

*The Little Book
Of
BIG Greek Lies*



By
Risto Stefov

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Of
BIG Greek Lies

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PREFACE

There is no ethnic Macedonian originating from Greece today who doesn't know what "Greece" and "Hellenism" means to the Macedonian people. Macedonians know exactly how Greece was created and how Greeks were made out of Macedonians. One must look no further than their own village or family to see the process of "Hellenization" at work.

Back in Greece I grew up with children whose relatives were Macedonians, today these same children as grown adults swear they are Greeks related to the "ancient Greeks".

Macedonians know exactly how Greece and Greeks were created and have no problem with that. The problem is while "Greeks" are created out of Macedonians, the Macedonians themselves are being robbed of their heritage and identity. The Greeks see no problem with Macedonians volunteering or being forced to accept an artificially imposed identity but will not accept the fact that Macedonians exist. These are some of the conditions under which Macedonians have to live within Greece.

The series of articles published on the website www.maknews.com called "From The Little Book of BIG Greek Lies" began as a joke. Inspired by Dedo Kire they were designed to bring humour to the tragic Macedonian condition. Thank you Dedo Kire for the idea, your input and support.

The real surprise however, was the vast amount of attention the articles received, not just from Macedonians, but also from Greeks who saw the articles not as humorous but as "a horrible thing to do" not because they were not true but because they were "airing Greek dirty laundry" in public. This series of articles has generated more feedback than all my articles put together. I received e-mails with criticisms that ranged from me being called "a dirty liar" to being threatened with bodily harm.

Introduction

Our apologies to the Greek people if they find this book offensive. Our objective here is NOT to create tension between the Macedonian and Greek people but rather to highlight the problem that exists within the Greek State and its institutions. As long as the Greek State denies our existence as Macedonians with rights and privileges, we will continue to publish these kind of books.

To those numerous Greeks who wrote me to ask “*Why are you doing this?*” referring to why I wrote the series of articles “BIG Greek Lies”, I say this:

For nearly a century we Macedonians have reasoned with you Greeks, defending our Macedonian identity and pleading our case to your governments to level the playing field for Macedonians in Greece without success. We asked that you “Recognize the Macedonian identity in Greece!” Give the Macedonians rights to be Macedonians and to speak their Macedonian mother tongue! And all we received from you is “There is no such thing as Macedonians!” You try to explain our existence by calling us “Paleo-Vulgary” (ancient-Bulgars), “Slavs”, “Skopjans”, “Fyromians”, “Gypsies”, “Tito’s creation”, etc, etc.

In other words, every time Macedonians ask for their rights, Greece is quick to deny them, insisting that Macedonians don’t exist and treating Macedonians as second class citizens without even the least basic of human rights.

So, the real question is “*Why are YOU doing this?*”

The “Little Book of BIG Greek Lies” is an eye opener for the readers who don’t know much about the life of minorities inside Greece and the real identity of the living Greeks of today.

The twenty “BIG Greek Lies” presented here reveal the “Greek Hypocrisy” and the Greek attitude towards its indigenous people and its minorities.

To my Greeks opponents I say this: “You had it your way for nearly a century with plenty of opportunity to make things right. Now it’s time for you to reflect on your 19th century creation and see what it has done, not only to the Macedonians but also to all the other cultures it has destroyed in the name of ‘Hellenism’”.

Let the airing of Greek dirty laundry begin!

BIG Greek Lie # 1 - “Modern Greeks are direct descendents of the Ancient Greeks”

(The greatest victims of Greek lies are the Greeks themselves)

How can a region in the Balkans where modern Greece is located today, which has been open to a multitude of invasions, conquests and settlements, remain homogeneous and untouched for two thousand seven hundred years?

Ironically, as the Greeks claim, how can modern Macedonia, a region neighbouring modern Greece be so heterogeneous that it has completely lost its original identity?

These are questions that every Greek should be asking!

Ever since Philip II of Macedonia conquered the ancient City States at the conclusion of the battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC, the region south of Olympus has been without borders and open to all kinds of invasions and barbarian settlements.

How can one call a people of 2,300 years ago “Ancient Greeks” since the word “Greek” was not coined until after the Roman conquests, approximately 600 years after the establishment of the City States and approximately 150 years after they were conquered by the Macedonians?

If you were to say “the ancient Canadians living on their lands 2,000 years ago” you would be ridiculed and told “there were no ancient Canadians” and the people to whom you are referring who had once lived on the lands of present Canada had nothing to do with the Canadians of today! Yet, everyday you hear the word “ancient Greeks” and you don’t bat an eye! Why is that?

It is also well known that the ancient City States were never united politically and never established themselves as a single state. In fact they existed politically independent from one another and fought each other for economic dominance of the region.

The name “Greece” was imposed on the modern Greek Kingdom by the Great Powers Britain, France and Russia. Modern Greeks call themselves Hellenes (Ellines) and their state Hellas (Ellas), a name borrowed from the past which neither describes the elements of a nation or those of an ethnicity.

By using the name “Greek” to refer to both the ancient and modern people, the Greek state falsely implies descent for the modern Greeks from the ancients.

By using the name “Greece” to refer to both the ancient and modern states, the Greek State is falsely implying;

(1) continuity between the ancient City States and modern Greece, and

(2) that there was some sort of political unity between the ancient City States themselves where one did not exist.

In reality the words “Greece” and “Greek” were popularized by modern 19th century writers. There are no ancient maps or references with the words “Greece”.

The Romans may have made some references to the ancient people living in Sicily as “Grecos” but they referred to the region south of Olympus as Achaia.

During the Ottoman era the people living south of Olympus called themselves Romeos (Romans).

Greece is a newly created state which never existed before the 19th century. The Kingdom of Greece, occupying the region of Morea, present day Peloponnesus, was created for the first time in 1829. Between 1829 and 1912 the Greeks enlarged their territory to present day Greece, by conquering Epirus, Thessaly and 51% of Macedonia.

At its inception Greece started out with a small population of less than one million people, most of whom were Albanians, Slavs and Vlachs with a small minority of other ethnicities. By the time Greece conquered Epirus and Thessaly, its population grew to three times its original size. In 1907 it registered a population of 2,600,000. After it conquered Macedonia and exchanged populations with Turkey, its population tripled. In 1928 Greece registered 6,200,000 people. 1,100,000 of them were Christians, refugees from Asia Minor.

After the Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923, and after the population exchanges with Turkey, Greece declared itself homogenous consisting of 100% pure Greeks with a very small Muslim but ethnically Greek population.

It is estimated that after Macedonia was conquered, occupied and had some of its population evicted, more than one million Macedonians still remained and were included among the Greeks.

According to Greece however, there were no non-Greeks left in Macedonia after its population exchanges. Also, according to Greece, the ancient Macedonians were extinct, killed off by the Slavs around the 6th century AD during the so-called Slav invasions.

So the question that begs to be asked here is, “What ethnicity were these million or so people who remained in Macedonia and became part of Greece?” Many Greeks would argue that they were Bulgarians!

