still serves the modern city.

In the reign of Valerian (AD 253–260), the walls of Athens, which had been neglected since Sulla's capture of the city in 86 BC and had fallen into ruin, were rebuilt, and the circuit was extended to include the new suburb northeast of the Olympieion. This was done because of the threat of a barbarian invasion, but when that invasion came, in AD 267, the walls were of no avail. The Heruli, a Germanic people from northern Europe, easily captured Athens, and though the historian P. Herennius Dexippus rallied 2,000 men on the city outskirts, they could only resort to guerrilla tactics. The lower town was sacked, and all the buildings of the Agora were burned and destroyed. The Acropolis, however, may have held out; at least there is no evidence of extensive damage at this time.

This sack of Athens is comparable only to that by the Persians in 480 BC, but now the reaction was quite different. The Athenians abandoned the outer circuit and established a new and much smaller line north of the Acropolis, leaving even the Agora area outside the walls. This new wall, which, on the evidence of coins, was built in the reign of Probus (AD 276–282), consisted of material taken from ruined buildings in the lower town.

Athens remained confined within this narrow circuit for several generations, but in the 4th and 5th centuries experienced a revival. The old outer circuit of the walls was restored, and many new buildings were erected. Athens at this time was still the cultural capital of the Greek world and a stronghold of Paganism. Its schools of philosophy, which retained their ancient names, however different their outlooks may have been, flourished, attracting students from all parts. These included the emperor Julian the Apostate and two Fathers of the Church, Basil and Gregory Nazianzene. While the schools existed, Athens remained a place of consequence, but when they were closed by the emperor Justinian in AD 529, Athens sank to the level of a small provincial town. Power and

wealth had long since moved to Constantinople, the new centre of the Greek world.

The Byzantine and Turkish periods. Christianity started early in Athens, with the visit of the apostle Paul in AD 51 and the conversion of Dionysius the Areopagite, a former archon and member of the Court of the Areopagus that had heard Paul's defense of his teachings. The little Christian community did not flourish, however, and Athens remained a stronghold of older ways. In the 5th and 6th centuries, however, after the formal establishment of Christianity and the abolition of pagan worship, churches began to be built. These were sometimes ancient temples converted to Christian worship; for example, the Parthenon, the Erechtheum, and the temple of Hephaestus (the "Theseum"). Newly built churches had a basilica plan and a wooden roof, but these now survive only in foundations. In all, some 22 churches of this period are known.

Effects of Christianity on Athens

The 7th to 10th centuries were dark times for Athens. The city is almost never mentioned in the history of the period, and archaeological remains are few. In the 11th and 12th centuries a measure of prosperity returned, and the taste of Athenians then can be gauged by the number of small stone and brick churches surviving, built on the Byzantine cross-in-square plan, such as the Kapnikaréa, and those of the Saint Theodore and the Holy Apostles.

Athens fell to the Crusaders in 1204, remaining in Latin hands for 250 years. The town's outward appearance changed little, except that the Parthenon, now a Catholic not an Orthodox cathedral, received a campanile (bell tower).

When the Turks captured Athens in 1456, the Parthenon became a mosque, and its campanile was turned into a minaret. Other mosques were built in the lower town, but in general the age of gunpowder was to prove disastrous for Athenian architecture, especially on the Acropolis, which was still virtually intact as late as the mid-17th century. (E.V.)

THE MODERN CITY

Athens, when approached from the Middle East, is the first European city, with tall buildings, newspaper kiosks, modern shops, and modishly dressed women. Approached from Europe, it seems, if not exactly the first Oriental city, at any rate not quite European, in its ill-fitting, locally tailored modernity. The European notes a medley of characterless concrete and out-of-style dress, with the smell of spitted meat and spices in narrow streets as clamorous as bazaars and unpaved roads a few streets from the centre.

The Athenian character. Nevertheless, it is wrong to say that Athens is a mixture of East and West: it is Greek and, more particularly, Athenian. The Athenians, after all, nurtured Western civilization. Yet, some three centuries after the death of Pericles (429 BC), they entered upon a period of bondage that lasted almost 2,000 years. Athens was freed in 1833, and in the following 135 years was the scene of 14 revolutions, another brutal foreign occupation, and a civil war of especial savagery. This long history of passion and suffering has had considerable effect on the Athenian character. The core of that character is an implacable will to survive, buttressed by a profound sense of loyalty (especially to the family) and patriotism. The church, which is directed by a Synod sitting in Athens, was a main force in keeping alive the Greek language, tradition, and literature when such things were forbidden, and most people still support it.

The 2,000-year bondage

The millennia of oppression, instead of driving the Athenian into obtuse moroseness, have honed his wit and rendered him tough but supple, while centuries of privation have only preserved his warmth and generosity. The long oral tradition, alive even under the invader, has reflected and stimulated a taste for rich talk. Of course, the poetic impulse to make a good story better leads to considerable exaggeration in daily conversation, suiting a vanity that goes with a sharp-edged sense of personal and family honour and the spoiling of children. The ancient heroes, too, were vain about both themselves and honour, boasting as much about outwitting the enemy as about outfighting him. Cunning, as in the Odyssey, is still a virtue here.

Athens' development as a modern capital. One-quarter of the nation's population, half its urban population, lives in Athens, and, despite sporadic efforts at decentralization, the city remains the capital in every sense. Since 1833, when Athens became the capital of an independent Greece, the population of the country has increased 12 times, that of Athens 150 times.

In 1833, indeed, there was almost no Athens at all. During the fight for independence, it had been entirely evacuated in 1827, and six years later held perhaps 4,000 people in the straggle of little houses on the north slope below the Acropolis. The newly imported King of the Hellenes, Otho, the 18-year-old son of Ludwig I of Bavaria, was installed in the only two-story stone house, while his German architects hurried ahead with plans for a palace and a new Athens far out in the fields.

Below the well-sited but very plain palace, a large garden square, Síntagma (Constitution) Square, was laid out. Today it is garnished in the tourist season with some of Europe's most luxurious cafe chairs, and at all seasons is hemmed in by tall new buildings and elderly luxury hotels. Broad avenues were created and are still the city centre's principal thoroughfares (Winston Churchill [formerly, Stadium] and Elefthérios [formerly, Venizélos and Panepistimíou] streets), between which an orderly grid of narrow side streets was laid out. The housing that developed was generally the sort of architecture familiar in Victorian London: solid, porched, rather imposing, the later imitations graceless and monotonous. In Athens it is called the Othonian style, but there is little of it left as the centre encroaches on old residential areas.

Once the new capital was established, the city grew at a regular rate of about 7 percent a year, soon reaching 50,000 inhabitants, a figure not much exceeded in the days of Athens' greatest power and glory. By 1907 the municipality had a population of 167,479, Omónia Square had been built at the western end of the two main streets, with other broad avenues radiating from it, but it did not develop as the hoped-for balance to Síntagma.

By now the railway to Piraeus (the port of Athens) had been built, its station near the antique Agora and its tracks laid over the Painted Stoa. Indeed, the city plan projected a logical growth southward along this axis, but a real-estate developer beckoned northward—the National Museum is now out this way—and the newly rich followed. The palace garden almost touched the Arch of Hadrian and the 15 mammoth columns (some of them seven feet ten inches in diameter) of the temple of Olympian Zeus, last of the Classical buildings built in Athens, and beyond lay empty fields. The slopes of Mt. Likavittós, outside the town limits, were still pine-clad.

Since then, the garden has become one of the painfully rare public parks in Athens. Likavittós now rears up in the middle of the city (as if Hyde Park or Central Park were a 1,112-foot [339-metre] mountain), its lower slopes built upon, and many of the trees felled for a road leading to a cog railway and restaurant.

Along Elefthérios (Venizélos) Street rose the Academy of Athens in marble from Mt. Pentelicus, its pediments and colonnades gilded. Its new neighbours were the University of Athens (re-founded in 1837), the colonnade adorned with paintings, and the National Library. All were done in Greek Revival style by the Court's German architects. A new Royal Palace was built during 1891–97, a little southeast of the old (which is now a Parliament house) on Herodes Atticus Street. This leads to the 70,000-seat Panathenaic Stadium, reconstructed by an expatriate Greek millionaire in time for the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896.

Population. In 1921 the orderly progress of Athens was overturned and haphazard development began, for ethnic minorities were exchanged between Greece and Turkey, and approximately 1,500,000 Greeks, most of them penniless, came "home" from Asia Minor. Despite government efforts to resettle them elsewhere, many swarmed into shanty towns around the fringes of Athens and Piraeus, and the area's population soared from 473,-

000 to 718,000. The city is still clearing slums that began as refugee colonies. After this, the city began to spread in two directions, south toward Piraeus and north toward the village of Kifissia, which first became a smart suburb when Herodes Atticus built his villa there in the 1st century BC. The 1940 census showed 481,000 inhabitants in Athens proper, and 1,124,000 in the Athens Basin.

In the decade before the next census, hideous things happened in Athens. During the German occupation, a truck toured the streets picking up the bodies of starvation victims, and the city began to fall apart from lack of maintenance. When the Germans left, part of the Allied-equipped Resistance refused to lay down its arms, and the civil war began. For a while the government held only the Parliament building, neighbouring embassies, and a part of Constitution Square, while the palace garden was used as a common grave.

Housing. Shortly after, a construction boom began, which had still not stopped by the early 1970s. New apartment houses pushing up everywhere erased old social boundaries, though the Kolonáki district on the southeast slope of Likavittós remained an enclave of respectable fortunes, and villages that had been attached to the city in the previous expansion lost their physical and political identities. A network of major highways was thrown up. The west side of the historic olive grove by the Kifisós River was shorn, and hillside greenery began to disappear under housing, either unauthorized or made legal through political skullduggery. Open space vanished, without provision for parks, playgrounds, or even schools, and Athens spread down to the sea by Glifada, joining up with Piraeus. Piraeus itself was transformed from one of the world's celebrated honky-tonk ports into a clean, new-built, flower-decorated city.

Enlargement of the city's master plan

The Athens master plan was enlarged several times to keep pace with spread, which in 1964 already attained 75 square miles (195.6 square kilometres), with a built-up area of 17 square miles outside the plan altogether. Land values in the centre quadrupled, then octupled, and rose proportionately elsewhere. Traffic increased almost to the saturation point at rush hours, and the city continued to sprawl over the plain. As international tourism increased, Athens Airport, with 3,008,000 passengers in 1970, was expanded and modernized, and 25,000 hotel beds were still 5,000 too few in 1971's peak season.

The city water supply from an artificial lake at Marathon was insufficient to supply new building construction and the Mornos River 110 miles to the east was dammed and tapped. Installation of a modern sewer system was undertaken, together with controls to check the floods that roar into Athens when heavy rains pour off the denuded mountains.

Economic life. *Commerce and manufacturing.* Since World War I Athens has become the hub of all mercantile business, export and import. With the Piraeus, it is the most important manufacturing town in Greece. There are cloth and cotton mills, distilleries, breweries, potteries, flour mills, soap factories, tanneries, chemical works, and carpet factories. Exports include tobacco, wine, oil, currants, marble, and, recently, bauxite and magnesite. Publishing enterprises are important. The principal imports are coal, grain, and manufactured articles.

Transportation and shipping. By 1970 Athens accounted for more than half the nation's telephones, more than half its cars, trucks, and buses, and half the jobs in industry and handicrafts. Average earnings were three times higher than the national average. Furthermore, between 1967 and late 1970, the number of merchant ships registered in Greece (mostly at Piraeus) increased from 1,771 to 2,315 as Greek shipowners answered the government's call to bring their foreign-registered ships home (though 3,561 Greek ships remained under other flags). Likewise, shipping receipts rose in the same period from $182,400,000 to $269,760,000. In 1970 alone, 130 shipping offices opened in refurbished Piraeus, while on weekends, shipping magnates sailed to the nearby islands of Hydra and Spetse in chrome-fitted luxury yachts, flying Panamanian and Liberian flags. It hardly seemed to matter where the official city limits stood, since Athens was overrunning everything: the population at the 1971 census was 2,530,207.

Environmental and modernization problems. The brilliant Attic light is now dimmed by the pall of pollution hovering over the city. To discourage new factories from adding to the problem and to stimulate modernization of other regions' economies an industrial wage tax was imposed in the Athens area, and a reduction of up to 40 percent tax on turnover was offered to new factories set up in other areas.

Old Athens

The older Athens has not entirely disappeared in all this hubbub. Older men may have given up smoking hookahs (pipes passing through water) in shadowy cafes but not their 33-bead *kombouloi* ("worry beads"), a tension-dissipating addiction acquired from the Turks.

Old Athens also lives on in the six streets sidling off Monastiraki, by the excavated Agora. Here are tiny open-fronted shops hung with tinseled folk costumes, boots apparently captured from German soldiers in 1944, and all the monuments of Athens reproduced in copper, plaster, plastic, and paint. There is an alley of antique dealers, a street of smithies, one of hardware merchants, and another of wildly assorted miscellany.

Close to this lively quarter is the Pláka, on the north slope of the Acropolis. Small, one-story houses, dating from about the time of Independence, are clustered together up the hillside in peasant simplicity. There are appropriately tiny squares, with *tavernae*, once celebrated for their folk music, dancing, and simple fare. There are vine-covered pergolas and some unpaved streets too narrow for cars. The baths built by the Turks still function morning and afternoon, but the *bouzouki*, local relative of the lute, is giving way to the electric guitar, the *taverna* signs are multilingual, and the ubiquitous kitchen chair is being replaced by the plastic-ribbed restaurant seat. Progress laps at the Pláka like a vengeful sea, but the Acropolis is just up above, just under the stars. (B.E.)

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(B.E./E.V.)

Atheriniformes

The order Atheriniformes contains 15 families of marine and freshwater spiny-finned fishes, including the flying fishes, needlefishes, silversides, and cyprinodonts. The last group, the Cyprinodontidae, is an abundant tropical

Bob:

A few questions re Souda Bay:

-- what did these 2 Gk ships do in DESERT STORM -- how do we characterize the Gk role generally (e.g., patrols in the Gulf -- or expanded Mediterranean duty...)??

-- give Navy another shot to see which of our boats will be there.

My notion is to roll all the "tanks, planes and boats for Greece" into one tight section, along with a ringing declaration of our unwavering commitment to the security of our fellow NATO member etc., etc. -- and then get on with some color and anecdotes that just might give these sailors something to clap about....

Thanks
DMcH

IF They're decided:
will Pers be on
ship or dock?
Will he tour Gk ship(s)?
yes

A/SD - Souda Bay ?:
historical signif??

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42108

Eisenhower also expressed interest in the steps His Imperial Majesty is taking to promote social progress. The President said that the United States intends to continue to assist Iran in the mutual interest of both nations.

The President took the opportunity to express the admiration of the people of the United States for the brave stand of the Iranian people and Government in the face of outside pressure.

NOTE: This joint statement was released in Tehran.

323 ¶ Remarks at the Mehrabad Airport, Tehran, Upon Leaving for Greece. *December* 14, 1959

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen:

During my brief hours here in Iran, I have learned much. First of all, I have learned about the hospitality and cordiality of the Iranian people and their leaders. I appreciate and am grateful for every greeting from every citizen that I saw all along the route.

I am particularly grateful to His Majesty for his many courtesies this morning to me and my party.

I should like to say a special word of farewell to the Diplomatic Corps. I should like to greet you again personally, but the hour grows late for my departure, and I must leave. I am sorry, and I want to apologize to this beautiful country and all its citizens because I didn't and couldn't stay longer. I would like to stay as many days as I have hours.

Thank you until we can meet again. Goodbye.

NOTE: Following the luncheon at the Marble Palace, the President left for the airport accompanied by the Shah of Iran.

324 ¶ Remarks Upon Arrival at Hellinikon Airport, Athens. *December* 14, 1959

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great privilege to be welcomed to this city for the first time in 7 years. I come back to a country that is responsible for much that belongs to Western culture and civilization.

When I came here 7 years ago, I found this nation to be one—in its courage, in its hardihood, in its adherence to principle—truly as great as those Greek city states that we learned to love and admire from the days when as little boys we learned our ancient history.

So I assure you again that the welcome from His Majesty, the audience, and the people—individuals here, it means much to me, and I hope as I have my talks with His Majesty, His Majesty's Government, that we will find much that we can exchange between ourselves that will be fruitful for the solution of any problems between us.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:47 p.m. He was met by King Paul, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, Greek officials, U.S. Ambassador Ellis O. Briggs, and members of the U.S. Embassy.

325 ¶ Address to the Members of the Parliament of Greece. *December* 15, 1959

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Beatitude, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Representatives of the Hellenes:

I am greatly honored that I have been invited to speak before this distinguished Parliament.

Greatness and grandeur are all about us; greatness and grandeur of ideas and ideals that were born and first enunciated nearby; of men forever memorable who walked and lived here, of a people whose valor and vitality and wisdom are written large on the human record. Your present Government and its leaders, your distinguished Prime Minister, are producing a record of achievement that makes them worthy successors to their illustrious predecessors.

I represent in this place 180 million men and women who with you of Greece share the golden legacy of culture and civilization bequeathed by your forebears to the Western World. We Americans, with you Greeks, are fellow-heirs to the glory of Greece.

In this city of Athens, more than a score of centuries ago, democracy—in its principles and in its practices—first won the hearts and minds of men. This house of free representative government symbolizes the vigor of modern democracy in its ancient birthplace; demonstrates that the will of men to be free is imperishable.

In our common dedication to the ideals of democracy our two countries—America and Greece—feel a basic kinship. An American can feel as much at home here as in Washington or Abilene, my own village, or Brooklyn—just as Greeks quickly find themselves at home in those three places in America.

To this Parliament, I come with a message of admiration and respect from the American people to the Greek people, and for the light of inspiration that shone out, in our own day, to all the free world from this land and its islands.

You have proved yourselves fearless of defense in your independence; tireless in your attack on the evils of hardship and privation; ready for sacrifice that your children might enjoy a brighter day. And, beset with hardship and difficulty at home, you joined in cooperation with the other countries of the Atlantic Alliance for mutual defense and security. Your Expeditionary Force to Korea, by its valor and heroism, helped sustain the rule of law and the United Nations in that divided nation.

The American people—and I am sure all the free peoples of the world—salute you, valiant and worthy heirs to the Greek traditions.

And now, briefly, permit me to speak on a cause close to my heart; close, I hope, to the hearts of all who believe in the brotherhood, the dignity, the divine origin and destiny of man as a child of God, created in His image.

The cause is: peace and friendship in freedom.

The Greek and American peoples share a common and deep devotion to peace. We share further the conviction that we must sustain the conditions under which the goal of peace may be pursued effectively.

We must be strong militarily, economically—but above all, spiritually. By developing and preserving such strength—by forever repudiating the use of aggressive force—we shall win the sort of peace we want; with friendship in freedom.

I mean peace that is creative, dynamic, fostering a world climate that will relieve men and their governments of the intolerable burden of armaments; liberate them from the haunting fear of global war and universal death.

I mean friendship that is spontaneous and warm, welling up from a deep conviction that all of us are more concerned with the bettering of our circumstances; giving our children wider opportunity and brighter promise—than in destroying each other.

I mean freedom in which, under the rule of law, every human will have the right and a fair chance to live his own life; to choose his own path; to work out his own destiny; that nations will be free from misgivings and mistrust, able to develop their resources for the good of their people.

To this cause of peace and friendship in freedom, Greeks are contributing all their hearts and minds and energies. Joined with the free men of the world they can help mankind at long last to enjoy the fullness of life envisioned by the sages of ancient Greece.

Honorable Members of Parliament, I want to assure you again of the very deep sense of distinction that I feel in the invitation to address you. I feel that here I am with men who, like myself and all other Americans, love peace and freedom and want to work with you for it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. His opening words "Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Beatitude" referred to Constantine Rodopoulos, Speaker of the unicameral parliament, Constantine Karamanlis, Prime Minister, and Archbishop Theoklitos, Primate of Greece.

326 ¶ Toast by the President at a Luncheon Given in His Honor by King Paul. *December* 15, 1959

Your Majesty:

My heartfelt thanks are extended to the people of Greece for the warm welcome they have accorded me. This welcome reflects the friendship between our two peoples—a friendship cemented in war and in our common effort to preserve and to amplify the concept of liberty, a heritage from the ancient Greeks.

Your Majesty has spoken eloquently of the mission of my country. I believe that the essential element in the alliance of people dedicated to freedom, including those sharing the responsibilities of NATO, is that we are equals who respect each other's interest.

Our alliance is based upon single will to maintain human dignity. This alliance of ours is a union of like-minded peoples, each contributing to the limit of their capacity. The devotion of the Greek people to this common ideal is nowhere more amply attested than in the settlement of the Cyprus problem.

I agree with Your Majesty that we in the free world today confront a great challenge.

How we shall meet it depends in large measure upon our determination, patience, and strength in union. In this test, I have no doubt that the heroic Greek people, who for thousands of years have guarded their independence with fierce decisiveness, will stand in the vanguard.

And so I raise my glass to His Majesty, the King, stalwart standard-bearer of the unquenchable spirit of Hellenism, and to the people of Greece, whose steadfast allegiance to right inspires the admiration of the American people. In union, and with the guidance of the Almighty, may we forge ahead to peace, justice, and prosperity for all mankind.

NOTE: The President proposed this toast at a luncheon at the royal palace.

327 ¶ Joint Statement Following Discussions With Prime Minister Karamanlis. *December* 15, 1959

ON THE occasion of his official visit to Greece on the fourteenth and fifteenth of December, the President of the United States Mr. Dwight Eisenhower concluded talks with the Prime Minister of Greece Mr. Constantine Karamanlis. Present at the talks were the American Ambassador, Mr. Ellis O. Briggs, and the Under Secretary of State Mr. Robert Murphy, and on the Greek side the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Panayotis Kanellopoulos, and the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Constantine Tsatsos.

The President expressed his warm appreciation of the hospitality extended by Their Majesties King Paul and Queen Frederika, and of all the Greek people.

The talks covered a wide range of general and specific topics of common interest to both countries.

Both countries affirmed their faith in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their staunch support of the objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which based on the solidarity of its members, aim at the firm establishment of security, and at peace with justice. The relaxation of world tensions was discussed in this spirit.

The Greek Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation for the great

endeavor for peace undertaken by President Eisenhower. Both agreed that the consolidation of world peace must be pursued in such a way as to guarantee the independence of all nations and the freedom of the individual.

Historic instances in which both countries stood side by side in hard struggles were recalled, and in this context the importance of Greece in the common defense effort was recognized.

Opinions were exchanged concerning those parts of the world of particular interest to Greece. Careful account was taken of her special position in the Balkans and the general situation in this area as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean, was examined. It was agreed that the two governments should exchange views on matters of mutual concern involving these areas. The prospective emergence of an independent Cyprus State was hailed with special satisfaction.

The Greek Prime Minister expressed the gratitude of the Greek people for the enduring interest and help being extended by the American people. He also explained to the President the problems the country faces in seeking to raise the standard of living of the Greek people and maintaining the obligations and responsibilities of its position in the defense structure of the Free World.

President Eisenhower, recognizing the special economic and social conditions of Greece, expressed his admiration for the improvement being accomplished by the country and reaffirmed the interest of the American people in the security and economic development of Greece.

Generally it was recognized that improvement in the standard of living in the economically less developed countries constitutes a vital element in the consolidation of international peace.

The conversations were held in an atmosphere of deep sincerity and warm cordiality such as have traditionally characterized the relations of the two countries, and which were so happily confirmed by the visit to Greece of the President of the United States.

NOTE: This joint statement was released in Athens.

The President took leave of Their Majesties at the royal palace. Prime Minister Karamanlis accompanied him to the stadium for departure by helicopter for the U.S.S. Des Moines, the flagship of the Sixth Fleet. The President spent 2 days aboard the Des Moines en route to Tunisia.

7/3/89 MacLean's

GREECE

Scandal and stalemate

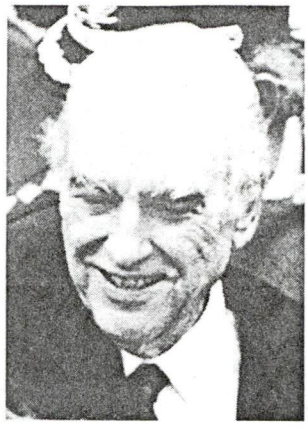
An election creates a modern Greek drama

The Greeks have a word for it: *katharsis.* It means a thorough cleansing—which is what conservative New Democracy party leader Constantine Mitsotakis promised the Greek electorate if it voted the scandal-plagued Panhellenic Socialist Movement out of office in the June 18 general election. But although the voters did just that, giving New Democracy 44 per cent of the poll and forcing PASOK prime minister Andreas Papandreou to resign after eight years in power, they left the conservatives six seats short of a parliamentary majority. And when Mitsotakis predictably failed last week to persuade the far-left third force in Greek politics to join an interim coalition to perform the promised cleanup, that left Greece in a state for which the Anglo-Saxons have a word: deadlock.

The next move in a complex constitutional game was for the discredited Papandreou to try to coax Harilaos Florakis, the Communist leader of the Coalition of Leftist and Progressive Forces, to share power with him. PASOK's 125 seats and the leftist coalition's 28 would add up to a slender majority in the 300-seat parliament. But before he could open negotiations with Florakis, the 70-year-old Papandreou—who underwent major heart surgery last year—was stricken with pneumonia and rushed to hospital, making his chances of success even flimsier. Although the far left might normally consider PASOK a natural ally, sharing power with Papandreou at this point would also mean sharing the odium of the sexual and financial scandals that have swirled around him and his administration for months. And with Papandreou's health once more in doubt, it seemed likely that Greece would soon have to go to the polls again—possibly as early as September.

Until waves of scandal began to break around him a year ago, Papandreou had seemed assured of a third term. Then his long-rumored liaison with Dimitra (Mimi) Liani, a former air hostess half his age, became public knowledge. Opposition newspapers published nude photographs of Liani, while the infatuated Papandreou sued his 65-year-old, U.S.-born wife, Margaret, for a divorce that was finalized one day after the election. Next to break was a long-simmering scandal involving George Koskotas, the owner of the Bank of Crete, and the misuse of $252 million in government funds—much of which allegedly ended up in the pockets of Papandreou's colleagues and friends. Indeed, Koskotas, 34—who fled Greece last November and is currently in jail in the United States awaiting trial on a variety of charges—has threatened to produce hard evidence incriminating Papandreou himself.

Papandreou tried to dismiss the Bank of Crete scandal as a CIA plot to discredit him because of his declared opposition to the maintenance of U.S. military bases in Greece. But, clearly, a significant number of Greek voters did not accept that explanation. Despite Papandreou's solid support in rural districts, his government's control of radio and television, and the lack of charisma of his main opponent, Mitsotakis, his party's share of the vote fell to 39 per cent from 46 per cent in 1985. Unbowed, Papandreou tried to give those results a positive spin. "The Greek people gave a majority to the democratic progressive forces and excluded the Right from returning to power," he said. Meanwhile, Mitsotakis's failure to win more than 145 seats, despite his advantages, earned him the criticism of many in his own party. Still, he declared: "The Greek people in their overwhelming majority have condemned the PASOK government and its scandals and corruption."

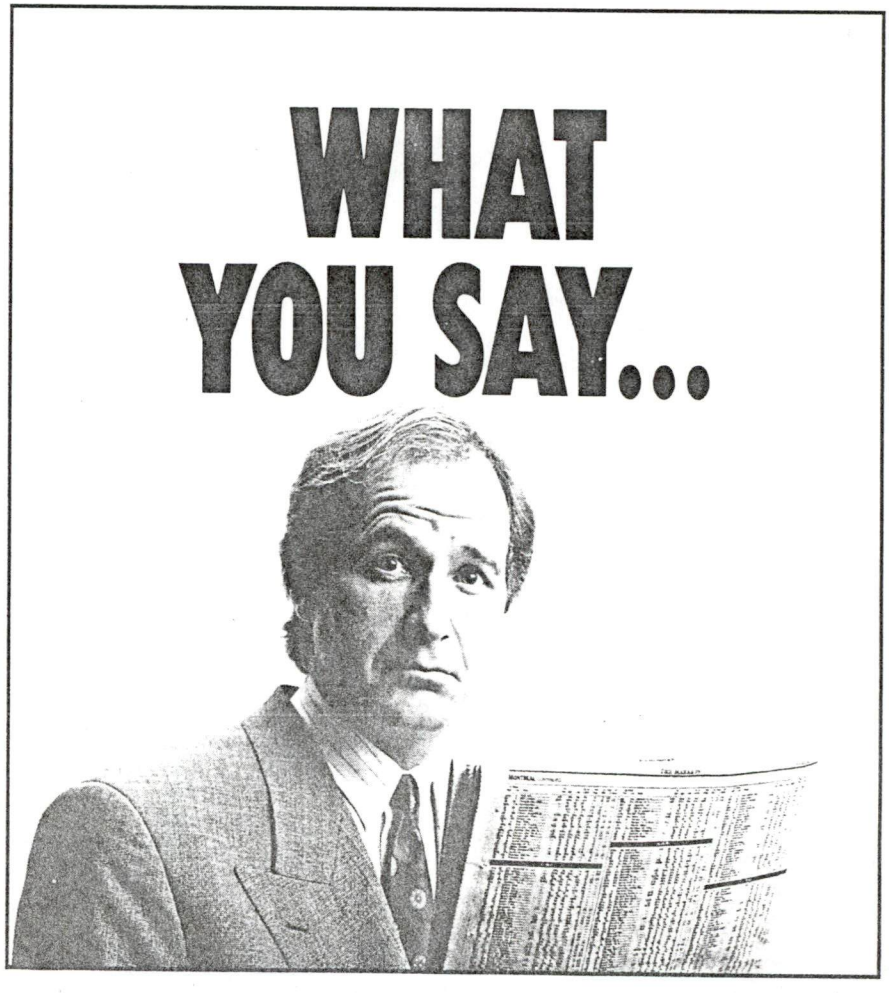


AP

Papandreou: discredited

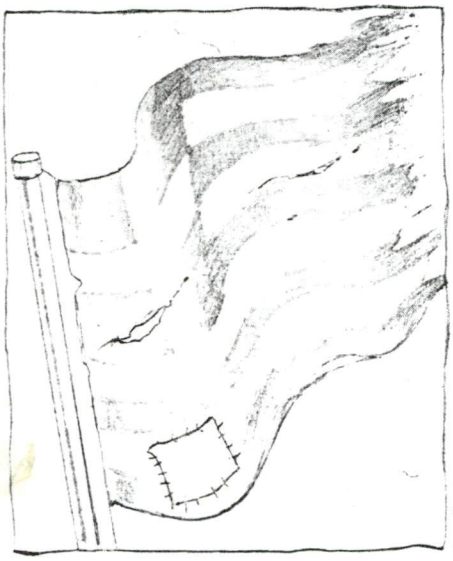
In fact, it was Florakis's leftist coalition, finishing a distant third, that emerged from the election with enhanced political power. Because of a new electoral system, under which it doubled its representation in parliament without increasing its share of the vote, the coalition cracked the two-party pattern of Greek politics and emerged as a key power broker. Yielding to the temptation to join a coalition government would give the Communists a share of power in Greece for the first time in decades. And that added another twist to the plot of the Greek drama playing to an enthralled political audience in Athens last week.

JOHN BIERMAN *with PETER THOMPSON in Athens*



Greece Adrift

RICHARD C. CARPENTER



Jennifer Lawson

ATHENS—The general elections in Greece last week mark the second time in five months that voters gave no political party a clear mandate to govern the country. This means fresh elections in the not too distant future, with protracted economic instability and foreign-policy uncertainty.

As *NR* goes to press, the center-right, Socialist, and Communist parties are haggling over various odd-ball possibilities for a governing coalition. If these talks fail, a "national unity" or "caretaker" government will be formed. In any case, by the time these lines are read Greeks may be headed toward the polls again, perhaps as early as December 17.

For those who take their news about Greece in occasional spurts, all this may sound strange. Indeed, most of the international media had been portraying former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou as easy prey. His popularity had plummeted thanks to charges of large-scale government corruption (none yet substantiated, but probably all true). In the June elections, his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) was ousted from power.

But it was never reasonable to assume, as most pundits did, that the quasi-conservative Constantine Mitsotakis and his New Democracy party (ND) would automatically pick up the votes Pasok lost. The way the November campaign was waged, and the election results themselves, demonstrate why ND is unlikely to win the next round, or to govern long or well if it does win.

True, the Communist-led Coalition of the Left and Progress dropped two points; it garnered only 10.9 per cent of the vote. Unfortunately, scandal-ridden as it is, Pasok still managed a 1.5-point increase, to 40.7 per cent. The ND's vote increased by only two points, to 46.2 per cent. ND now holds 148 of the three hundred seats in parliament (up three, but still three shy of a majority), Pasok has 128 (also up three), and the Communists have 21 (down seven). The three remaining seats went to various independents. In short, the center-left to hard-left still accounts for some 52 per cent of parliament.

At first glance ND's position might not seem too bad. After all, it did improve on its June performance. In fact, however, in recent Greek history, when two hotly contested general elections are held this close together, the party that is in the ascendancy would normally gain more than ten points. It has taken ND eight years to edge up 10.3 points.

ND's inability to make more than incremental gains is deeply disconcerting to Greece's allies as well as to Greeks themselves. Even if the party obtains a marginal majority, Pasok and/or Communist forces could hamstring an ND government.

Although numerous factors have impeded ND's performance, the recent failures are attributable chiefly to leadership problems. The course Mitsotakis chose for the last campaign illustrates the point.

First, ND did not adequately define its opponent for the electorate. It relied on allegations of Pasok scandals rather than emphasizing the parties' policy differences.

Second, ND leaders went whoring after left-wing votes. First, there was the cock-and-bull coalition with the Communists. Then, ND accepted the Communist composer Mikis Theodorakis as one of its own—the first free-market-oriented party in Europe to have a recipient of the Order of Lenin as a candidate for state deputy.

Third, on economic policy, Mitsotakis waffled between promises of Thatcherite programs one day, and notions of following a Mitterrand or González model the next.

Fourth, Mitsotakis sent out confusing signals regarding foreign policy. For example, he promised Greece would finally give Israel diplomatic recognition, but then added a prominent exponent of Greek anti-Semitism to ND's ticket. On issues such as participation in NATO, the future of U.S. military facilities in Greece, bilateral relations with Turkey, and Common Market cooperation, he became much like Andreas Papandreou: a man of his most recent word.

