

Abstracts

GREEK – BULGARIAN SYMPOSIUM

DIMITRIOS KYRKILIS

Bulgaria: From Transition to the European Union Membership

Although Bulgaria is a late reformer has managed to meet the economic and political criteria for joining the European Union. The country became full member in the beginning of 2007. The Bulgarian economy achieved macroeconomic stabilization, robust and sustainable GDP growth, and adequate institutions and laws very close to those prevailing in advanced market economies. However, Bulgaria has not managed to eliminate its external imbalances. On the contrary, these imbalances become more potent as the economy grows. The external imbalances are rooted to a significant merchandise trade deficit, which in turn is expanding at the back of domestic structural imbalances, namely a narrow manufacturing base concentrated mainly on low value added Ricardo type goods produced and exported on the basis of a low labour cost advantage. The paper analyses the risks stemming from the above situation concluding that it sets certain hurdles to the Bulgaria's economic convergence to the EU through the application of policies keeping wage rates lower than labour productivity rates, and curbing domestic demand in general.

EKATERINA NIKOVA

Greek Lessons for Bulgaria's EU Integration

Fascinated by the success of Ireland, Bulgaria like all new comers to the EU dreams to be able to catch-up with its advanced partners of the EU and to cross the frontier from poverty to wealth. However, sober voices tell a different, more cautionary tale: Bulgaria should look at next-door, culturally close Greece and read correctly the lessons of its EU integration, lessons both negative and positive. Greek experience demonstrates that the miracle of EU works. Convergence is possible but does not come easily and involves setting the right priorities in a consistent

national policy. EU membership is the necessary but not sufficient condition for the transformation of a country. Its magic works only when it becomes a catalyst for constant reforms and modernization.

JORDAN BAEV

Bulgaria and the ESDP: Global Frames and Regional Perspectives

The history of the Bulgarian accession to the EU has been object of careful and detailed discussions in Bulgarian political science and international relations publications during the last couple of years. A large amount of research studies was devoted to its legal and economic dimensions. The works on ESDP and Bulgaria occupy less space so far, though few volumes on the matter appeared as product of the efforts of small academic NGOs. Still we are expecting more thorough research in the field from a contemporary history perspective; in particular, on the “lessons learned” model and an “immediate effects” pros and cons approach. This paper will try to reveal in brief the most significant data about Bulgarian contribution to the build up of European defense capabilities after the treaties of Amsterdam and Nice.

AGOP GARABEDYAN – RUMYANA KOMSALOVA

Eastern Orthodoxy – An Obstacle or Stimulus to the Affiliation of Bulgaria and Greece to the European Values

The European civilization is a cultural and historical whole, sharing common historical fate, founded upon the unique heritage of ancient Greek philosophy, Roman law and Christian tradition. Through the idea of responsibility and freedom, Christianity originated the concept of human rights, traced the differences between secular and spiritual power and provided the prerequisites for the development of civil society and the exercise of individual freedom. The Schism from 1054 led to the formation of two types of cultural development, based on Orthodoxy and Catholicism. In 18th century, the idea of “Christian civilization” was replaced by the idea of “secular Europe”. The national idea, understood as an idea of separate cultural identity, supplanted the religious idea.

The character and specificity of the Greek and Bulgarian political traditions are connected with the role played by Eastern Orthodoxy and its institutions. The harmonization of the legislation is a comparatively

easier process than the harmonization of cultural elements and national psychology. The question is whether the national political culture is compatible with the so-called European political culture and whether Orthodox traditions constitute an obstacle to the process of Europeanization of Bulgaria and Greece.

†*SANYA VELKOVA*

**Bulgarian Schoolbooks in the Secondary Education:
Past, Present, Future**

Research is established on the history schoolbooks for the 9th grade including the manuals for preparation of students by Publishing House Anubis and Publishing House Prosveta, as well as on the corresponding history and civilization schoolbooks for the 11th grade of the latter publishing houses, as all of them are issued and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science after the year of 2000.