If that were the case, then how can the modern Greeks claim purity and homogeneity if at least 16% of its population in 1928 was non-Greek? What about its Vlah, Slav, Albanian and Turkish elements? Clearly they are not Greeks, let alone being direct descendents of the so-called “ancient Greeks”.

Even this small argument shows that there is something “fishy” about these Greek claims.

For over a century and a half, Greek State institutions, organizations and individuals have been making unproven and unfounded allegations that the modern Greeks are direct descendents of the ancients. To this day they have shown no evidence to prove their claims. In fact the opposite is true. There is ample evidence that proves that this particular modern Greek claim is an outright BIG Greek lie.

This exact issue was tackled by Historian John Shea [1]. Among other things, Shea proves that even the ancient people were not homogeneous.

“It has been estimated that in classical times the number of slaves in Attica was roughly equal to the number of free inhabitants, or around 100,000. In Sparta there was an even greater proportion of slaves, and most of them, the helots, were Messenians. While the slaves of Athens were a wide racial mix and therefore less likely to unite on the basis of a common language, these Messenian helots of Sparta all spoke Greek, and had a kind of group self-consciousness. Thus they presented ‘special problems of security for their Spartan masters, whose numbers were constantly on the decline.’ Changes in the ethnic composition of Greek city-states are illustrated by the comments about the case of Piso. Piso, who had been the recipient of an unhelpful decision by a vote of the Athenian city assembly, ‘made a violent speech in which he said that the latter-day Athenians had no right to identify themselves with the great Athenians of the days of Pericles, Demosthenes, Aeschylus, and Plato. The ancient Athenians had been extirpated by repeated wars and massacres and these were mere mongrels, degenerates, and the descendants of slaves. He said that any Roman who flattered them as if they were the legitimate heirs of those ancient heroes was lowering the dignity of the Roman name.’ Such historical ideas make it clear that even two thousand years ago the notion of ethnic purity amongst the so-called Greeks was difficult to sustain. The ethnic mix continued over the next two thousand years. As Nicol has observed, ‘The ancient Greeks were, after all, of very mixed ancestry; and there can be no doubt that the Byzantine Greeks, both before and after the Slav occupation, were even more heterogenous.’ [2] And there you have it!

THE TRUTH

The modern Greeks are not only NOT direct descendents of the ancients, but their Greekness is a myth, a modern 19th century creation.

BIG Greek Lie # 2 - “The Koine Language is Greek”

(Modern Greeks are victims of their own making)

The Koine language made its way into Macedonia a little before Philip II's time. Poorly worded and misspelled inscriptions written in Koine were found in the Macedonian capital which indicates that the language was not well understood and was just making its way there.

The roots of the Koine language may have started in one of the more progressive City States, most probably Athens, but by the time it made its way to the Eastern Mediterranean, it had become the language of administration and commerce, common to all Mediterranean nations.

In Macedonia, Koine was strictly the language of the educated and was used by the court administrators and the international merchants.

By the time Koine arrived in Macedonia it was already the “lingua franca” of administration and commerce in the Eastern Mediterranean world.

Koine in those days was like English is today. In Europe for example, countries have their own languages which they use to communicate at home, but internationally they use English to communicate with other countries.

Alexander the Great was the first to take Koine out of the Mediterranean world to Asia, Africa and other worlds he conquered.

The real heroes for Koine's success were Alexander's successors the Antigonids, Seleucids and the Ptolemies. It is well known that the Ptolemies did not only insist on using Koine but they refused to learn any other language not even the languages of those people they ruled.

Cleopatra VII was the only Macedonian sovereign from the Ptolemaic dynasty who broke the Ptolemaic rule and learned several languages including Egyptian.

The Koine language was so deeply rooted in the old Macedonian empires that even after they were conquered by the Romans it continued to flourish. Koine was spoken by Roman intellectuals even in Rome. Almost all ancient literary works were written in Koine

Let's not forget that throughout the Macedonian and Roman periods Koine, in spite of its popularity with the educated and elite, remained a language of administration and commerce. Koine was never a language of the common people.

While Koine served its purpose in the administrative and commercial circles, other languages, languages of the people, simultaneously also flourished in parallel but in their oral form until they were later codified by Christianity.

After the Roman Empire split into East and West, Koine again resurfaced and replaced Latin as the administrative language of the Eastern or Pravoslav Empire.

Koine remained active and served the administration and commerce of the Pravoslav world for over a millennium.

Interestingly, Koine also became the administrative and commercial language of the Ottoman Empire and continued to exist in a commercial and administrative capacity during Ottoman rule as it did during Pravoslav rule.

By Islamic law, Muslims were not allowed to travel outside of their domain, handle public funds or speak foreign languages. The Ottomans employed Christians to administer foreign affairs, banking and trade with the outside world. And yes you guessed it, the Christians continued to employ the Koine language throughout Ottoman rule as they did during Pravoslav rule.

The keepers of the Ottoman administrative and commercial services as well as the rulers of the Christian world inside the Ottoman Empire were known as the Phanariots.

The Phanariots were a Christian educated and professional middle class or the bourgeoisie of the Ottoman world. They were people from various ethnicities from every corner of the Eastern world. They were the clerics, the translators (dragoman), the merchants and the captains of ships and of industry and they all spoke Koine. They were called Phanariots because they lived in a district of Tsari Grad (Constantinople or Istanbul) known as the Phanar.

In the 19th century, during the Ottoman decline, the Phanariots were much in favour of toppling the Ottoman administration. The idea was to overthrow the Ottoman Sultan and his Muslim rule and replace it with Christian rule. Unfortunately the Great Powers did not favour that idea and it failed. After that, the Phanariots worked closely with the Great Powers to establish the Greek Kingdom.

Even though the people of the newly established Greek Kingdom were of many different ethnicities including Albanians, Vlachs, Macedonians, Slavs, Turks, etc, each with a unique language and culture, the Great Powers instilled upon them the idea that they were the descendents of the ancient people who lived in that region over two millenniums ago.

After nearly a decade of contemplation as to which language to use, Greek authorities finally decided to adopt the Koine language as the literary language of their new nation. They disregarded all vibrant and living peoples' languages in favour of the ancient administrative and commercial Koine.

Unfortunately, after two millennium of evolution, the modern version of Koine contained many foreign elements and proved distasteful to the

Greek purists who wanted a pure language which was close to those of the ancient City States.

After nearly a century of using Koine the purists finally got their chance to replace it. Their new choice was an old, dead Attic language used by the ancient Athenians 2,500 years ago. The Greeks called their new language the Catharevoussa for its linguistic purity.

Unfortunately, this language had been dead for two thousand years and the Greek literary world which was used to the bastardized impure Koine, found it very difficult to understand and impossible to express emotion. Its use was finally terminated in the 1970's in favour of the bastardized Koine (Dimotiki).