The impression made? According to one Western observer, ND has become a "hodge-podge of political misfits and has-beens strung together with ill-defined ideology"; it "ought to be called not New Democracy but New Menagerie."

"It's high time to send Mr. No-Win packing," says a party insider. "If he won't leave peaceably, the party—at least a large segment of it—may soon leave him behind."

These sentiments of disgust have not yet reached groundswell proportions. But after a string of defeats (even if close ones) and erratic swings in policy, the message that ND must reform itself is abundantly clear.

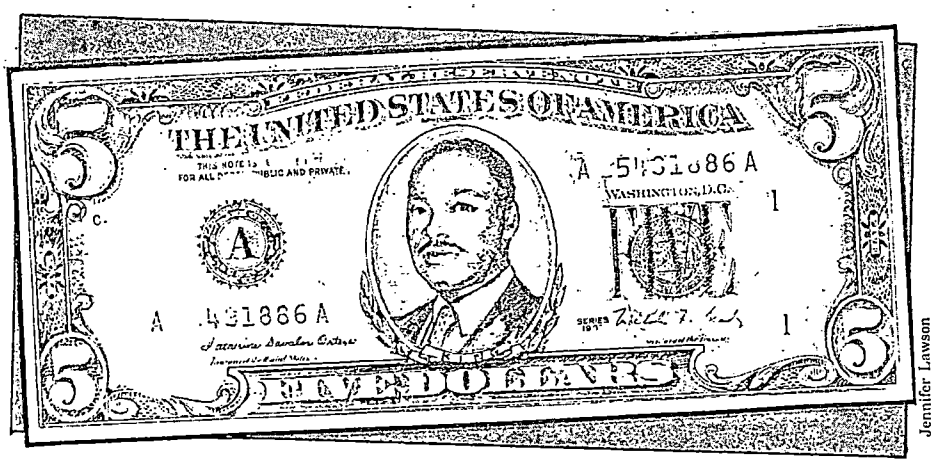
Sadly, it may already be too late. Papandreou is sniggering on the sideline, calculating his prospects and reportedly preparing a "spectacular development" to solidify his position and

Mr. Carpenter, NR's Athens corespondent, has lived in Greece since 1981.

boost Pasok's support. If he delivers even half of what he is promising, democracy will suffer a further blow in the land of its birth. □

The Regents' Round Table

LAWRENCE AUSTER



Jennifer Lawson

NEW YORK—The radicalization of American schools proceeds apace. A report recently issued by New York State Commissioner of Education Thomas Sobol, entitled "A Curriculum of Inclusion," opens with the declaration that "African Americans, Asian Americans, Puerto Ricans/Latinos, and Native Americans have all been the victims of an intellectual and educational oppression that has characterized the culture and institutions of the United States and the European American world for centuries." No, this oppression does not consist in giving an *inferior* education to minorities, but in giving them the *same* education as whites. A "systematic bias toward European culture and its derivatives" has "a terribly damaging effect on the psyche of young people of African, Asian, Latino, and Native American descent." The report calls for a totally restructured curriculum for the state's public schools, in which "the history, achievements, aspirations, and concerns of people of all cultures [shall be] made an integral part of all curricula." This even includes science and math, since "by ostensibly omitting cultural references from science and mathematics materials, a subtle message is given to all children that all science and mathematics originated within the European culture."

Mr. Auster is a freelance writer living in New York City.

The proposal was released at the July meeting of the New York Board of Regents, the body that determines state education policy. Professor Harry Hamilton, a member of the Commissioner's Task Force on Minorities, which prepared the report, told the Regents: "We're on the brink of something very important for New York and the nation. We have to change the entire framework in the way we look at ourselves as a nation." Hamilton invoked mythic imagery: "Instead of one group, European Americans, at the head of a long table, with other cultures present only as invited guests, we will have a Round Table with all cultures equal." Sitting at their own long table, the Regents received the report with enthusiasm. Even conservatives liked it; former Chancellor Willard Genrich, one of a tiny minority on the Board that had just tried to block a major expansion of bilingual education, declared: "This is an excellent document and we should proceed with it."

Unfortunately, if their recent handling of bilingual education is any guide, the Regents seem likely to decide on the curriculum plan on the basis of uplifting slogans about a new America rather than critical thought about the plan's contents. The report does contain some good ideas about widening the curriculum to reflect minority experiences; but on the whole it is a poorly thought-out document, steeped in racial victimology and hostility to the West. The idea that Western-oriented education robs minority youth of self-esteem, "'turns off' the child who is not European American," is not backed up by any evidence at all. When we recall such figures as W. E. B. Du Bois and Martin Luther King, as well as a host of other American blacks who were shining products of "Eurocentered" education, it is hard to take that idea seriously. And why, if a group's curricular "invisibility" harms its self-esteem, have Japanese Americans done so well? Asians have obviously been added to the litany of aggrieved and ego-damaged groups to make plausible the notion of a blanket educational oppression of *all* non-whites and the resulting need for a radical overhaul.

Surprisingly, the report concedes the presence of substantial "multicultural" content (as well as the absence of negative stereotypes) in the present curriculum. A series of textbook reviews written from each minority viewpoint shows that "there has been a serious attempt to broaden the content to reflect the pluralism of American society." But such inclusion, says the report, does not solve the problem, because it is only "additive and not at the center of the endeavors." This is what the Task Force calls "Eurocentered multiculturalism." The mere inclusion of material on minority experience, no matter how extensive, "cannot counteract deeply rooted racist traditions in American culture. Merely adding marginal examples of 'other' cultures to an assumed dominant culture cannot reverse long established and entrenched policies and practices of that dominant culture. . . . The European American monocultural perspective prevails. Its value system and norms dominate."

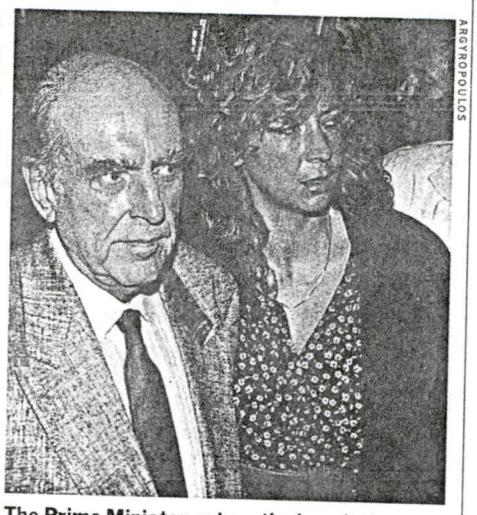
Hence the report's inoffensive-sounding title, "A Curriculum of Inclusion," conceals a radical intent; it is not just greater inclusion of minority cultures the Task Force seeks, but the dismantling of the dominant culture. By the Orwellian magic of a name—"European American"—the national culture is transformed into an *ethnic* culture on the same level as all of America's minority cultures. Children will be taught that all cultures are to be "equally valued"; that the contributions of Puerto Ricans and Chinese and Iroquois are as important in the development of our society

GREECE

Caught in the Labyrinth

Papandreou, ailing and under attack, is not yet out for the count

Reasonable people expected that Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou would suffer heavier losses. He had campaigned for the June 18 parliamentary elections amid a series of scandals linking some members of his government to huge embezzlement, fraud, payoffs and illegal arms deals. On top of that, there was his public romance with Dimitra Liani, a former airline flight attendant half his age. But Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) slid only far enough to lose its majority. And since no other party won more than half the seats, Papandreou, who was hospitalized in serious condition last week with lung, heart and kidney complications, is staying on as caretaker Prime Minister while the struggle continues to form a government.



ARGYROPOULOS

The Prime Minister enters the hospital

The major beneficiary in the balloting was Constantine Mitsotakis' conservative New Democracy Party, which won 145 seats, just six short of control in the 300-seat Parliament. The New Democrats campaigned on the promise of "catharsis," which included investigating and prosecuting political bigwigs implicated in several cases of alleged fraud that involved millions of dollars, including the embezzlement of more than $210 million from the Bank of Crete by its former owner George Koskotas.

For the first time, the Communists in Greece hold the balance of parliamentary power. The Alliance of the Left, which the Communists dominate, won 28 seats and could form a government with either PASOK, which holds 125 seats, or New Democracy. Communist Party leader Harilaos Florakis also demands catharsis but so far has refused to consider entering a coalition under either Papandreou or Mitsotakis.

DIMIS ARGYROPOULOS

New Democracy's Mitsotakis confers with Communist leader Florakis

Before he fell ill, Papandreou, 70, hoped to talk the Alliance of the Left into joining PASOK in "a coalition of the progressive forces." He dismissed the financial scandals, claiming they are simply plots instigated against him by "foreign and domestic forces." But last week another scandal was revealed as U.S. authorities arrested 14 employees of the National Mortgage Bank of Greece on charges of illegally transferring about $700 million to the bank's central office in Athens, apparently to avoid paying taxes.

While the political parties continue to look for a possible deal, the business of Greece has come to a halt. Since there is no elected head of government, President Christos Sartzetakis will represent Greece at this week's European summit in Madrid. Negotiations with the U.S. for a new agreement on American military bases in Greece must await a functioning government. A long-overdue austerity program is also on hold. "The country is running itself now," said Parliament member George Voulgarakis.

The Alliance has proposed a short-term "ecumenical government" made up of public figures who are acceptable to all sides. Such a transition team would be assigned to set the cleanup in motion and then take the country into new elections. As Papandreou's health deteriorated last week, many in Athens believed it might be the one way out of the labyrinth. ■

THE COMMUNITY

New Times

Thatcher down, Greens up

Although elections for the European Parliament may still be more symbolic than substantive, the balloting shattered British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's image of invincibility last week. Her Conservative Party suffered its first national defeat in nearly 15 years, capturing only 34.7% of the vote and losing 13 of its 45 European Parliament seats. By contrast, the left-leaning Labor Party totted up 40.2%, stirring dreams among Laborites of ousting Thatcher from power at home.

In West Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats received a blow as the new right-wing Republican Party, led by a former sergeant in Hitler's Waffen-SS, won 7% of the vote by capitalizing on fears of competition from foreign workers.

Elections for the Strasbourg-based assembly, once consigned to the status of a European debating society, are fast becoming a bellwether for European politics. Thatcher aides sought to downplay the Tory defeat by arguing that the culprit was domestic discontent with Britain's 15% interest rates and 8.3% inflation. Even critics within her own party scoffed, blaming her Britain-first, anti-European rhetoric at a time when Europe is moving toward economic integration in 1992. Said a Tory backbencher: "She got it drastically wrong."

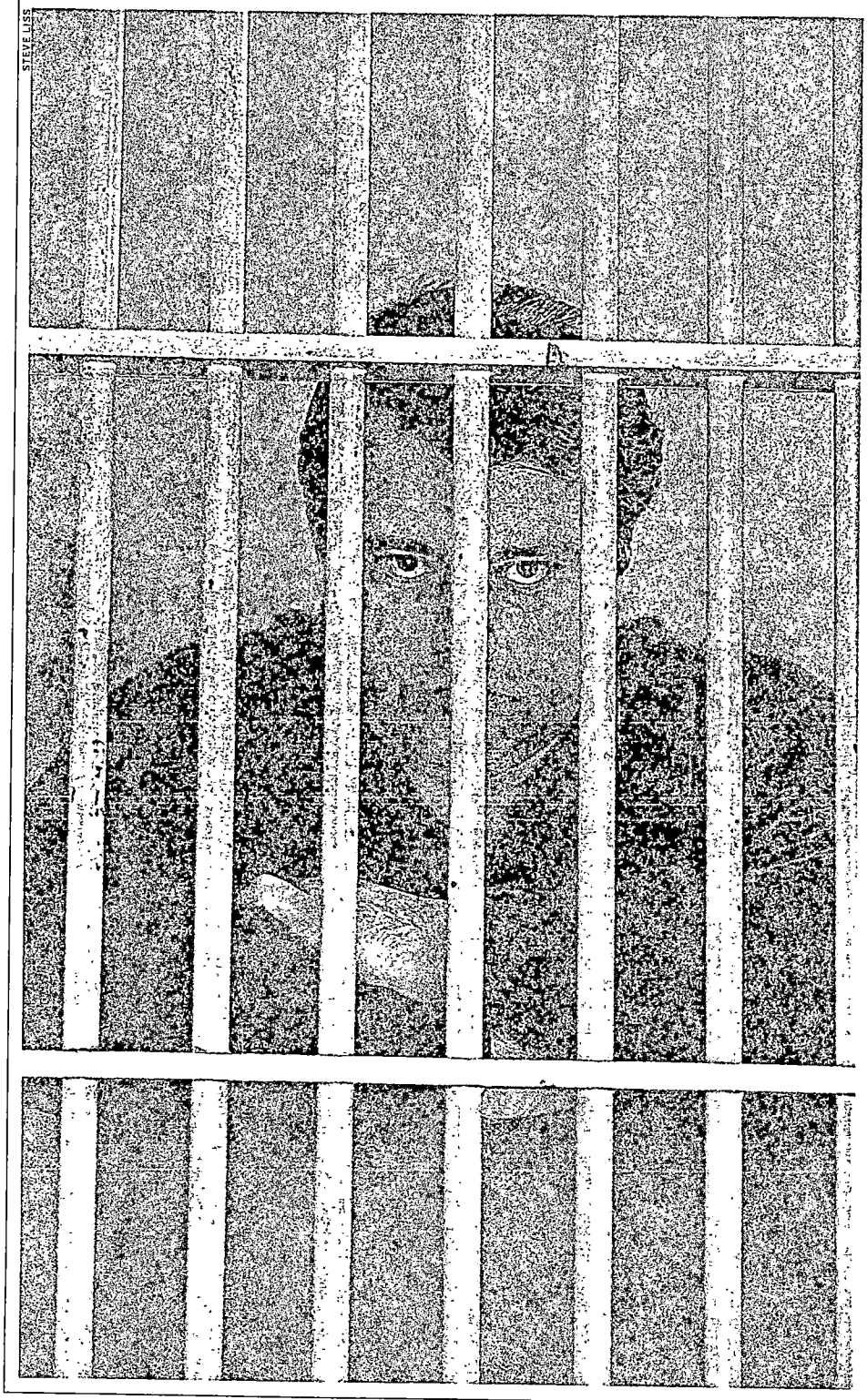
Across Western Europe, the biggest gains were won by Green parties, which nearly doubled their representation, to 39 delegates. The environmentalists thus hold the balance of power in the 518-seat chamber, ensuring that their issues will be high on the European Community's agenda. West Germany's well-established Green contingent will be joined by delegations from other E.C. countries, including France and Italy. In Britain the Greens captured an impressive 15% of the vote but no seats because Britain does not have a proportional-representation system.

As E.C. leaders hold their first post-election summit in Madrid this week, the big question is whether Thatcher's weakened position will cause her to be more conciliatory on two key proposals: a social charter intended to safeguard workers' rights and, more important, the eventual establishment of a single currency managed by a European central bank. Emboldened by the erosion of Thatcher's political strength, her fellow summiteers may decide to press on toward European unity, whatever her objections. ■

SCANDALS

The Looting of Greece

For the first time, a fallen tycoon tells how he embezzled millions



STEVE LISS

BY ROBERT AJEMIAN

Greeks were exhilarated in 1981 when Andreas Papandreou and his Socialist Party swept to power. Their enthusiasm has long since turned to bitterness and disbelief as the worst financial and political scandal in four decades engulfs Greece. The press, the Bank of Greece, a magistrate and Parliament are delving into charges of corruption, seeking to uncover how more than $210 million disappeared from the Bank of Crete. Charges of embezzlement, kickbacks and bribery, of banknotes stuffed into briefcases, have been leveled against high officials.

The scandal has scorched the Socialist Party (PASOK), and public cynicism has increasingly focused on the party's leader, Papandreou himself. The Prime Minister last September was already the target of snickering and outrage as he conducted a highly public extramarital liaison with airline flight steward Dimitra Liani, 34.

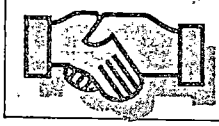
Now inside a Salem prison, Koskotas fears that once extradited, he will disappear behind bars—or be murdered and declared a suicide

KOSKOTAS' TALE OF CORRUPTION HE ALLEGES

THE SCAM

1984
Koskotas buys Bank of Crete

SUMMER 1985
After winning re-election, PASOK cuts deal with Koskotas



FALL 1985
PASOK leaders order state-managed corporations to deposit funds in the Bank of Crete

By skimming interest payments on the state funds, Koskotas starts building a huge pool of money for payoffs

As the parliamentary investigations dug through testimony, the question loomed: Was the Prime Minister aware of the crime all along?

Papandreou has not testified before investigators, though he vehemently denies any involvement in what he calls a "conspiracy aiming to hurt Greece." But investigators have yet to hear from the central figure in the case, George Koskotas, 34, a one-time New York house painter who vaulted to power as the multimillionaire owner of the Bank of Crete. Now jailed in Massachusetts on a variety of charges leveled just before he fled Greece last November, Koskotas is facing extradition to answer accusations of looting his own bank.

Amid more than a dozen lawsuits, much has come out about the vast scandal, but most Greeks believe there is far more to be revealed—by one man in particular. Given his central role in the affair, Koskotas' version of the dirty dealings could prove to be an imperfect account. Apparently nothing will be resolved until the public has weighed his tale. "At this point," says a frustrated former PASOK member, "we are all waiting to hear what Koskotas has to say."

HABANS—SYGMA

Papandreou: increasingly the focus of public cynicism

Did he authorize the looting of the Bank of Crete?

A plump man with steady dark eyes and a soft voice, Koskotas is no common embezzler. In addition to the Bank of Crete, he owned Grammi, a flourishing publishing empire that operated five magazines, three newspapers and a radio station. He bankrolled big hotels. A year ago, he bought Greece's wildly popular soccer team, Olympiakos. He created one of the world's most advanced printing plants. And until he fled Greece, Koskotas consorted freely with the country's ruling Socialist leaders. At 34, George Koskotas, the Greek wunderkind, had achieved a dazzling reputation in his own land.

Now inside a Salem, Mass., prison, Koskotas has finally decided to talk. His chief motivation, he explains, is a fear that once extradited to Greece he will disappear behind bars—or be murdered and declared a suicide and thus be unable to present his own version of what happened. He figures his fate in Greece will be worse if Papandreou remains in power; so his motive for speaking may also be to wound the government.

The Koskotas accusations are extraordinary, though difficult to verify. In six lengthy prison interviews with TIME, the banker describes a Socialist government riddled by extortion and criminality. Koskotas charges that millions of dollars missing from his bank were actually payoffs that went directly to the head of the government, Andreas Papandreou, and PASOK officials. The Prime Minister, says the banker, personally authorized the plan to loot the Bank of Crete. Koskotas describes as well his own illegal complicity in the huge swindle, one that involves enormous sums hard to account for adequately.

The plot was an audacious one. To create the pool of crooked money, PASOK leaders had for three years ordered state-managed corporations such as the Post Office, the Organization of Urban Transportation and the State Pharmaceutical Co. to transfer large bank deposits—the country's money, in effect—out of the big national banks into the Bank of Crete, then the smallest private bank in the country. There, Koskotas says, he arranged for the government deposits to draw an exceptionally low rate of interest, only 2% or 3%. Bank savings accounts in Greece routinely draw 15% interest. The excess interest earned on the government deposits was siphoned off and went straight to the politicians, he says. In addition, protected and encouraged by Papandreou, Koskotas secretly plowed Bank of Crete funds into his magazines and newspapers.

In the past year, says Koskotas, some 40 shipments of money, in blue briefcases stuffed with 5,000-drachma notes, were carted out of the Bank of Crete and taken first to his own residence. There the bank-

THE PAYOFF

1986-87
Koskotas begins making illicit payments eventually totaling more than $30 million, to PASOK officials

OCTOBER 1987
Visiting Washington, Koskotas is arrested on old charges of defrauding the U.S. Government but returns to Greece

LATE OCTOBER 1987
Threatening Koskotas with prison, Papandreou pressures him to make regular payments directly to the Prime Minister; in the next year, Koskotas hands over $20 million in about 40 blue briefcases

THE INFLUENCE

1986-88
At Papandreou's urging, and using bank funds, Koskotas buys top Greek newspapers *Kathimerini, Vradyni;* installs editors favorable to Papandreou; and starts new paper *24 Hours* to promote the Papandreou family

After the weekly *Evdomi* publishes nude pictures of Papandreou's mistress Dimitra Liani, Koskotas buys it and shuts it down

Papandreou presses Koskotas to buy the popular Greek football team Olympiakos to associate it with PASOK's 1989 campaign

THE SCANDAL

SEPTEMBER 1988
Papandreou's political power slips amid heart surgery, revelations about his mistress and the emerging banking scandal

OCTOBER 1988
Papandreou is too weak to stop an investigation into the Bank of Crete that reveals $210 million is missing

NOVEMBER 1988
Tipped by a friend in Greek intelligence, Koskotas flees and is arrested by the FBI after landing near Boston

TIME Chart by Joe Lertola

er handed the money over to a Papandreou confidant, Georgios Louvaris, who Koskotas says made the deliveries to the Prime Minister. Pickups occurred weekly and amounted over the year to more than 3 billion drachmas ($20 million at today's rates). In addition, Koskotas claims he personally carried a total of half a billion drachmas ($3.3 million) to the home of a Deputy Prime Minister, Menios Koutsogiorgas. At the Bank of Crete half a dozen other PASOK leaders twice a month received briefcases filled with money totaling 1.5 billion drachmas ($10 million).

There was little danger of interference. Fifty different national audits of the Bank of Crete that might have uncovered the scheme were squelched over the years by PASOK officials, says Koskotas, twice by direct calls from Papandreou.

In the summer of 1988, the government muscled through a special Secrecy Act that had the effect of guaranteeing its overdrawn banker financial confidentiality. Koskotas says he was directed to pay an additional $2 million to then Deputy Prime Minister Koutsogiorgas as a reward for managing the legislation.

The dank atmosphere that nurtured this tangle of alleged corruption began after the Socialists' re-election in 1985. Papandreou was eager to tighten his grip on the country. He found a perfect match in the ambitious young publisher and banker Koskotas, who saw in PASOK a means to build an empire.

Now, sitting in the library of the Salem prison, Koskotas recalled the beginnings of a relationship that led to his ruin. He wore a blue pullover sport shirt and blue jeans, white leather sneakers on his feet. Koskotas had squeezed his big waist into a one-armed desk chair.

In his lap he balanced a pile of tape transcripts and letters he had carried out of Greece as evidence. From time to time he ran his finger across the pages of his old appointment book, picking out entries of meetings with the Prime Minister and other key government officials.

He remembers the meetings with Papandreou vividly, five times alone in the Prime Minister's home at Kastri, once at the home of a Papandreou intimate, Michalis Ziangas. At the first meeting in early 1986, Koskotas recalls, the Prime Minister had a proposal: Koskotas should start a daily newspaper to provide positive coverage of the Papandreou family. Koskotas later put up the money, and the first issue of the paper, called *24 Hours,* appeared in February 1988.

The Prime Minister always seemed to possess inside information. Papandreou, says the banker, taps the home and business telephones of such rivals as the head of the political opposition, New Democracy's Constantine Mitsotakis, and unfriendly publishers. "I know all their plans," he proudly told Koskotas.

Papandreou came to assume that Grammi's national magazines and newspapers really served him. Certain Papandreou favorites were hired as editors. Says Koskotas: "All our editors were instructed never to criticize the Prime Minister personally, not even a single cartoon." Papandreou urged Koskotas to neutralize hostile newspapers by buying them up gradually. At their second meeting in early 1987, Papandreou pressed Koskotas to buy *Kathimerini,* the country's most respected paper; he did, using Bank of Crete funds.

Another time Papandreou had an unexpected idea: Koskotas should purchase the Olympiakos football team. Papandreou, according to Koskotas, wanted the banker to build up the team, so that just before the 1989 election the government would agree to build Olympiakos a new stadium, an announcement certain to be highly popular. Koskotas laid out 4 billion drachmas for the plan.

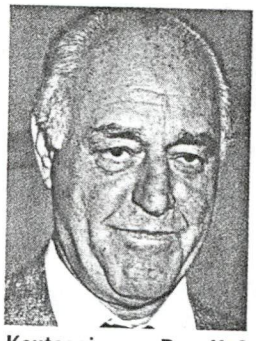
Koskotas' first ambition, he says, was to enlarge the Bank of Crete. Private banks routinely had to wait at least a year for authorization to open a single branch. But the Bank of Crete opened about 50 branches in four years, and licenses were granted for an additional 20. Sure of his political shield, Koskotas was unafraid to violate banking laws and withdraw huge sums of cash at will. If Koskotas worried aloud about audits, Papandreou was always reassuring. "So long as I am here," Koskotas says Papandreou told him, "you never have to worry."

Koskotas said little of his early years, but he was a young man drawn to risk. Born in 1954 in Greece, he came to America with his parents in 1970. "George was very ambitious," says his wife Kathy, whom he married in 1973. "His mind was always working."

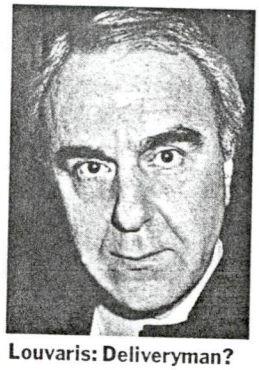
At New York University, that overactive mind seemed to be hunting for angles. Koskotas ordered a batch of N.Y.U. and Fordham University stationery from a printer. He said he wanted to send reprimanding letters to some student friends as a prank. The university believed he intended to create fake transcripts. He was arrested, fined $200 and asked to leave school.

Not satisfied with all his claimed wealth, he continued to indulge his compulsion for risk taking, and it backfired badly. Koskotas obtained fake Social Security numbers for several of his painters who were illegal aliens—federal prosecutors charge that he created fictitious names—and then used them in efforts to collect unemployment insurance claims and income tax refunds. In 1979, before Koskotas was indicted by the U.S. Attorney, he returned to Greece with his wife and four children. A year later, in 1980, the U.S. formally charged him with stealing $40,000. In the years that followed, Koskotas traveled back and forth numerous times to America, always unaware he was under indictment, he claims. Long after, the incident would rise up to haunt him.

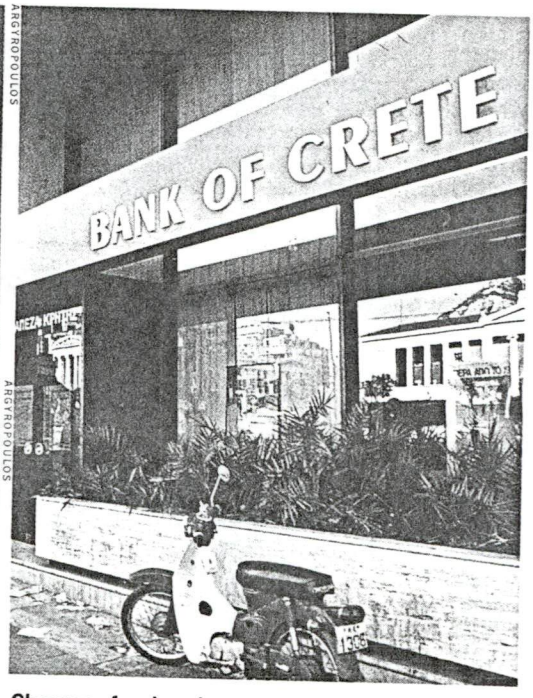
Back in Greece, still only 25, he landed a job as an administrative officer at the Bank of Crete. Five years later, in late 1984 when the Bank of Crete came up for purchase at $9 million, Koskotas somehow produced a bankroll big enough to buy it. He knew exactly where he wanted to go. The Socialists were immersed in an election and Koskotas was determined to curry favor. Within a few months he hired as bank general manager a PASOK veteran, Panayotis Vakalis, whom he knew to be a longtime friend of Andreas Papandreou's.



Koutsogiorgas: Payoffs?



Louvaris: Deliveryman?



Charges of embezzlement and kickbacks and banknotes stuffed into briefcases for officials

The connection eventually brought the young banker and the Prime Minister together. The great swindle was under way.

For two years, says Koskotas, payoffs went to the party, none to Papandreou himself. Then a pivotal event occurred. In October 1987, Koskotas traveled to Washington to attend a White House luncheon at which Vice President George Bush was the host. Secret Service agents, checking invitations, were surprised to discover that the guest from Greece was under a six-year-old federal indictment. They arrested Koskotas at his Washington hotel. The banker posted bail of $1 million. A few days later, to get home, Koskotas lied to Greek embassy officials and obtained a travel document.

Only three weeks later, Koskotas says, he was summoned by Papandreou. It was apparent to Koskotas that something was wrong. Sternly the Prime Minister warned that because of the passport violation, Koskotas might have to go to jail. Eventually Papandreou declared Koskotas need not worry. But there were certain requirements. An election was coming, the Prime Minister stressed, and PASOK needed 5 billion drachmas ($33 million). Thereupon, says Koskotas, Papandreou bluntly described a much expanded plan for kicking back interest payments. Koskotas, he directed, should work out the details with Deputy Prime Minister Koutsogiorgas. Says Koskotas, sounding surprisingly disingenuous: "I realized it was outright blackmail." Until then he had rationalized that the stolen interest payments to PASOK were simply the political cost of doing business in Greece.

Two weeks later, Koskotas says, the first direct request for money came by telephone from Papandreou. The Prime Minister wanted 200 million drachmas ($1.3 million), purportedly to pay the expenses for a PASOK youth festival. Georgios Louvaris would drop by. In the following months, says Koskotas, Papandreou made two other personal calls for cash, each for 150 million drachmas ($1 million), for what he described as PASOK events. Otherwise the Prime Minister received a weekly delivery of around 75 million drachmas.

Soon Koskotas found the requests from Papandreou and Koutsogiorgas bolder—and more personal. Papandreou wanted to squelch a critical memoir by his first wife, Christine, a psychiatrist. Through foreign book agents, Koskotas paid out $90,000 and tied up world rights to the book. Papandreou raised another problem. The Prime Minister, then 69, was keeping company with Dimitra Liani, a buxom airline hostess half his age. The weekly newspaper *Evdomi*, Papandreou complained, kept turning up nude photographs of Dimitra. Within a month Koskotas had bought *Evdomi*, and three months later he shut it down. Then there was Margaret, the second wife Papandreou wanted to divorce. He said that Margaret, absurdly, wanted a settlement of $100 million. Koskotas heard himself say he could over a period of time put together $10 million to $20 million as a start.

In August 1988 the Prime Minister suddenly flew to London for triple-bypass heart surgery. The day before Papandreou left, Koskotas says, Louvaris came to pick up the customary cash, a suitcase of 90 million drachmas ($600,000). After the surgery, Papandreou for the first time made public what many already knew: his relationship with Liani. That further undermined his slipping political standing. Rumors of the Koskotas money connection were also circulating; now opponents called for a reckoning.

ARGYROPOULOS—SIPA

Dangerous liaisons: the Prime Minister attended by Dimitra Liani

The governor of the Bank of Greece started to press for a special audit of the Bank of Crete. Koutsogiorgas told Koskotas that the investigation could not be stopped. Fearing abandonment, Koskotas made a last threat. "If I am destroyed," he says he told Koutsogiorgas, "we'll all be destroyed. You know what they will find at the bank."

Soon 40 secret service agents were keeping a discreet surveillance over Koskotas. He began to think he might be killed. One day a friend in Greek intelligence told him he would be arrested by 6:30 that evening; Koskotas fled. He slipped out of his printing plant unseen, hidden in the back of one of his newspaper delivery trucks, to start a desperate journey across three continents. Three weeks later he fetched up in the U.S., where he was apprehended.

Locked in the Salem prison and fighting extradition, George Koskotas started to get advice to keep quiet from old accomplices. One of them, Yannis Mantzouranis, former secretary to the Greek Cabinet, sounded especially anxious to learn if the prisoner was going to talk. Mantzouranis, Koskotas says, was still holding a $2 million payoff to Koutsogiorgas in a Swiss bank account. The existence of the account would implicate him.

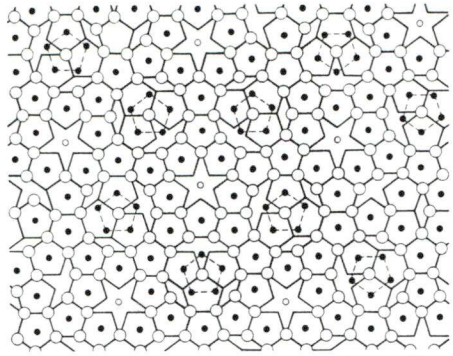
Hoping to entrap Mantzouranis, Koskotas instructed his wife to make tape recordings of the phone calls from Athens. The objective was to goad the unwitting Cabinet secretary into telling more about PASOK corruption. Mantzouranis warns of the consequences of saying too much. "I know them better than George," he says of his PASOK colleagues. "They wouldn't hesitate to do anything."

Mantzouranis relates how his own life has changed drastically. "You must understand that I am in danger," he says. "I do not circulate at night. I no longer live at my house."

In jail, listening to the cassette, Koskotas heard the fright in the caller's voice. It was an echo of his own fears. Mantzouranis had an important message to pass on: Koutsogiorgas wants to be certain the prisoner knows what he is doing. "Menios says," the voice from Greece emphasized, "that George should not betray the only people who can help him now." Koskotas pondered silently and for a second felt a twinge of his old power. Then he dismissed the warning. He wanted to talk.

Throughout last week TIME sought comments and answers from government officials—including Prime Minister Papandreou—on the accusations in this story. When all refused to be interviewed, a list of questions was submitted to them. TIME did not disclose that it had interviewed Koskotas, but made clear that it was publishing a major story that contained serious and damaging allegations. Papandreou did address the affair in a Feb. 14 memorandum to investigators. He said he met Koskotas only three times, at the banker's initiative, between March 4, 1987, and June 30, 1988, during which the two discussed only Koskotas' business and, later, the accusations against him. ■

Tilings for picture-perfect quasicrystals



Kortan et al./Physical Review Letters

At right, a network of points and ring-like structures, corresponding to atomic positions, covers a 150-angstrom-square region of a quasicrystalline alloy. The surface shows four prominent steps, revealing parts of the material's four top layers. This picture suggests a tiling model (left) in which aluminum atoms (open circles) tend to settle into pentagonal rings with copper or cobalt atoms (filled circles) at their centers. Shaded box corresponds to a surface region about 20 angstroms wide.