The choice was predetermined by the fact that 9th grade is the last year of the mandatory tuition of the Bulgarian children and actually 11th grade is the last year in which they study history, so analysis is based on the idea that the interpretations, suggestions, images, and stereotypes tutored via those schoolbooks are the ones that are preserved in the end and remain in the mind of the students.

ARTICLES

KONSTANTINOS GIAKOUMIS

Dialectics of Pragmatism in Ottoman Domestic Interreligious Affairs. Reflections on the Ottoman Legal Framework of Church Confiscation and Construction and a 1741 Firman for Ardenicë Monastery

This paper extends previous work on the character of Ottoman pragmatism in domestic inter-religious affairs and aims at demonstrating the reciprocal pragmatist exchanges that such pragmatism triggered in the Ottoman state's relations with its non-Muslim religious communities. The paper's focus shall remain on the legal framework that regulated the conversion of churches to mosques and Orthodox Christian Church

(re)construction, illustrating the latter with one specific case-study displaying the pragmatic exchanges between the Ottoman administration and the Orthodox Church at a local level, within the territories of modern-day Albania: the 1741 firman forbidding interferences of Ottoman authorities in Ardenicë Monastery's reconstruction.

GEORGIOS KRITIKOS

The Nationalism of Greek Language: The two Faces of Janus in the early 20th Century

The language issue in Greece provoked by the propagators of the 'purist' language (katharevousa) and those of demotic (vernacular or common Greek), created confusion and various dichotomies for almost two centuries in the political, social and education life of the country.

This study will attempt to analyse the nationalism of the supporters of the Greek vernacular and that of the 'purists' as well as the differences and the overlapping between them. It will investigate how the fulfilment or failure of the militant aspect of the Great Idea from the late nineteenth century until the arrival of the Asia Minor refugees in Greece, formulated in the expansionist ideology of a state of two continents and five seas failed (Great idea), promoted these two different readings of linguistic nationalism inherent in the language issue of Greece. It is also interesting to examine which was the type of identities and national ideals promoted by the specific types of language promoted by the supporters of demotic and 'purist' Greek.

KYRIAKOS MIKELIS – GERASSIMOS KARABELIAS

Just Another Form of Dependence?

A Short Description of the Development of the Discipline of International Relations in post-war Greece and Turkey

The comparison between Greece and Turkey, regarding the development of the discipline of International Relations, reveals several points of convergence and divergence. Despite those countries' common perception of geopolitical insecurity and other shared similarities, the emergence of IR has not been identical. For example, how is the historically institutionalized political culture reflected in the particular construction of the field in each country? The respective research should not disregard

the significance of the disciplinary inner logic as well as discourse. Nevertheless, the so called contextual factors of scientific development are also relevant. In this sense, the state-society relationship is deemed important with regard to the evolution not only of politics but also of various societal facets, such as science.

WILLIAM MALLINSON

1976: British Cyprus and the Con-solidation of American Desires in the Eastern Mediterranean

An extrapolation, analysis and evaluation of those papers that the British government released on Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in January 2007, covering mainly the year 1976, reveal the British Foreign Minister's being extremely economical with the truth about the invasion of Cyprus, and a weak cover-up, Kissinger's cynicism about Greek and French policy and his tolerance of Turkish behaviour, his interest in Cyprus as a vital component in the Arab-Israel dispute and the aftermath of Britain's failed attempts to give up its territories on Cyprus.

KATERINA MYSTAKIDOU

The Broadening of the Islamic Grip on Turkey

The rise of the Islamic party AKP to power, since 2002, has brought unexpected changes in the political developments in Turkey, challenging in many ways the secularist establishment. Today's Islamists are cultivating a political Islam with an aggressive social agenda. Their growing power brought to the limelight many issues like the increase of the imam hatip schools, and the spreading of the powerful movement of Fethullah Gulen giving them a new prominence and substantial support. It is interesting to delineate how the acquired power of Islam added totally different dimensions to these issues showing their importance as political weapons.