For those Greeks who insist that all ancient Greeks spoke a dialect of the same language, here are some simple and common everyday words in English, Ancient Attic and Modern Koine;

<u>English</u>	<u>Catharevoussa (Ancient Attic)</u>	<u>Dimotiki (Koine)</u>
Horse	Ipos	Alogo
Donkey	Onos	Gaidaros
Hen	Ornitha	Kota
Goat	Ega	Gida (Katsika)
Kid (baby goat)	Erifi	Katsiki
Bread	Artos	Psomi

THE TRUTH

The Koine language belongs to all the Eastern Mediterranean people and not just modern Greece.

Modern Greece took the Koine language, which by rights belongs to all the Eastern Mediterranean people, for itself and now calls it Greek.

Just because Greece adopted Koine as the literary language for its modern nation, it does not make it exclusively Greek. Koine evolved as the language of administration and commerce in the entire Eastern Mediterranean and as such belongs to all the people in the Eastern Mediterranean world.

If anyone should claim credit for Koine's effectiveness and long survival it should be the ancient Macedonians who insisted on using it for centuries.

BIG Greek Lie # 3 - “The Ancient ‘Greek gods’ were Greek”

(Some modern Greeks believe that those who spoke Greek and believed in the Greek gods were actually Greek)

We often read in books, see movies and hear stories about the so-called mythical “Greek gods” but have we ever stopped to think what makes these deities Greek? Are they “Greek” because they originated where modern Greece is today? Are they “Greek” in a national sense? Are they Greek because the Ancients that lived in the region where modern Greece is today wrote about them? How are they “Greek”?

The word “Greek” before the word “gods” implies that there is a relationship between “Greek” and “gods” which means that in some way these gods belong to Greece or the “Greeks”. Since these “gods” are not associated with other Mediterranean people such as the Macedonians, Paeonians, Illyrians, Thracians, Pelasgians, Phrygians, Lydians, Carians, Lycians, Paphlagonians, Cappadocians, Cilicians, Picidians, Pamphylans and others, in a similar manner, who also celebrated and believed in them, then one is led to believe that these gods must be exclusively connected to Greece and the “Greeks”

The question is how?

Among several sources we consulted, Microsoft’s Encarta encyclopedia under the heading “Greek Mythology” had an explanation but this explanation did not enforce the idea that the so-called “Greek gods” were actually “Greek”.

According to Encarta, mythology in written form appeared for the first time in the literary works of Hesiod and Homer around the eighth century BC. Homer, as we know, produced the famous works the “Iliad” and “Odyssey” and Hesiod produced the poems “Theogony”. Both authors in their respective works talk about the various tales and legends associated with ancient deities. Hesiod, however, according to Encarta, takes a step further and introduces a larger number of myths that include deities that are not mentioned by Homer. Hesiod, in “Theogony”, who talks about the creation of the world, the birth of the gods as well as their adventures, NEVER ONCE mentions “Greek” or any other name derived from this word!

Similarly, Homer in his works the “Iliad” and the “Odyssey”, considered to be reliable sources for the so-called “Greek Mythology” and the “Greek gods”, NEVER ONCE mentions the word “Greek” or any other name derived from this word!

So again, how are these so-called “Greek gods” “Greek”? Perhaps the authors who wrote about them were from the region where modern Greece is today?

According to Carlos Parada, an internationally recognized researcher and expert on mythology, the following authors have contributed to the so-called “Greek mythology”;

Author	% Contribution	Lived in / Ethnicity
Apolodorus	19	Alexandria / Unknown *
Pausanias	12	Lydia / Lydian
Hyginus	12	Rome / Unknown (Spanish?)
Homer	8	Asia Minor? / Unknown
Ovid	6	Rome / Roman
Nonnus	5	Egypt / Egyptian
Hesiod	4.6	Boeotia / Boeotian **
Diodorus Siculus	4.4	Sicily / Sicilian
Virgil	4	Mantua Italy / Roman
Quintus Smynaeus	3.3	
Statius	2.6	Rome / Roman
Antonius Liberalis	2	Rome / Roman
Valerius Flaccus	2	Rome / Roman
Apollonius Rhodius	1.8	Alexandria ? Unknown
Dionysius of Halicarnassus	1.5	Caria / Unknown
Euripides	1.5	Attica / Athenian **
Plutarch	1.3	Boeotia / Boeotian **
Herodotus	1	Caria / Carian
Pindarus (Pindar)	1	Thebes / Boeotian
Parhenius of Nicaea	1	
Aeschylus	0.5	
Aristophanes	0.4	
Caimachus	0.4	
Cicero	0.3	

* Highest probability - Macedonian

** From Ancient City States south of Mount Olympus where Modern Greece is located today.

From the table above, we can see that the vast majority of works about the so-called “Greek mythology” and the “Greek gods” were in fact written by NON-GREEKS or by authors of unknown origin/ethnicity.

If the authors who wrote about them were not “Greek” then perhaps the legends of the so-called “Greek gods” originated somewhere in the lands of modern Greece.

Unfortunately that is not true either. According to Herodotus, many of the elements of the so-called “Greek myths” associated with the “Greek gods” were borrowed from foreign religions, mainly from the Pelasgians who in turn borrowed them from the Egyptians. (There are some scientists today who believe the Pelasgians lived in the lower Balkans, including Macedonia and were the ancestors of some of the Slavs.)

However let us not just take Herodotus’s word. Let’s examine the mythological deities themselves starting with the supreme god Zeus.

According to the Grolier Encyclopedia, Zeus is a celestial deity of Indo-European origin symbolically associated with the sky. Poseidon, the elder brother of Zeus, is also a deity of Indo-European origin. Apollo, on the other hand, is an Asian deity from the Asian shaman cults, imported from Siberia.

The following is a list of deities and major mythical figures commonly referred to as “Greek gods” and “Greek mythical figures” who are believed to be of “non-Greek” origin;

Deity/Major Figure	Origin	Source
Rhigmus	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Diomedes	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Phineus	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Tereus	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Rhesus	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Alcon	Thracian	Carlos Parada
Memnon	Ethiopian	Carlos Parada
Alcyoneus	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Alexipus	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Clydon	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Laomedon	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Mmeneclus	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Nychius	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Thalius	Ethiopian	Quintus Smyrnaeus
Andromeda	Ethiopian	Carlos Parada
Cepheus	Phoenician	Carlos Parada
Europa	Phoenician	Carlos Parada
Pelops	Phrygian	Carlos Parada
Agenor	Egyptian	Carlos Parada
Belus	Egyptian	Carlos Parada
Midus	Phrygian	Carlos Parada
Opis	Phrygian	Carlos Parada

Aura	Phrygian	Carlos Parada
Proteus	Egyptian	Carlos Parada
Egeria	Italian	Ovid
Hora	Roman	Ovid
Janus	Roman	Carlos Parada
Juturna	Roman	Carlos Parada
Penates	Roman	Carlos Parada
Tantalus	Paphlagonia	Carlos Parada
Orchamus	Persia	Carlos Parada
Pyramus	Babylon	Carlos Parada
Thisbe	Babylon	Carlos Parada
Dido	Cartagenan	Carlos Parada
Nicea	Indian	Carlos Parada
Phoenix	Arabian	Carlos Parada
Hypnos	From the Black Sea region	Carlos Parada
Muses (9)	Macedonian	Carlos Parada
Dionysus	Macedonian (Brygian)	Grolier Encyclopedia

For details on the above, see Donski [3]. From the table above, we can see that a large number of deities and important mythical figures have purposely or unwittingly been misrepresented. Clearly they are not of “Greek origin”

And finally, perhaps the so-called “Greek gods” were “Greek” because they were exclusively celebrated by the ancient people who lived south of Mount Olympus where modern Greece is today.