Since the 1984 discovery of the first alloy with atoms arranged in a pattern having a symmetry forbidden by the usual rules of crystallography, scientists have debated whether such alloys belong to a special category of materials known as quasicrystals or instead consist simply of tiny, conventional crystals joined in unusual ways. New images showing atoms on the surface of an aluminum-cobalt-copper alloy provide the best evidence yet that at least some materials actually do solidify into quasicrystals.

"For the first time, we've been able to resolve individual atoms on the surface of a quasicrystal," says A. Refik Kortan of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J. The resulting pictures clearly show that atoms can arrange themselves into patterns having a fivefold or a tenfold symmetry. The findings, reported in the Jan. 8 Physical Review Letters, establish the feasibility of growing near-perfect quasicrystals (SN: 3/11/89, p.149) and demonstrate that simple tiling models can explain the structure of such materials down to the atomic level.

In the theoretical model of a quasicrystal, units consisting of groups of atoms fit together like tiles or blocks to create an orderly, space-filling arrangement. But the fitted units are not equally spaced, or periodic, as in a conventional crystal. Instead, the sequence of spacings follows a more complicated mathematical formula. A Penrose tiling (SN: 7/16/88, p.42), in which two types of diamond-shaped tiles combine to create just such a quasiperiodic pattern, provides one possible mathematical model for a quasicrystalline solid.

The alloy studied by Kortan and his coworkers crystallizes into small, 10-sided columns. Earlier studies had shown that these crystals seem to consist of neatly stacked, two-dimensional quasicrystalline layers. By preparing the crystals carefully, the researchers obtained samples with only a small number of defects, suitable for studying with a scanning tunneling microscope.

The tunneling microscope images of a cut, polished and cleaned surface show a network of points and ring-like structures, which correspond to the positions of atoms. When viewed at an angle, these structures appear to line up in five directions spaced 72° apart, attesting to the material's fivefold symmetry. Moreover, the fact that these lines continue across the steps that mark the edges of different layers in the material indicates that the positions of atoms are strongly correlated from one layer to the next.

The pictures effectively rule out the possibility that this alloy consists of a jumble of tiny, "multi-twinned" conventional crystals. "Since the full decagonal symmetry is realized on scales as small as 60 angstroms, and no periodic structures are seen, we can conclude that multi-twinning does not adequately describe the features in the [microscope] images," the researchers report.

"It's the first time anyone has confirmed at the atomic level the existence of a quasicrystalline material that appears to be perfect," says Paul J. Steinhardt of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "The atoms map out a beautiful Penrose tiling."

Kortan and his colleagues propose a tiling model for this alloy in which each layer consists of a framework of pentagonal rings made up largely of aluminum atoms, with either cobalt or copper atoms at the center of each ring. Each successive layer has roughly the same pentagonal pattern but rotated by 36°.

"That's more or less what the data suggest, but it's obviously not our final model," Kortan says. "The basic interatomic distance we measure in this pentagonal network is in good agreement with the aluminum-aluminum distance one would find in similar transition-metal compounds." — *I. Peterson*

Minoan culture survived volcanic eruption

The Minoan civilization of ancient Crete literally rose from the ashes, according to new evidence. Advanced Minoan culture and its grand palaces disappeared around 1450 B.C. — a collapse attributed by many researchers to a devastating volcanic eruption on the nearby island of Thera (now known as Santorini). But recent excavations on Crete indicate the Minoans rebuilt their dwellings on top of large quantities of volcanic ash soon after the Santorini blast.

"We have conclusive evidence for the survival of Minoan civilization after the [Santorini] eruption," says Jeffrey S. Soles of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who conducted the excavations with Greek colleagues. He described the findings Dec. 29 at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Boston.

Researchers had already begun to question the argument that the Santorini explosion triggered the Minoan collapse. Other investigators recently reported that seeds in Santorini's volcanic ash date to about 1600 B.C., 150 years prior to previous estimates of the eruption and the decline of the Minoans.

Soles and his colleagues are working at the site of Mochlos on the north coast of Crete, an island near mainland Greece. Their project represents the first systematic excavation at Mochlos since 1908.

Last summer, the researchers took a closer look at a domestic structure largely uncovered in 1908. Numerous examples of Minoan pottery dot the floor of the three-room house. Beneath the floor lies a layer of soft, grainy volcanic ash covering a 23-square-foot area, ranging in thickness from 2 to 8 inches.

"It appears the house was built on top of the ash immediately after the ash fell, thus sealing and preserving [the underlying ash]," Soles maintains.

The 1908 investigators dug around the ash but did not comment on it at the time and probably considered it unimportant, he adds.

The Minoan civilization rose to prominence between about 2000 B.C. and 1450 B.C. It developed a sophisticated economy and traded extensively with nearby peoples. With the elimination of the Santorini eruption as the major culprit in the collapse of the Minoan culture, an alternative theory now gains support: The Minoans may have been conquered by members of the Mycenaean civilization that emerged on mainland Greece around 1600 B.C. — *B. Bower*

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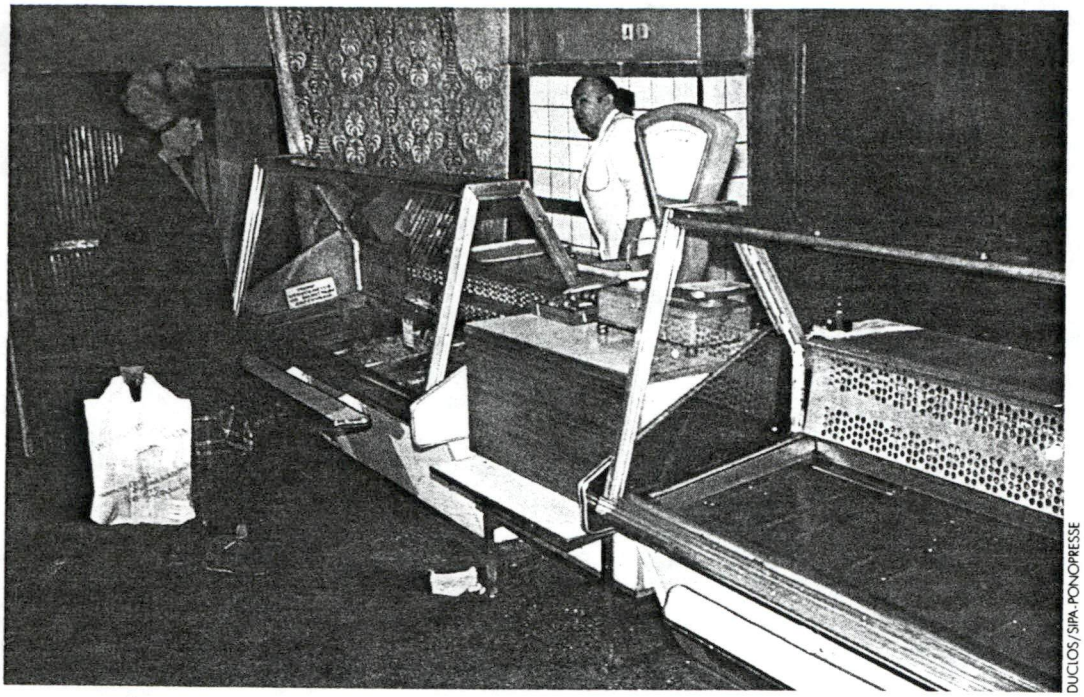


DUCLOS/SIPA-PONOPRESSE

Leningrad shopper in nearly empty store: billions of dollars' worth of foreign emergency aid

had recently threatened to cut its 1991 contribution to the national budget by $244 billion, or 83 per cent. And Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene told a news conference last week that her Baltic republic would continue its independent path. Declared Prunskiene: "Lithuania will not take part either in the union budget or in the currency or some other common funds and structures of the Soviet Union."

Gorbachev, meanwhile, has issued a flurry of recent orders designed to aid hungry consumers and contain social unrest. He assigned the KGB a new task: cracking down on theft and black-market profiteering. He installed Boris Pugo, the former head of the KGB in Latvia, as interior minister in charge of the country's regular police forces. He also reaffirmed his own intention to preserve the boundaries of the union. Those hard-line measures have sparked widespread speculation that Gorbachev was about to resort to dictatorial rule, and led to the sudden resignation of foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze last month. Gorbachev's aides say that the Soviet president's tough stance is a tactic intended to marshal conservative support for long-overdue reforms. With growing disorder and frustration within a fraying Soviet Union, however, failure could make dark predictions of a mass exodus increasingly realistic.

ANDREW BILSKI *with MALCOLM GRAY in Moscow and BOGDAN TUREK in Warsaw*

Curtain along its eastern borders, a possibility in which self-preservation would triumph over its commitment to democracy."

To help alleviate Soviet food shortages and show support for the embattled Gorbachev, foreign governments have sent billions of dollars' worth of emergency aid, technical assistance and credits. At a December meeting of the 12-nation European Community at which leaders agreed on a $2.8-billion package of such aid, British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd declared: "It is not in the interests of Europe that the Soviet Union lapse into anarchy or that it should fall back into the hands of some backward-looking tyrant." Canada has pledged easier terms for nearly $1 billion in food credits.

The situation in the Soviet Union, however, remains precarious. Last Thursday, Gorbachev announced a temporary economic accord with rebellious republican leaders. The Soviet president said that agreement had been reached on food supplies for the coming year, and he hinted at progress in resolving disputes with the republics over who controls natural resources and hard-currency export earnings. But it was not clear whether the Kremlin had completely patched up differences with the Russian Federation, the largest republic, led by Gorbachev's archrival, Boris Yeltsin, which

A PERILOUS WINTER EXODUS

They came by the thousands, stumbling along mountain paths, tunnelling under fences and swimming across freezing rivers to escape Albania, Eastern Europe's last bastion of orthodox communism. Most of the refugees were ethnic Greeks and their destination was Greece itself, on the far side of snow-covered Mount Tsamandás straddling the border. They fled despite promises by Albanian President Ramiz Alia to democratize his country, Europe's poorest nation. And they created an acute problem for Greece, where the government broadcast an appeal to their fellow ethnics, who make up about 10 per cent of Albania's 3.5 million people, to stay at home.

Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis scheduled a Jan. 13 visit to Tirana, the Albanian capital, in an effort to hasten the liberalization process. But a speed-up seemed unlikely—many Albanians are deeply skeptical about Alia's commitment to installing a measure of democracy. And even after Albanian border guards shot and killed five would-be refugees last month, the exodus continued, swelling to over 2,000 during December. There was a sudden surge over the holidays: Greek border police reported that 3,000 Albanians crossed the border on New Year's Eve alone. Some frontier guards made no attempt to stop them. In fact, some observers said that authorities in Tirana may have deliberately opened the frontier to allow the Greeks to escape. Clearhos Bolomos, 45, who made a 13-hour trek to freedom, said that one guard had let his group through even though he "told us we were traitors, pointed his machine-gun and spat at us."

Meanwhile, the exodus created a major problem in the Greek border zone. In Filiátes (population 5,000), 4,000 refugees crowded the muddy streets in search of food and shelter. Many of them were practically without clothes, said Mayor Pantelis Koufalas, and many were sleeping in courtyards and on sidewalks, huddling around campfires for warmth.

Albania's 45-year-old Communist regime, once so rigid that it severed relations with the Stalinist Soviet Union in 1961, began minor reforms last year following the collapse of authoritarian governments in other Eastern European nations. Then, Alia undertook to accelerate the reforms after anti-government riots last month. He authorized opposition political parties and scheduled free elections in February. As well, a draft constitution, published in the state-controlled press just after Christmas, would give Albanians the right to enter or leave the country freely. But, for many of them, the changes were plainly too little, too late. Like most dictatorships, Tirana's faces its gravest dangers as it begins to reform.

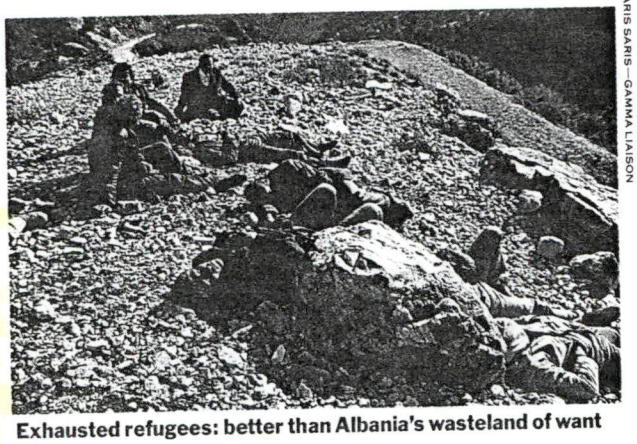
JOHN BIERMAN *with correspondents' reports*

ALBANIA

Climbing Out of the Cage

As the communist regime confronts demands for change, ethnic Greeks flee to their motherland—and a less than rousing welcome

Snowcapped in winter and precipitous in many places, the Pindus Mountains, which straddle Greece and Albania, are all but impassable. That has not stopped thousands of desperate Albanians from crossing into Greece since the last week of 1990. In early December, four fleeing Albanians were shot dead near the frontier by soldiers of the Stalinist regime in Tirana. Last week, by contrast, refugees walked into Greece with little to deter them except the cold and the mountains. Instead of opening fire, border guards merely shot curses at the fugitives. By week's end about 5,000 refugees streamed into the northwestern Greek province of Epirus, doubling the population of the border area. Most of the fugitives belonged to Albania's large Greek minority, leaving territory once disputed by the two countries.



ARIS SARIS—GAMMA LIAISON

Exhausted refugees: better than Albania's wasteland of want

But even as Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis extended temporary-resident status to refugees claiming Greek ancestry, he pleaded with ethnic Greeks still in Albania to stay home to prevent a "national disaster." As for refugees in Greece, government spokesman Vyron Polydoras said, "We wish that the idea will ripen that they will return to their homeland."

With few volunteers for the trip back to Albania and more refugees expected in the months to come, Mitsotakis scheduled a trip to Tirana. He will be the first Western leader to visit since Albania withdrew into isolation at the end of World War II. Athens is aghast at the prospect of accommodating a good part of Albania's estimated 400,000 ethnic Greeks, especially when it believes that Tirana is encouraging the flight to wriggle through political difficulties.

In mid-December student demonstrations, belatedly inspired by the upheavals in the rest of the East bloc, forced concessions from the government of President Ramiz Alia, including promises of fair elections and economic reform. According to spokesman Polydoras in Athens, Alia is trying to rid himself of the Greeks before the vote scheduled for February because the ethnic group, which exceeds 10% of the population, is opposed to his rule.

Fearing persecution, ethnic Greeks chose to flee at the first word that border guards would not stand in their way. The countryside the refugees left behind is a wasteland of want. Virtually the only meat rural families saw last year was half a chicken distributed to each household on Nov. 29, the National Day. By contrast, even the icy refugee camps, such as Kalpaki in northern Greece, seem like paradise, providing shelter and plentiful food. Said a high-ranking Greek official: "The question is, Where does one draw the line? We don't want to make them feel too comfortable because we want them to go back." But back to what? —*By Howard G. Chua-Eoan.*
Reported by Mirka Gondicas/Kalpaki

SOVIET UNION

Good News, Bad Times

Gorbachev seeks an economic truce with his restive republics, hoping to ease the country's tensions

With good news scarcer than sausage in the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev made the most of what was available last week. Emerging jubilant from a Kremlin meeting with the Federation Council, a policymaking body that includes leaders of the 15 republics, the President announced that a temporary economic truce had been reached with the republics, finally making it possible to draft a national budget for the coming year. The central government and the republics, Gorbachev said, would also cooperate to overcome a deepening food crisis and set up a transitional administration until a new treaty reorganizing the federal structure of the Soviet Union was approved. "Months were lost in the tug-of-war between the center and the republics," Gorbachev complained. "We are specialists at going to extremes, but I am for common sense."

The embattled President could also claim some success in easing tensions in the southwestern republic of Moldavia. Russian and Turkic minorities have tried to set up independent states there in opposition to a republican government that is dominated by the Romanian-speaking majority. In Kishinev, Moldavia's capital, the parliament bowed to an ultimatum from Gorbachev and agreed to reconsider laws promoting rights for ethnic Moldavians; in return, the parliament was assured that local secessionists would halt their efforts to splinter the republic.

AFP

Stopping the presses at a Latvian plant

Gorbachev was clearly pleased to show that his newly enhanced presidential powers can produce results, but tougher tests lie ahead. Crucial economic disagreements must still be resolved with the powerful and populous Russian republic, whose parliament voted at year's end to withhold the lion's share of its contributions to the central government.

Elsewhere, the outlook was far from hopeful. General Mikhail Moiseyev, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, pledged last week that "not a single additional soldier" would be sent to the breakaway Baltic states, but that did not stop tensions from mounting in the region. Interior Ministry special forces seized Latvia's largest printing plant and brought publication of major newspapers in the republic to a virtual halt. Moscow officials said the raid in Riga was to recover Communist Party property, which was allegedly seized illegally by the republican government. In neighboring Lithuania, Interior Ministry troops took control of party headquarters, expelling local police units. Such bully tactics have raised questions about how repressive Gorbachev is prepared to be to hold his crumbling empire together. —*By John Kohan/Moscow*

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drums and a kettledrum; the leather lacings of the former are gripped by its player, enabling him to change the pitch as he exerts more or less pressure on them; the chief drum of the set is capable of an octave range and, in addition to tones, produces also the typical Yoruba glides by manipulation of the lacings.

East African drum chimes, of Asian heritage, are tuned to specific pitches; these instruments attained royal status in Uganda, where the largest chime consists of 15 drums requiring six musicians to play them.

Friction drums of the lower Congo area were once exclusively cult instruments but are now becoming desacralized. Whereas in Central Africa they are played only by men, women of the South African Pedi play them at female initiation rites.

African mirlitons can be most imaginative: standard material is a spider's egg membrane, and this may be added to apertures pierced in the bottom of xylophone resonators or applied to one end of an independent cane tube that is inserted into a nostril, as among the Fan of Gabon.

Afro-America. West Africans reconstructed their native drums in the New World, preponderantly as cult instruments. Small sets of two or, more often, three drums of graded sizes form an integral part of Afro-American rituals and, in the Caribbean, also of voodoo dances. Only the skins of sacrificial animals may be used for membranes among Afro-Bahians in Brazil, who baptize their new drums, prefereably with "holy" water obtained from a Catholic church. Drums in Haiti are sacred objects and may even represent the deity itself: as such they receive libations. One type of bongo drum—there exist at least four of these—has been adopted by Western rhythm bands, as has the conga.

IN AMERICA

Pre-Columbian drums of Central America appear to have been played without sticks, regardless of their size, and to have been devoid of lacings, whether they were small pottery drums, such as those excavated in Costa Rica, or the large footed drums of Mexico. Slender pottery drums of the Guatemala highlands, open top and bottom, can be dated to the late classical period (*c.* 700–1000). Skeletons of wooden cylinder drums, very shallow, have been found in Peru. In shape but not in structure they are identical to the shallow drums played by North American Indians today.

The North American shallow drums are "medicine" (magic) and dance drums, having a heavy hide head struck by a hard beater and emitting a loud, staccato sound. Larger models are suspended and struck simultaneously by up to ten drummers seated in a surrounding circle. The "dream-dance" drum, a tub-shaped shallow drum, is elaborately decorated and has a bell suspended in its interior; it is credited with great medicine power.

Cylinder drums, made of a hollowed log of cottonwood, traditionally war and dance drums of tribes of the Southwestern United States, are now sold in tourist shops. Pottery drums, either potbellied, bowl-shaped, or footed, were formerly common among the eastern and southern tribes of the United States; the potbellied type remains in use among the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest.

American Indian frame drums are usually circular; square shapes are rare, but rectangular frame drums are found in California, Mexico, and Bolivia and octagonal ones among the Cherokee of the Southeastern United States. All were war drums, regardless of whether they had one or two membranes. By adding a rattling device, a frame drum is converted into a medicine drum. The Eskimo frame drum, a shaman's instrument, is distributed over Greenland, northern Siberia, North America, and among the Lapps of northern Scandinavia and differs from other frame drums in that it has a fixed handle and is struck on the hoop, not on the membrane. It may be circular, oval, or fan-shaped.

Eskimo shaman's drum

Friction drums are rare; in Venezuela one is formed from a small barrel over which a piece of leather is stretched, with central perforation to admit a friction stick.

IN THE PACIFIC

Two forms of drum are distributed over this huge area. Elongated hourglass drums, usually with wooden handles of a piece with the drum shell, often beautifully carved and ranging up to six feet in height, are commonly in the hands of dancers and singers and are said to symbolize the transition from earth to heaven. Among the Wapenamundu of New Guinea they lack handles and are war drums. Such hourglass drums are not found in Polynesia. The other form is a conical, footed drum made of a tree trunk, reaching great dimension. Those of Polynesia are sometimes eight feet high and have elaborately carved pedestals. They are usually made of breadfruit tree wood or hollowed coconut palm, with a single, sharkskin head. Throughout the area drums are beaten with bare hands.

Whirled friction drums are met with in Hawaii, where a large nut or a calabash is furnished with a friction cord and swung through the air.

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(S.Ma.)

Pericles

The greatest statesman of ancient Athens, Pericles brought Athenian democracy to its zenith, built the most magnificent of ancient Greek buildings, and came near to establishing Athens as the leader of all Greece.

Anderson—Alinari

Pericles, marble herm. In the Vatican Museum.

Knowledge of his life derives largely from two sources. The historian Thucydides admired him profoundly and refused to criticize him. His account suffers from the fact that, 40 years younger, he had no firsthand knowledge of Pericles' early career; it suffers also from his approach, which concentrates exclusively on Pericles' intellectual capacity and his war leadership, omitting biographical details, which Thucydides thought irrelevant to his theme. The gaps are partly filled by the Greek writer Plutarch, who, 500 years later, began writing the life of Pericles to illustrate a man of unchallengeable virtue and greatness at grips with the fickleness of the mob and

finished rather puzzled by the picture he found in his sources of Pericles' responsibility for a needless war. These sources are not all ascertainable, but they certainly preserve an invaluable amount of fact and contemporary gossip, which is sometimes nearly as useful.

Family background and education. Pericles was born (*c.* 495 BC) into the first generation able to use the new weapon of the popular vote against the old power of family politics. His father, Xanthippus, a typical member of this generation, almost certainly of an old family, began his political career by a dynastic marriage into the controversial family of the Alcmeonids. He soon left their political camp, probably on the question of relations with Persia, and took the then new path of legal prosecution as a political weapon. Perhaps outbid in his search for popular support, he was ostracized in 484 BC, though he returned in 480 to command the Athenian force at Mycale in 479, probably dying soon after. From him Pericles may have inherited a leaning toward the people, along with landed property at Cholargus, just north of Athens, which put him high, though not quite at the highest level, on the Athenian pyramid of wealth. His Alcmeonid mother, Agariste, provided him with relationships of sharply diminishing political value and her family curse, a religious defilement that was occasionally used against him by his enemies. A few days before Pericles' birth, according to the Greek historian Herodotus, Agariste dreamed she bore a lion. The symbolism, although ambiguous, is most likely to be unfavourable. That Pericles' skull was of unusual shape seems well attested, but one can hardly speculate about the possible psychological consequences.

Education by the Sophists

The only name associated with his early education is that of the musical theorist Damon, whose influence, it is said, was not just confined to music. The arrival of the Sophist philosophers in Athens occurred during his middle life, and he seems to have taken full advantage of the society of Zeno and particularly Anaxagoras, from whom he is said to have learned impassivity in the face of trouble and insult and skepticism about alleged divine phenomena.

The first known date in his life is 472 BC, when he paid for the production of the playwright Aeschylus' Persian trilogy. Nothing further is known until 463, when he unsuccessfully prosecuted Cimon, the leading general and statesman of the day, on a charge of having neglected a chance to conquer Macedonia; this implies that Pericles advocated an aggressive policy of expansion for Athens. Only rumour associates him directly with the political convulsion of the next two years, which drove Cimon into exile, swung Athens away from its alignment with Sparta, and decisively strengthened the democratic elements in the Athenian constitution; but he probably did support the democratic leader Ephialtes in this period, and his introduction of pay for juries, unfortunately undatable, is a logical consequence of Ephialtes' reforms.

Rise to democratic leadership. That Pericles immediately succeeded the assassinated Ephialtes as head of the democratic party in 461 is an ancient oversimplification; there were other men of considerable weight in Athens in the next 15 years. The outbreak of war among the Greek states in 459 put a premium on military talent, and Pericles' only recorded campaign in the next few years was a naval expedition in the Corinthian Gulf in 454, in which Athens defeated Achaea but failed to win more important objectives. Politically he is credited with some kind of rapprochement with Cimon, who is said to have been recalled and allowed to resume the war with Persia, much preferred to fighting other Greeks, but the date of Cimon's recall is uncertain, and the rumours are hard to disentangle.

Legislation on Athenian citizenship

In 451 or 450 Pericles carried a law confining Athenian citizenship to those of Athenian parentage on both sides. No source provides any background to this proposal; it is not even clear whether it was retrospective. A correct assessment is vital for understanding Pericles, but explanations vary considerably; some argue that Pericles was merely forging a low-level political weapon for use against Cimon, who had a foreign mother. The upper classes certainly had no prejudice against foreign marriages; the lower classes may well have had more, and, on the whole, it is possible to view Pericles here as championing exclusivist tendencies against immigrants who might break down the fabric of Athenian society. One hundred years later, an orator argued for firm distinctions of status on the ground that the law provided even the poorest Athenian girl with a dowry in the form of her citizenship. The law also may have passed because of a general wish to restrict access to the benefits of office and public distributions, but there was never any disposition on the part of Athenians to restrict economic opportunities for foreigners—who served in the fleet, worked on public buildings, and had freedom of trade and investment, with the crucial, but normal, exception of land and houses. To speak of this legislation as a move forward creating a "master race" is thus partly misleading, but the demagogic nature of the law seems clear.

Cimon died after 451, during his last campaign against Persia. The policy of war with Persia was abandoned and a formal peace probably made. The Persian War, begun as an ill-considered gesture in 499, could be considered ultimately successful. The city of Athens, however, was physically still much as it had been left by the Persian sack of 480, and its gods were inadequately housed.

Attempt to restor Athens' leadersh among t Greek cities

Hostilities among the Greek states had also come to an end in the Five Years' Truce of 451. Pericles now embarked on a policy designed to secure Athens' cultural and political leadership in Greece. It had already dominated the alliance that had continued the Persian War after Sparta's withdrawal in 478, a leadership strengthened by the transfer of the alliance's considerable treasury from Delos to Athens in 454. If peace with Persia did not end the alliance, it may have ended the annual tribute paid to that treasury. Whether to regain this tribute, or simply to assert Athenian leadership, Pericles summoned a conference of all Greek states to consider the questions of rebuilding the Greek temples destroyed by the Persians, the payment of sacrifices due to the gods for salvation, and the freedom of the seas. Sparta would not cooperate, but Pericles continued on the narrower basis of the Athenian alliance. Tribute was to continue, and Athens would draw heavily on the reserves of the alliance for a magnificent building program centred on the Acropolis. In 447 work started on the temple later known as the Parthenon and on the gold and ivory statue of Athena (by Phidias), which it was to house; the Acropolis project was to include, among other things, a temple to Victory and the Propylaea (started 437), the entrance gateway, far grander and more expensive than any previous Greek secular building.

There was domestic criticism, however. Thucydides, son of Melesias (not the historian) and a relative of Cimon, who had inherited some of his political support, denounced both the extravagance of the project and the immorality of using allied funds to finance it. Pericles argued that the allies were paying for their defense, and, if that was assured, Athens did not have to account for how the money was actually spent. The argument ended in ostracism in 443; Thucydides went into exile for ten years, leaving Pericles unchallenged. It cannot be determined whether the glamour of the project had completely caught Athenian imagination or whether Pericles was now simply thought to be indispensable. Plutarch attributed to Pericles a desire to stimulate economic activity and employment in Athens, but these motives may be anachronistic and in actuality may not have influenced the voters very much.

Revolts within the Athenian Empire

There was also some initial allied resentment at the continuation of tribute, and some scattered revolts. Pericles met the situation in part by extending a network of Athenian settlements throughout what may now be called the empire, thus strengthening Athenian control and providing new land for the growing Athenian population. In establishing one of these, Pericles engaged in his most admired campaign, the expulsion of barbarians from the Thracian Chersonese (Gallipoli). A more serious crisis came in 447 or 446, however, when the cities of Boeotia, under Athenian control since 458, beat a small Athenian army and successfully revolted. Euboea, crucial

to Athenian control of the sea and food supplies, and Megara soon followed suit. The strategic importance of Megara was immediately demonstrated by the appearance, for the first time in 12 years, of a Spartan army north of the Isthmus in Attica. Pericles thought and acted swiftly. The details were never fully known, but, possibly by bribery and certainly by negotiation, it was arranged that Athens would give up its mainland possessions and confine itself to a largely maritime empire. The Spartan army retired, Euboea was quickly reduced, and the arrangement was ratified by the Thirty Years' Peace (winter 446–445). For Athens, the essential loss was that of Megara, which meant that a Spartan army could appear in Attica at any time. That Pericles doubted the stability of the settlement and saw the need to develop an alternative basic strategy for Athens is shown by his immediate construction of a third Long Wall to improve the defenses of Athens and the port of Piraeus. Henceforth, in effect, Athens could be turned into an island at will.

Political and military achievements. There was a break in tensions for the moment. After Thucydides' ostracism, Pericles had little domestic opposition. His position rested on his continual re-election to the generalship and on his prestige, based, according to the historian Thucydides, on his manifest intelligence and incorruptibility. From his youthful demagogy, he had moved to a more middle ground in politics, and there are traces in his later life of his being outflanked by more radical spokesmen. Athens was, Thucydides says, in name a democracy but, in fact, governed by its first man. Though Athenian democracy never gave more than severely limited powers to the executive, the assembly gave Pericles what he wanted. Thucydides, obsessed with the power of intellect, takes little note of the need of a statesman to work hard, and it is Plutarch who provided the glimpses of a man who took no interest in his own estates, who was never seen on any road but that to the public offices, and who was only recalled to have gone to one social occasion, which he left early.

Pericles' personal life

This picture is softened somewhat by what is known of his personal life. The identity of his wife, however, though certainly of wealth and high birth, is unknown. He married her in his late 20s but, as they were incompatible, divorced her some ten years later. Close to 50, he took Aspasia of Miletus into his house. By his own law, marriage was impossible, and, after the death of his two legitimate sons, their son Pericles had to be legitimated. Although she is clouded by scandal and legend, it is easy to believe she possessed great charm and intelligence. There is no reason to doubt that she was free and of good birth in her own city with its great intellectual traditions. It is clear that her own behaviour and Pericles' attitude toward her were surprising phenomena in Athens, where upper-class women were kept secluded. That Pericles was known to kiss her on leaving for and returning from work gave rise to speculation about her influence on him and, thus, on Athenian politics.

As the building program continued, Pericles demonstrated Athenian superiority in other ways. In 443 a Panhellenic colony was founded under Athenian auspices at Thurii, in south Italy, but did not form a continuing centre of Athenian influence in the west, as may have been hoped. At an unknown date, Pericles took a fleet into the Black Sea to demonstrate Athenian power and secure the corn route from south Russia. As the buildings on the Acropolis rose, celebrations of the festival of the Panathenaea grew more and more elaborate, and much was done to enhance the splendour of the Mysteries of Eleusis, symbolic, among other things, of the Athenian claim to have brought corn and civilization to mankind.

Pericles' last major campaign was the one interruption in these years. In 440, Samos, one of Athens' principal allies with a substantial fleet of its own, revolted, and, despite a victory by Pericles against superior numbers, the revolt nearly succeeded. The campaign to recover Samos, although long and costly, was completely successful, and became a model against which later Athenian generals measured their achievements.

There had been a serious possibility that Sparta and its allies might intervene on this occasion, but they did not, and the Thirty Years' Peace was upheld until the end of the 430s. Tension grew as the decade progressed, particularly with regard to Corinth, Sparta's ally, whose interests conflicted more obviously with those of Athens. By 433 the situation was serious enough for Athens' finances to be put on a war basis, and, thereafter, the drift to war continued. Pericles' policy was one of firmness, coupled with careful manipulation of the diplomatic position to keep Athens technically in the right. The firmness was a puzzle to contemporaries, particularly his determination to enforce decrees excluding Megarian trade from the Athenian Empire. Was he, it was asked, influenced by some private grievance of Aspasia? Was he trying to divert attention from personal attacks on himself and friends by making war? Thucydides tells just enough to make his own interpretation plausible, that Megara was a small matter in itself but crucial as a symbol of Athenian determination to maintain its position. Consideration of Megara's strategic importance, which Thucydides consistently undervalues, may suggest further the possibility that the Megarian decrees were not the immediate cause of the war but the first blow in a war Pericles thought inevitable and that began in spring 431.

The drift toward war

Pericles' main strategic ideas are clear. He was an admiral rather than a general, and Athens' naval resources were immeasurably superior to its land power. He would evacuate the Athenian countryside, bring the population into the Long Walls, decline battle with the Spartan army, and rely on the fleet to assure Athenian food supplies and secure the empire on whose resources the expensive naval policy depended. Expenditure on building had been counterbalanced by annual savings from the tribute, and enough capital had been reserved, he thought, for a long war, though expenditure turned out heavier than he could have calculated. This is essentially Thucydides' analysis, though he failed to explain what end to the war, other than a stalemate, Pericles wanted or expected. There are some indications that Periclean strategy included more aggressive elements, such as the recovery of Megara, which would have considerably improved Athens' position.

Weakne of Pericl strategy

This strategy, however, had marked political weaknesses. The Athenian population had deep roots in the countryside, and great firmness was required to bring them to abandon their land to Spartan ravages without a fight. The middle class army suffered in morale, and the living conditions of the lower classes, though they were allowed activity in the fleet, deteriorated in the overcrowded city. The overcrowding had an unforeseeable consequence in a plague, which in the second summer of the war took a quarter of the population. No obvious success counterbalanced the discomforts of war, and Pericles was deposed from office and fined. He was soon re-elected, but he took no new initiatives before his death in autumn 429.

