

Syntagma Vs Parliament: an ongoing battle for the Greek crisis

Once upon a time, there was a small EU country with a big debt. In the year 2011 Greece faces the repayment of a 340 billion euro debt created by loans upon loans, a debt even bigger than the country's economy. It is an unprecedented economic crisis caused by many years of unrestrained spending, failures of implementing economic reforms and corrupted governments. It is not a secret that the economic crisis in Greece, if not controlled, may trigger a domino effect on a European and International level, and lead countries with similar problems to a colossal failure. Moreover, the economic collapse of a Eurozone country, where a dozen different countries share the same currency, puts the Euro into a major hazard. Consequently, the bailout of Greece from the crisis is a one way road getaway that needs to be achieved at any cost. For reasons unknown up to this day and without examining any alternative solutions, the Greek government decided that the salvation of the country's economy could only come from foreign powers, therefore assistance was being asked from the European Commission (EC), the European Central Bank (ECB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Despite opposing opinions and the disapproval of the citizens and experts for the government's rescue plan, the troika, as media tend to call the representatives of the EC, the ECB and IMF, came into town. The irresistible offer, similar to the unsuccessful one suggested in Asian countries (Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea) in the nineties, was an austerity plan formed in the principles of an economic theory called internal devaluation process. In other words Greek government agreed to shrink its way out of the crisis instead of grow its way out of the recession by reducing to a great extend its spending and consequently its economic growth and raising the taxes in an unrealistic level. What impact will that have on Greeks lives? For the next six years at least, the unemployment rates will rise; the wages will diminish even more, the economic growth will be substandard, states enterprises will be available for privatization and states properties will be at troika's disposal to sell them or use them for the repayment of the debt.

From the very beginning of economic crisis in Greece an unprecedented campaign against the country and its working class was mostly promoted by European media and politicians creating some false impressions. It is however obvious from people's reactions and polls made, that Greek citizens not only disapprove the government's rescue plan but also the government itself. The crisis was the

impetus for the realization of the corruption of the political system and the implication of politicians' clientele relations with their voters. For more than 40 years the two parties that ruled the country were focused only on how to help themselves rather than the country. All this time the two power parties, PASOK and Nea Dimokratia, were securing jobs for their “clients” slowly creating the “monster” that is called public sector and all the interlinked professions. The deficiency of the political system may be the root of the problem but voters are responsible as well for preserving for a very long time political elite of three families or a “feudal democracy” as Spiegel magazine calls it. Under those circumstances it would have been a miracle if Greece was not in an economic crisis. The realization of the volume of the corruption and the government's choices towards the rescue of Greece triggered the massive protests that are on for more than a month now in front of the Parliament in Syntagma square.

Thus people protest not because they want charity or because they do not want to pay what their country owes. They protest because they want to get out of the crisis relying on Greece's capabilities and not on foreign powers. They protest because they disapprove the unconditional surrender of the country and its wealth to others. They protest because they do not want to be viewers to the country's devastation by corrupted governments. Solutions can be found for the repayment of the debt and immediately. Many independent economic analysts tend to believe that Greece's first step to salvation should be the challenge of the legality of the loan agreement assigned with the troika, and an immediate official audit of the debt to see what part of it is legal and which illegal (there are founded suspicions that a great percentage of the debt is illegal). Then steps can be made towards the redirection of taxation to the rich instead of the low income citizens, with the exploitation of the unused wealth of country and with the relocation of the money that has been defalcated from the public sector.

It is hard to predict the end of this tale, but most likely is not going to be a happy one. The constant loans, the never ending austerity measures, the oppression of a country for the sake of banks will not buy time forever. The economic crisis is not a Greek issue, not even European; it is an international problem that needs to be solved with affectivity and consistency in order to prevent a global collapse of the system.

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