That too, I am afraid is not true. The mythical gods, referred to as the “Greek gods”, were common to most ancient Mediterranean nations and cultures. They were as much universal to the ancient world as Christ and Christianity is universal to our modern world.

THE TRUTH

The Ancient “Greek gods” were not Greek at all! In fact, referring to them as “Greek gods” would be a myth in itself.

It is more appropriate, truthful and precise to call them Mediterranean gods than it is to call them “Greek gods”. After all they were celebrated, revered and feared by many more nations and cultures north, east and west of Mount Olympus than they were south of Mount Olympus. And that is the truth.

BIG Greek Lie # 4 - “There is no such thing as a Macedonian”

(Some modern Greeks are conditioned to believe that Macedonians do not exist)

In fact Macedonians do indeed exist, not only in the Republic of Macedonia but also in Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Canada, Australia, the USA and in every remote corner of this planet.

This BIG Greek lie is my favourite because I can relate to it from personal experience. I am not referring to my experience in Greece, I am talking about my experience in Canada. One could not say they were Macedonian to a Greek inside Greece without severe consequences!

Being an immigrant teenager in Canada, and speaking English with an accent, I was often asked for my ethnicity, more often by Greeks. It seemed like there were no barriers to torment against Macedonians anywhere.

The conversation/interrogation which many Macedonians, especially those from Greece, will relate to usually went like this;

“Are you Greek?”

No I am not!

“What are you?”

Macedonian!

“What is that? There is no such thing!”

(They would not even say the word “Macedonian”.)

After a few run-ins with the Greeks I began to develop anxiety about revealing my ethnicity.

Unlike the modern Greeks who were artificially created in the 19th century by Hellenizing and assimilating a variety of ethnic groups; Vlahs, Albanians, Turks, Macedonians, Anatolian Turks and more recently Georgians, Russians, more Albanians and others, the Macedonians are a real ethnicity. Unlike the modern Greeks who, before the creation of their state, spoke anything but Greek, the Macedonians have always spoken Macedonian, a living vibrant language, a language learned from mothers. Greeks on the other hand abandoned their natural languages in favour of a dead language, the ancient Koine, which the Greek government resurrected and taught in school.

Before the Republic of Macedonia codified the modern Macedonian literary language, Macedonians all over geographical Macedonia spoke a variety of beautiful dialects. Macedonians living in Greece and Bulgaria,

which those states refuse to recognize, still speak Macedonian in their original dialects.

Unlike the Greek language which is spoken by only about ten million Greeks, Macedonian is a Slavic language which belongs to a large family of languages spoken by about six-hundred million people throughout Eastern Europe. The fact that this language is so widespread shows that it has survived for many millennia and has been passed on orally from generation to generation.

Modern scholars and scientists believe that the Slavic language has its roots in prehistory. A number of ancient inscriptions deemed undecipherable have recently been successfully deciphered by linguists Vasil Iliov, Anthony Ambrozic, Sergei V. Rjabchikov [4] and others, by using the Slavic languages which indicates that these languages have been around a lot longer than previously thought. Even Alexander the Great may have spoken Slavic. It is well known that Alexander spoke at least two languages. We know one was Koine and the other was a language indigenous to Macedonia labeled “unknown” by Greek historians.

Since no Macedonian or foreign archeologist has even been allowed to dig in Greek occupied Macedonia or examine any archeological findings unsupervised, we can't verify what other language Alexander the Great spoke.

Greek archeologists cannot be trusted to factually report findings, especially those findings that don't agree with the Greek Government's “politically correct policies”.

If Greeks refuse to acknowledge the existence of “living and breathing Macedonians” what makes you think they would acknowledge the existence of artifacts that do not agree with their political ideology?

Aren't they the same Greeks who destroyed every speck of Cyrillic (Macedonian) inscription from every single gravestone and church icon in Greek occupied Macedonia in order to erase everything that is Macedonian?

Are they not the same Greeks who torched and burned every single Slavonic book and bible and banned the Macedonian language and made it illegal to speak?

The question that begs to be asked is NOT whether Macedonians exist or not but, “Why do Greeks deny the existence of Macedonians?”

I have often asked that question and to this day I have not been able to get an honest answer. I believe those Greeks who deny our existence genuinely don't know themselves why they do it. They have been conditioned from a very young age to believe that somehow Macedonians are a threat to their own existence.

I have often heard expressions like, “They will do anything to take our Macedonia away from us” but to this day, I don’t know who “they” are. Sometimes “they” are the “Bulgars”, other times “they” are the “Communists” and sometimes “they” are “the bad people” like myself.

I have repeatedly stated that I was born in Greece and am a Greek citizen of Macedonian descent and yet to this day no Greek has acknowledged that. They keep ignoring what I say and go back to calling me “Skopjan” and treating me as if I was born not in Greece but in a totally different country. (I am using myself as an example but my situation is identical to the tens of thousands of Macedonians who were born in Greece after 1912, after Macedonia was occupied by Greece.)

Why is it so hard for Greeks to accept the fact that Macedonians live in Greece?

1. It is a well-known fact that Greece occupied about half of Macedonia’s territory in 1912-1913. The other half was occupied by Serbia and Bulgaria.
2. It is a well-known fact that Macedonia was already fully populated by Macedonians when it was occupied.
3. It is also a well-known fact that Macedonians became Greeks by force.

Is it not possible then that some of those Macedonians who were forced into becoming Greeks actually don’t want to be Greeks?

Well my Greek friends, there IS such a thing as a Macedonian. In fact there are many of us living throughout the entire planet. Our history goes back to about 1,000 BC when the word Macedonian was first coined. I can’t say with certainty that we are direct descendants from those early Macedonians but I can say that there is a high probability that we are not only the descendants of those pre-historic Macedonians but also the descendents of all those who overran and conquered our Macedonia.

Before the nineteenth century, most Macedonians lived in geographical Macedonia. Nineteenth and twentieth century turbulence such as the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, a number of uprisings inside Macedonia, the two Balkan wars, the partition of Macedonia, WW I, WW II, the Greek Civil War and Greek, Bulgarian, Serbian and Albanian oppression, have all contributed to the displacement of many Macedonians. Many left their homeland and went wherever they were welcome. More recently displaced Macedonians as well as political refugees and willing immigrants have been concentrating in Canada, Australia, the USA and Europe where they endeavour to preserve their culture and make their revival.

Greeks can deny our existence as much as they want, but it doesn’t mean that we don’t exist.