After the first campaigning season of the war, he had delivered the funeral speech over the fallen, which Thucydides reports at length. They had fallen, he said, in preserving a way of life that he described in detail. Athenian life often fell short of this Periclean ideal, but he conceived it with clarity and made it generally recognized. He conceived his Athens as "an education to Greece." If the last speech attributed to him by Thucydides is any guide, he cannot be accused of ignoring that the realities of power that made the Periclean age possible might also bring it down.

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(D.M.L.)

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Greece

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both elements was now possible. It lay with Sparta to choose the time and place for applying the relatively small but excellent forces of the Greek congress.

The first decision, to hold the narrow Vale of Tempe between Macedonia and Thessaly, was abandoned when it was realized that the position could easily be turned. On news of this the Athenians voted, on the proposal of Themistocles, to entrust themselves to "the wooden wall" of their ships in accordance with an utterance of the Delphic oracle, and plans were made for evacuating the noncombatants. Next the Greeks occupied the still narrower pass of Thermopylae with 6,000 or 7,000 hoplites and stationed 271 ships at Artemisium in northern Euboea. The positions were linked by communication between the Spartan commanders, King Leonidas at Thermopylae and Eurybiades at Artemisium, who intended to halt and damage the Persian forces. Meanwhile, Xerxes was advancing slowly. He made no use of separate columns, and his fleet suffered heavy losses in a storm when it was convoying supply ships along the coast. It was already August when Xerxes began the operations, which extended over three days.

Ther-
mopylae

On the first day he sent a detachment of 200 ships, unseen by the Greeks, to sail round Euboea and close the narrows of the Euboean Channel; and he also attacked with his best infantry at Thermopylae, where the Greeks inflicted heavy casualties. During the afternoon the Greek fleet, having learned about the Persian detachment from a deserter, engaged the main Persian fleet with some success. The Greeks intended to sail south that night and destroy the detachment next day, but a tremendous storm kept the Greeks at Artemisium and wrecked the 200 Persian ships off south Euboea. On the second day news of the Persian disaster was brought up by a reinforcing squadron of 53 Athenian ships. Xerxes attacked again with no success at Thermopylae, and the Greeks sank some Cilician vessels off Artemisium. That evening a Greek traitor, Ephialtes, offered to guide the Persians along a mountain path and turn the position at Thermopylae. The Persians' best infantry, called the "Immortals," were entrusted to him. At dawn on the third day they began to descend toward the plain behind the Greek position. Leonidas retained the troops of Sparta, Thespiae, and Thebes and sent the remainder south. He then advanced. Except for the Thebans, who surrendered, he and his men fought to the death. Meanwhile the Persian fleet attacked at noon. Both sides suffered heavy losses and the Greeks realized that they could only succeed in narrower waters. That evening, when the fall of Thermopylae was known, the Greek fleet withdrew down the Euboean Channel and took station in the narrow Strait of Salamis.

In September, Xerxes, joined by many Greeks north of Attica, burned Athens. The city was almost deserted, for the evacuation had been completed. The Greek congress decided to fortify the isthmus and keep the fleet forward at Salamis. This decision caused dissension among the ship captains. Many wished to retire to the Argolic Gulf. As a stratagem, Themistocles informed Xerxes of their desire; Xerxes, who saw the end of the campaigning season close at hand, sent 200 ships that night to cut the Greek line of retreat and posted the main fleet, numbering probably 1,207 ships, off the eastern exit of the Straits of Salamis. During the night the Greeks learned of his dispositions and intentions. Putting to sea at dawn they feigned a retreat, actually sending a detachment northward to look out for the 200 Persian ships, and their manoeuvres led the enemy to advance incautiously into the narrow waters where superior numbers were of little effect. Within the narrows the Greek ships, stoutly built for ramming, had room to manoeuvre against the congested stream of Persian ships, which, designed for boarding tactics, proved less handy under oar and fell foul of one another. The result was a complete triumph for Greek seamanship. The Persians fled in confusion. Soon afterward their fleet, still superior in numbers but not in morale, set sail for Asia.

That winter, while Xerxes departed to Asia, a large army wintered in Thessaly under the command of Mardonius. By skillful diplomacy he drew the Greeks forward in the summer of 479 to the northern foothills of Mt. Cithaeron near Plataea, where difficulties of supply forced the Greek army of 110,000 men to withdraw during the night. The withdrawal was disorderly and dawn found the army scattered. Mardonius at once attacked a group of 11,500 Spartan and Tegean hoplites who had halted on hilly ground. Their commander, Pausanias, undismayed by the swarms of Persian infantry, led his men downhill in close formation, charged at the double, and overwhelmed the enemy. When the Athenians came up after defeating the Thebans, the Greeks stormed the camp and the survivors of the Persian army fled. Meanwhile, the Greek fleet had passed to the offensive at Mycale on the Asiatic coast opposite Samos. The Persians refused battle, beached their ships, and joined a large supporting army, but the Spartan king Leotychidas landed his men farther north and attacked with complete success. The victories of Plataea and Mycale ended the Persian invasion.

Plataea and Mycale

Greek offensive (478–448 BC). The Greek triumph was due to Spartan leadership, Athenian loyalty, and Greek fighting power. The Spartans, however, had no desire to campaign in Asia, whereas the Athenians were ready to deploy their fleet in support of the Ionians. Hence arose the Delian League, formed by Athens as executive leader and by many Greek states on the islands and Asiatic coast, to defend Greek liberty and exact retribution from Persia. A series of successful operations culminated *c.* 466 in victory at the Eurymedon River in Pamphylia, where an allied force of 300 ships defeated a Persian army and navy. In 460 the Athenians and their allies supported Egypt in a successful revolt. But the Persian army returned to the attack; Egypt made a separate peace, and the Greeks, overconfident in their sea power, were trapped on the Nile and annihilated in 454. By this time the Athenians were at war with Sparta, but a truce on the Greek mainland enabled them to launch successful attacks on Cyprus in 450–449. A treaty of peace was concluded, probably in 448, by the Athenians, their allies, and Artaxerxes I of Persia that recognized the liberty of the Greek states in Europe and Asia and kept the Persian fleet out of the Aegean Sea.

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(N.G.L.H.)

Greece

A constitutional monarchy until 1974—though the reigning monarch fled the country in 1967 as part of a series of events that continues to mold the nation—Greece is a European republic stretching across the tip of the Balkan Peninsula from the Ionian Sea to the Aegean and including islands in both seas. Its area—50,960 square miles (131,986 square kilometres)—is about that of Czechoslovakia or North Korea, and its neighbours (clockwise from the northwest) are Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Turkey; its insular possessions stretch as far south as the major Mediterranean island of Crete (Kríti). Its capital is Athens (Athínai).

There is about Greece a vitality, all too often undisciplined, that makes many another European country seem tame, even dull, by comparison. This is evident immediately on sailing into a Greek port or crossing a Greek border: sounds, smells, movements, colours—the very tempo of things—conspire to heighten sensibilities and intensify expectations. But alongside all this is the serene coolness, even aloofness, of what remains in Greece from classical antiquity, the visible monuments of which constantly stand as a challenge to (if not even a rebuke of) contemporary endeavours.

The vitality of Greece and Greeks can be said to stem from the heady mixture over centuries of many peoples and ways of life. That land, now the home of about 9,000,000 persons, has long been "at the crossroads"—at that place in the Balkans where "three roads meet," where Europe, Africa, and the East converge, and at that point in time where the ancient, the medieval, and the modern coexist and conflict. The Greek is familiar with the Middle East: his language and food, to say nothing of his religion and history, are marked by exotic and even oppressive elements from Turkey, the Holy Land, Egypt, and beyond. But he is familiar as well with the more sober West, with the Europe to which the young go for training and for work, with the Americas and Australia to which so many have gone for a new home. Greeks, like the Jews whom they resemble in so many ways, have long been able to adjust themselves as merchants in many climes and to many ways of life. But, also like the Jews, they have preserved in their heart of hearts a vital memory of the homeland to which they yearn to return.

The cross-roads

This homeland is as much a state of mind as it is a place to be found on maps. The yearning to "return," then, is almost as strong among those who have never left Greek soil as among those who find themselves abroad. Perhaps it is a yearning to attain that which has never been but which has always been aspired to. It is a yearning evident in the melancholy of Greek music, the nostalgia that can be heard even in the lively tunes and ballads sung on festive occasions. It is a yearning that can be heard as well in interminable conversations, especially those with which Greeks refresh themselves through the long cool nights that follow blistering summer days. And it is a yearning that can be seen in the faces and deeds of the Greeks, a yearning that makes it impossible for them "to leave well enough alone." A perpetual restlessness, much like that which was said to characterize the political life of ancient Athens, is evident, a restlessness that can continue subterraneanly despite surface conformity to the tyranny of the moment.

Indeed, there have been many tyrannies in Greece, tyrannies that are as much a part of the much-discussed "Greek experience" as (if not even the most frequent result of) their volatile democracies. Perhaps, it might even be said, memories of tyrannies remind Greeks of the unpredictability of human things, of the disaster that can follow upon prosperity, of the trials that even the most successful encounter from time to time. Life can be expected to be as hard, as unyielding, and as toughening as the soil and the sea from which Greeks have for centuries wrested their livelihood. But it can also be as enriching and as exciting as the landscape and the light for which Greece has always been celebrated and that can be seen, if not at this moment or place, then surely in a little while or down the road a few kilometres.

The following article surveys contemporary Greece. Additional information may be found in the articles on AEGEAN CIVILIZATIONS; AEGEAN SEA; ATHENS; BALKANS, HISTORY OF THE; BYZANTINE EMPIRE; CRETE; GREEK CIVILIZATION, ANCIENT; and the appropriate sections of VISUAL ARTS, WESTERN, and LITERATURE, WESTERN.

THE LAND

Topography. The Greek landscape is conspicuous not only for its beauty but also for its complexity and its variety. The dominant influence—as noted by Strabo, the great geographer of classical antiquity, and confirmed by a glance at the map—is the sea. An ever-present factor, the sea presses deep into the land in a host of arms and inlets, which are often separated by the rocky spines of peninsulas that thrust back into the sea and are continued in the arcs and clusters of beautiful islands across its surface. Only a small, wedge-shaped portion of the interior of modern Greece is more than 50 miles from the sea. Mountains are the second major element in Greek topography. They cover about three-quarters of the country's surface, forming a ribbed, interlaced network, trending generally from northwest to southeast, and enclosing numerous small basins. The basins—together with narrow valleys, small plains (spreading more extensively about river mouths), and a thin, broken coastal strip—form the third element in the relief, the lowland.

The three elements in the topography

In their combination and interaction, these three elements have been of immense significance in shaping national development: the rich soils of the basins nurtured agriculture and the first stirrings of civilization, but the mountains (while often serving as a barrier against invaders) constricted this social development to small, fiercely independent areas and impeded communications between them. The sea—as both history and the ancient stories attest—made for contact between the separate communities and stimulated contacts farther afield, although it also exposed the coastal regions to external attack. For the geographer these three elements, in local combination, are a convenient basis for a division of the contemporary Greek landscape into six natural regions.

The Pindus Mountains. The core region in Greek topography is unquestionably the rugged Pindus Mountains (Píndhos Óros) area of the northwest interior. Following the general northwest–southeast trend of the mountains of the Balkan Peninsula, the Pindus sweep down in a series of rugged, roughly parallel ridges from the Albanian and Yugoslavian frontier and are structurally a part of the Dinaric mountain system of those countries. This system of young fold mountains was created relatively late in geological time, and earthquakes continue to afflict the region as the mountain structures settle down. The highest point in this region is Smólikas Óros (*óros*, plural *óri*, "mountain"), 8,651 feet (2,637 metres) high. The mountain scenery, with jagged granitic peaks, wild gorges, and a succession of magnificent views glimpsed from winding roads, is justly famed.

Macedonia and Thrace. A number of topographic regions surround this mountainous core and are often penetrated by extensions of it. The northernmost division, roughly the regions of Macedonia and Thrace (Thráki), extends in a long, narrow east–west band between the north Aegean coast and the frontier with Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. It is bounded on the east by the Maritsa River (Évros Potamós; *potamós*, "river"), which marks the Turkish frontier, and consists of hills and forest-clad mountains interpenetrated by valleys, river basins, and alluvial plains. Along the Bulgarian border and beyond it rise the ancient crystalline rock structures of the Rhodope Mountains (Rodhópi Óri), against which the newer mountains of the Pindus were crushed during their formation. In the west, the three-pronged peninsula of Khalkidhikí (Chalcidice) forms a distinctive feature as it thrusts out into the Aegean. On the easternmost prong, Áyion Óros (Holy Mountain), is located Mt. Áthos, the site of the famous monastic community.

The Khalkidhiki peninsula and Mt. Áthos

The peninsula is separated from the rest of the coastal region by a fault line of structural weakness, marked by the lakes Korónia and Vólvi. Just to the west extends a large plain drained by the Vardar (Axiós) and Aliákmon rivers, whose swampy deltas are slowly pushing out into the nearby Thermaïkós Kólpos (*kólpos*, "gulf"). The forested Vérmion Óros and, beyond it, the barren inland basins around lakes Vegorrítis and Kastorías mark the boundary with the Pindus proper. Farther east is a succession of plains, often swampy; that of Sérrai, around the lower Struma (Strimón), and the deltaic plain of the lower Néstos are most significant. Inland basins of structural origin include that of the Pedhiás Drámas.

Central Greece. Central Greece lies to the south of Macedonia and Thrace and is lent character by four spurs that thrust out from the main Pindus mass, following the northwest–southeast trend of that region. A number of

distinctive basins and plains lie amidst these upland ribs. The northernmost, a rather broken spur called the Kamvoúnia Óri, runs along the coast of the Thermaïkós Kólpos and continues south to form the peninsula bounding one side of the Órmos Vólou (*órmos*, "bay"). One of its peaks is Mt. Olympus (Óros Ólimbos)—the mythical seat of the gods, whose often cloud-topped summit rises to 9,570 feet (2,917 metres), the highest point in Greece—and also the equally fine peaks of Óssa and Pílion (Pelion). The next spur on the west is the Óros Óthris range, which continues across the narrow Dhíavlos Oreón (Oreón Channel) in the northern sector of the long, narrow island of Évvoia (Euboea). Between the two spurs lie the ancient basins (formerly the site of lakes) of Thessalía (Thessaly), Tríkkala (Tríkala), and Lárisa, drained by the Piniós. Just to their south, the basin of Almirós, of similar origin, lies around the Órmos Vólou.

To the southwest, the third spur leaving the Pindus is that of the Oíti, continued in the Ókhi Óros of southern Évvoia. Just before the Oíti reaches the sea, near the head of the Maliakós Kólpos, lies the pass of Thermopylae (Thermopílai), scene of the famous battle of antiquity. The last (and perhaps the most important) of the four spurs thrusting down into central Greece is that curving away to the southeast through the twin-peaked mass of Mt. Parnassus (Parnassós). This mountain rises to 8,061 feet (2,457 metres) and was held to be the home of the muses. The view from its summit at sunrise, with a broad expanse of the heart of Greece gradually unfolding, is regarded as one of the finest in the world. The range continues as the backbone of the peninsula lying between the Vórios Evvoïkós Kólpos and the Gulf of Corinth (Korinthiakós Kólpos), and it reaches as far as Párnis Óros, just to the north of Athens. To its north lie the plains of Fokís (Phocis) and Voiotía (Boeotia) and around its southern tip lie the depressions of Attica (Attikí), hotter and more arid but with a strategic importance that helps to explain the rise of Athens.

The Pelopónnisos. The entire southern portion of mainland Greece forms a peninsula lying to the south of the Gulf of Corinth. Technically, this region, the Pelopónnisos, or Peloponnese, also known as the Mórea, is now an island, for the 3.9-mile (6.3-kilometre) Dhiórix Korínthou (Corinth Canal) cuts across the narrow neck of land formerly separating the Gulf of Corinth from that of Aíyina (Aegina). The Pelopónnisos consists of an oval-shaped mass with mountains rising to 7,800 feet and four peninsular prongs pushing out southward toward Crete. The limestone mass of the plateau of Arkadhía (Arcadia), where streams disappear underground in the soluble rocks, forms the heart of this mass, with the barren land of Taïyetos Óros (rising 7,897 feet, or 2,407 metres) extending southward to form the backbone of one of the subsidiary peninsulas. This mountainous core is surrounded by a thin fringe of fertile coastal plain in the north and west and by the larger alluvial depressions of Lakonía (Laconia), Messinía (Messenia), and Árgos, which head the inlets between the peninsulas to the south. The coast is indented and offers some fine harbours, and the whole region is noted for its wild beauty.

The western uplands and islands. The western side of the Greek mainland north of the Gulf of Corinth to the Albanian frontier and the offshore islands (the Ionian Islands; Iónioi (Nísoi) possess their own distinctive topography and regional character. This effect has been enhanced by the fact that the mountainous barrier of the Pindus lying inland and the ameliorating climatic influences from the west have led to historic isolation from the rest of Greece. Fertile basins are not as well developed as in some other parts of Greece because they are constricted by the parallel ranges of coastal mountains, but the mountain regions themselves, being adequately supplied with rainfall, are not so barren as elsewhere. Kérkira (Corfu), the island lying opposite the Albanian frontier, is the northernmost of the seven major Ionian Islands. It is fertile and well watered. The other islands, Paxoí (Paxos), Levkás (Leucas), Skorpiós, Itháki (Ithaca), Kefallinía (Cephalonia), and Zákinthos (Zacynthus), lie farther south. Lack of rainfall accentuates their gaunt, broken limestone relief, although Levkás and Zákinthos have sheltered eastern plains.

The Aegean Islands (Nísoi Aiyaíou). Just as ridgelike extensions of the Pindus interpenetrate the basins and coastal plains of mainland Greece, island groups, which are often further extensions of the same mountain chains, form distinct regional clusters in the Aegean Sea. In the northeast, the island region forms the most extensive—and, visually, perhaps the most attractive—of the physiographic divisions of Greece. In the north, off Thrace (Thráki), lie Thásos (an oval block of ancient mineral rocks similar in composition to neighbouring blocks on the mainland) and harbourless Samothráki (Samothrace), an island of volcanic origin. Límnos, situated midway between Asia Minor and Áyion Óros, is almost cut in two by the northern Órmos Pourniá and the deep southern harbour afforded by the Kólpos Moúdhrou.

Regional clusters of islands

To the southeast, the rocky but sheltered islands of Lésvos (Lesbos), Khíos (Chios), and Sámos lie close to the Turkish coast and are extensions of peninsulas on the coast of Asia Minor. Across the central Aegean, near northern Évvoia (Euboea), lie the Northern Sporades (Voríai Sporádhes), or "scattered" islands; their crystalline rocks are similar to those of the Greek mainland. Farther south, in the heart of the Aegean, lie the Cyclades (Kikládhes), "islands in a circle." These roughly centre on Dhílos (Delos) and represent the tips of drowned mountain ridges continuing the structural trends of Évvoia and the region around Athens.

Between the Cyclades and the Turkish coast, the Dodecanese (Dhodhekánisos) group, with Rhodes (Ródhos) the largest of a dozen major islands, have a varied geological structure ranging from the gray limestones of Kálimnos, Sími, and Khálki to the complete ancient volcanic cone that forms Nísiros. Finally, the long, narrow shape of Crete stands at the entrance of the Aegean in the extreme southern portion of Greek territory. Its harsh, rugged landscapes mark yet another extension of the fold mountains of the Balkan Peninsula.

Climate and drainage. The basically Mediterranean climate of Greece is subject to a number of regional and even local variations occasioned by the country's physical diversity. In winter the belt of low pressure disturbances moving in from the North Atlantic shifts southward, bringing with it warm, moist, westerly winds. Squalls and spells of rain ruffle the Aegean, but sunshine often breaks through the clouds. As the low pressure areas enter the Aegean region, they may draw in cold air from those eastern regions of the Balkans that, sheltered by the Dinaric mountain system from western influences, are open to climatic extremes emanating from the heart of Eurasia. This icy wind is known as the boreas. Partly as a result, Thessaloníki (Salonika) has an average January temperature of 43° F (6° C), while Athens has 50° F (10° C). *Shilok*, or warm winds, are similarly drawn in from the south. The western influences bring plentiful rain to the Ionian coast and the mountains behind it; winter rain also starts early, and snow lingers into spring. At Kérkira (Corfu), January temperatures average 50° F (10° C), and the island's average annual rainfall is 52 inches (1,300 millimetres), compared with the Athens total of 16 inches (400 millimetres).

In summer, when the low pressure belt swings away again, the climate is hot and dry almost everywhere, with the average July sea-level temperature approaching 80° F (27° C), although heat waves can push the temperature up over the 100° F mark for a day or so. Topography is again a modifying factor: the interior northern mountains continue to experience some rainfall, while all along the winding coast the afternoon heat is eased slightly by sea breezes. In other regions the hot, dry summers are accentuated by the parching etesian winds, which become drier and drier as they are drawn southward.

In all seasons—perhaps especially in summer—the quality of the light is one of Greece's greatest treasures. Although the larger cities have not escaped the pernicious effects of industrial and vehicular pollution, the Greek atmosphere is generally pure and clear. The interplay of light and varied landscape is remarkable. The harsh white

The quality of Greek light

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limestone crags of the islands, contrasting with the deep blue of the Aegean waters and an equally powerful sky; the dusty green olive groves, the burnt-orange tiled roofs, and dazzling whitewashed walls of coastal communities; and the ever-present weathered stones of the country's great number of ancient monuments all add their own tones.

The drainage pattern of Greece is significantly influenced by the porosity and solubility of the rocks of the limestone regions; hence, seasonal downpours are often immediately lost through seepage and runoff. Much rainfall is also lost in rugged terrain of the geologically young northern mountains, where there is a tortured network of rushing mountain streams, often falling into narrow, spectacular gorges. Finally, the irregular, deeply penetrating coastline makes for short river courses. The overall effect is to produce short rivers with an erratic seasonal flow, virtually useless for navigation and limited for irrigation purposes. The Vardar, Struma, and the Néstos, which crosses Macedonia and Thráki to enter the northern Aegean, are the major rivers—but only because they drain large regions beyond the Greek frontier. A host of small and medium-sized rivers drain the rest of the country: the Aliákmon, the Piniós (running east across the main peninsula), and the Evrótas of the Pelopónnisos are noteworthy.

Plant and animal life. Like other Balkan countries, Greece is open to influences from several major biogeographic zones, with the major Mediterranean influences supplemented by plants and animals stemming from the central European interior. Hence, local topographic and climatic conditions also occasion great variety. On the mountain flanks, and in the north generally, the central European types of vegetation prevail. In central and southern regions and in narrow belts along the valleys of the mountains, about half the land is under scrub of various kinds; and maquis, the classic Mediterranean scrub complex—with oleander, bay, evergreen oak, olive, and juniper—is particularly well developed in the Pelopónnisos. Evergreen trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants are found in the lowlands, with the flowers offering brilliant patterns in springtime. Pines, planes, and poplars line the rivers, the higher slopes, and the coastal plains. Oak, chestnut, and other deciduous trees are found in the north, giving way at higher altitudes to coniferous forests dominated by the Grecian fir, in which clearings are carpeted in spring and summer with irises, crocuses, and tulips. Forests and scrub are found at the highest levels: the black-pine forests coating Mt. Olympus are particularly noteworthy.

The forested zones, especially in the north, harbour such European animals as wildcat, martin, brown bear, roe deer, and, more rarely, wolf, wild boar, and lynx. Animals of the Mediterranean regions include jackals, wild goats, and porcupines, all adapted to lack of moisture and to the heat. Birds include pelicans, storks, and herons, while many varieties winter in Greece from farther north. Reptile and fish life is rich and varied.

The human imprint. The large number of monuments dotted across Greece are testimony of the antiquity of man's attempts to wrest a living from this sometimes harsh environment. Contemporary patterns of settlement, especially in the rural areas, bear the marks of long centuries of development.

Village life remains a powerful influence. It nevertheless has a cosmopolitan nature—seen especially in the village-square discussions—and the modern cities have something of the village in their character. The rural communities themselves range from the little communities of the northern mountain interior, reminiscent of central Europe, to the sun-beaten villages of Crete, which are almost African in appearance. Although rural settlement patterns reflect the vagaries of physical geography and the changing currents of history in a particular region, the tiled roofs, low, whitewashed walls, long, narrow windows, the central church, and the traces of fortifications are frequent features of village communities. Between villages, the ancient stone walls and winding roads add their own character to the landscape.

Yet town and city life is becoming increasingly important, and more than half of the people were classified as urban in the early 1970s. The metropolitan sprawl centred on Athens (home of over 2,500,000 people) is one of the great urban complexes of the Mediterranean, complete with industrial and port facilities. The port of Thessaloníki, with a metropolitan population close to 550,000, is the second major urban centre. There is then something of a gap, for the next half dozen or so major centres—often ports—have populations generally falling between 50,000 and 100,000. Urbanization and the modernization of the economy—especially improvements aimed at the influx of tourists—are also leaving their mark on the traditional Greek landscape.

Greece, Area and Population

	area		population	
	sq mi	sq km	1961 census	1971 census
Regions (*dhiamerismata*)				
Aegean Islands				
Departments (*nomoí*)				
Cyclades	993	2,572	100,000	86,000
Dodecanese	1,044	2,705	123,000	121,000
Khíos	349	904	62,000	54,000
Lésvos	832	2,154	140,000	115,000
Sámos	300	778	52,000	42,000
Central Greece and Évvoia				
Departments				
Aitolía and Akarnanía	2,103	5,447	238,000	229,000
Attikí*	1,303	3,375	205,000	258,000
Evritanía	790	2,045	40,000	30,000
Évvoia	1,509	3,908	166,000	165,000
Fokís	819	2,121	48,000	41,000
Fthiótis	1,686	4,368	160,000	155,000
Voiotía	1,240	3,211	114,000	115,000
Crete				
Departments				
Iráklion	1,020	2,641	208,000	210,000
Khaniá	917	2,376	131,000	120,000
Lasíthi	702	1,818	74,000	66,000
Rethímni	578	1,496	70,000	61,000
Ípiros				
Departments				
Árta	622	1,612	83,000	78,000
Ioánnina	1,927	4,990	155,000	135,000
Préveza	419	1,086	63,000	57,000
Thesprotía	585	1,515	52,000	41,000
Greater Athens†	167	433	1,853,000	2,540,000
Ionian Islands				
Departments				
Kefallinía	361	935	46,000	37,000
Kérkira	247	641	102,000	93,000
Levkás	125	325	29,000	25,000
Zákinthos	157	406	36,000	30,000
Macedonia				
Departments				
Dráma	1,339	3,468	121,000	91,000
Flórina	719	1,863	67,000	52,000
Grevená	903	2,338	43,000	35,000
Imathía	656	1,699	115,000	118,000
Kastoria	651	1,685	47,000	46,000
Kavála	814	2,109	141,000	122,000
Khalkidhikí‡	1,267	3,281	83,000	75,000
Kilkís	1,003	2,597	103,000	84,000
Kozáni	1,375	3,562	153,000	136,000
Pélla	968	2,506	133,000	126,000
Piería	598	1,548	98,000	92,000
Sérrai	1,539	3,987	248,000	203,000
Thessaloníki	1,375	3,560	544,000	710,000
Pelopónnisos				
Departments				
Akhaía	1,239	3,209	239,000	240,000
Argolís	855	2,214	90,000	89,000
Arkadhía	1,706	4,419	135,000	111,000
Ilía	1,035	2,681	189,000	165,000
Korinthía	884	2,289	113,000	113,000
Lakonía	1,404	3,636	119,000	96,000
Messinía	1,155	2,991	212,000	173,000
Thessalía				
Departments				
Kardhítsa	995	2,576	153,000	134,000
Lárisa	2,067	5,354	231,000	232,000
Magnisía	1,018	2,636	164,000	161,000
Tríkala	1,289	3,338	143,000	133,000
Thráki				
Departments				
Évros	1,638	4,242	158,000	139,000
Rodhópi	982	2,543	109,000	108,000
Xánthi	692	1,793	90,000	83,000
Total Greece	50,960§	131,986§	8,389,000§	8,769,000§

*Attikí Department excludes area and population of Greater Athens, shown separately. †Constitutes part of Attikí Department. ‡Includes area and population of Áyion Óros (Mt. Áthos), an autonomous administration. §Detail does not add to total given because of rounding. Source: Official government figures.

THE PEOPLE

Linguistic, ethnic, and religious background. Despite the great variety of influences that have shaped modern Greece, and the marked differences among the many isolated regions, a sense of community binds the Greeks together, especially in a national emergency, such as World War II. A common religion, a great heritage, and a common popular tongue (variations in regional dialects notwithstanding) tend to make all Greeks feel that they are somehow one people equal to each other in important respects. Combined with this sense of equality is the interest in, and appetite for, political discussion.

All but about 5 percent of the populace adheres to the Greek Orthodox Church (see EASTERN ORTHODOXY). This body appoints its own ecclesiastical hierarchy and is headed by a synod of 12 metropolitans under the presidency of the archbishop of Athens. The Greek Church has links in dogma with the other Orthodox churches. The Muslim minority, just over 1 percent of the populace, is mainly Turkish and is concentrated in western Thráki and the Dodecanese. Roman and Greek Catholics (concentrated in Athens and the western islands formerly under Italian sway) account for less than 0.5 percent, and there are a few thousand adherents of Protestant churches, the Gregorian Rite of the Eastern Church (mostly Armenians), and Judaism, the last named being much reduced in numbers by the German genocide of World War II.

In terms of ethnic composition, Greeks again make up all but 5 percent of the total, the remainder being composed of Macedonians, Turks, Albanians, and Romanians. Except in Cyprus, southern Albania, and Turkey, there are no major enclaves of Greeks in nearby foreign countries, although Greek communities play a distinctive role in Europe, the Western Hemisphere, and Australia.

Demographic trends. The Greek population has never displayed the high rates of growth attributed to it by some analysts, although—despite grievous losses in a succession of wars and constant emigration as a result of poor economic conditions—it has usually shown a regular increase since the first census, in 1828. Most of its growth in the years since it gained its independence from the Turks resulted from two factors—annexations of surrounding areas (the Ionian Islands; Thessalía [Thessaly] and Árta; Ípiros [Epirus], Macedonia, and Crete; Thráki [Thrace]; and the Dodecanese) and the influx of more than 1,000,000 Greek refugees from Asia Minor in the 1920s. Emigration continues to be a limiting factor, the most active periods having been 1911–15 when nearly 130,000 persons left, 1956–60 (160,000), and the decade of the 1960s (830,000). The commonest destinations of the emigrants are the United States, Canada, Australia, and, most recently, West Germany, which has also attracted the largest number of the 300,000 Greeks working temporarily in western Europe. Vital statistics are comparable to those of the developed countries of Europe —deaths are 8.5 and births 16.1 per 1,000 annually, giving a natural increase of 7.6 per 1,000. Higher birth rates after World War II, however, have produced a youthful population: about 25 percent are less than 15 years of age and 45 percent less than 30. Along with population growth, urbanization has been a most important factor, especially since World War II. The rural component has shrunk to about one-third of the total. All these factors have had important social and political implications. The average density of population is about 175 per square mile (68 per square kilometre), although the variation in natural conditions makes the average rather meaningless. It is perhaps more significant to note that more than eight out of every 10 Greeks live on the main peninsula, and in 1971 more than one Greek in four lived in the Greater Athens area. (G.An.)

THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Although Greece is a Balkan country, its principal economic links are with the United States, the European Economic Community (EEC; Common Market), of which it is an associate member, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), of which it is a member. Trade with the Socialist bloc and with Yu-

goslavia has increased, however, and by 1974 about 16 percent of Greece's annual exports were going to those countries; they account, however, for only 5 percent of imports into Greece. With a population of only about 9,000,000 and a relatively low annual income per capita, Greece is not an important country industrially or in international trade. In the world of international shipping, however, Greek owners occupy an important place. If tonnage actually controlled by Greek nationals (as opposed to tonnage flying the Greek flag) is considered, the Greek fleet of about 4,380 ships, aggregating about 43,630,000 tons gross by 1976, was the second largest in the world (after Liberia). The fleet flying the Greek flag ranks fifth in the world, with more than 2,740 vessels aggregating 22,530,000 tons.

The sense of community

The extent and distribution of resources. *Mineral resources.* Greece's total mineral and quarry deposits are estimated at between 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 tons. There are important reserves of bauxite, lignite, and chromiferous iron, while the main quarry products are ceramic clays, gypsum, asbestos, and the famous Greek marble. Oil has been drilled for in several parts of the country, but commercially exploitable fields have not been found except in the northern Aegean Sea, and these have led to disputes with Turkey.

Greece is one of the main bauxite-producing countries in Europe. Proved reserves in mainland Greece amount to 40,000,000 tons, and probable deposits are estimated at more than twice as much. Output (mainly for export) doubled in the 1960s to approach 2,000,000 tons a year. A substantial and increasingly larger portion is used in the local production of alumina and aluminum metal. Total lignite (brown coal) reserves are estimated at 1,000,000,000 tons. About three-quarters of the lignite mined is used by power stations, the remainder for the manufacture of chemical fertilizers and domestic fuels. Ordinary iron ores and ores with a chrome and nickel content are present, but only the latter are exploited.

Biological resources. About 30 percent of the total area of Greece is arable land, about 40 percent is rough pasture land, 20 percent is forest, and the remainder is either unsuitable for cultivation or is unexploited.

In spite of the natural poverty of the soil and a system that leads to excessive fragmentation of the land (the average parcel is only about 1.4 acres, or 0.56 hectare), Greece is still essentially an agricultural country, about half the working population being directly engaged in farming and related activities. Agricultural products account for more than half the total exports, though Greece also imports substantial amounts of food.

Principal crops

The chief crops are wheat, cotton, tobacco, currants and seedless raisins, grapes, olives, and citrus fruit, production of which grew rapidly in the 1960s, partly owing to United States aid. Attempts are being made to improve dairy and meat production. Forestry is not important, though progress has been made in restoring the forests that were severely depleted during World War II. The very long coastline and numerous islands help nourish an important fishing industry. With the modernization of the fishing fleet and the extension of refrigeration and processing facilities, output has increased; the once-important sponge-diving industry, on the other hand, has declined in the face of competition from synthetic products.