BIG Greek Lie # 5 - “Greece is an ethnically homogeneous nation”

(To this day there are some Greeks who believe in the myth that they are an ethnically pure race)

To Macedonians it is irrelevant what Greeks believe in as long as they don't interfere in Macedonian affairs. Unfortunately Greece's self-portrayal as an “ethnically homogeneous State” is not only interfering with Macedonians, it is downright hostile to them.

“Greeks' contemporary self-image is built upon a series of myths. The myth of continuity. The myth of the racial and cultural superiority of our ancestors (and, thanks to continuity, our own). The myth of being special. The myth of racial and religious purity. The myth of the genius of the Greek race.

The existence of these myths provokes certain predictable reactions. Thus, my typical compatriot while proud to be Greek (95 percent, according to polls) will abuse and censure his countrymen at the slightest provocation. And this, naturally, because they fail to live up to the expectations and the demands created by the myths.” (Nikos Dimou) [5]

Greece, over the years, has taken extraordinary measures to erase what is real in favour of something artificially manufactured. “Greek-ness” or “Hellenism”, as the Greeks like to call it, is a 19th century invention modeled after a culture and a race of people that ceased to exist more than two millennia ago. Greece has destroyed the real cultures, traditions and languages of its indigenous people living on its soil in favour of this artificial creation it calls Hellenism. Worse, today Greece not only denies the existence of its non-Greek roots but it insists that no indigenous races such as Albanians, Macedonians, Vlachs, Turks, Roma, etc. ever existed in Greece. Greece has not only forsaken its indigenous cultures but is consistently punishing all those who want to return to them.

The so-called “Greek Nationality” (Ethos) was artificially created during the 19th century by the Great Powers in order to break up the Ottoman Empire and to stop the expansion of Pan Slavism. Britain's fear of Russia entering Mediterranean waters and contaminating its “backyard garden” motivated British officials to do whatever was necessary to stop the “Slav proliferation”.

After Greece was created it needed people “Greeks” to maintain and enlarge itself. These people came from the territories it occupied during its period of expansion.

One need only ask, “How come there are Macedonians, Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Roma, etc. living in the Republic of Macedonia and none of these ethnicities live in Greek occupied Macedonia?”

It is well known that these ethnicities existed in all of Macedonia during Ottoman rule before geographic/ethnographic Macedonia was occupied and partitioned in 1912/1913.

In fact there are Greek statistics compiled prior to 1912 that attest to these facts. Yet in 1928 Greece declared itself “ethnically pure” with only “pure Greeks” living in Greece.

Naturally the burning question is “what happened to the other ethnicities that lived in Macedonia after it was occupied by Greece in 1912?” Did they simply vanish?

Of course they did not! They were Hellenized! They were “made” into Greeks!

In her infatuation with the glory of her “false” past, Greece became ashamed of her “real self” and buried her true present. Greece did not want a bunch of ignorant Slavs, Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Roma, etc. for citizens. It preferred the “mythical” types like Pericles, Leonidas and Themistocles or descendants thereof. This was all done with encouragement from her benefactors, the Great Powers. In fact, outside of some Greeks who have been labeled traitors [5], no one questioned Greece’s motives for doing this.

Macedonians have no problem with Greeks calling themselves whatever they want as long as they do not interfere in their affairs. Macedonians would like to be known for who and what they really are, Macedonians. The crux of the problem unfortunately is that while the Greeks continue to believe in their mythical past, they interfere with reality. Falsely believing that they are all Greeks, descendants from an ancient people, they refuse to acknowledge the reality that Macedonians do exist and live on their territory. Further, to prevent the discovery of their falsehood, they even interfere in the affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, an independent and Sovereign State.

THE TRUTH

The proof that Greece is neither “homogeneous” nor has continuity from the ancient past is not difficult to explain. Just take a look at Greece’s population makeup from 1829 to 1928 and in it you will find Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Macedonians and Roma.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of People</u>
1829	Greece created for the first time (mostly Arvanites)	Less then 1,000,000
1830 – 1911	Epirus and Thessaly Annexed (Vlachs and Albanians)	1,600,000
1912 – 1913	51% of ethnographic Macedonia Annexed (Macedonians)	2,500,000

BIG Greek Lie # 6 - “Greeks are a superior race”

(Some Greeks, among themselves, believe they are a superior race)

Greek claims to superiority are not something that Greeks tout to outsiders but it is frequently discussed among Greeks in private company. I don't know if it is a genuine belief but some Greeks do believe that they have given the world everything, from philosophy to science to mathematics to democracy, and that, they believe, makes them superior.

Even if modern Greeks are, in a small and remote way, descendants of the ancient people who lived in the ancient City States, which I doubt they are, some credit is due to them. Unfortunately not all of what was attributed to the ancient City States is accurate. Archeology and science have proven that not all of the so-called “Greek contributions” are actually “Greek”. This however has not stopped modern Greeks from making claims.

We now know that the atom was discussed in India one millennium before there ever were ancient City States. Greeks unfortunately continue to claim it as their own invention.

Even though the Egyptians were using geometry for millennia, to identify their plots of land on the Nile flood plains after the winter floods, the Greeks continue to claim that they invented it.

Was the alphabet a Greek invention? Greeks claim it was! But can they explain the etymology of the words “alpha”, “vita”, “ghamma”, “thelta” etc.?

I think not! The Greek alphabet is actually not Greek at all, it is Phoenician! The Phoenicians were not Greek, they were Phoenician!

If not the alphabet then democracy must have been invented by the Greeks for sure!

I think not!

Democracy, in the true sense of the word, as it is practiced today was also practiced by the Phoenicians many years before it was adopted by Athens. Not all ancient City States were democracies! Sparta was not a democracy.

What exactly do we mean by “democracy” and how does it relate to the type of “democracy” practiced in Athens during its heydays?

According to Webster, democracy is “majority rule; the principle of equality of rights, opportunity, and treatment, or the practice of this principle; the common people, esp. as the wielders of political power”.

Athens, on the other hand, was ruled by a very small minority of wealthy white men. These men were not only rulers, they were also slave owners. Slaves, who comprised about sixty-percent of the Athenian population, were neither Athenian citizens nor did they have any political rights. In fact these people were bought and sold in the market like

commodities. Further, women, who made up about half of the ancient Athenian population, did not have any rights at all, not even to call themselves human.

So if we compare Webster's definition of democracy to that practiced in ancient Athens we find that they don't compare at all!

In reality the type of so-called democracy practiced by the ancient Athenians was worse than our 19th century Fascism and Nazism, the type of rule popular with white racist regimes. The ancients may have called it democracy but lets not confuse it with our modern democracy which is more like the original democracy practiced by the Phoenicians.

Two and half millennia later Greeks keep on inventing things like Greek coffee, Greek salad and Greek pizza and keep on giving to the world without asking anything in return.

So how are Greeks superior to the rest of us?

One thing they are proving to be is "superior liars"!

THE TRUTH

Modern Greeks, along with their Roman-derived benefactors, have not only falsified "ancient history", they have robbed other civilizations of their contribution to the world. Clearly the contributions of say the Phoenician and Egyptian civilizations, which were far superior civilizations to that of ancient Athens, are totally ignored and long forgotten. Worse, their contributions have now been expropriated (stolen) by the Greeks and claimed to be Greek.

Two and a half millennia later Greeks continue to expropriate (steal) other people's ideas and inventions and shamelessly call them their own!

I have already mentioned the atom and geometry, but Greek coffee? Clearly everyone knows "Greek coffee" is actually Turkish coffee.

As for "Greek salad", that too is another "Greek invention". What is shameful about the "Greek salad", apart from the fact that it was not invented by Greeks, is that Greek restaurant owners, boasting to their western tourist customers claim it to be "an ancient recipe passed on to them from the time of the ancient City States".

Thus far the only thing that Greeks have proven is that they are "superior liars". Other than that Greeks are no better, no worse and no different than the rest of us. If I may add my own opinion, I believe as a people we are all the same, only our attitudes towards one another differ and that is mainly due to "foreign influence" and ignorance of the truth. All modern Balkan nations are made from the same stock (raw material) of people. We lived borderless for over two and a half millennia. You figure out the rest.

BIG Greek Lie # 7 - “Greece is a Democratic State”

(Some modern Greeks believe they live in a democracy)

Up until the 1970’s Greece had been plagued by dictatorship after dictatorship but since then it has existed in a relative calm. At least, that is how it appears from the outside.

Besides being the last country in Europe to give women the right to vote in the 1950’s, by democracy I mean the usual things that we in the west take for granted, like freedom of speech, the right of association, the right to education in one’s mother tongue, minority rights, etc., etc.

When I was attending public school in Greece, I was told that “Greeks were the freest people on this planet. There was no better life in the entire world than that of a Greek.” Then one day I came home singing a song that I had learned in school which went something like this; “Grekos genithika ke Grekos tha pethono”, which roughly translates to “Greek I was born and Greek I shall die”.

It was not the words of the song that horrified my parents but what it meant for the Macedonians and that, I, their son, was singing it!

Naturally they told me to stop singing it and would not tell me why. I was much too young to understand and betrayal could have meant severe punishment for them. My father was already a “marked man”, he had served five years in the Greek Island concentration camp prisons for “being a danger to the Greek State”. Whatever that means?

Even though I was young, I could see that something was troubling my parents and wanted to know what it was. Upon my insistence, my mother broke down and told me. She said, “We are Macedonians, we are not Greek. The song you are singing is anti-Macedonian and was sung by people who did harm to us. Those people may be Greek heroes but they were our enemies. They murdered people like us.”

The word “Macedonians” at the time had no meaning for me except from what I had learned in school about the ancient “Makedones”.

But there it was; the word “Macedonians” a word which would haunt me to this day.

My mother made me swear that I would not repeat to anyone what I had just heard and I didn’t.

My mother told me things that did not make sense to me until much later. In the meantime I had to live with a secret, a haunting secret. As time went on life taught me many things including the lies my country Greece

fed me. I was told I was free but in reality it was a lie, I was a prisoner of the truth. I wanted to but I couldn't tell anyone I was Macedonian for fear that my family would be punished and humiliated. I had seen what Greek teachers had done to children in the yard caught speaking their mother tongue and I didn't like it so I continued to hide the truth and live a lie until I left Greece.

In Canada as I encountered Greeks, I told them I was a Macedonian from Greece. As usual Greeks reacted in disbelief with the response, "There is no such thing as a Macedonian, only Greeks live in Greece." More recently they say "You must be a Skopjan from FYROM, brainwashed by Tito's propaganda." I tell them I am not Skopjan nor have I ever been to Skopje. I was a Macedonian before I ever heard of Tito and I had never heard of Tito until I came to live in Canada.

Had my parents said nothing to me about my family being Macedonian, I would have continued to be a "good Greek" and would have lived a lie. I would have been unquestionably accepted by the Greeks as a Greek with a glorious ancestry stretching back to the ancient Greeks. My parents spoiled all that, however, by telling me the truth. Now the Greeks call me a Slav, a Bulgar, a Skopjan Gypsy, etc., etc. and a traitor to Greece but all I want to be called is Macedonian because that is what I am.

And how democratic is that?

How democratic is a state that not only does not recognize its minorities but punishes them for being who they really are?

Aside from those who accept their fate that they are not Greeks and admit to it, there are also those who knowingly love to live a lie. They are the most dangerous and most anti-democratic people. They loathe their own kin for not being Greeks. They live a nightmare afraid of being discovered and hated, as they despise others.

Of course there is a third category of Greeks, a generation that does not really know its own true background and has accepted the State sponsored indoctrination as the truth. Some of these Greeks who truly believe Greece is a democratic state are finding the true nature of being a Greek when they begin to show sympathy to minorities, like the Turks and Macedonians living in Greece. They quickly find out that Greece is ONLY democratic for those who toe the government line. Those who sidestep state sponsored beliefs or choose to think for themselves quickly become traitors and anti-Greek.

Greece boasts of being the cradle of democracy (another lie) but to this day has failed to practice it.

Any modern state that does not tolerate diversity, celebrate multiculturalism and embrace its minorities is NOT democratic.

It is difficult if not impossible to convince any Greek that what I am saying is the truth and not "Skopjan" lies and propaganda (even though I have admitted to not being a "Skopjan") so I challenge those Greeks who

do not believe me to go to their Government and propose a solution to the Macedonian question. Just simply say, “It is not fair how you treat the Macedonian minority in Greece” and propose that it be recognized. I guarantee you that not only will your government do nothing for the Macedonians but it will chastise you and call you a traitor for even having such thoughts. If you care so much for the truth, then I dare you to do it!

THE TRUTH

The Macedonians who have lived in Greece and now live in the Diaspora and have experienced real democracy can truly tell you how undemocratic Greece is. People in democratic states are not prohibited from speaking their mother tongue. Children who only know their mother tongue are not punished for speaking it in public. Old people who speak one language are not fined for speaking it in the market place.

These things happen in democratic Greece.

Greece is not only a non-democratic state but far from it, Greece does not know the meaning of the word democratic.

BIG Greek Lie # 8 - “Tito created the Macedonian Nation”

(Some Modern Greeks believe Tito created the Macedonian Nation)

I for one am tired of reading e-mails and letters deliberately sent by individuals and institutions of Greek origin suggesting that Marshal Joseph Broz Tito (1892-1980), the Croatian born post World War II Yugoslav leader, created the Macedonian nation.

Are these people completely misinformed, unaware of reality, or desperately trying, at any cost, to discredit the Macedonian people? How can anyone make such outrageous claims about recent and verifiable historic events and expect to maintain credibility?

FACT: The Socialist (Peoples’) Republic of Macedonia was formed in 1944 based on Tito’s recognition and acceptance of a separate and distinct Macedonian ethnicity within the Yugoslav federation.

This information is not only readily available but it is verifiable because it happened only six decades ago.