Power resources. Waterpower and lignite are the most important power resources in Greece, about 70 percent of the electric power being derived from them. A power station at Megalópolis in the Pelopónnisos successfully utilizes lignite of remarkably low calorific value and high moisture content. This plant has interested specialists in other countries dependent upon low-grade lignite deposits. Surveys are still being carried out (with United Nations aid) with the aim of developing more hydroelectric stations, and the establishment of a nuclear generating plant has been under consideration.

Sources of national income. *Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.* The agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector accounted for 31 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1958, but thereafter it declined steadily. The decline was caused by the drift of workers from the land, either to other employment in Greece or to work abroad. In the period from 1961 to 1971 employment in agriculture declined at an average annual rate of 1.4 percent. Productivity, nevertheless, has been growing faster in this sector than in industry and in the services sector. As a result, agricultural production actually increased on average by nearly 3 percent a year in the period from 1965 to 1970, notwithstanding its decline as a proportion of total national output. Despite the comparatively more rapid growth of productivity in agriculture, however, its level of productivity is still a good deal lower than that of the average in other sectors—a factor experienced by the agricultural workers themselves as poverty. In an attempt to alleviate this, the government has tried to shift the emphasis away from excess production of wheat and tobacco to more profitable crops, notably cotton. Wheat subsidies were abolished in favour of a system of intervention price that sets a minimum selling price guaranteed by the government, which will buy wheat if prices fall below it and sell such purchases at free market prices. Farmers have also been compensated for loss of income by the waiving of debts and by grants to help pay for seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural machinery.

Government intervention in agriculture

Mining and quarrying. The mining and quarrying sector employs about 0.6 percent of the total labour force and accounts for just over 1 percent of the GDP. According to the industrial census of 1969, the number of mines and quarries (including quarries of building materials) and of solar-evaporation salt plants was 1,604, and average annual employment was 22,600 workers. In 1973 the value of the mining output was equivalent to 5.6 percent of total industrial output. In volume terms, more than one-half of the total output is accounted for by lignite production. The mining of bauxite is playing an increasingly important part in the economy, though if production of aluminum reaches the level planned for the mid-1970s, bauxite may have to be imported.

Manufacturing. Manufacturing output has tended to expand at a rate of about 10 percent per annum, but, largely because of the rapid growth of the services sector, manufacturing output as a proportion of the GDP remained around the level of 16 percent during the early 1960s; by the mid-1970s, however, it had risen to more than 25 percent of the GDP. Employment in the industrial sector as a whole (including building, mining, power production, and manufacturing) grew in the 1960s at an average annual rate of just over 4 percent, and over the latter half of this period productivity grew at the rate of 4.3 percent a year.

The main branches of industry are food processing, textiles, chemicals, steel, aluminum, and handicrafts. Athens and Thessaloníki are the main industrial centres, but government policy is to encourage industry to develop in other areas as well. The main change in the pattern of industry, however, has been the establishment of large industrial complexes, notably the huge Esso–Pappas complex at Dhiavatá, near Thessaloníki, which started production in 1966. Steel production is about 600,000 tons a year. The French-owned Pechiney complex at Dhírfis (Delphi) produces large quantities of aluminum for export. Another important industry, located at Elevsís (Eleusis), near Athens, is shipbuilding and ship refitting.

Products of industry

Energy. Electricity and gas production accounts for 2 percent of the GDP. In 1950, when 665,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced, only 823 towns and villages in Greece were supplied with electricity; the Athens area accounted for 84 percent of the country's total consumption. In that year was founded the Public Power Corporation, on the initiative and with the aid of the United States; its first plant started operating in 1953. By 1970 a further 6,657 remote villages were receiving electricity, and the output was 9,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours; Athens then accounted for only 40 percent of consumption. Greece is still heavily dependent on imports for fuel supplies.

Financial services. The central bank is the Bank of Greece, founded in 1928. The bank is privately owned, but the governor is appointed by the government, and the state has a share in the profits. The Bank of Greece

is also the sole bank of issue, and it supervises all banking operations in the country, implementing the decisions made by the Currency Committee. Consisting of the governor of the bank and the ministers of coordination, finance, agriculture, and industry and commerce, this body formulates all monetary, credit, and foreign-exchange policy.

There are eight commercial banks, which are private competitive institutions. In addition to undertaking short-term financing, they extend long-term loans to industry and trade and sometimes take up shares in the equity capital of industrial firms. Two of the commercial banks have also set up special investment banks. There are also an agricultural and a mortgage bank. The latter, besides granting housing loans, arranges for loans to public corporations and to the tourist sector of the economy. Long-term industrial development is also promoted by the Hellenic Industrial Development Bank, which is wholly state owned and endowed with government funds. The capital market is still relatively underdeveloped, though a number of measures have been introduced to improve matters. There is one stock exchange, located in Athens, in which there is active trading in about 30 banking and commercial shares.

Foreign trade. Over the 1960s exports more than doubled, as did imports. Exports also increased at a somewhat faster rate than imports; however, because imports were generally about three times as large as exports, the trade gap grew steadily throughout the decade, until it was equivalent to more than 18 percent of national income. An encouraging feature of trade trends in the second half of the 1960s was the growth in exports of industrial and handicraft products; exports of aluminum were particularly important. Exports of tobacco, once Greece's largest export earner, declined, and the market appears to be saturated. Items of capital equipment and fuel accounted for an increasing share of imports, but imports of manufactured consumer goods (and also food) also expanded, in spite of government attempts at restriction. The resulting inflation contributed to the fall of the military junta in 1974.

The widening trade gap

Although the Greeks have expressed dissatisfaction from time to time at the effects of their association (as associate member) with the EEC, trade with this area has grown steadily since 1964, when EEC countries absorbed 38 percent of Greek exports and supplied 42 percent of imports. West Germany is Greece's main trading partner, taking about 19 percent of the country's exports and supplying 20 percent of its imports.

Although Greece has a persistent and increasing trade deficit, the balance of payments is helped by a steady surplus on invisible services, notably shipping, foreign tourism, and funds sent back home by workers who have emigrated to other countries.

Management of the economy. *Private enterprise and the role of the government.* The Greek economy remains predominantly one of private enterprise, with the state limiting its intervention to the field of tax incentives, cheap finance, and its own or bank guarantees to overseas suppliers (and then only for large projects). With the exceptions of electric power, railways, telecommunications, and broadcasting, the state produces neither goods nor services, and its policy is to refrain from activities that can be undertaken effectively by private firms.

It has been official policy to aim at a surplus on the ordinary budget and to use this surplus to finance part of the deficit on the public investment budget, the rest of this deficit being met by domestic issues of bonds and interest-bearing treasury bills and by borrowing abroad. Direct taxes contribute about 20 percent of the total revenues of the Greek fiscal system; between 1957 and 1966 direct taxes on households rose by more than 8 percent annually. Over the same period net indirect taxes rose on average by more than 13 percent, and their share in the total gross national product at market prices rose from 9.7 percent in 1957 to nearly 14 percent 10 years later. In the 1970s policy appeared to aim at more efficient collection of existing direct taxes instead of alteration of the fiscal structure as such.

Taxation

Trade unions and employer associations. The military government dissolved most trade unions and deported many union leaders soon after it came to power in 1967. After the fall of that government, trade union activity revived. The interests of employers are promoted by the Federation of Greek Industries, founded in 1907, and by the Federation of Shipowners and Industrialists. There are chambers of commerce in Athens, Piraiévs (Piraeus), and Thessaloníki.

Economic policies. The broad aim of economic policy is to secure growth through augmenting the share of industry in national output, while keeping prices as stable as possible. Since 1967 great emphasis has been put on the latter objective, and prices were held down by administrative measures for three years. Beginning in 1970, however, prices began to edge upward. In agriculture, the aim is to raise productivity through switching to more profitable crops, and the government no longer subsidizes the growing of wheat and tobacco at uneconomic prices. Under the first Five-Year Plan of the military regime of 1967–74, investment in infrastructure, in tourist facilities, and in industry was meant to be considerably increased, and the primary source of finance for the projected investments was intended to be found in domestic budgetary savings.

At the same time, however, great efforts were made to encourage private foreign investment. This was done not only in order to supply much-needed investment capital and technical and managerial expertise but also to balance the external-payments account by meeting the current deficit with a large inflow of capital. The government also did all it could to promote tourism and shipping, which are major sources of earnings.

In October 1975 a flexible Five-Year Plan (1976–80) was outlined, aiming at a 6 to 7 percent annual growth rate during the plan period and providing for fuller use of domestic energy resources, exploitation of mineral resources, and more active solicitation of foreign investment involving export industries.

The chief economic problem for Greece is the age-old one of lack of natural resources. The structure of employment and of the national income shows Greece's great dependence on secondary economic activities: only about 25 percent of the working population is engaged in manufacturing and construction, and very nearly half of the GDP is generated in the services sector. This leads to a persistent balance-of-payments problem, and foreign indebtedness has grown steadily.

Resource scarcity

(E.I.U./Ed.)

Transportation. Not unexpectedly, the Greek landscape and seascape have had immense effects on the development of transportation patterns in the country and perhaps help to account for the pre-eminence of Greek names in the world of international shipping. The needs of tourism, military and political considerations, and the general economy have helped stimulate the development of a modern national transport system.

Sea transport. The importance of Greek (and Greek-owned) shipping fleets in national and international trade was noted above. Partly as a result, there has been strong emphasis on port development. Piraíevs (Piraeus), the port of Athens, is the major centre, followed by Pátrai, Préveza, Iráklion, Kaválla, and Vólos, among others. There is a developed steamer service to the various islands, and car ferries ply across many of the straits and inlets. Cruise ships and private vessels add to the demand for service facilities at ports.

Road transport. About 50 percent of the road network remains unpaved, and many of the smaller rural roads, especially in the mountain regions, still leave much to be desired. The Athens–Pátrai, Athens–Lamía, and Athens–Thessaloníki highways are modern roads, and the total amount of paved road tripled during the 1960s. There is also an extensive network of rural bus routes.

Railway transport. Extensive modernization has been effected in the Greek railway system, the aims being to improve the existing tracks, to standardize differing metric gauges, to forge links with western Europe, and to coordinate development with that of the roads. The

Greek topography and a late start (railways date only from the 1880s, and Greece was one of the last European countries to develop them) have made this modernization costly and difficult.

Air transport. Air transport is operated by the government-owned Olympic Airways, which took over the financially troubled Greek National Airlines (founded 1951) in 1957. Increasing tourist traffic has resulted in a major expansion of facilities. Athens has a modern air terminal, regional facilities have been improved, and there are new airstrips on some of the islands. **(G.An.)**

ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Structure of government. *The constitution.* The military junta (1967–74) ruled under a constitution approved in 1968 by a referendum held under martial law and preceded by a vigorous campaign in its behalf in the censored press. Political activity was prohibited, and the junta ruled by decree.

The republic

On June 1, 1973, the junta decreed that the monarchy was abolished and replaced by a republic. This was confirmed by popular referendum on July 29, but the validity of this referendum was challenged. After the fall of the junta and the restoration of democratic government, another referendum was held, on December 8, 1974, and 69.2 percent of those voting chose "uncrowned democracy."

On August 1, 1974, the prime minister, Konstantinos Karamanlis, announced that the constitution of 1952 would be reintroduced as a provisional measure until, in his words, "the country acquires a charter fully approved by the people."

The powers of head of state were to be exercised by the president of the republic. The word king in the constitution was replaced by the word president. Under the constitution of 1952 the government had full control over the armed forces, and the judiciary was free.

The draft of a new constitution was published on December 23, 1974, after endorsement by the full Cabinet. It provided for Greece to be a parliamentary republic, with a president as head of state and supreme commander of the armed forces. Legislative power was to be exercised jointly by the president and Parliament, the latter a unicameral body composed of 200 to 300 deputies (the exact number to be determined by Parliament itself) elected for five-year terms. The freedom to form political parties was guaranteed.

Resource scarcity

The president was to be elected by Parliament for a five-year (later reduced to four-year) term, and he was eligible for a second term.

The president was to appoint as prime minister the leader of the party with an absolute majority in Parliament; if such did not exist, other methods were prescribed. The draft constitution would also create an advisory body, the Council of the Republic, to consist of elder statesmen and the current leaders.

Administration. The Cabinet is composed of the prime minister and ministers of foreign affairs, national defense, coordination and planning, public order, culture and science, justice, national education and religion, employment, social services, interior, finance, agriculture, industry, commerce, public works, transportation and communication, and mercantile marine. There are also a minister for northern Greece and a minister to the prime minister.

Dhiamerísmata and *nomoí*

Officially, Greece is divided administratively into 10 *dhiamerísmata* (regions), although only four (and part of a fifth) have their own governments. A further subdivision is into more than 50 *nomoí* (departments; singular *nomós*); special arrangements are provided for the Greater Athens area, and the peninsula of Áyion Óros (Mt. Áthos) is a self-governing monastic community with a civil governor, appointed by the government, who is responsible for public order outside the monasteries.

Municipal government, with elected mayors and urban and rural councils, was established in Greece in the mid-19th century. Local authorities may levy certain taxation, but, in general, provincial services are supported by the national government.

Political parties. After the downfall of the military junta in 1974 and the restoration of democratic government, two decrees, published on September 23, 1974, authorized the resumption of party political activities in Greece. Four major new parties emerged:

The Centre Union–New Forces Party, a merger of the Centre Union and the Movement of New Political Forces. The Centre Union represented the rump of the Greek liberal movement, the Centre Union Party (founded in 1961) of Georgios Papandreou. The new Movement of New Political Forces was founded to campaign for policies of "democratic socialism."

The New Democracy Party, founded by Konstantinos Karamanlis. It was pledged to work for the establishment of democracy in Greece through political, economic, and social reforms.

The Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), incorporating two resistance organizations and founded by Andreas Papandreou, son of Georgios Papandreou. Its platform called for a non-aligned foreign policy (opposed to both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the EEC) and nationalization of private enterprises.

The United Left, a union of the United Democratic Left (EDA) and the two factions of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE). The EDA had been founded originally in 1951.

There were also a number of smaller parties representing various right-wing groups and groups that favoured the restoration of the monarchy.

New Democracy Party in power

Parliamentary elections were held on November 17, 1974, the first since 1964. The New Democracy Party of Karamanlis won 54 percent of the votes cast and a very large majority of the seats in Parliament; the next largest number of seats went to the Centre Union–New Forces Party (20 percent of the vote). On December 9, 1974, the Greek Parliament met for the first time in seven years.

J. Allan Cash

The port of Palaiá Epídhavros (Epidaurus), Greece.

Justice. The Supreme Court consists of four sections, three civil and one criminal. There are 11 courts of appeal, having jurisdiction in cases of criminal and civil law of second degree; in exceptional cases they may also adjudicate in cases of first degree. Below these are the 58 courts of first instance, which function also as criminal courts. They have jurisdiction in cases of first degree and, in exceptional cases, second degree. Criminal and juvenile courts exist in towns where courts of first instance sit. Some towns also have tax courts. There are many courts of justices of the peace throughout Greece, and also magistrates' (police) courts. District attorneys function in all courts except justices of the peace and magistrates'; in magistrates' courts the duties of district attorney are carried out by a public prosecutor.

Procedure in the courts follows the French model; *i.e.*, the investigating magistrate examines the evidence and

interrogates witnesses and, if he decides that there is a prima-facie case, refers it to the public prosecutor, who decides whether or not a charge shall be brought. Judges of the higher courts are appointed for life, and others may be removed only if convicted of a criminal offense.

In addition to the regular courts, there is a State Council, having jurisdiction over administrative disputes, administrative contraventions of law, and revision of disciplinary procedure on permanent civil servants.

Police. There are two main bodies of police, the city police (in Athens, Piraiévs, Pátrai, and Kérkira) and the gendarmerie, the latter a paramilitary force with responsibility for the whole country outside the four cities. Both forces are administered by the minister of the interior. The police forces were reorganized by a British mission after World War II. The gendarmerie and city police provide personnel for the tourist police. In addition, there are small forces of farm police, customs guards, and forest police and a Harbour Corps.

Armed forces. The Greek armed forces consist of an army, navy, and air force recruited on the basis of compulsory military service for all male citizens aged 21, for a period of two years. There is also a National Guard recruited from reservists for local security duties in frontier districts.

In 1967 a clique of army officers, mainly colonels, seized power in Greece by means of a coup d'etat. After the restoration of parliamentary government in 1974, Prime Minister Karamanlis stated (December 11), in a policy announcement, that the aim of the government would be to modernize the armed forces and ensure that they "recovered their concord and discipline." A gradual review of all members of the armed forces was begun, and in March 1975 a reorganization got under way. Clearly, it would be some time before the government could be confident of the loyalty of the military services.

Social conditions. Wages in Greece are low by reason of chronic rural underemployment and because the low agricultural income leads many young peasants to seek employment in the towns and there swell the ranks of unskilled labour. Minimum wages are fixed by the Ministry of Employment.

The Workers' Housing Organization, an agency of the national government, constructs housing and also provides technical assistance and loans for home building. Its projects are largely financed by a national lottery.

Health. After World War II the government took the lead in combatting disease, establishing modern health services and facilities. Malaria, once a scourge, has been virtually eradicated, and standards of hygiene and sanitation have been greatly improved. In the larger cities and towns the water supply is generally safe, though the same claim cannot be made for rural areas. Health measures taken in conjunction with the World Health Organization have been responsible for a great decline in deaths from infectious diseases. The main causes of death are cancer, cerebrovascular disease, and senility.

The Ministry of Social Services is responsible for the maintenance of hygiene, malaria control, establishment and financing of health and medical care centres and pharmacies, and for providing drugs, maternal and child care, and mental care. The large hospitals are concentrated in Athens, Thessaloníki, and Pátrai.

Social insurance. In 1968 the government unified the complex social insurance schemes, which are now controlled and supervised by the Ministry of Social Services through the Social Insurance Institution (IKA), the Unemployment Insurance Organization, the Farm Insurance Organization, and several separate main and auxiliary semi-public funds. The IKA insures workers in government, business, and industry, some agricultural workers, nonfarm self-employed persons, and domestic workers. The main and auxiliary funds offer insurance programs by occupation—*e.g.*, a fund for seamen, a fund for newsboys in Thessaloníki.

Social Insurance Institution (IKA)

Social insurance costs are largely financed by contributions paid into IKA by employees, in the form of payroll deductions, and by matching contributions from employers. Taxes on manufactured products and income from investments made by the insuring agency also help pay for social insurance.

Education. Education is the responsibility of the state, through the Ministry of National Education and Religion, policy being formulated by a Supreme Board of Education. In 1964 a new Education Act introduced radical changes, making school attendance compulsory till the age of 15 and covering both primary school (six years) and part of secondary school (three years). It also made demotic Greek (the colloquial language) the main language of instruction throughout the school system. The military junta in 1967 practically abolished the act of 1964, requiring attendance at school for only six years and reinstating Katharevusa (the literary language) as the principal teaching medium.

Junior secondary schools offer a three-year program, either a general academic course or a more technically oriented course, the former intended for students who plan either to end their education with secondary school or to continue in higher education, the latter for those planning to enter higher technical or vocational schools. Beyond the junior secondary schools are the advanced secondary schools, also offering a three-year program.

Universities

For higher studies there are universities at Athens (National Capodistrian University of Athens, founded in 1837, and National Technical University of Athens, founded in 1836) and at Thessaloníki (Aristotelian University of Thessaloníki, founded in 1925). The University of Ioánnina (1964) and the University of Pátrai (1966) are newer institutions. Athens also has a number of higher schools with university status: the Higher School of Fine Arts (1836), the Athens Graduate School of Economics and Business Science (1920), the College of Agriculture (1920), the Graduate School of Industrial Studies (1938), the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (1881), the Panteios School of Political Sciences (1930), and Pierce College (1875). The Graduate School of Industrial Studies at Thessaloníki (1958) also has university standing. (Ed.)

CULTURAL LIFE

The physical remains of the culture of ancient Greece, whether preserved *in situ*, in the fine network of museums, or (as a result of past activities) in the museums of other countries, are an ever-present reminder of the country's classical heritage. It continues as an important element in the culture of contemporary Greece and plays

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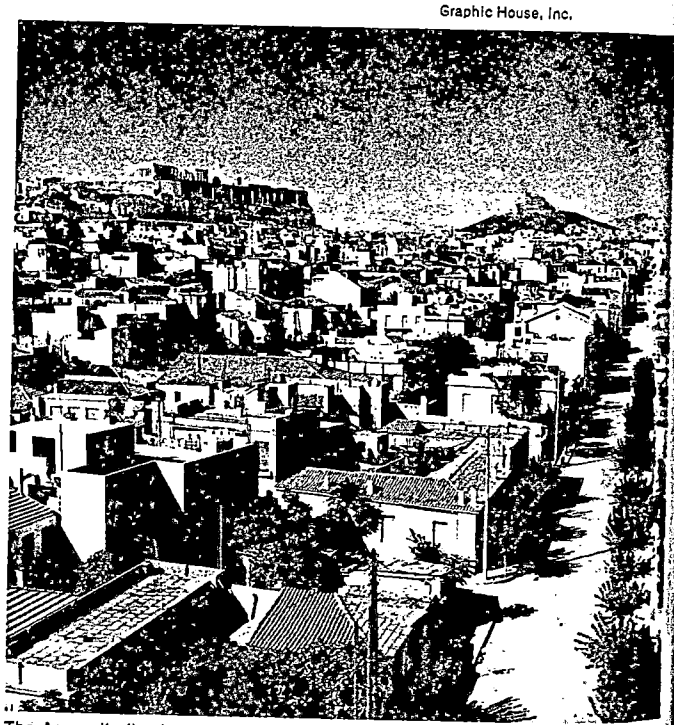

The Acropolis (background), in Athens.

a major role, through its attraction to tourists, in the economy. In addition, the deep religious traditions of the country—which found rich expression in the medieval icons and in the mosaics and frescoes that made the 14th century one of the triumphant eras of Byzantine art—continue to provide a fertile cultural source, generating a great variety of contemporary folk art and religious festivals. These are at their most vigorous in the rural areas generally and in the remoter regions in particular. Easter is the major event in the Orthodox calendar, and the sombre processions of Good Friday are followed by the festivities—including roasting of lambs and dancing in traditional costume—celebrating Easter Sunday. Other religious ceremonies occur throughout the year, beginning with the New Year blessing of the sea at Piraiévs (Piraeus) and elsewhere. The summer months are renowned for international music and drama festivals, particularly at Athens and Palaiá Epídhavros (Epidaurus). A revival of Byzantine iconography may be seen in the work of such artists as Fotos Contoglou and Stathis Trahanatzis as well as in the restoration of medieval frescoes and mosaics. The traditional Karankiózis puppet theatre is preserved by such masters as Panayioti Mixopoulos.

Modern Greek poetry is considered by many to be among the best of the 20th century. Poets of international renown include Constantine Cavafy (who spent most of his life in Egypt), George Seferis (who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1963), Angelos Sikelianos, Odysseus Elytis, and Yannis Ritsos. Another remarkable writer was Nikos Kazantzakis, who experimented with several forms of expression. Contemporary Greek literature is fortunate in its English translators, especially the Americans Kimon Friar, Edmund Keeley, Themis Vasils, and Theodora Vasils.

The Greek character is reflected in the opening verses of the "Hymn to Liberty" written by the 19th-century poet Dhionísios Solomós. These lines, set to the stirring music of N. Manzaros as the national anthem of Greece, read (in a prose translation by Theodora Vasils),

> I know you by the sword's dread cutting edge, I know you by the look that with vigour measures the earth. Out of the sacred bones of the Hellenes you issue valiant as before, hail o hail, Liberty! You dwelt therein, sorrowful, withdrawn, waiting for a mouth to tell you, "Come again." That day was long in coming, and all were silent, cowering under the terror and the crush of slavery.

The other great "national" song of the Greeks is the fervent Resurrection hymn attributed to an 8th-century monk, St. John of Damascus,

> Christ has risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death, and has upon those in the tombs life bestowed.

The music of these two hymns, a millennium apart in composition, is both joyful and haunting. The listener is reminded of Greek nostalgia, of the deepest fears and hopes of the Greeks and indeed of all mankind.

Greek musicians with international followings include Manos Hadjidakis and Mikis Theodorakis. After the fall of the military regime in 1974 there was a revival in Athens of an irreverent political theatre as well as of the film industry. It remains to be seen what effect a decade of suppression will have on young literary talent. It also remains to be seen what effect the constantly growing tourist industry will have on the cultural integrity of the country.

THE OUTLOOK

The future of Greece remains in serious question, and in the decades ahead the fundamental alternatives facing the Greeks may be the exciting dangers of Balkan and eastern Mediterranean politics or the complacent prosperity of a closer association with the European community. Forces may already be at work among the Greeks that compel them toward further urbanization and industrialization and toward greater exposure to the homogenizing (if not demoralizing) "culture" of the international mass media.

Continuity with the past, a very long past, remains Greece's burden as well as its glory. The past and its significance are often obscure but always present. Their very language constantly reminds Greeks both of what they have been and of what they have aspired to. The ramifications of old influences go deep and are unpredictable; they seem to make permanent solutions impossible, so long as Greece retains its identity. Perhaps it is true for all peoples that there are no "permanent solutions" and that most of what can be done in the present depends intimately on what has happened in centuries past. But these limitations upon self-determination are much more evident in Greece than in most other countries. After all, the light of Greece has long been known to make many things clearer there than they are likely to be elsewhere. (G.An.)

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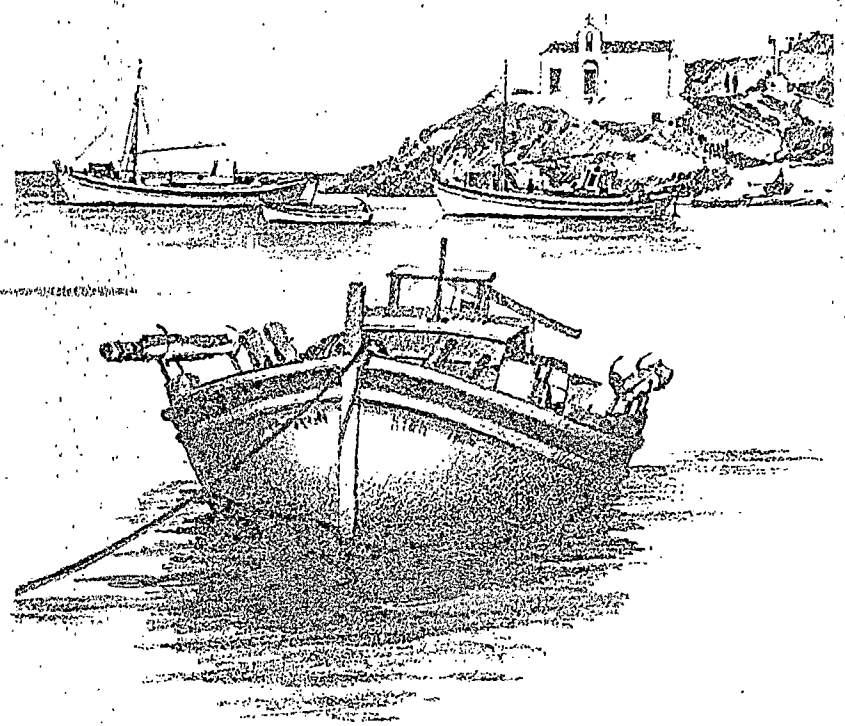

Introduction

You cannot travel far across the land in Greece without meeting the sea, or for long across the sea without meeting one of its 1,425 islands. About the size of New York state, Greece has 15,019 kilometers (9,387 miles) of coastline, more than any other country of its size in the world. The sea is everywhere, not on three sides only but at every turn, reaching through the shoreline like a probing hand. The land itself is stunning, dotted with cypress groves, oleander, and olive trees, carved into gentle bays or dramatic coves with startling white sand, rolling hills, and rugged mountain ranges that plunge straight into the sea. This natural beauty and the sharp, clear light of sun and sea, combined with plentiful archaeological treasures, make Greece one of the world's most inviting countries.

Poetry, music, architecture, politics, medicine, law—all had their Western birth here in Greece centuries ago, alongside the great heroes of mythology who still seem to haunt this sun-drenched land. The Pindus range runs north to south, containing the fabled peak of Mount Olympus, home of the Greek gods; and Mount Parnassus, favorite haunt of the sun-god Apollo and the nine Muses, goddesses of poetry and science. The remains of the ancient civilizations—the Acropolis and the Parthenon, the temples of Delphi, the Tombs of the Kings in Mycenae—and a later procession of Byzantine churches, Crusader castles and fortresses, and Turkish mosques are spread throughout the countryside.

Of the hundreds of islands and islets scattered across the Aegean Sea in the east and the Ionian Sea in the west, only 169 have ever been inhabited. This world of the fisherman is being quickly replaced by the world of the tourist. Over eight million holiday-makers visit Greece each year, almost as many as the entire native population; in fact, tourism has overtaken shipping as the most important element in the nation's economy. On some of the islands, the impact of the annual influx of visitors has meant the building of a new Greece, more or less in their image. Pubs and bars have replaced *ouzeris*, discos have replaced *kafenions*, and pizza and hamburger stands have overtaken *tavernas;* once-idyllic beaches have become overcrowded and noisy, and fishing harbors have become flotilla sailing centers. Prices are beginning to go up, and the simplicity has long disappeared from the islands' way of life.

As mass tourism takes effect in the main centers, strike out and find your own place among the smaller islands and the miles of beautiful mainland coastline. Except for some difficulty in finding accommodations (Greek families on vacation tend to fill the hotels in out-of-the-way places), this is the ideal way to see traditional Greece. Those who come only to worship the classical Greeks and gaze at their temples, seeing nothing but the glory that was, miss today's Greece. If you explore this fascinating country with open eyes, you'll enjoy it in all its forms: its slumbering cafés and buzzing tavernas; its elaborate religious rituals; its stark, bright beauty; and the generosity, curiosity, and kindness of its people.

Greece
YUGOSLAVIA
BULGARIA
TURKEY
THRACE
ALBANIA
Black Sea
Sea of Marmara
Thassos
Samothrace
Limnos
Lesvos
Skiathos
SPORADES
Skópelos
Skyros
Aegean Sea
TURKEY
Hios
Ikaria
Sámos
Andros
Tinos
Mykonos
Delos
Paros
Naxos
Amorgós
CYCLADES
Ios
Astypalea
Santorini
Anafi
Thira
Nissyros
Kos
Leros
Bodrum (Halicarnassus)
Symi
Tilos
Kámiros
Halki
Rhodes
Lindos
DODECANESE
Kárpathos
Kassos
Sea of Crete
Ionian Sea
Mirtoan Sea
Mediterranean Sea
CRETE
Kythira
Antikythira
Serifos
Sifnos
Milos
Kythnos
Kéa
Evia
Corfu
Kerkira
Paxi
Lefkas
Kephalonia
Ithaki
Zákynthos
Gulf of Corinth
Gulf of Thermaikos
Gulf of Kassandra
Mount Olympus
PELOPONNESE
Thessaloniki
Athens
Piraeus
Corinth
Sparta
Patras
Iraklio
Mallia
Knossos
Phaestos
Ierapetra
Haniá
Rethymnon
Kalamata
Pylos
Methoni
Messini
Gargaliani
Areopoli
Gythio
Monemvassia
Skala
Geraki
Mystras
Argos
Nafplio
Tripoli
Olympia
Pyrgos
Amalias
Zákynthos
Lixouri
Sami
Vassiliki
Agrinio
Messolongi
Nafpaktos
Delphi
Itea
Amfissa
Orhomenós
Thebes
Livadia
Halkida
Kymi
Lavrio
Sounio
Poros
Ermioni
Spetses
Ydra
Egina
Megara
Kárystos
Andros
Ermoupoli
Syros
Pátmos
Ephesus
Izmir (Smyrna)
Pythagorio
Kirykos
Mytilini
Plomari
Troy
Alexandroupoli
Avdira
Makri
Kavala
Amfipoli
Philippi
Eleftheroúpoli
Sidirokastro
Serres
Stavroúpoli
Xánthi
Didymóteho
Kalamitsi
Edessa
Florina
Kastoria
Ptolemaida
Kozani
Siatista
Grevena
Verria
Katerini
Thérmi
Nea Apollonia
Polygyros
Ormylia
Vatopedia
Iviron
Dafni
Athos
Kalithéa
Palioúri
Elassóna
Kalambaka
Trikala
Karditsa
Farsala
Almiros
Volos
Agia
Larissa
Tirnavos
Igoumenitsa
Ioannina
Paramythia
Filiatra
Parga
Preveza
Méltsavo
Filiánkio
Kánitsa
Arta
Aliki
Slavros
Karpenissi
Lamia
Kymi
Halkida
Lixouri
Sami
Messolongi
Nafpaktos
Galaxidi
Delphi
Itea
Amfissa
Livadia
Thebes
Megara
Diakofto
Corinth
Athens
Piraeus
Egina
Voula
Lavrio
Sounio
Poros
Ermioni
Spetses
Ydra
Nafplio
Argos
Tripoli
Olympia
Pyrgos
Amalias
Zákynthos
Andritsena
Kyparissia
Kaiafas
Messini
Gargaliani
Pylos
Methoni
Koroni
Areopoli
Gythio
Monemvassia
Skala
Geraki
Mystras
Sparta
Leonidio
Kyparissi
Kalamata
Agia Pelagia
Kythira
Kythira
Haniá
Rethymnon
Iraklio
Mallia
Knossos
Phaestos
Ierapetra
Sámos
Pythagorio
Ikaria
Agios Kirykos
Tinos
Mykonos
Delos
Paros
Naxos
Amorgós
Ios
Astypalea
Thira
Santorini
Anafi
Nissyros
Kos
Leros
Bodrum (Halicarnassus)
Symi
Tilos
Kámiros
Halki
Rhodes
Lindos
Kárpathos
Kassos
Sea of Crete
Ionian Sea
Mirtoan Sea
Mediterranean Sea
CRETE
Kythira
Antikythira
Serifos
Sifnos
Milos
Kythnos
Kéa
Evia
Corfu
Kerkira
Paxi
Lefkas
Kephalonia
Ithaki
Zákynthos
Gulf of Corinth
Gulf of Thermaikos
Gulf of Kassandra
Mount Olympus
PELOPONNESE
Thessaloniki
Athens
Piraeus
Corinth
Sparta
Patras
Iraklio
Mallia
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Phaestos
Ierapetra
Haniá
Rethymnon
Kalamata
Pylos
Methoni
Messini
Gargaliani
Areopoli
Gythio
Monemvassia
Skala
Geraki
Mystras
Argos
Nafplio
Tripoli
Olympia
Pyrgos
Amalias
Zákynthos
Lixouri
Sami
Vassiliki
Agrinio
Messolongi
Nafpaktos
Galaxidi

Before You Go

When to Go Although the tourist season runs from May to October, the heat can be unpleasant in July and August, particularly in Athens. On the islands, a brisk northwesterly wind, the *meltemi*, can make life more comfortable. If you want to move about the country and avoid all the other tourists, the ideal months are May, June, and September. The winter months are likely to be damp and cold virtually everywhere.