How could one man with the stroke of a pen convince millions of people to drop their current ethnicity and opt for one that did not exist?

What did Tito offer these people for them to want to be Macedonian so badly?

How did Tito manage to teach all those people the Macedonian language not only in Yugoslavia but also in Greece, Bulgaria, the USA, Canada, Australia, Europe, Russia, South America, Asia, Africa and the world over? And how did he do it in less than one decade?

Most importantly how did Tito, when he was just a child less than eleven years old, influence the Macedonians to rise up against the Turks in 1903?

How did Tito create Macedonians even before he was born?

You don’t even have to go to Macedonia to discover if Macedonians existed before Tito was born. All you have to do is visit any old cemetery in the large North American cities [6] and you will find gravestones with the inscription “Macedonian”. Go to the Ellis Island Immigration registry and look up the logs from the 19th century and you will find travelers declaring themselves Macedonian.

Attend any Macedonian event anywhere in Canada, the USA, or Australia and ask how many people believe Tito created the Macedonian nation. Ask the descendents of those who immigrated to these great countries before Tito was born, if Tito created their Macedonian identity.

Need I go on?

Why didn’t Greece object to Tito when he allegedly created the Macedonian nation in 1944?

Why didn't Greece object to the name "Socialist (Peoples') Republic of Macedonia" in 1944?

Most Greeks believe Tito artificially created the Macedonian Nation in order to make claims on the so-called "Greek Macedonia" (Greek occupied Macedonia).

Most Greeks also believe that the "Skopjans", as the Greeks like to call them today, want to name their country Republic of Macedonia because they still have territorial aspirations towards "Greek Macedonia". More specifically, most Greeks believe the Skopjans want to annex "Greek Macedonia" for themselves.

THE TRUTH

The truth is Tito did not create the Macedonian nation and as I mentioned earlier, Tito recognized and accepted the existence of a Macedonian ethnicity within his own country, Yugoslavia.

The truth is Macedonians have no aspirations for anyone's territory.

Further, allow me to remind the Greeks that their State acquired Macedonian territories by conquest, against the wishes of the Macedonian people, and therefore no part of Macedonia belongs to Greece. It never did and it never will. "Greek Macedonia" in reality is Greek occupied Macedonia.[7]

BIG Greek Lie # 9 - “Macedonia is Greek”

(Many Modern Greeks believe Macedonia belongs to Greece)

Some of my readers are asking; Is Macedonia really Greek? By Macedonia they mean the Republic of Macedonia.

Is Macedonia Greek or not?

Before 1913 there was one Macedonia, the one and only 100% Macedonia. Now according to the Greeks there is a smaller Macedonia, 51% of the original Macedonia known as “Makedonia”. Again, according to the Greeks, there is no other Macedonia.

So my readers ask; if Macedonia was 100% in 1913 and 51% of Macedonia was taken by the Greeks then what happened to the other 49% of Macedonia? Did it vanish?

What my clear thinking and logical readers are saying is that if you cut Macedonia into three pieces, the pieces are still Macedonia, just as if you cut an apple into three pieces it is still an apple, three pieces of the same apple! In other words, three pieces of Macedonia is still Macedonia! Now if you wish to identify each piece individually then you can call them A, B and C. If A is called Macedonia what should B and C be called? According to the Greeks however, if A is called Macedonia then B and C cannot be called Macedonia!

So back to the original question! Is Macedonia Greek?

My readers are having a few problems with the above:

1. If “Macedonia is Greek” then all of the original Macedonia must also be Greek. So why aren’t the Greeks making claims to all of Macedonia. (Is it because they are signatories to the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest and have agreed not to make claims to the other 49% of Macedonia? Why would Greece sign such an agreement if all of Macedonia was Greek? Why indeed! Is it because Macedonia is NOT Greek?)
2. Clearly if Macedonia is divided into three parts then all three parts would still be called Macedonia. Right? If the Greeks choose to call their part Makedonia, to identify it as “a part of Macedonia that belongs to Greece”, then shouldn’t the other partners, 1913 Treaty of Bucharest signatories, have the right to call their part of Macedonia whatever they want? Isn’t the Republic of Macedonia part of the original Macedonia? Why do the Greeks make it sound as if it isn’t?

The Greeks claim the name Macedonia is historically Greek but in reality look what they have done over the years:

1. When Macedonia was first divided in 1913 and Greece annexed 51% of it, the Greeks called it the “New Territories”.
2. In 1935 they renamed their 51% to “Northern Greece”.

3. Then as Yugoslavia started to disintegrate and the REAL Macedonians were about to declare their independence, Greece again in 1988 renamed their 51% “Makedonia”, claiming it to be the ONLY Macedonia in existence and historically belonging to Greece! Didn’t Greece just annex 51% of Macedonia in 1913? What “historically” are they talking about?

Greece had its chance to call its northern province “Makedonia” from 1913 to 1989 but chose not to. Why? Why did Greece choose to call it “Makedonia” only after the REAL Macedonians started calling their own state Republic of Macedonia?

Worst yet, why is Greece objecting to the real Macedonians calling their State Republic of Macedonia?

How can the Greeks have a Macedonia and the Macedonians can’t? Is this some sort of Greek logic that only the Greeks can understand?

My readers still want to know (from the Greeks);

1. Since the Republic of Macedonia was part of the original Macedonia why are the Greeks objecting to it being called Republic of Macedonia?
2. How can Macedonia be historically Greek and not Macedonian? Didn’t the Greeks invade, partition and annex Macedonia? Didn’t they take 51% of it by force from the Macedonians?
3. When will they (the Greek State) come to their senses and stop making fools of themselves?

THE TRUTH

The truth is Macedonia was never historically Greek. Macedonia was forcefully invaded, occupied and partitioned by Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria during the 1912, 1913 Balkan Wars. After signing the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest, 51% of Macedonia was given to Greece, 39% was given to Serbia and 10% was given to Bulgaria. This was done against the wishes of the Macedonian people who, since Macedonia’s occupation and partition, have fought for their rights. Macedonians fought for their rights during World War II and during the Greek Civil War. While the part of Macedonia under Serbian/Yugoslav control won its freedom and was declared a People’s Republic of Macedonia in 1945 under the Yugoslav federation, the parts under Greek and Bulgarian control remained occupied and its people are without even the most basic human rights.

Greece is refusing to recognize the existence of a Macedonia beyond its own borders to hide the fact that;

1. Macedonia was partitioned by force i.e. its armies fought to gain control.
2. Greece is holding 51% of Macedonian lands that don’t belong to it.

3. Greece has exiled hundreds of thousands of ethnic Macedonians, including the refugee children and will not allow them to return.
4. Greece has illegally expropriated properties belonging to Macedonians for which no compensation was made.
5. Greece has committed atrocities against the Macedonian civilian population during the 1912, 1913 Balkans Wars and during the 1946 to 1949 Greek Civil War and does not want the world to know about them.
6. Greece is refusing to recognize an indigenous Macedonian minority living within its borders.