The following are the average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for Athens.

Jan.	55F	13C	May	77F	25C	Sept.	84F	29C
	44	6		61	16		67	19
Feb.	57F	14C	June	86F	30C	Oct.	75F	24C
	44	7		68	20		60	15
Mar.	60F	16C	July	92F	33C	Nov.	66F	19C
	46	8		73	23		53	12
Apr.	68F	20C	Aug.	92F	33C	Dec.	58F	15C
	52	11		73	23		47	8

Currency The Greek monetary unit is the drachma (dr.). Bank notes are in denominations of 50, 100, 500, 1,000, and 5,000 dr.; coins, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50. At press time (spring 1990), there were 160 dr. to the U.S. dollar and 286 dr. to the pound sterling. Daily exchange rates are prominently displayed in banks. You'll get a better exchange rate at banks than from hotels or stores.

What It Will Cost Inflation in Greece is high, about 20% to 25% a year, and fluctuations in currency make accurate budgeting long in advance an impossibility, so keep an eye on the exchange rates before your vacation. On the whole, Greece offers good value compared with many other European countries. The values are especially good for modest hotels and restaurants, transportation, and entertainment.

There are few regional price differences for hotels and restaurants. A modest hotel in a small town will charge the same rates as a modest hotel in Athens, with the same range of amenities. The same is true of restaurants. Rhodes, Corfu, and Crete are more expensive than other islands, but justifiably so. Car rentals are expensive in Greece, but taxis are inexpensive, even for long-distance runs.

Sample Prices At a central-city café, you can expect to pay about 200 dr. for a coffee or a beer, 140 dr. for a soft drink, and 240 dr. for a toasted cheese sandwich. These prices can, of course, vary considerably from place to place. A 1½-kilometer (one-mile) taxi ride will cost about 200 dr.

Customs on Arrival You may take in 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or one-quarter pound smoking tobacco; one liter of alcohol, or two liters of wine; and gifts up to a total value of 5,000 dr. There's no duty on articles for personal use. Your car, camping and sport equipment, and items such as typewriters and cameras are registered in your passport upon entry to prevent their sale within the country. Foreign bank notes in excess of $1,000 (about £560) must be declared for re-export. There are no restrictions on traveler's checks. Only 10,000 dr. may be imported or exported.

Language English is widely spoken in hotels and at major tourist sites. Although waiters, taxi drivers, and sales clerks may speak little English, there will always be someone around who is delighted to help, even in relatively out-of-the-way places.

In this guide, names are given in the Roman alphabet according to the Greek pronunciation except when there is a familiar English form, such as "Athens."

Getting Around

By Car *Road Conditions* Driving in Greece is not recommended unless you have iron nerves. As a ratio of collisions to the number of cars on the road, Greece has the worst accident rate in Europe, due in part, it seems, to a combination of national temperament and road conditions. The latter vary. Motorways tend to be good; tolls are 100 dr. and are charged according to distance. Many country roads are poorly maintained but free of traffic. If you do decide to drive in Greece, keep your wits about you and expect the unexpected. Red traffic lights are frequently ignored and passing on hills and corners is not unusual.

Rules of the Road Unless you are a citizen of an EC (European Community) country, you must have an International Driver's License. Driving is on the right, and although the vehicle on the right has the right of way, as mentioned above, don't expect this or any other driving rule to be obeyed. The speed limit is 100 kph (62 mph) on the national road, 80 kph (49 mph) outside built-up areas and 50 kph (31 mph) in town. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory.

Parking Parking spaces are hard to find; thousands park illegally. In Athens or Thessaloniki, you can pay to use one of the many temporary parking lots set up in vacant lots, but you're better off leaving your car in the hotel garage and walking or taking a cab.

Gasoline At press time gas cost about 75 dr. a liter (about 320 dr. a gallon). Gas pumps and service stations are everywhere, and lead-free gas is widely available.

Breakdowns **The Automobile and Touring Club of Greece** (ELPA, Athens Tower, Messoghion 2, Athens, tel. 01/779–1615) assists tourists free of charge.

By Bicycle Mopeds and bikes can be rented on the islands, the only places where biking is relatively safe.

By Train Few tourists use the trains because they are slow and railway networks are limited. The main line runs north from Athens to Yugoslavia. It divides into three lines at Thessaloniki. The main line continues on to Yugoslavia, a second line goes east to the Turkish border and Istanbul, and a third line heads northeast to Bulgaria. The Peloponnese in the south is served by a narrow-gauge line dividing at Corinth into the Mycenae-Argos section and the Patra-Olympic-Kalamata section. A **run-about ticket,** available only in Greece, gives unlimited second-class travel on trains and express buses operated by the railway (tel. 01/362–4402, for tickets and information).

By Plane **Olympic Airways** (Syngrou 96, Athens, tel. 01/929–2251) has service between Athens and most towns and islands. Thessaloniki is also linked to the main islands, and there are many inter-island connections.

By Bus Travel by bus is inexpensive, usually comfortable, and relatively fast. Buses operated by the Greek railways (OSE) are particularly good; the journey from Athens to Thessaloniki, for example, is ½ hour faster than the train. Bus information and timetables are available at tourist information offices throughout Greece. Make reservations at least one day before your planned trip. Railway-operated buses leave from the main railway station in Athens. All other buses leave from one of two bus stations: 260 Liossiou—for central and eastern Greece and Evvia; 100 Kifissou—for the Peloponnese and northwestern Greece.

By Boat There are frequent car ferries from Piraeus, the port of Athens, to central and southern Aegean islands and Crete. Nearby islands also are served by hydrofoils from Rafina, east of Athens. Ships to other islands sail from ports nearer to them. Connections between the islands of a group, such as the Cyclades, are good. But between islands of different groups or areas, such as Rhodes and Crete, the service is less frequent. Travel agents and shipping offices in Athens and Piraeus, and in the main towns on the islands, have details. Buy your tickets two or three days in advance, especially if you are traveling in summer or taking a car. Reserve or confirm your return journey or continuation soon after you arrive.

Staying in Greece

Telephones

Local Calls Most curbside booths have pay telephones for local calls only. You pay the man inside the booth after the call.

International Calls The easiest way to make and pay for international and long-distance calls is to go to a Telecommunications Office (OTE), usually located in the center of towns and villages. There are several branches in Athens. There are also a few special telephone booths (distinguished by their orange band) for international and long-distance calls. Calls to the United States and Canada are 2063 dr. for a 3 minute minimum plus 386 dr. for each additional minute or part of a minute. Hotels tend to add a hefty service charge for long-distance calls.

Operators and Information There are English-speaking operators on the International Exchange. Ask your hotel reception desk or an employee at the OTE for help in reaching one.

Mail

Postal Rates Letters or postcards within Greece cost 26 dr. for 20 grams; within Europe, 60 dr.; and to the rest of the world, 70 dr.

Receiving Mail You can have your mail sent to Poste Restante, Aeolou 100, Athens (take your passport to pick up your mail), or to American Express, Syntagma Square 2, Athens. For holders of American Express cards or traveler's checks, there is no charge for the service. Others pay 250 dr. per item.

Shopping

VAT Refunds Prices quoted in shops include the value-added tax (VAT). There are no VAT refunds.

Bargaining Prices in large stores are fixed. Bargaining may take place in small owner-managed souvenir and handicraft shops and in antique shops. In flea markets, bargaining is expected.

Export Permits Antiques and Byzantine icons require an export permit (not normally given if the piece is of any value), but beautiful replicas can be bought fairly cheaply, although even these require a certificate stating they are copies.

Opening and Closing Times The government is attempting to abolish the midday closing of businesses and shops, in an effort to cut down on the number of daily rush hours. It is also trying to stagger hours to alleviate the crush. Gradually, office, bank, and shopping hours are changing, but not all Greeks favor these changes. Check with your hotel for up-to-the-minute information on opening and closing times. Below is a rough guide:

Banks. Banks are open weekdays, 8–2:30; closed weekends and public holidays.

Museums. Most major museums are open 8–6; some smaller ones close earlier. Generally, museums are closed Tuesday and have shorter hours on Sunday and holidays. Archaeological sites are generally open 8–6 (in midsummer they tend to open earlier and close at sunset). Hours vary according to the importance of the site and the time of year—everything closes earlier in winter. *See* Exploring for hours of individual museums and sites; also check hours with your hotel.

Shops. Most shops are open weekdays from 8 to 2:30, but hours vary according to the type of shop. Some are open different hours on alternate days: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8–1:30 and 5–8; Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 8–2:30.

National Holidays January 1; January 6 (Epiphany); March 25 (Greek Revolution Memorial Day); April 5 (Greek Orthodox Good Friday); April 8 (Easter Monday); May 1 (May Day); May 27 (Pentecost); August 15 (Feast of the Assumption); October 28 (Oxi Day); December 25–26.

Dining Greek cuisine cannot be compared to that of France, and few visitors would come to Greece for its food alone. You'll certainly be able to find a delicious and inexpensive meal, but don't look in hotel restaurants, where the menus usually consist of bland, unimaginative international fare (although it's only here that you will find a reasonably priced fixed menu). The principal elements of Greek cuisine are vegetables such as eggplants, tomatoes, and olives, fresh and inventively combined with lots of olive oil and seasonings, such as lemon juice, garlic, basil, and oregano. While meat dishes are limited (mutton and poultry being the most common), fish is often the better choice, particularly on the coast. Your best bet is to look for tavernas and *estiatoria* (restaurants), and choose the one frequented by the most Greeks. The *estiatorio* serves oven-baked dishes, precooked and left to stand, while tavernas offer similar fare plus grilled meats and fish. Both types of establishment may vary in decor from simple to sophisticated with prices to match.

Fast-food bars have sprung up all over Greece in recent years and serve *giros* (slices of grilled meat with tomato and onions in pita bread), *souvlaki* (shish kebab), pastries filled with a variety of stuffings (spinach, cheese, or meat), and the ubiquitous hamburgers and pizza.

Mealtimes Lunch in Greek restaurants is served from 12:30 until 3. Dinner begins at about 9 and is served until 1 in Athens and until midnight outside Athens.

Precautions Tap water is safe to drink everywhere, but it is often heavily chlorinated. Excellent bottled mineral water, such as *Loutraki*, is available.

Dress Throughout the Greek islands you can dress informally for dinner, even at Expensive restaurants; in Athens, you may want to wear a jacket and tie at some of the top-price restaurants.

Ratings Prices are per person and include a first course, main course, and dessert (generally fruit and cheese). They do not include drinks or the 12%–15% service charge. Best bets are indicated by a star ☆.

Category	Athens/ Thessaloniki	Other Areas
Very Expensive	over 5,000 dr.	over 4,000 dr.
Expensive	2,500 dr.–5,000 dr.	2,000 dr.–4,000 dr.
Moderate	1,200 dr.–2,500 dr.	1,200 dr.–2,000 dr.
Inexpensive	under 1,200 dr.	under 1,200 dr.

Credit Cards The following credit card abbreviations are used: AE, American Express; DC, Diners Club; MC, MasterCard; V, Visa.

Lodging Most accommodations are in standard hotels, sometimes called motels. There are a number of "village" complexes, especially at the beaches, and as part of some hotels. Some private houses, especially those on the islands, offer accommodations, usually a double room with shower. These are often better than accommodations at the local hotel. In a very few places, there are state-organized "traditional settlements"—fine old houses with guest accommodations.

Greek hotels are classified as Deluxe, A, B, C, etc. (a star system is about to be introduced). These classifications do not always indicate price. A Deluxe hotel, for example, may charge less than some B-classified hotels. In this guide, hotels are classified according to price: Very Expensive, Expensive, Moderate, and Inexpensive. All Very Expensive and Expensive hotels have air-conditioning, so our listings in these categories only mention the absence of air-conditioning. If a Moderate or an Inexpensive hotel is air-conditioned, this is indicated. All have been built or completely renovated in the past 20 years, and all have private baths.

Prices quoted by hotels usually include service, local taxes, and VAT. Some may also include breakfast. Prices quoted are for double occupancy. Single occupancy is slightly less. The official price should be posted on the back of the door or inside a closet. Seaside hotels, especially those in the Very Expensive and Expensive categories, will frequently insist on guests taking half-board (lunch or dinner included in the price).

Ratings Prices quoted are for a double room in high season, including taxes and service, but not breakfast. Rates are the same throughout the country for each category. Best bets are indicated by a star ☆.

Category	All Areas
Very Expensive	over 20,000 dr.
Expensive	8,000 dr.–16,000 dr.
Moderate	5,000 dr.–8,000 dr.
Inexpensive	under 5,000 dr.

Credit Cards The following credit card abbreviations are used: AE, American Express; DC, Diners Club; MC, MasterCard; V, Visa.

Tipping There are no absolute rules for tipping. In restaurants, cafés, and tavernas, in addition to the 15% service charge, you should leave a tip for the waiter of around 10% in the better restaurants and between 5% and 10% in cheaper tavernas. This should be left on the table for your waiter and not on the plate, where it will be taken by the head waiter. In hotels, tip porters 50 dr. or 100 dr. per bag for carrying your luggage—more in a top hotel. Taxi drivers don't expect tips, but Greeks usually give something, especially to round off the fare or if the driver has been especially helpful. Hairdressers usually get 10% or slightly more. In legitimate theaters, tip ushers 20 dr. to 40 dr. if you are shown to your seat. In movie theaters, tip about the same if you receive a program from the usher. On cruises, cabin and dining-room stewards get about 250 dr. to 300 dr. per day.

Athens

Arriving and Departing

By Plane Most visitors arrive by air at Helleniko Airport. All Olympic Airways flights, both international and domestic, use the Western terminal next to the ocean. All other flights arrive and depart from the Eastern terminal on the opposite side of the airport.

Between the Airport and Downtown A new blue and yellow coach service connects the two air terminals, Syntagma Square, the bus and train stations and Piraeus. The coaches run every 15 minutes from 6 until midnight (fare: 100 dr.) and every 90 minutes from midnight until 6 AM (fare: 150 dr.). A taxi to the center of Athens costs about 600 dr.

By Train Athens has two railway stations, side by side, not far from Omonia Square. International trains from the north arrive at, and depart from, Stathmos Larissis, and trains from the Peloponnese use the marvelously ornate and old-fashioned Stathmos Peloponnisos next door.

By Bus Greek buses arrive at the Athens bus station at 100 Kifissou. International buses drop their passengers on the street, usually in the Omonia or Syntagma Square areas or at Stathmos Larissis.

By Car Whether you approach Athens from the Peloponnese or from the north, you enter by the National Road and then follow signs for the center. Leaving Athens, routes to the National Road are well marked; signs usually name Lamia for the north and Corinth or Patras for the southwest.

By Ship Except for cruise ships, few passenger ships from other countries call at Piraeus, the port of Athens, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Athens' center. If you do dock at Piraeus, you can take the metro right into Omonia Square. The trip takes 20 minutes and costs 50 dr. Alternatively, you can take a taxi, which may well

take longer due to traffic and will cost a great deal more, around 650 dr.

Getting Around

Many of the sights you'll want to see, and most of the hotels, cafés, and restaurants, are within a fairly small central area. It's easy to walk everywhere.

By Metro An electric (partially underground) railway is under construction. At present, it runs from Piraeus to Omonia Square and then on to Kifissia. It is not useful for getting around the central area. The standard fare is 50 dr. There are no special fares or day tickets for visitors, and there is, as yet, no public transport map.

By Bus The fare on blue buses and the roomier yellow trolley buses is 50 dr. You must have the exact change. Buses run from the center to all suburbs and suburban beaches until about midnight. For suburbs beyond central Kifissia, you have to change at Kifissia. Attica is well served by brown buses. Most buses, including those for Sounion, leave from the KTEL terminal, Platia Aigyptiou on Mavromateon, at the corner of Patission and Alexandras Avenues.

By Taxi Taxis are plentiful except during rush hours and rainstorms. But they are often on strike. Also, drivers seem to lead a maverick life—those without occupants often refuse to pick up passengers, while those with occupants often stop to pick up more. Many drivers are unfamiliar with the city; some automatically deposit every American at the Hilton Hotel. Fares are low, starting at 25 dr. and rising roughly 30 dr. per kilometer (0.6 mile). There is a 200-dr. minimum and a small surcharge for luggage and for travel after midnight. Some drivers overcharge foreigners, especially on trips from the airport or from Piraeus; insist that they turn on the meter as soon as you get in.

Important Addresses and Numbers

Tourist Information There are **Greek National Tourist Offices** at Karageorgi Servias 2, in the bank, tel. 01/322–2545; at East Helleniko Airport, tel. 01/970–2395; and at Piraeus, NTOG Building, Marina Zeus, tel 01/413–5716.

Embassies **U.S.:** Vasilissis Sofias 91, tel. 01/721–2951; **Canadian:** Gennadiou 4, tel. 01/723–9511; and **U.K.:** Ploutarchou 1, tel. 01/723–6211.

Emergencies **Police:** Tourist Police, tel. 171; Traffic Police, tel. 01/523–0111; and City Police, tel. 100. **Ambulance:** tel. 166. **Doctors:** Top hotels usually have one on staff; any hotel will call one for you. You can also call your embassy. **Dentist:** Ask your hotel or embassy. **Pharmacies:** Most pharmacies in the central area have someone who speaks English and knows all the usual medical requirements. Try **Marinopoulois**, Kanari 23, tel. 01/361–3051.

English Bookstore **Pantelides:** Amerikas 11, tel. 01/364–5161, **Eleftheroudakis,** Nikis 4, tel. 01/770–8007.

Travel Agencies **American Express:** Ermou 2, tel. 01/324–4975; **Wagons-Lits Travel:** Stadiou 5, tel. 01/324–2281; **CHAT Tours:** Stadiou 4, tel. 01/322–2886, and **Viking's Travel Bureau,** Filellinon 3, tel. 01/322–9383. **Thomas Cook:** Hellas Tours Ltd., 7 Stadiou St., tel. 01/92–35–358.

Guided Tours

Orientation Tours All tour operators offer a four-hour morning bus tour of Athens, including a guided tour of the Acropolis, for around 2,500 dr. Make reservations at your hotel or at a travel agency; besides those agents already mentioned, there are hundreds of others, many situated around Filellinon and Nikis Streets off Syntagma Square. **Key Tours** (Ermou 2, tel. 01/323–2520) offers a one-day tour of Athens, including all ancient and modern points of interest, for around 5,000 dr.

Special-Interest Tours For those interested in folk dancing, there is a four-hour evening tour (May–Sept.) for around 3,100 dr. that begins with a sound and light spectacle at the Acropolis and then goes on to a performance of Greek folk dances in the open-air theater nearby. Another evening tour offers a dinner show at a taverna in the Plaka area, after the Sound and Light show, for 4,600 dr. Any travel agency can arrange these tours—and the excursions below—for you, but go first to **CHAT Tours** or **Viking Tours** *(see* Travel Agencies, above) for reliable and efficient service.

Excursions The choice is almost unlimited. A one-day tour to Delphi will cost up to 6,200 dr., with lunch included; a two-day tour to Corinth, Mycenae, Nauplio and Epidaurus, around 12,500 dr., with meals and accommodations included. A full-day cruise from Piraeus, visiting three nearby islands—Aegina, Poros, and Ydra—is around 5,625 dr., and a two-day cruise, including Mykonos and Delos, costs up to 25,000 dr., including accommodations in standard-class hotels. A three-day classical tour to Delphi and the breathtaking Meteora monasteries costs from 32,000 dr.

Personal Guides All the major tourist agencies can provide English-speaking guides for personally organized tours.

Exploring Athens

Athens is essentially a village that outgrew itself, spreading out from the original settlement at the foot of the Acropolis. Back in 1834, when it became the capital of modern Greece, it had a population of 20,000. Now it houses more than a third of the Greek population—around four million—and 100,000 more join the masses every year. A modern concrete city has engulfed the old village and now sprawls for 388 square kilometers (150 square miles), covering almost all the surrounding plain from the sea to the encircling mountains.

The city is very crowded, very dusty, and overwhelmingly hot in summer. It also has an appalling air-pollution problem, mainly caused by traffic fumes; in an attempt to lessen the congestion, it is forbidden to drive private cars in central Athens on alternate working days. Despite the smog, heat, and dust, Athens is an experience not to be missed. It has a tangible vibrancy that makes it one of the most exciting cities in Europe, and the sprawling cement has failed to overwhelm the few striking and astonishing reminders of ancient Athens.

The central area of modern Athens is small, stretching from the Acropolis to Mount Lycabettos, with its small white church on top. The layout is simple—three parallel streets, Stadiou, Venizelou, and Academias, link two main squares, Syntagma and Omonia. Do wander off this beaten tourist track to catch some of the real flavor of living Athens. Seeing the Athenian butchers in the central market near Monastiraki sleeping on their cold, marble slabs during the heat of the afternoon siesta, may give you more of a feel for the city than seeing hundreds of fallen pillars.

Numbers in the margin correspond with points of interest on the Athens map.

The Historic Heart

At the center of modern Athens is **Syntagma (Constitution) Square.** It has several leading hotels, airline and travel offices, and numerous cafés. Along one side of the square stands the **Parliament Building,** completed in 1838 as the royal palace for the new monarchy. In front of the palace, you can watch the changing of the vividly costumed **Evzone guard** at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Amalias Avenue, leading out of Syntagma will take you to the **National Gardens,** a large oasis in the vast sprawl of this largely concrete city.

Time Out There are several breakfast/lunch spots around Syntagma Square. **Brazilian,** at Voukourestiou 1B, one block from the square, is ideal for a quick coffee and snack (there are no tables or chairs). Just off the National Gardens, at Xenofontos 10, is **Diros,** efficiently serving good Greek food and steaks.

Across the street, at the far end of the National Gardens, you will see the columns of the once huge **Temple of Olympian Zeus.** This famous temple was begun in the 6th century BC, and when it was finally completed 700 years later, it exceeded in magnitude all other temples in Greece. It was destroyed during the invasion of the Goths in the 4th century, and today only the towering sun-browned columns remain. *Admission: 250 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 9–3, Sun. and holidays 9–2:45.*

To the right stands **Hadrian's Arch,** built at the same time by the Roman Emperor. It consists of a Roman archway, with a Greek superstructure of Corinthian pilasters. Visiting heads of state are officially welcomed here; it is not open to the public.

About three-quarters of a kilometer (a half mile) to the right, down Leoforos Olgas Avenue, you come to the marble **stadium** built for the first modern Olympic Games in 1896; it is a blindingly white, marble reconstruction of the ancient Olympic stadium of Athens and can seat 70,000 spectators. Greece hopes to be chosen to host the games in the centennial year 1996.

From Hadrian's Arch, take the avenue to the right, Dionysiou Areopagitou, a few blocks west to the **Theater of Dionysos,** built in the 6th century BC. Here, the famous ancient dramas and comedies were originally performed in conjunction with bacchanalian feasts. *Tel. 01/323–6665. Admission: 300 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Tues.–Sat. 8:30–3; Sun. and holidays, 9–2.*

A little higher up, on the right, you'll see the massive back wall of the much better preserved **Theater of Herodes Atticus,** built by the Romans in the 2nd century AD. Here, on pine-scented summer evenings, the **Athens Festival** takes place. It includes

opera, ballet, drama, and concerts (*see* The Arts, below). *Tel. 01/321–0219. Admission: 250 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 9–2:45, Sun. and holidays, 9–1:45.*

Beyond the theater, a steep, zigzag path leads to the Acropolis. Though the Sacred Rock had been a center of worship for 5,000 years, the Athenians built this complex in the 5th century BC to commemorate the Greek naval victory at Salamis over the Persians. The first ruins you'll see are the **Propylaea,** the monumental gates that led worshippers from the temporal world into the spiritual world of the sanctuary; now only the columns of Pentelic marble remain. Above, to the right, stands the graceful **Temple of Wingless Victory** (or Athena Nike), so called because the sculptor depicted the goddess of victory without her wings to prevent her from flying away. The elegant and architecturally complex **Erechtheion temple,** most sacred of the shrines of the Acropolis and later turned into a harem by the Turks, has now emerged from extensive repair work. Dull, heavy copies of the infinitely more beautiful Caryatids (draped maidens) now support the roof. The Acropolis Museum houses five of the six originals, their faces much damaged by acid rain. The sixth is in the British Museum in London.

The **Parthenon** dominates the Acropolis and indeed the Athens skyline. Designed by Ictinus, with Phidias as master sculptor, it is the largest Doric temple ever built and the most architecturally sophisticated. Even with hordes of tourists wandering around the ruins, you can still feel a sense of wonder. The temple was originally painted in vivid reds and blues, but time and neglect have given the marble pillars their golden-white shine and the beauty of the building is all the more stark and striking. The British Museum houses the largest remaining part of the original 162-meter (523-foot) frieze (The Elgin Marbles). The building has 17 fluted columns along each side and eight at the ends, and these lean slightly inward and bulge to counterbalance cleverly the natural optical distortion. The Parthenon has had a checkered history: It was made into a brothel by the Romans, a church by the Christians, a mosque by the Turks. The Turks also stored gunpowder in the Propylaea, and when this was hit by a Venetian bombardment in 1687, a fire raged for two days and 28 columns fell, leaving the Parthenon in its present condition. *Tel. 01/321–0219. Admission: 600 dr., joint ticket to Acropolis and museum. Open weekdays 8–7; weekends and holidays 8:30–3; closed full-moon nights.*

The **Acropolis Museum,** just below the Parthenon, contains some superb sculptures from the Acropolis, including the Caryatids and a large collection of colored *kore* (statues of women in attendance to Athena). *Tel. 01/323–6665. Admission: 600 dr., joint ticket to the Acropolis. Open Apr.–Oct., Tue.–Fri. 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3, Mon. 12:30–7; Nov.–Mar., Tues.–Fri. 8–5, Mon. 12:30–7.*

On the rocky outcrop facing the Acropolis, St. Paul preached to the Athenians; the road leading down between it and the hill of Pnyx is called Agiou Pavlou (St. Paul). To the right stands the **Agora,** which means "marketplace," the civic center and focal point of community life in ancient Athens. The sprawling confusion of stones, slabs, and foundations is dominated by the best-preserved temple in Greece, the **Hephestaion** (often wrongly referred to as the Theseion), built in the 5th century

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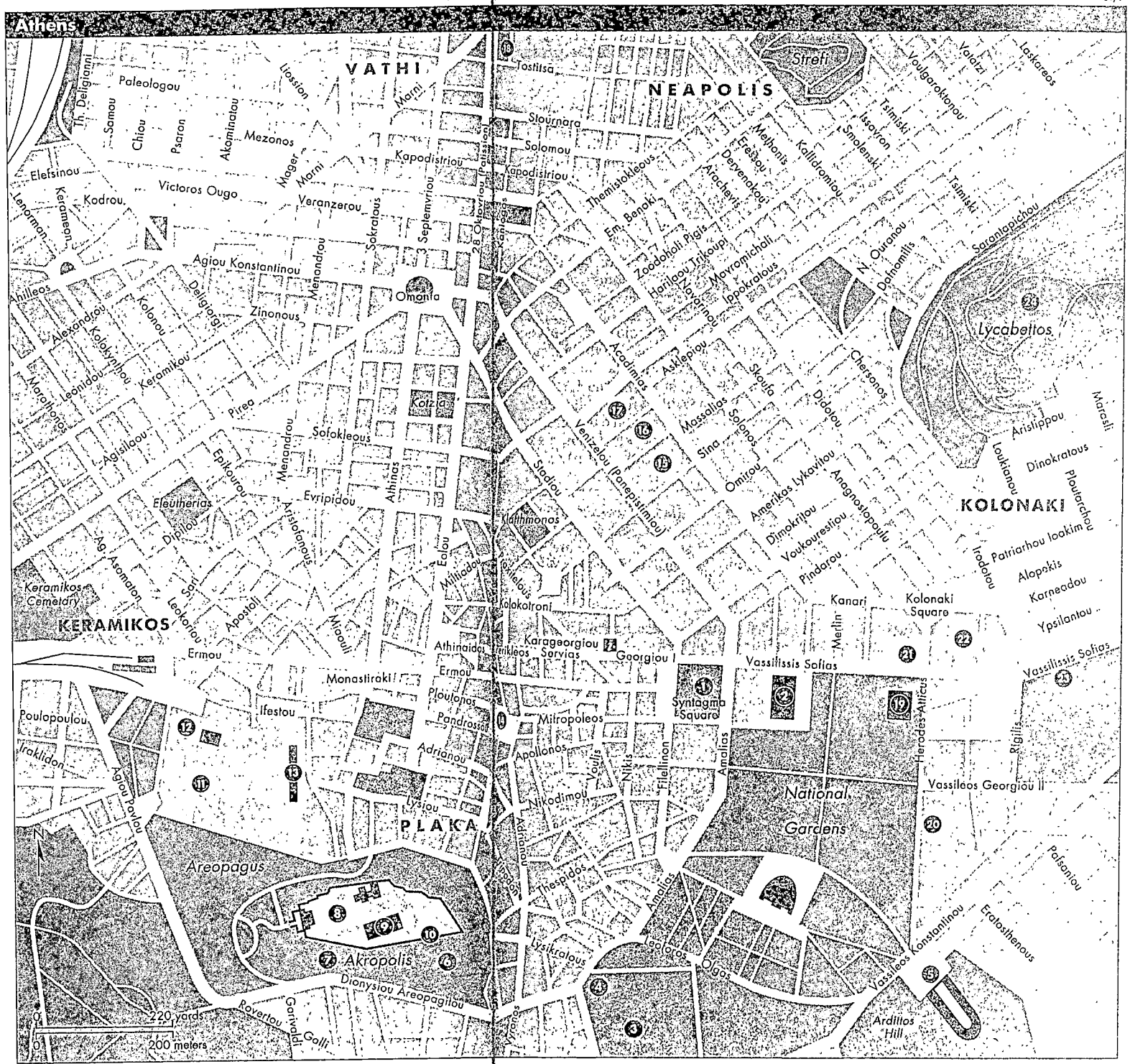


BC. Nearby, the impressive Stoa of Attalus II, reconstructed by the American School of Classical Studies in Athens with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation, houses the **Museum of the Agora Excavations.** *Tel. 01/321–0185. Admission: 400 dr. Open Tues.–Sun. 8:30–3.*

Next to the Agora you'll find the **Plaka,** almost all that's left of 19th-century Athens. In the 1950s and '60s, the area became garish with neon as nightclubs moved in and residents moved out. Renovation in recent years has restored the Plaka, and it is again lined with attractive houses and the vine-shaded courtyards of open-air tavernas and bars.

Below the Plaka, in Cathedral Square, stands a charming 12th-century Byzantine church known as the "Old" or **"Little Cathedral,"** nestled below the vast structure of the 19th-century **Cathedral of Athens.** From here, a short walk up Mitropoleos will take you back to Syntagma.

Time Out Visit the **De Profundis Tea Room** in an old mansion at Hatzimichali 1. Classical music plays softly as you drink fruit juice, herbal tea, or coffee in this sedate café; the homemade pastries are delicious. **Miltons,** at Adrianou 91, on the corner of Adrianou and Nikodimou in the Plaka, is ideal for a quiet, civilized lunch. Eat outside under white umbrellas and overhanging trees and watch the tourists amble by. It is a very fresh, clean and bright restaurant and serves a delightfully different—if expensive—*horiatiki* (Greek salad).

Downtown Athens If you walk along Venizelou Avenue (also known as Panepistimiou Avenue) from the square, you will pass, on the right, three imposing buildings in Classical style: the **Academy,** the **Senate House of the University,** and the **National Library.** When you reach **Omonia Square,** a bedlam of touts and tourists, you are in the heart of downtown Athens.

Try to spare time to see the **National Archaeological Museum.** Despite being somewhat off the tourist route, a good 10-minute walk north of Omonia Square, it is well worth the detour. This is by far the most important museum in Athens. It houses one of the most exciting collections of antiquity in the world, including sensational archeological finds made by Heinrich Schliemann at Mycenae, a 15th-century BC fresco from the Akrotiri ruins on Santorini, and the 6½-foot-tall bronze sculpture *Poseidon,* an original work of circa 750 BC, possibly by the sculptor Kalamis, which was found in the sea off Cape Artemision in 1928. *Tossitsa 1, off 28 Oktovriou, tel. 01/821–7717. Admission: 500 dr. Mon. 12:30–7, Tues.–Fri. 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3.*

Alternatively, from Syntagma you can take Vassilissis Sofias Avenue along the edge of the National Gardens to reach the **Evzone Guards' barracks.** From here you have several options. If you continue farther along Vassilissis Sofias, it will bring you eventually to the Hilton Hotel and the U.S. Embassy. Or, turn right onto Herodes Atticus, which leads to the **Presidential Palace,** a neo-Renaissance building now occupied by the present incumbent, Mr. Sartzetakis.

Opposite the Evzone Guards' barracks, on the corner of Vassilissis Sofias and Herodes Atticus, is the **Benaki Museum,** with an eclectic and interesting hodgepodge of objects from different countries and periods, ranging from ancient sculpture, through Byzantine pieces, Ottoman ceramics, and Chinese jades, to modern paintings. There is also a fabulous collection of genuine Greek national costumes and folk art and embroidery. *Koumbari 1, tel. 01/361–1617. Admission: 200 dr. Open Wed.–Mon. 8:30–2.*

The new **Museum of Cycladic Art** is up the next street to the right. The collection spans 5,000 years, with 230 exhibits of the Cycladic civilization (3,000–2,000 BC) in comparison with modern primitives. *Neofytou Douka 4, tel. 01/321–3018. Admission: 200 dr., free on Sat. Open Mon. and Wed.–Fri. 10–4, Sat. 10–3.*

A little farther along Vassilissis Sofias is the **Byzantine Museum,** housed in an 1840 mansion that was built by an eccentric French aristocrat. It has a unique collection of icons and the very beautiful 14th-century Byzantine embroidery of the body of Christ in gold, silver, yellow, and green. Sculptural fragments provide an excellent introduction to Byzantine architecture. *Vassilissis Sofias 22, tel. 01/721–1027. Admission: 300 dr. Open Tues.–Fri. 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3.*

Kolonaki, the chic shopping district and one of the most fashionable residential areas, occupies the lower slopes of **Mount Lycabettos** and is only a 10-minute walk northeast of Syntagma; it's worth a stroll around if you enjoy window-shopping and people-watching. Three times the height of the Acropolis, Lycabettos can be reached by funicular railway from the top of Ploutarchou Street (a 23 bus from Kolonaki Square will drop you at the station, fare: 200 dr. round-trip). The view from the top—pollution permitting—is the finest in Athens. You can see all of Athens, Attica, the harbor, and the islands of Aegina and Poros laid out before you.

Off the Beaten Track

Outside central Athens, on the slopes of Mount Ymitos (ancient Mount Hymettus), is one of the city's most evocative Byzantine remains, the **Kaisariani monastery.** Take a taxi or the no. 224 bus from the university (halfway up Venizelou Avenue) for 6 kilometers (4 miles) east of central Athens until you pass through the working-class suburb of Kaisariani. The monastery is a further 30-minute walk up the lower slopes of Mount Ymitos. The well-restored 11th-century church, built on the site of a sanctuary of Aphrodite, has some beautiful frescoes dating from the 16th century. Outside, there are plenty of shady places under the trees to sit and contemplate the view over Athens. If you feel particularly energetic, you can keep on walking up Mount Ymitos—the roads wind through the forested slopes for 19 kilometers (12 miles)—and take your pick of the many picnic spots. *Tel. 01/723–6619. Admission free. Open Mon.–Sat. 9–3, Sun. 9–2.*

Beyond the port of Piraeus, the little harbor of Mikrolimano is a must. This crescent-shaped gem of a harbor is crowded with small yachts, and its restaurants—22 at the last count—are famous for fish and seafood. While it's not a particularly cheap place to eat, the freshness and quality will not be found elsewhere in Greece. If you don't like seafood, you'll still be enchanted by the terraces of lovely houses tucked up against

the sloping hillsides, the elegant yachts, and the sturdy fishing craft. To get there from Athens, take the train from Omonia Square to New Phaleron or a bus from Filellinon Street to the New Phaleron train station; it's only five minutes' walk from there. Alternatively, a relatively expensive (700 dr.) taxi ride will take you 16 kilometers (10 miles) along the new coast road and will give you wonderful views of the Saronic Gulf.

Shopping

Gift Ideas Better tourist shops sell copies of traditional Greek jewelry, silver filigree, enamel, Skyrian pottery, onyx ashtrays and dishes, woven bags, attractive rugs (including *flokates*—shaggy wool rugs, often brightly colored), good leather items, and furs. Furs made from scraps are inexpensive. Some museums sell replicas of small items that are in their collections. The best handicrafts are sold in **National Welfare Organization shops** (Voukourestiou 24a and Ypatias 6) near the cathedral. Other shops sell dried fruit, packaged pistachios, and canned olives. For books in English, go to **Pantelides** (Amerikas 11 or Eleftheroudakis, Nikis 4). Most large hotels also maintain English-language bookstores, although these have fairly limited selections.

Antiques Many shops, especially in **Pandrossou Street** sell small antiques and icons. Keep in mind, however, that there are many fakes around and remember that you must have permission to export genuine objects from the Greek, Roman, or Byzantine periods.

Shopping Areas The central shopping area lies between Syntagma and Omonia. The **Syntagma** area has good jewelers, shoe shops, and handicraft and souvenir shops, especially along **Voukourestiou. Stadiou Street** is the best bet for men's clothing. Try **Ermou Street** and the fascinating small streets that lead off it for fabrics and housewares. Go to **Mitropoleos** for rugs and souvenirs. This is also the main furrier street and most of the moderately-priced fur shops are here, including Hydra, Mitsakou, Maoum, Samaras, and Voula. Ermou runs west to **Monastiraki,** a crowded market area popular with Athenians. Below the cathedral, **Pandrossou** has antiques, sandals (an especially good buy), and inexpensive souvenirs. **Kolonaki,** just beyond central Athens, has the best shops for gifts and shoes. Its boutiques include branches of some of the top French fashion houses such as Dior (Kriezotou 7), Yves St. Laurent (Kriezotou 10), and Lanvin (Anagnostopoulou 3), with prices lower than those in Paris.

Department Stores The few that exist are neither large nor good. The best is **Lambropoulos** (Aeolou 99–101). **Marinopoulos** shops (Kanari 9, Kifissias 16, and elsewhere) specialize in toiletries and inexpensive casual clothing.

Flea Market The flea market, based on **Pandrossou** and **Ifestou Streets,** operates on Sunday mornings and sells almost anything: secondhand clothes, daggers, cooking pots and pans, old books, guitars, *bouzouki* (stringed instruments), old furniture and carpets, backgammon sets. However little it costs, you should haggle. Ifestou Street, where the coppersmiths have their shops, is more interesting on a weekday and you can pick up copper wine jugs, candlesticks, cooking ware, etc. for next to nothing.

Dining

Be adventurous and go looking for the places that have at least half a dozen tables occupied by Athenians—they're discerning customers. Alternatively, if you would like a change of cuisine, and don't object to higher prices, pick up a copy of the monthly English-language magazine, *The Athenian,* available at most bookshops and streetside kiosks for 275. It lists all kinds of ethnic restaurants—from French to Lebonese to Chinese—with relevant addresses and telephone numbers. For details and price-category definitions, *see* Dining in Staying in Greece.

Very Expensive **L'Abreuvoir.** This restaurant, outstanding among the many average French restaurants, is ideal for a romantic candlelit dinner. The classic French dishes are served on a terrace under the leaves of a mulberry tree. Frequented by wealthy Athenians and resident expatriates wanting a break from Greek cuisine, it has an elegant, dressed-up ambience. Specialties include spinach tart, steak *au poivre* (with pepper), and *entrecôte* (steak) *Provençale. Xenokratous 51, tel. 01/722–9061. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V. Closed Mon.*

Bajazzo. This elegant wood-paneled restaurant, in a converted neoclassical mansion in fashionable Kolonaki, has a moving theater to entertain its guests. The food is exquisitely presented and specialties include duck in mousseline sauce, salmon roulade, *bouzouki frivolitef* (squid with pine nuts and rice), and a Fisherman's Dream soup with clams, langoustines (crayfish), *moules* (mussels), and ouzo. *Ploutarchou 35, tel. 01/729–1420. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Expensive **Aglamair.** The most civilized and expensive of the fish restaurants lining the picturesque Mikrolimano harbor, this is also one of the best in Athens. Practically on the water's edge, you can dine watching the lights shimmer across the bay. The decor is cheerful but sophisticated, with red tablecloths and green and black chairs. The menu includes lobster, shrimps, prawns, octopus, and squid. *Akti Koumoundourou 54, tel. 01/411–5511. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Dionyssos. You may be able to get better food at better prices elsewhere in Athens, but the view of the Acropolis is unbeatable and the food is usually of a high standard. Try to go for dinner when there is a *son-et-lumière* (sound-and-light show) performance on the Parthenon; the sight is unforgettable. The best view is from the terrace upstairs. House specialities include charcoal-grilled shrimps and veal mignonettes in oregano sauce. *Robertou Gali 43, tel. 01/923–3182. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V.*

★ **Gerfinikas.** This cheerful and bustling restaurant, tucked away in a narrow alley off a street leading up to Kolonaki, has a loyal expense-account clientele. The two-tier dining room, with sun terrace on one side, has glass-fronted cases with inviting displays of Greek and Turkish specialties and seafood dishes. *Pinadrou 10, tel. 01/362–2719. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Moderate **Dionyssos.** Located on top of Mount Lycabettos, this restaurant has a sweeping view of Athens and Piraeus, down to the sea. Take the funicular railway from the top of Ploutarchou Street, in Kolonaki. In addition to the restaurant, which serves Continental and Greek cuisine, there is a cafeteria and patisserie, open from the earliest to the latest cablecar run (check the

time of the last one!). *Mount Lycabettos, tel. 01/722–6374. Reservations not necessary. AE, DC, V.*

Ideal. This typically old-style Athenian restaurant still displays its day's specialties in the front window, as it has done since 1922. The busy all-wood dining room is filled with Athenians of all ages, as well as students from the nearby university. It has an extensive menu featuring high-quality Greek and Continental dishes. *Venizelou 46, tel. 01/361–4604. Reservations not necessary. DC.*

☆ **Kostoyannis.** If you're looking for authenticity, this is the place to go. One of the oldest and most popular tavernas in the area, located behind the Archaeological Museum, it has an impressively wide range of Greek dishes including excellent shrimp and crab salads, stuffed mussels, rabbit *stifado* (a stew with onions), and fried brains. The new extension should help to accommodate the crowds. *Zaimi 37, tel. 01/821–2496. Reservations advised in summer. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner only. Closed Sun.*

Xynus. A large, tumbledown taverna, with three rooms and a tree-covered patio, the Xynus is hidden in a narrow pebble-paved lane in the Plaka. The food is much more pleasing than the decor—exposed pipes and stoves, and cretonne curtains—and is highly recommended by Athenians, who consider it one of the finest restaurants in the city. A trio of musicians wanders from room to room playing folk melodies. *Angelou Geronta 4, Plaka, tel. 01/322–1065. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner only. Closed Sun.*

Inexpensive

Delphi Restaurant. Very popular with businessmen wanting a quick, cheap meal, this restaurant serves excellent Greek and international food and is always crowded. It may be a little touristy and service can be slow, but the food is worth the wait. The front part of the restaurant is rustic, while the back-room decor is more refined. *Nikis 13, tel. 01/323–4869. No reservations. AE, DC. Closed Sun.*

Eden. This macrobiotic restaurant, in a converted old Plaka villa, serves superb vegetable pies and spinach burgers in yogurt sauce—a delightful experience for those tired of seeing lamb roasted on a spit at every corner. You can sit outside at wrought-iron tables on a rooftop terrace. *Flessa 3, tel. 01/324–8858. Reservations not necessary. AE, DC. Closed Tues.*

O Platanos. Set in a picturesque corner of the Plaka, this is one of the oldest tavernas in the area. It has a shady garden for outdoor dining. There's no music, so prices are low. Although it's extremely friendly, not much English is spoken. *Diogenous 4, tel. 01/322–0666. Reservations not necessary. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Lodging

As Athens is the starting point for so many travelers, its hotels are very full, and it's always advisable to reserve a room in advance. Which type of hotel you choose is really a matter of personal taste. Basically, the style of hotels in Athens can be divided into two neat brackets—traditional and modernistic—and these can be found both in the center of town, around Omonia and Syntagma Squares, near the U.S. Embassy, and further out along the seacoast and near the airport. In the heat of the summer, it might be preferable to go for the fresh, clean lines of a more modern-style hotel, leaving the older hotels for winter visits. Hotels in the center of Athens can be so noisy

that it's difficult to get a good night's sleep, while those out on the coast become more expensive, as you spend more money on taxis getting to and from town. For details and price category definitions, *see* Lodging in Staying in Greece.

Very Expensive

Aphrodite Astir Palace. Located in a coastal area 25 kilometers (16 miles) from Athens, this is actually a group of three hotels: Aphrodite, the newest and least expensive; Arion, the most exclusive; and Nafsika, the most chic and perhaps the most beautiful. The complex, on a pine-covered promontory, has its own beach, helicopter pad, and breathtaking views over Vougliameni Bay. This is Greece's most prestigious seaside hotel complex and is highly recommended. *Vouligmeni, tel. 01/896–0211/0311. 570 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurants, 3 outdoor pools, miniature golf, nightclub. AE, DC, MC, V.*

☆ **Athens Hilton.** Set in a commanding position on a hill near the U.S. Embassy, the Hilton is about a 10-minute walk from Syntagma Square. All rooms and suites have fine views and soundproof windows; some have balconies and black Carrara baths. On Monday evening in summer, there's a poolside barbecue. Lunch is served at the Galaxy on the roof (a piano bar by night), wines and appetizers at the new Kellari, and dinner at Ta Nissia, a Greek-style taverna. *Vasilissis Sofias 46, tel. 01/722–0201. 480 rooms with bath. Facilities: 2 restaurants, lounge, nighttime piano bar; outdoor pool with food and beverage service; shops. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.*

☆ **Grande Bretagne.** G.B., as it is known, is centrally located on Syntagma Square. An internationally famous landmark, this distinguished hotel was modernized a few years ago but still has its vast high-ceilinged, elegant lobby and lounges, decorated with tapestry wall-coverings, and its own particular friendly atmosphere. Ask for an inside room to escape the noise of the traffic. The hotel houses the excellent G.B. Corner Restaurant. *Syntagma Square, tel. 01/323–0251/9. 400 rooms with bath. Facilities: 3 restaurants, rooftop garden. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Ledra Marriott. Between Athens center and the sea, this is a popular chain hotel known for standard comfort and service. There's a very attractive Polynesian restaurant called Kona Kai, complete with waterfall, or the Zephyros Café, which serves an outstanding Sunday buffet brunch, and a spectacular rooftop swimming pool with a snack area. *Syngrou 115, tel. 01/934–7711. 258 rooms with bath. Facilities: 4 restaurants, rooftop garden, outdoor pool, shops. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Expensive

☆ **Athens Chandris.** Located near the sea and the race course, the Athens Chandris offers all the comfort, service, and facilities of a very expensive hotel, but at more reasonable prices. Visitors on combined flight-cruise tours stay here, and the individual traveler may feel a little overwhelmed and lost. The hotel runs a complimentary shuttle service to and from Syntagma. It has a fine Continental á-la-carte restaurant, the Four Seasons; a poolside snack bar, and a lounge. *Syngrou 385, tel. 01/941–4824. 386 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, lounge, snack bar, rooftop garden, outdoor pool. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Divani Palace Acropolis. On a small street near the Acropolis and other ancient sites, this hotel seems to be gaining in popularity. It is also an ideal base from which to stroll and explore. The public areas are clean and attractive and the upper-story bedrooms have excellent views. *Parthenos 19, tel. 01/922–2945.*

242 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, rooftop garden, outdoor pool. AE, DC, MC, V.

☆ **St. George Lycabettos Hotel.** Situated on the wooded slopes of Mount Lycabettos, this hotel has a splendid view. Getting there, however, involves a steep short walk or a ride up (remember, taxis are inexpensive). It is friendly and has, as its trump card, Le Grand Balcon, a two-tiered rooftop restaurant with excellent food and a marvelous panoramic view. It also has terraces with snack tables, a lower-level restaurant, an intimate, cozy grill room, and a very attractive coffee shop. *Kleomenous 2, tel. 01/729–0711/9. 149 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurants, nightclub, outdoor pool, roof garden. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Moderate

Athens Gate Hotel. This hotel looks across the busy Amalias Avenue to the Arch of Hadrian. Front rooms have the view, but also the traffic noise; back rooms are quiet and look out towards the Acropolis. The hotel is conveniently located between the center of town and the Acropolis. The restaurant is only mediocre, but it serves a good, American-style buffet breakfast. *Syngrou 10, tel. 01/923–8302/9. 106 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, air-conditioning. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Ilissia Hotel. This small, but rather shabby, friendly hotel is located near the Hilton, in an area where there are many good restaurants and night spots. Generally, it could use a good spring-cleaning, but the location makes up for its dowdy appearance. *Mihalakopoulou 25, tel. 01/724–4051. 90 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, air-conditioning. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Inexpensive

Alkistis Hotel. The market area, where the Alkistis is located, is full of life and color by day, but deserted at night. The hotel is pleasant and well run and was recently redecorated in spare glass and marble. The roof garden has a fine view of the Acropolis and seating for sunbathers. Try to get a room overlooking the Acropolis, if you can, as the other rooms have terraces over the street. *Platia Theatrou 18, tel. 01/321–9811/9. 120 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, outdoor pool. AE, DC, MC, V.*

Aphrodite Hotel. This is near Syntagma and perfectly comfortable. With all the facilities of other, more costly hotels, it offers excellent value for money. Don't be put off by it's cold-looking entrance. *Apollonos 21, tel. 01/323–4357/9. 84 rooms with bath. Facilities: bar, roof garden. AE, DC, MC, V.*

☆ **Austria.** This small, unpretentious hotel is on Filopappou Hill, opposite the Acropolis, ideal as a base for wandering around the heart of ancient Athens. It has no restaurant and is at the top of the inexpensive category, but is well worth considering. *Mouson 7, tel. 01/923–5151. 40 rooms with bath. AE, DC, MC, V.*

The Arts

The **Athens Festival** runs from late June through September and includes concerts, recitals, opera, ballet, folk dancing, and drama. Performances are in various locations, including the open-air theater of Herodes Atticus at the foot of the Acropolis, nearby Philopappou Hill, and Mount Lycabettos. Tickets are available a few days before the performance from the festival box office in the arcade at Stadiou 4 (tel. 01/322–1459). Admission ranges from 500 dr. to 3,000 dr.

For those disappointed with the daytime view of the Acropolis, the **Son-et-Lumière** (Sound-and-Light) shows bring history to life. Performances are given nightly from April to October, in English, at 9:15 (the time is liable to change), and admission is 500 dr. The entrance is on Dion Areopagitou, opposite the Acropolis, and from your seat on the top of Philopappou Hill, you watch the changing lighting of the monuments.

In winter, cultural activities are much less frequent and rarely planned far in advance. Daily listings are published year-round in *The Athens News* and weekly listings in *This Week in Athens*, both available in hotels. **The Athenian** lists concerts, exhibitions, and showings of films in English.

Concerts Winter concerts are given at the **Pallas** by the State Orchestra and the Radio/TV Orchestra. Information and tickets are available from the theater box office on Voukourestiou, near Syntagma Square. Contact the **NTOG**, tel. 01/322–2545, for up-to-date information and further details.

Opera The **Lyriki Skini Opera Company** has a winter season and a small—not very good—ballet season at the Olympia Theater, Akademias 59, tel. 01/361–2461. The top seat costs about 800 dr.

Films There are several cinemas that show foreign films and *The Athens News* lists them in English. Try the **Elena Cinema** (Antifilon 47, tel. 01/778–9120) for new American films and the **Cinema Thission** (Pavlou 7, tel. 01/347–0980) for American and European classics.

Nightlife

Athens has an active nightlife, with hundreds of places offering some sort of entertainment, much of it distinctly Greek. One way to get a taste is to take an "Athens by Night" guided tour, which takes in a number of clubs. This can be arranged for you by any good travel agent (*see* Important Addresses, above) but try Viking Tours first. If you want to go on your own, try a *bouzoukia*, or a taverna with a floor show. Most are closed Sunday. Tavernas with floor shows are concentrated in the Plaka area. Be forewarned that you will have to pay for an overpriced, second-rate meal at most places. The name, style, and quality of tavernas and bouzoukias change frequently. Ask your hotel for recommendations.

Tavernas

Palia Taverna Kritikou. Here's a fun taverna where there's room for you to indulge in Greek dances to the amusement of the few Greek customers. *Mniskleous 24, tel. 01/322–2309. Reservations advised. AE, DC, V. Expensive.*

Psarra. The specialty in this taverna in one of the Plaka's most attractive squares. is swordfish kabob. Customers are invited to play the guitar themselves and to join in the Greek dances. *Erehtheou 16, tel. 01/325–0285. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V. Expensive.*

Bouzoukias

Athinaia. Highly prized and priced, it's the real thing, where you'll find an orchestra, female vocalist, and lots of clanging of the *bouzouki*, an Oriental mandolin. *Leoforos Posidonos 63, tel. 01/942–3089. Reservations advised. AE, DC, MC, V. Very Expensive.*

Diogenes. Currently the "in" place with chic Greeks, and very

ritzy, it's also the most expensive. *Leoforos Syngrou 255, tel. 01/942–4267. Reservations required. AE. Very Expensive.*

The Peloponnese

Suspended from the mainland of Greece like a large leaf, with the isthmus of Corinth as its stem, the ancient land of Pelops offers beautiful scenery—rocky coasts, sandy beaches, and mountains—and a fascinating variety of ruins: temples, theaters, mosques, churches, palaces, and medieval castles built by crusaders.

Legend and history meet in Mycenae, where Agamemnon, Elektra, and Orestes played out their grim family tragedy. This city dominated the entire area from the 16th to the 12th centuries BC, even conquering Minoan Crete. According to Greek mythology, Paris, son of the king of Troy, abducted the beautiful Helen, wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta. Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae, was his brother. This led to the Trojan War in which Troy was defeated. The story of the war is told in Homer's *Iliad*. Following Heinrich Schliemann's discoveries of tombs, palaces, and aqueducts during excavations in 1874, Mycenae has become a world-class archeological site and, of all the sites in the Peloponnese, is most worthy of a visit.

Sparta, once a powerful city-state, is today, unfortunately, devoid of charm or character. Like Corinth, once the largest, richest, and most pleasure-loving city of ancient Greece, Sparta now appears sadly lifeless and unattractive. Neither of these modern townships seem to bear any relation to their original vibrancy; Corinth, in fact, was destroyed by earthquakes in 1858 and 1928, and experienced each time a more practical and banal reconstruction.

In the Middle Ages, the Peloponnese was conquered by leaders of the Fourth Crusade and ruled as a feudal state by French and Italian nobles. It formed the cornerstone of the Latin (Christian) power in the eastern Mediterranean in the 13th and 14th centuries. In 1821, when the bishop of Patras raised the standard of revolt against Turkish domination, the Peloponnese played a key role in the Greek War of Independence. Nafplio was, for a short time in the 1800s, the capital of Greece. Among the region's many fine contributions to humanity are the Olympic Games, founded in 776 BC in Olympia.

Getting Around

The best way to see all the important sights of the Peloponnese at your own pace is by car. If you take the car ferry from Italy to Patras, capital of the Peloponnese, or if you rent a car in Patras, you can tour the area on the way to Athens. Otherwise, your tour will begin in Athens. Take the route suggested in the itinerary below. You could encounter a shortage of hotel rooms in summer, especially at Nafplio, so plan in advance.

Guided Tours

CHAT Tours (4 Stadiou, Athens, tel. 01/322–2886) and **Wagons-Lits Travel** (Stadiou 5, Athens, tel. 01/324–2281) both organize

tours in the Peloponnese. **Viking's Travel Bureau** (Filellinon 3, tel. 01/322–9383) can book other companies' tours. A four-day tour of the Peloponnese and Delphi, including the sites, qualified guide, and accommodations at firstclass hotels, costs around 42,000 dr. A two-day tour, again including accommodations, to Corinth, Mycenae, and Epidauros will cost around 12,500 dr. A six-day grand tour of the Peloponnese, taking in all the main sites and with accommodations at the best available hotels, costs around 63,000 dr.

Tourist Information

In Patras, visit the **Greek National Tourist Organization** (Iroon Polytechniou, Glyfada, tel. 061/420–305); or **American Express,** inside the National Bank of Greece (Amalias St. 46, at corner of Othonos St., tel. 061/220–902). The **Tourist Police** are at Othonos and Amalias 14, on the seafront. There are hundreds of tourist offices along this street; **Albatros Travel** (tel. 061/220–993), at Othonos and Amalias 48, can help you with all travel arrangments, including boat excursions to the Ionian islands, yacht hire, car hire and rail bookings. The **Olympic Airlines** office is at Agios Andreou 16 (tel. 061/222–901). The **Greek Automobile and Touring Club** (ELPA) has a branch office at Korinthou 127 in Patras (tel. 061/425–411).

Exploring the Peloponnese

Eleven kilometers (7 miles) northwest of Athens, after you have passed the last houses of the Athenian urban sprawl, you come to the 6th-century monastery of **Daphni.** It was sacked in 1205 by Frankish crusaders, who later installed Cistercian monks from Burgundy to rebuild it. The monastery has superb mosaics. *Tel. 01/581–1558. Admission: 300 dr. Open Mon. and Wed.–Sat. 8:45–3, Sun. and holidays 9:30–2:30.*

Descending from Daphni to the sea, you face the narrow straits where the Persian fleet of Xerxes was defeated in 480 BC by Sparta. Shortly beyond are the ruins of **Eleusis,** site of antiquity's most important harvest celebrations, the Eleusinian Mysteries, where participants underwent rites commemorating the gift of corn cultivation given by Demeter, goddess of corn. Now the area is unattractive, surrounded by factories and their pollution, and there is almost nothing left of the ancient Eleusis, but for a few fallen pillars and overgrown pathways. Admission to the site includes entrance to a small museum. *Tel. 01/554–6019. Admission: 250 dr. Open Tues.–Sat. 8:30–3. Sun. and holidays 9:30–2:30.*

When you cross the **Corinth Canal,** about 88 kilometers (55 miles) from Athens, you enter the **Peloponnese.** Modern **Corinth** lies by the sea; the ancient Greek city stood higher up. All that remains is the **Doric Temple of Apollo,** built in the 6th century BC and restored by Julius Caesar. In AD 51, St. Paul fulminated against the sacred prostitutes who served Aphrodite on the **Acro-Corinth,** the peak behind the ancient city. A museum beside the ruins contains finds from the excavations. Be sure to see the fine display, next to the museum, of the evolution of Greek columnar architecture. *Tel. 0741/31–207. Admission: 400 dr. Open Mon. 12:30–7, Tues.–Fri.*

8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3. Drive to a tourist pavilion below the imposing Franco-Turkish fortifications on the mountain and explore the **Fort of AcroCorinth** on foot. *Tel. 0741/31–207. Admission free. Open Tues.–Sun. 8:30–3.*

Mycenae, 48 kilometers (25 miles) from Corinth, was the fabulous stronghold of the Achaean kings of the 13th century BC. Destroyed in 468 BC, it was forgotten until 1874 when German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who discovered the ruins of ancient Troy, uncovered the remains of this ancient fortress city. Mycenae was the seat of the doomed House of Atreus—of King Agamemnon and his wife, Clytemnestra, sister of Helen of Troy, and of their tragic children, Orestes and Elektra. When Schliemann uncovered six shaft graves (so named because the kings were buried standing up) of the royal circle, he was certain that one was the tomb of Agamemnon. The gold masks and diadems, daggers, jewelry, and other treasures found in the graves are now in the Athens Archaeological Museum; the new local museum is dedicated to archaeological studies. Along with the graves, you'll find the astounding beehive tombs built into the hillsides outside the reconstructed wall, the **LionGate**, dating to 1250 BC, and the castle ruins crowning the bleak hill, all remnants of the first great civilization in Continental Europe. The tombs, the acropolis, the palace, and the museum can all be explored for the cost of admission. *Tel. 0751/66–585. Admission: 500 dr. Open weekdays 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3.*

Moving south, 11 kilometers (7 miles) from Mycenae, you pass **Argos**, Europe's oldest continuously inhabited town, and the

Cyclopean ramparts (huge, irregular stones) of **Tiryns**. One version of the legend has Tiryns as the birthplace of Hercules, but the present remains, including the walls, date mostly from the 13th century BC when Tiryns was one of the most important Mycenaean cities.

Farther on is **Nafplio**, a picturesque town below the Venetian fortifications. Modern Greece's first king lived for a year or two within the walls of the higher fortress when Nafplio was capital of Greece. His courtiers had to climb 999 steps to reach him; you can still climb the long staircase or drive up to the fortress. The **Venetian naval arsenal** on the town square houses a museum crowded with Mycenaen finds. *Tel. 0752/27–502. Admission: 200 dr. Open Tues.–Sun. 8:30–3.*

Epidauros, 29 kilometers (18 miles) east of Nafplio, was the sanctuary of Aesculapois, the Greek god of healing. You can visit the foundations of the temples and ancient hospitals. The most important site is the ancient open-air theater, which seats 16,000. In summer, during the **Epidauros Festival**, ancient Greek plays are staged here (*see* The Arts, below). The theater merits a visit any time of year. The acoustics are so good that you can sit in the top row and hear a whisper on stage. Recently, both the site and the museum have been closed for reorganization, so call the phone number below for up-to-date opening times. *Tel. 0753/22–009. Admission: 500 dr. Museum and theater open Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 8–7, Sun. and holidays 8–6; Nov.–Mar., daily 8–5. Museum closed Tues.*

You can return from here to Athens along the coast, a lovely drive, or continue on to **Olympia** by way of the rugged mountains of Arcadia. The site of ancient Olympia lies a few kilometers from the sea, northeast of **Megalopolis**, once the largest town in ancient Greece. The first Olympic Games were held in Olympia in 776 BC and continued to be celebrated every four years until AD 393, when the Roman Emperor, Theodosius I, with his Christian sensibility, banned these "pagan rites." Women were excluded from the games under penalty of death. Archaeologists are still uncovering statues and votive offerings among the olive groves and pine trees surrounding **Olympic Stadium** and the imposing **ruins of the temples of Zeus and Hera** within the sacred precinct. *Tel. 0624/22–517. Admission 400 dr. Open weekdays 8–7, weekends and holidays, 8:30–3. The Museum has the same opening times but on Mon. is open only 12:30–7.* The **International Olympic Academy**, 6.4 kilometers (4 miles) east, houses the **Museum of the Olympic Games**, with its collection of commemmorative postage stamps and mementoes. *Tel. 0624/22–544. Admission: 100 dr. Open Mon.–Sat. 8–3:30, Sun. and holidays, 9–4:30.*

Northeast of Olympia, 119 kilometers (74 miles) away, is **Patras**, the third-largest city in Greece, its main western port, and the hub of the business world in the Peloponnese. Walk up to the **Byzantine kastro**, built on the site of the ancient acropolis, to take a look at the fine view along the coast. The **Cathedral of St. Andrew's**, reputedly the largest in Greece and built on the site of the crucifixion of St. Andrew, is also worth exploring. Its treasure is the saint's silver-mounted skull, returned to Patras in 1964 after 500 years in St. Peter's, Rome. You'll find the cathedral on Odios Trion Navarkon. Apart from the kastro and the cathedral there is little here of particular interest. The

city's prettiest features are its squares, surrounded by neo-classical-style buildings, and its arcaded streets.

The shortest route back to Athens follows the National Road along the southern shore of the Gulf of Corinth, an exceptionally beautiful drive. You could choose instead to cross the entrance to the gulf and visit Delphi (*see* Exploring in Mainland Greece) on your way back to Athens.

Dining and Lodging

Many of the hotels in the Peloponnese have good dining rooms so try these, as well as the usual tavernas serving their traditional Greek cuisine and fresh seafood. For details and price category definitions, *see* Dining and Lodging in Staying in Greece.

Napflio *Dining*
Savouras. Fresh seafood is served in this unpretentious taverna overlooking the bay; it is generally regarded as one of the best fish restaurants in the area. *Akti Miaouli, no telephone. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging ☆
Amalia. The attractive hotel occupies a fine neo-classical building in large gardens 4 kilometers (2½ miles) outside town, on the sea, near ancient Tiryns. The public rooms are spacious and comfortable, the service attentive, and the swimming pool very inviting. With a beach nearby, this makes the ideal base for a relaxing stay. *Tel. 0752/24–401, 173 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool, gardens. AE, DC, V. Expensive.*

Agamemnon. Located on the waterfront, this hotel has a large, cool lobby overhung with vines, a superb spot from which to watch the action. The double rooms have marble terraces overlooking the water. *Akti Miaouli 3, tel. 0752/28–021. 40 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, pool. DC. Moderate.*

Olympia *Dining*
Pete's Den. Owned by a Greek-German couple, this restaurant mixes traditional Greek and German cuisine, with sensational results. *Saganaki* (the name refers to the oval platter in which it is baked) is served hot and bubbling with cheese and brandy, and the toasted bread—complete with hot garlic butter—is a delightful change from the usual heavy white bread. *Main St., tel. 0642/22–066. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Taverna Pritannio. With its bright lighting and plastic tablecloths, this is a decent and unpretentious taverna in the center of town. The grilled meat and salads are good, plentiful, and satisfying. *Main St., no telephone. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging ☆
Amalia. Pleasantly situated a little outside the village near the museum, the Amalia is comfortable and well run. Unfortunately, the Greek- and European-style fare in the restaurant is served with little panache, but the other facilities of the hotel make up for this drawback. *Main St., tel. 0642/22–190. 147 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, pool, roof garden. AE, DC, MC, V. Expensive.*

Apollon. This hotel's contemporary decor has become rather shabby and worn but it is still very clean; don't be put off. The amenities are good for the price: the rooftop swimming pool is a definite plus and the self-service restaurant is very convenient.

Filopappou 12, tel. 0624/22–522. 110 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool, roof garden. AE, DC. Moderate.

Patras *Dining*
Evangelatos. This reliable Greek restaurant, near the sea on the road that runs up to the Acropolis, is renowned for its good service and its fresh and simply-cooked local fare. *Ag. Nikolaou 7, tel. 061/277–772. Reservations not necessary. AE, DC, V, Moderate.*

Bieneza. It's good to find a cheap, traditional taverna like this one, still serving Greek specialties. Dishes include fish and noodles as well as the more usual salad, grilled meat, and fries. *Kolokotroni 18, tel. 061/221–209. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging
Astir. This large hotel enjoys an excellent location on the waterfront near the center of town. Spacious and pleasant, it looks out on the busy harbor and across to the mountains on the other side of the gulf. *Ag. Andreou 16, tel. 061/277–502. 121 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, outdoor pool. AE, DC, MC, V. Very Expensive.*

☆ **Porto Rio.** There's a large and varied selection of rooms and cottages with a wide range of prices at this hotel complex on the sea at Rion, about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Patras. Rooms over the front have outstanding views across the narrow entrance to the Gulf of Corinth. *Tel. 061/992–212. 267 rooms and cottages with bath. Facilities: 2 restaurants, 2 outdoor pools, tennis, miniature golf, children's playground, nightclub. AE, DC, MC, V. Moderate–Expensive.*

The Arts

The **Festival of Ancient Drama** in the theater at Epidauros takes place from mid-July to mid-September, weekends only, at 9 PM. Tickets can be bought either at the theater itself before performances, or in advance from the festival box office at Stadiou 4, Athens, tel. 01/322–3111.

Mainland Greece

The dramatic rocky heights of mainland Greece provide an appropriate setting for man's attempt to approach divinity. The ancient Greeks placed their gods on snow-capped Mount Olympus and chose the precipitous slopes of Parnassus, "the navel of the universe," as the site for Delphi, the most important religious center of the ancient world. Many centuries later, pious Christians built a great monastery (Ossios Loukas) in a remote mountain valley. Others settled on the rocky mountain peninsula of Athos, the Holy Mountain. Later, devout men escaping from Turkish persecution established themselves precariously on top of strange, towerlike rocks and built monasteries, such as those at Meteora. In fact, all of mainland Greece's most memorable sights are closely connected with religion—including the remarkable Byzantine churches of Thessaloniki. Of course, there are remains of palaces and cities, but these do not have the impact of the great religious centers.

In this land of lonely mountain villages, narrow defiles, and dark woods, bands of *klephts* (a cross between brigands and guerrillas) earned their place in folk history and song during

the long centuries of Turkish rule. The women of Souli, one of the mountain strongholds of the klephts, threw themselves dancing and singing over a cliff rather than be captured by the Turks. In these same mountains during the German occupation of Greece in World War II, guerrilla bands descended to the valleys and plains to assault the occupying army and drive it from their land.

Now the land is peaceful again and the villages, tucked away in the hills, seem almost asleep, their shops and their tavernas as they have been for 100 years. This is a beautiful area to explore; the mainland Greeks see fewer tourists and have more time for those they do see, hotels are unlikely to be full, and the sights —steep, wooded mountains, cypress trees like candles, narrow gorges, the soaring monasteries of Meteora—are beautiful.

Getting Around

This proposed itinerary begins in Athens. It can be done by public transportation, by car, or by guided tour. A one-day trip to Delphi is rushed; two days will give you more leisure time. Your best bet is a three-day trip that includes Delphi and Meteora. The five-day tour takes in more remote parts of Western Greece, Epirus, and other main sights. A longer trip through the Peloponnese should include Ossios Loukas. Thessaloniki is usually included only in lengthy guided tours of northern Greece. If you don't have a car, you can leave the Delphi-Meteora tour at Trikala, take the train to Thessaloniki, and return to Athens by plane or train. You can also take a guided tour of northern Greece and leave the group at Thessaloniki. In September, during the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, there are no hotel rooms to be had; make reservations well in advance.

Guided Tours

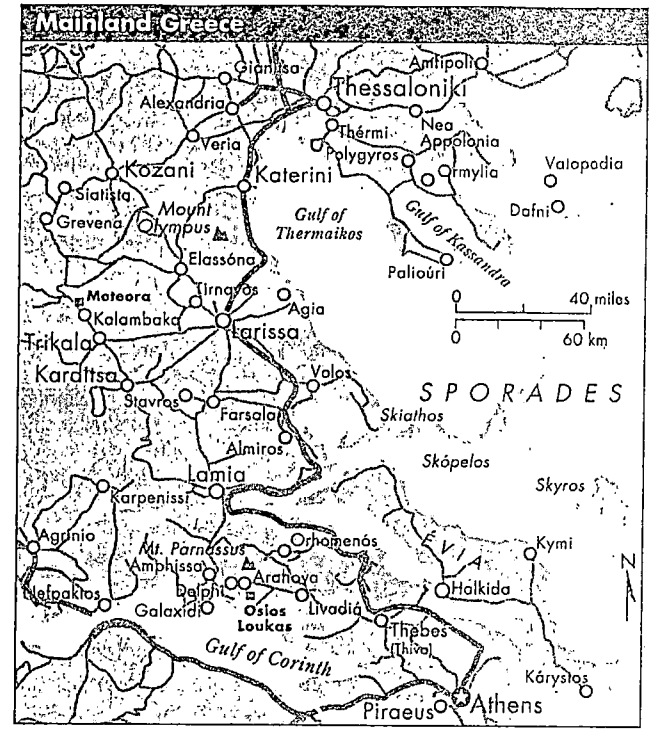
Travel agencies in Athens with tours of mainland Greece include **American Express** (Ermou 2 and in the Hilton Hotel), **Wagons-Lits Travel** (Stadiou 5), **CHAT Tours** (Stadiou 4), **Key Tours** (Ermou 2), and **Viking's Travel Bureau** (Filellinon 3). A one-day tour to Delphi, with lunch, will cost around 6,200 dr. Other, lengthier tours will cost considerably more. The five-day Western Greece tour, taking in Ioannina, Messolonghi, Meteora and Delphi will cost around 51,750 dr., including meals and accommodations.

Tourist Information

In **Delphi,** visit the New Delphi Tourist Office on Frederikis, open daily 9–7 (tel. 0265/82–900); the Tourist Police is at Pavlou and Frederikis 25. At **Kalambaka,** the Tourist Police can be found at Rammidi 33. In **Thessaloniki,** visit the Greek National Tourist Organization (Platia Aristotelous 8, tel. 031/271–888); here, the Tourist Police is at Egnatia 10.

Exploring Mainland Greece

To get from Athens to Delphi, take the National Road toward Thessaloniki and turn off to **Thebes** (Thiva), the birthplace of the legendary Oedipus, who unwittingly fulfilled the prophesy



of the Delphic Oracle by slaying his father and marrying his mother. Little now remains of the ancient city. At **Livadia,** 45 kilometers (28 miles) farther along the road, the ruins of a medieval fortress tower above the springs of Lethe (Oblivion) and Mnemosyne (Remembrance). Halfway between Livadia and Delphi is the crossroads where, according to mythology, Oedipus killed his father.

The road to the left leads to a serene upland valley and the **Monastery of Ossios Loukas,** a fine example of Byzantine architecture and decoration. Built in the 11th century to replace the earlier shrine of a local saint, it has some of the world's finest Byzantine mosaics. *Tel. 0265/321–3571. Admission: 300 dr. Open Tues.–Sat. 8:30–3, Sun. and holidays 9:30–2:30.*

Back on the road to Delphi, you climb a spur of Mount Parnassus to the village of **Arahova,** 38 kilometers (23 miles) from Livadia, known for its brightly colored woolen handicrafts, especially rugs. From Arahova, a short, spectacular drive down to Delphi crosses the gorge of the Pleistos. You'll see a great cliff called Phaedriades and a deep, narrow chasm, at the bottom of which the **Castalian spring** gushes with cool, pure water. It was here that pilgrims to the Delphic Oracle came for purification.

The ancient Greeks believed that **Delphi** was the center of the universe because two eagles released by the gods at opposite ends of earth met here. For hundreds of years, the worship of Apollo and the pronouncements of the Oracle here made Delphi the most important religious center of the ancient world. As

you walk up the Sacred Way to the **Temple of Apollo,** the **theater,** and the **stadium** that comprise the **Sanctuary of Apollo,** you have Mount Parnassus above, silver-green olive trees below, and, in the distance, the blue gulf of Itea. This is one of the most rugged and lonely sites in Greece, and one of the most striking; if you can get to the site in the early morning or evening, avoiding the busloads of tourists, you will feel the power and beauty of the place. You may even see an eagle or two. First excavated in 1892, most of the ruins date from the 5th to the 3rd centuries BC. *Tel. 0265/82–313. Admission (includes Delphi museum): 400 dr. Open Apr.—Oct., weekdays 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3; Nov.–Mar., daily 8–5.*

Don't miss the famous bronze charioteer (early 5th century BC) in the **Delphi Museum.** Other interesting and beautiful works of art here include the column of the dancers (or Caryatids), 4th century BC; a statue of Antinous, Emperor Hadrian's lover; and the stone representing the naval of the earth. *Tel. 0265/82–313. Admission: joint ticket 400 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon. 12:30–7, Tues.–Fri. 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3; Nov.–Mar., daily 8–5.*

From Delphi, the road descends in sharp bends past groves of gnarled, ancient olive trees. Continue 23 kilometers (14 miles) to Amphissa and over the Pourmaraki (Bralos) Pass to the town of Lamia. Follow the road to Karditsa and around the Thessalian plain to Trikala. You will then arrive at **Kalambaka,** the base for visits to the monasteries of **Meteora,** which sit atop gigantic rocks above the town. Monks and supplies once reached the top of the slopes by ladders or nets. Today steps are cut in the boulders, and some of the monasteries can be reached easily by car now. Not all of them are open to the public, however. Of the original 24 monasteries, only five are now inhabited.

One of the more accessible monasteries, **Aghios Stephanon,** has a notable church. The fortresslike **Aghios Varlaam** monastery is also easy to reach. Both of these have beautiful Byzantine frescoes. To get a better idea of what living in these monasteries was like 300 years ago, climb the steep rock steps to the **Great Meteoron,** the largest of the rocks. Make sure, however, to allow time for the trek up if it's nearing closing hours. The monasteries are all closed during midday. The hours vary from place to place but they are generally open 9–1 and 3–6, although to complicate matters the Stephanon is closed on Monday, Varlaam on Friday, and Great Meteoron on Tuesday. Admission: 100 dr.

Leaving Kalambaka for Thessaloniki, you find the road crosses the plain of Thessaly, one of Europe's hottest places in summer, and joins the National Road at Larissa. Ahead you will see Mount Olympus, Greece's highest mountain. The road runs for 154 kilometers (96 miles) through the valley of Tempe and then on up the coast to **Thessaloniki,** the birthplace of Aristotle. This is Greece's second-largest city, its second port after Piraeus, capital of Northern Greece and cocapital of the country as a whole, and as a shopping center, it is possibly superior to Athens.

Although Thessaloniki still has some remains from the Roman period, the city is best known for its fine Byzantine churches. The city is compact enough for you to see the main sights on

foot. Start at the 15th-century grayish **White Tower,** landmark and symbol of Thessaloniki, previously named "Tower of Blood," referring to its use as a prison. Now it houses a museum, with an exhibition on the history and art of Byzantine Thessaloniki, including pottery, mosaics, and ecclesiastical objects. *Tel. 031/267–832. Admission: 350 dr. Open Wed.–Mon. 2:45–9.*

Then walk up Pavlou Mela toward Tsimiski, the elegant tree-lined shopping street, and cut across to the green-domed basilica-style church of **Aghia Sophia,** which dates from the 8th century and has beautifully preserved mosaics.

Walk up Egnatia, which traces the original Roman road leading from the Adriatic to the Bosphorous. You will pass the **Roman Agora** (town center) and come to **Agios Dimitrios,** the principal church and the largest in Greece. Though it is only a replica of the original church that burned down in 1917, it is adorned with many 8th-century mosaics that were in the original building. Follow Aghiou Dimitriou to **Agios Georgios,** a rotunda built by Roman Emperor Galerius as his tomb in the 4th century AD. His successor, Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor, turned it into a church. The rotunda is temporarily closed for renovation following the earthquakes of 1978, but it is expected to open again in 1990. Have a look at the superb 4th-century mosaics of Roman buildings and temples.

Return to Egnatia and the **Arch of the Emperor Galerius,** built shortly prior to the rotunda to commemorate the Roman victories of Emperor Galerius over forces in Persia, Armenia, and Asia Minor. A short walk downhill toward the sea wall will bring you to the **Archaeological Museum.** Among its many beautiful objects are a huge bronze vase and a delicate, gold myrtle wreath from Deryeni and gold artifacts from recent excavations of the royal tombs of Vergina, including an 11-kilogram gold casket standing on lions' feet, containing bones thought to be those of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. *Tel. 031/830–583. Admission: 400 dr. Open Mon. 12:30–7, Tues.–Fri. 8–7, weekends and holidays 8:30–3.*

Dining and Lodging

For details and price category definitions, *see* Dining and Lodging in Staying in Greece.

Delphi

Dining

Taverna Pan. Decorated with local folk art and weavings, this taverna offers fixed-price meals as well as à la carte Greek specialties. *Isaia St., tel. 0265/82–473. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging

☆ **Vouzas.** The hotel sits on the edge of a gorge and has wonderful views from every room. Friendly service may or may not compensate for the lack of air-conditioning. *Vas. Pavlou and Frederikis 1, tel. 0265/82–232. 58 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant. AE, DC, V. Expensive.*

Hermés. This small hotel is built on a hillside on a quiet part of the main street. It is perfectly adequate for a night's sleep and has good views from its top-story bedrooms. The lobby is decorated with local weavings. *Vas. Pavlou and Frederikis 29, tel. 0265/82–318. 24 rooms with bath. No credit cards. Closed Nov.–Feb. Inexpensive.*

Kalambaka
Dining

Planotos Taverna. A great place for people-watching, this taverna has a flower-covered archway entrance and a large patio overlooking the main square, serves simple meals of broiled meats and fresh vegetables. *Central Square, no telephone. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging
★

Motel Divani. Below the Meteora is a hotel (in spite of its name) that is more comfortable than you might expect to find so far off the beaten path. *Tel. 0432/22–583. 165 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool. AE, DC, MC, V. Expensive.*

Hotel Edelweiss. This brand new hotel, built in 1989, is bright and clean and shines like a new pin. Its comfortable rooms look out over the swimming pool, to the daunting Meteora rocks towering beyond. The hotel bar is a lively and crowded local meeting spot. *El Venizelou 3, tel. 0432/23–966. 50 rooms. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool, snack bar. AE, V. Moderate.*

Thessaloniki
Dining

Cyprus Corner. It is well worth making the trip outside town to this popular restaurant in the hilltop suburb of Panorama. Pink tablecloths, waiters in black tie, and a piano-and-sax duo lend an elegant and sophisticated air. A good variety of dishes—classical and Greek cuisine—is served with style and flair. *Komninon 16, Panorama, tel. 031/941–220. Reservations advised. DC, MC, V. Expensive.*

Ta Nissia. This very bright, clean restaurant, with tiled floor and wooden tables, is excellent for fresh seafood, especially mussels. The *mezedes* (hors d'oeuvres) are particularly unusual and tasty. *Koromila 13, tel. 031/285–991. Reservations advised. DC. Dinner only. Moderate.*

Lodging

Makedonia Palace. This large, stylish hotel is beautifully positioned at the edge of a bay in a new residential section on reclaimed land; however, it is several kilometers into the center of town. Generally, this is a comfortable, luxurious hotel with all amenities, but totally lacking in charm. Ask for rooms overlooking the bay. *Megalou Alexandrou, tel. 031/837–521/9. 287 rooms with bath. Facilities: several restaurants, roof garden. AE, DC, MC, V. Very Expensive.*

☆

Elektra Palace. This rather shabby but comfortable hotel is built in a neo-Byzantine style to match the other buildings on the square. It's conveniently located in the center of town. *Platia Aristotelous 5, tel. 031/23–221/30. 131 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant. AE, DC, MC, V. Expensive.*

The Greek Islands

The islands of the Aegean have colorful legends of their own—the Minotaur in Crete; the lost continent of Atlantis, which some believe was Santorini; and the Colossus of Rhodes, to name a few. Each island has its own personality. Mykonos has windmills, dazzling whitewashed buildings, hundreds of tiny churches and chapels on golden hillsides, and small fishing harbors. Visitors to volcanic Santorini sail into what was once a vast volcanic crater and anchor near the island's forbidding cliffs. Crete, with its jagged mountain peaks, olive orchards, and vineyards, has the remains of the Minoan civilization. In Rhodes, a bustling modern town surrounds a walled town with a medieval castle.

Getting Around

The simplest way to visit the Aegean Islands is on a cruise, lasting from one to 10 days. Visitors should consider a three-day cruise, to the four most popular islands—Mykonos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. Car and passenger ferries sail to these main destinations from Piraeus, the port of Athens. There is also frequent air service from Athens. In summer, it's important to book services well in advance. (*See* also Getting Around By Boat at the beginning of this chapter.)

Guided Tours

Aegean Cruises

From April through October there are many cruises to the Greek Islands from Piraeus. Try any of the following, all based in Athens; **Blue Aegean Sea Line** (01/323–1302), **Cycladic Cruises** (01/822–9468), **Epirotiki** (01/452–6641), **Hellenic Mediterranean** (01/417–4341), **K Lines** (01/411–0461) and **Saronic Cruises** (01/323–4292) They all offer one-to-seven-day cruises. Contact **K Lines-Hellenic Cruises:** in the United States, Olympic Tower, 645 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10022, tel. 212/751–2435; in the United Kingdom, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1, tel. 01/930–7610. Also **Epirotiki Cruises:** in the United Kingdom, Westmoreland House, 127/131 Regent St, London W1R, tel. 071/734–0805.

Tourist Information

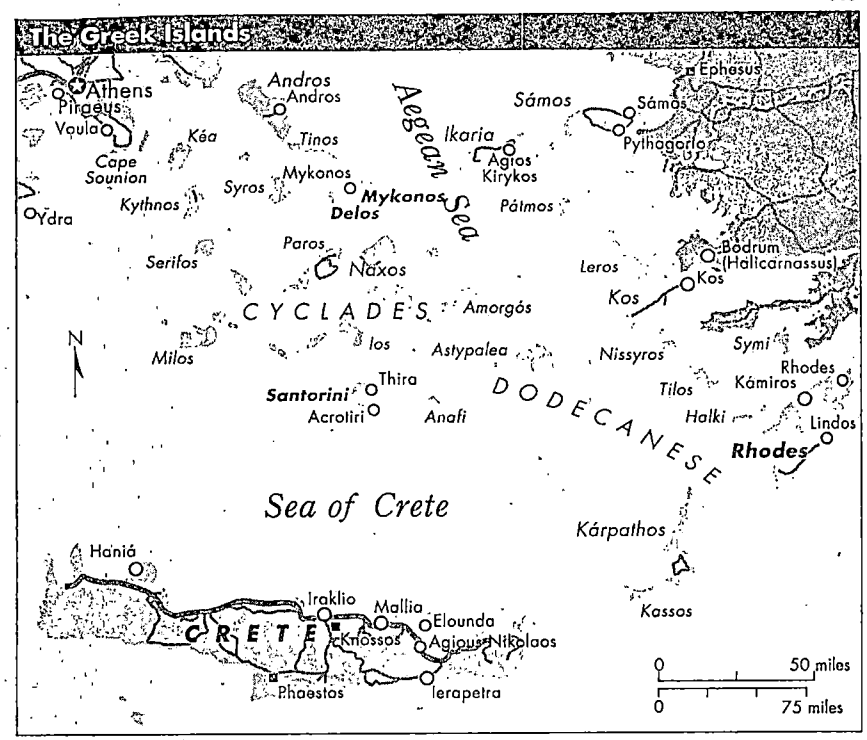
There are **Greek National Tourist Organization** offices on Crete, at Kriari 40, Hania (tel. 0821/26–426) and at Xanthoudidou 1, Iraklio (tel. 081/228–203); on **Rhodes,** at Archbishop Makarios and Papagou 5, Rhodes (tel. 0241/23–655).

Exploring the Greek Islands

Cruise ships and car ferries to Mykonos leave from Piraeus, the port of Athens. As you sail to Mykonos, you will be able to see one of the great sights of Greece: the Temple of Poseidon looming on a hilltop at the edge of Cape Sounion, about two hours from shore.

Mykonos is the name of the island and also of its chief village—a colorful place with narrow, paved streets lined with whitewashed houses, many with bright blue doors and shutters. Every morning, women scrub the sidewalks and streets in front of their homes, undaunted by the many donkeys that pass by each day. In the 1960s, the bohemian jet set discovered Mykonos and most of the old houses along the waterfront are now restaurants, nightclubs, bars, and discos, all blaring loud music until the early morning; a quiet café or taverna is hard to find. Incidentally, although the jet set has moved on to other, more deserted retreats, the island is still *the* holiday destination for the young, lively, and liberated. Mykonos is, however, blessed with enough sandy beaches and tiny coves, ideal for swimming and snorkeling, to allow you to find your own quiet spot.

A half-hour by boat from Mykonos and its 20th-century holiday pleasures is the ancient isle of **Delos,** the legendary sanctuary of Apollo. Its **Terrace of the Lions,** a remarkable group of five large sculptures from the 7th century BC, is a must.



Worth seeing, too, are some of the houses of the Roman period, with their fine floor mosaics. The best of these mosaics are in a museum, the **House of Dionysos.** *Tel. 0289/22–259. Admission (including fee to the site): 500 dr. Open Tues.–Sun. 8:30–3.*

The large island of **Rhodes,** southeast of Mykonos, is 11.2 kilometers (7 miles) off the coast of Turkey. The northern end of the island is one of Greece's major vacation centers, and Rhodes town is full of the trappings of tourism, mainly evident in the pubs and bars catering to the large Western European market. The island as a whole is not particularly beautiful—most of the pine and cedar woods that covered its hilly center were destroyed by fire in 1987 and 1988. But it has fine beaches and an excellent climate. The town of Rhodes has an attractive harbor with fortifications; the gigantic bronze statue of the Colossus of Rhodes is supposed to have straddled the entrance. The old walled city, near the harbor, was built by crusaders, the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, who ruled the island from 1310 until they were defeated by the Turks in 1522. Within its fine medieval walls, on the Street of the Knights, stands the **Knights' Hospital,** now the Archaeological Museum, housing two statues of Aphrodite. *Tel. 024/21–954. Admission: 300 dr. Open Tues.–Sun. 8:30–3.*

Another museum that deserves your attention is the restored and moated medieval **Palace of the Grand Masters.** Destroyed in 1856 by a gunpowder explosion, it was renovated by the Italians as a summer retreat for Mussolini. It is especially noted for its splendid Roman and early Christian floor mosaics. *Tel. 0241/27–657. Admission: 300 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon. and Wed.–Sat. 8–7, Sun. and holidays 8–6. Nov.–Mar., Mon. and Wed.–Sun. 8–5.*

To get the best overall view of the walled city, including the surviving Turkish buildings, go to one of the flower-filled parks that surround it. Try to see the *Son et Lumière* (sound and light show)—English-language performances are held on Sunday evening.

Many attractive souvenir and handicraft shops in the old town sell decorative Rhodian pottery, local embroidery, and relatively inexpensive jewelry.

From the town of Rhodes, drive about 56 kilometers (35 miles) down the east coast to the enchanting village of **Lindos.** Take a donkey from the village center and ride, or put on your comfortable shoes and walk, up the steep hill to the ruins of the ancient **Acropolis of Lindos,** circled by a medieval castle. The sight of its beautiful colonnade with the sea far below is unforgettable. Look for little St. Paul's Harbor, far below the cliffs of the acropolis; seen from above it appears to be a lake, as the tiny entrance from the sea is obscured by the rocks. *Tel. 0241/21–954. Admission: 400 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 8–7, Sun. and holidays 8–6; Nov.–Mar., daily 8–5.*

Rhodes is also a good base for visiting other islands of the Dodecanese, the 12 islands near the Turkish coast, with their mixture of Aegean and Turkish architecture.

Crete, situated in the south Aegean and Greece's largest island, was the center of Europe's earliest civilization, the Minoan, which flourished from about 2000 BC to 1200 BC. It was struck a mortal blow by a devastating volcanic eruption on the neighboring island of Santorini (Thera) in about 1450 BC.

The most important Minoan remains are to be seen in the **Archaeological Museum of Heraklion** in Iraklio, Crete's largest city. The museum houses many Minoan treasures, including some highly sophisticated frescoes and elegant ceramics depicting Minoan life. *Xanthoudidou St., tel. 081/226–092. Admission: 500 dr. Open Mon. 12:30–7, Tues.–Sat. 8–7, Sun. and holidays 8–6.*

Not far from Iraklio is the partly reconstructed **Palace of Knossos,** which will also give you a feeling for the Minoan world. Note the simple throne room, which contains the oldest throne in Europe, and the bathrooms with their efficient plumbing. The palace was the setting for the legend of the Minotaur, a monstrous offspring of Queen Pasiphae and a bull confined to the Labyrinth under the palace. *Tel. 081/231–940. Admission: 500 dr. Open Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 8–7, Sun. and holidays 8–6; Nov.–Mar., daily 8–5.*

Crete belonged to Venice from 1210 to 1669, at which time it was conquered by the Turks. The island did not become part of Greece until early in this century. The **Venetian ramparts** that withstood a 24-year Turkish siege still surround Iraklio. In addition to archaeological treasures, Crete can boast beautiful mountain scenery and a large number of beach resorts along the north coast. The most attractive is **Mallia,** which contains the remains of another Minoan palace. Two other beach resorts, **Agios Nikolaos** and the nearby **Elounda,** are east of

Iraklio. The south coast offers good, quieter beaches for getting away from it all.

The best way to approach **Santorini** is to sail into its harbor, once the vast crater of its volcano, and dock beneath its black and red cliffs. In some parts, the cliffs rise nearly 310 meters (1,000 feet) above the sea. The play of light across them can produce strange color effects. The white houses and churches of the main town, Thira, cling to the rim in dazzling white contrast to the somber cliffs.

Most passenger ferries now use the new port, Athinios, where visitors are met by buses, taxis, and a gaggle of small-hotel owners hawking rooms. The bus ride into Thira takes about half an hour, and from there you can make connections to other towns on the island. Despite being packed with visitors in the summer, the tiny town is charming, with spectacular views. It has the usual souvenir and handicrafts shops and several reasonably priced jewelry shops. Be sure to try the local white wine—the volcanic soil gives it a light, distinctive taste.

The island's volcano erupted in the 15th century BC, destroying its Minoan civilization. At **Acrotiri**, on the southern end of Santorini, the remains of a Minoan city buried by lava were recently excavated. The site, believed by some to be part of the legendary Atlantis, is open to the public. *Tel. 0286/81–366. Admission: 500 dr. Open Tues.–Fri. 8:30–3, weekends and holidays 9:30–2:30.*

For an enjoyable but slightly unnerving excursion, take the short boat trip to the island's still active small offshore volcanoes called the **Kamenes** or Burnt Islands. You can descend into a small crater, hot and smelling of sulfur, and swim in the nearby water that has been warmed by the volcano.

Dining and Lodging

For details and price category definitions, *see* Dining and Lodging in Staying in Greece.

Crete *Dining*

Iraklio has many moderately priced open-air restaurants in the central area around Platia Venizelou and Platia Daedelou. The island is known for its fine local wine, fresh seafood, and fresh local produce, which is available year-round.

Minos Taverna. This is one of the many outdoor restaurants near the Venetian fountain. Lamb, fresh seafood, and yogurt dishes make this one of the island's most popular restaurants. Service is prompt and attentive. *Daedelou 10, tel. 081/281–263. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Moderate.*

Taverna Faros. This is an excellent, inexpensive choice for a Greek fish supper, near the new port in Iraklio. The distinct fisherman's ambience is created by fishnet drapes, conch shells, and razor clams on the walls. *Tel. 081/423–233. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Inexpensive.*

Lodging

Elounda Beach. Located 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) north of Agios Nicolaos, this is probably the best seaside resort complex on Crete. It is spacious, attractive, and spotlessly maintained. It's set in beautiful grounds—the pool is cleverly landscaped among carob trees—and has a private beach. *Tel. 0841/41–412/3. 301 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurants, outdoor pool, miniature golf, tennis, nightclub, cinema. AE. Closed Nov.–Mar. Very Expensive.*

Ikaros Village. This hotel complex, near Mallia on Crete's north coast, was created by a German company and fits the image of a typical Greek village. It's on the beach, about 32 kilometers (20 miles) east of Iraklio, and near the ruins of a Minoan palace. *Malla Pediados, tel. 0897/31–267/9. 181 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool, tennis, private beach. AE. Closed Nov.–Mar. Expensive.*

☆ **Mediterranean.** This is another comfortable hotel in the center of Iraklio and 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) from the beach. It's priced at the top of its category. *Smyrnis 1, tel. 081/289–331. 55 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, partially air-conditioned. AE, MC, V. Moderate.*

Mykonos *Dining*

Philippi. A favorite with locals as well as tourists, this is where you can enjoy Continental cuisine and curries outdoors among the olive trees, beneath whitewashed walls, or in the elegant dining room. *Kalogeras St., tel. 0289/22–294. Reservations advised. AE, MC, V. Dinner only. Expensive.*

Lodging

☆ **Cavo Tagoo.** Within walking distance of the center of town, this small, charming hotel sits above a beach. Built to blend in with the Myconian architecture, it has an attractively designed salt-water pool in the garden and is well worth the high rates. *Tagoo Beach, tel. 0289/23–692/4. 24 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool. AE, MC, V. Closed Nov.–Mar. Expensive.*

Mykonos Beach. This is a charming group of bungalows on the edge of town, with superb views over the beach. *Kiklades St., tel. 0289/22–573. 27 bungalows. Facilities: nightclub. AE, MC, V. Closed Nov.–Mar. Moderate.*

Rhodes *Dining*

Casa Castelana. Set in a 15th-century Inn of the Knights, this restaurant has a wonderful medieval atmosphere indoors; outdoors, there's an elegant but comfortable garden area for dining. The food is unusual and delicious, featuring a combination of non-Greek dishes and Rhodian specialties, including *trahanas*, an island village soup, and *stifado*, a pot-au-feu-style lamb dish. *Aristotelous 35, tel. 0241/28–803. Reservations advised. AE, DC, V. Expensive.*

The Plaka Taverna. This restaurant on the first floor, overlooking the fountain in the square, offers one of the prettiest settings in the town. The specialty here is fresh seafood, grilled or fried to order; the red mullet is particularly tasty. *Ippocratous Sq., tel. 0241/22–477. Reservations not necessary. AE, DC. Expensive.*

Kabo n' Toro Taverna. You can't go wrong at this tiny restaurant, which is one of the best in the town of Rhodes and possibly on the entire island. *Omilou and Parado Sts., tel. 0241/36–182. Reservations not necessary. No credit cards. Moderate.*

Lodging

Grand Hotel Astir Palace. This beachfront establishment on the edges of Rhodes town houses one of Greece's three casinos, as well as two restaurants and cocktail bars, an English-style pub, and the Isabella nightclub. Although the beach is ordinary, the situation is a great asset. Some rooms with verandas face the gardens, lawns and pools; others, slightly more expensive, face the sea with views of the coast of Turkey. *Vass. Konstantinou St., tel. 0241/26–284/9. 378 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurants, 1 indoor and 2 outdoor pools, private beach, tennis, casino. AE, DC, MC, V. Very Expensive.*

Steps of Lindos. This hotel, 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) out of the village of Lindos, is built on a sloping hillside above a long, good beach. The steps—and there are lots of them—link the white-washed buildings to the pool and beach. The service is friendly and efficient and food is plentiful, although variable. *Vlyha Lindos, tel. 0244/24–371/2. 156 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, outdoor pool, tennis, beach. AE. Closed Nov.–Mar. Expensive.*

Spartalis. Many rooms have balconies overlooking the bay in this simple but lively hotel near the city's port. *Plastira 2, tel. 0241/24–371/2. 70 rooms with bath. AE, DC, MC. Moderate.*

Santorini

Dining

Camille Stefani. This is one of the island's best restaurants, where you can enjoy seafood, Greek and Continental cuisine, and the local wines. A taste of the mellow Santorini Lava red wine, a product of the volcanic ash, is a must! *Main St., Thira, tel. 0286/22–265. Reservations advised. AE, MC, V. Moderate.*

Lodging

Atlantis. Located in the main village, this is the island's best hotel. It has a magnificent view. *Thira, tel. 0286/22–232. 27 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant. AE, DC, MC, V. Closed Nov.–Mar. Expensive.*

Kamari Hotel. This pleasant resort hotel is on a black-sand beach on the side away from the cliffs. *Tel. 0286/31–243. 55 rooms with bath. Facilities: restaurant, roof garden, outdoor pool, tennis, disco. AE, DC, MC, V. Closed Nov.–Mar. Moderate.*

Perivolas. This group of traditional houses has been carefully restored by the Greek National Tourist Organization. Located in Ia, it overlooks the sea and the volcano and offers comfortable, self-catering accommodations in an authentic island setting. *Tel. 0286/364–1024. 12 houses each with 2 rooms and bath. Facilities: kitchen. AE, MC, V. Closed Nov.–Mar. Expensive.*

14 Holland

Parliament - Vouli (to decide)

Tomb of Unknown - in front
~~St~~ Sing of guard - guard name?

evzones

DIMITRI ALEXANDRAKIS
~~Presid~~ Diplomatic Cabinet of the President 301/ 7244853

Brady Kiesling
John Klekas Pol. Sec. x390 (h)671-6344

Tomb - names of famous battles -
guarded by evzones
Sing of the guard every hr.
Relieved - 11am

Maximou - PM's residence/office

mtg w/PM
Initials

Pres Palace arrival/mtg w/Pres/State Dinner

Meggre Proedriou (Pal of Pres)

State Dinner

leaders seated in front of tapestry

Pres. Palace used to be Royal Palace

American College of Greece

Pres eldest + largest Am-sponsored univ abroad
1875 - Old Smyrna
founded by missionaries
broke off in 1950s
now private, coed
NE Assoc. Schools - accredited
4500 students - 2 campuses
AID funding

began as inst for young women

Wellesley tie - now ~~Doane~~ ministers, ministers
Mildred Macafee Hartzler

Chair - Tom Karlogas
VP US Adv. Comm on Pub.

relocated to Greece
refugees - 1922

~~Eleftherios~~ Eleftherios Venizelos - invited to Greece
armed as hosp during WWII

Price College Auditorium

PARLIAMENT CHAMBER

PM ~~sits~~ & opp leader - shake hands

cards

nothing special

Parthenon

Pericles - built w/rev.
symbol of wh dem can accomplish
w/a little extra cash

Crete

Souda Bay Naval Station/Base

1 U.S. & 1 Greek ship

? hrs imbs to sailors on each ship

ATHENS

Day 1
① Arrival ceremony — July 17 am
② State Dinner – toast

③ B'fast / Ch. of Commerce event – bus. community tent.
④ Press availability, following PM's rem

Day 2
④½ Greek Parliament – live on TV

⑥ Am. College of Greece – tent. (hon. degree)

⑤ Embassy Greeting

8 ₣ reciprocal cocktail party – toast ₣ buffet.
closed press

Day 3
Crete? visit Gr. ships part. in alliance

non-speech – ⑦ Wreath Acropolis (Day 2)

POTUS +

Day 3 Crete? brunch @ PM's res.