Here is a history lesson for the Greeks:

1. The ancient Macedonians defeated the ancient Greeks at Chaeronea in 338 BC and subjugated them and they never recovered. Their largest City States, including Athens, were occupied by Macedonian garrisons until 197 BC when they were freed and re-occupied by the Romans. The ancient Greeks never set foot on Macedonian soil!
2. Since their defeat in 338 BC the ancient Greeks, including Sparta, were politically subordinate to the Macedonians and for over 140 years were under Macedonian control.

So historically speaking which is more correct, “Macedonia is Greek” or Greece is Macedonian?

The truth unfortunately matters not for the Greeks when it doesn’t serve their interests!

BIG Greek Lie # 10 - “Greeks claim no Macedonians, Turks, Albanians or Vlachs live in Greece today”

(Greek beliefs don’t include Macedonians, Albanians, Vlachs and Turks as part of Modern Greece)

It is indeed a strange phenomenon for Greece to be the only homogeneous country in an otherwise multi-ethnic heterogeneous Balkans! Is this true or has Greece developed amnesia about its past?

Before we delve into the subject of “a homogeneous Greece”, let’s get a few things straight. What exactly is homogeneous? I mean in a demographic sense.

A country is demographically homogeneous when its entire population is of the same culture, speaks the same language, practices the same religion and shares similar customs and traditions.

Let us now take a trip down memory lane, back to a point just before Greece became a country for the first time and see if Greece was homogeneous then?

If I am not mistaken, outside of some high ranking Christian Church clergy and a very small minority of Christian educated, middle class Ottoman families, no one spoke Greek before Greece was a country. In fact, the language spoken by the above mentioned people then was not even called Greek. I am talking about the Koine language, the ancient language of trade and commerce.

Koine, which has its roots in ancient Attica, was popularized by Alexander the Great when he made it his international language of trade and commerce for his vast Macedonian Empire. Later Koine was adopted and preserved by the Orthodox Church as the language of liturgy in some parts of the multi-ethnic Byzantine Empire. After the establishment of Ottoman rule in the Balkans it resurfaced and found its way into the Ottoman administration, spoken by a rich multi-ethnic Christian educated middle class people based in Istanbul.

More recently the ancient international Koine was adopted by the Greek State as the official language of Greece and was renamed “Greek”.

So what language did the vast majority of the so-called “Greek people” speak before that?

If history serves me right, in 1821, just before Greece was established as a country, its people did not speak Greek. In 1829 when Greece became a state, for the first time, it was a small country covering the region of Morea, modern day Peloponnesus (Greece proper). The majority of people living in Morea at the time spoke Albanian, Turkish, Vlach and Slav. Athens itself, the cradle of the ancient civilization, was nothing more than an Albanian village.

So if “Greece proper” was not “pure Greek” why would anyone expect Epirus, Thessaly, Thrace, or Macedonia, regions that were never Greek to begin with, to be “pure Greek”?

The argument for “a pure Greece” used by modern Greeks today is that even though Greece was not pure at its inception, it was purified after the population expulsions in 1913 and after the population exchanges with Turkey in the 1920’s.

If Greece was not “pure Greek” why would it release statistics in 1928 claiming 98% of its population to be “pure Greeks” and 2% of it to be Muslim Greeks?

This is a strong argument if one trusts Greek statistics! Unfortunately I don’t!

Many Greeks today believe that Greece was purified after it expelled a large number of people in 1913 during the second Balkan War.

Many Greeks today also believe that the population imported from Asia Minor and other parts of Turkey was “pure Greek”.

The fact is;

1. The population expelled from Greece in 1913 was not expelled because of its ethnicity, but rather because those people refused to be assimilated in the Greek fold. They simply refused to become Greeks.
2. The population remaining in Greece was labeled “Greek” only because it agreed, mostly out of fear, to pledge loyalty to the Greek State.
3. The population imported from Turkey in the 1920’s was not imported because it identified with Greece. It was imported because it was Christian. Christianity and Islam were the only criteria separating the so-called Greeks from Turks. The vast majority of the Asia Minor Christians, culturally and linguistically, identified more with the Turks than they did with the Greeks. That, however, did not stop the Greek State from turning them into Greeks.

So who were the original so-called “pure Greeks”? Was it the Slavs of Morea, the Albanians of Epirus, the Vlachs of Thessaly, the Turks of Thrace, or the Macedonians of Macedonia?

You see I am having difficulty identifying these elusive “pure Greeks”. If they were not Albanian, Vlach, Turk, or Macedonian who were they then? What criteria can we use to separate the “pure Greeks” from the Albanians, Vlachs, Turks and Macedonians living in the pre-Greek Ottoman territory of Modern Greece?

Obviously not language, since only a very small minority of the total population of Greece spoke Koine, which was later renamed Greek.

Religion? Greece at one time used religion alone to distinguish Greeks from Turks.

Wasn't that why Greece expelled Muslims to Turkey because they were thought to be Turks and imported Christians from Turkey because they were thought to be Greeks?

This criterion unfortunately is also flawed. If Orthodox Christians were Greek then everyone in the Balkans who was Orthodox Christian qualified to be Greek! This included Bulgarians, Serbians, Albanians, Macedonians, Vlachs, Turks, etc. Are Bulgarians and Serbians Greek? They don't think so!

Obviously religion alone was not a good criterion to separate Greeks from the rest!

So back to the original question, "who were the pure Greeks?"

THE TRUTH

The ethnic composition of modern Greece today is made up of assimilated Albanians (Arvanites), Vlachs (Vlahous), Turks (Turkous) and Macedonians (Makethones). There was no pre-19th century Greek ethnicity. The Greek ethnicity was artificially created by the Phanariots with the assistance of the Great Powers!

The Phanariots were a multi-ethnic group of Koine speaking Christians belonging to the rich and educated Ottoman middle class. They were the high ranking Church clergy, the Ottoman bankers, the sea captains, the language interpreters and the traders who did business for the Ottoman Empire outside of Ottoman territories.

When Greece became a nation for the first time in 1829, it faced an identity crisis because it could not cope with its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural demography. Greece struggled for years to find an identity until one was created for it by its British and French philhellene patrons.

After adopting the ancient Koine as the language of its nation, Greece fabricated a mythical past with a lineage stretching back to the Ancient Greeks and initiated a denationalization and assimilation process. Through intensive, sometimes violent propaganda campaigns Greece began to assimilate the various ethnicities making Greeks out of Albanians, Vlachs, Slavs, Turks and later out of Macedonians.

As mentioned earlier, the various people Greece expelled from its newly conquered territories were those who refused to be assimilated into the new Greek identity.

The majority of Muslims Greece evicted during the population exchange with Turkey were ethnic Macedonians.

The people Greece imported from Asia Minor, Istanbul and other places in Turkey were not Greek, they were Turkish Christians. A large number were prominent business people who owned various businesses and estates in Turkey. Unfortunately when they were displaced they lost everything and became second class citizens in Greece. Even though

Greece promised them homes, after nearly eighty years, some still live in Government owned shacks and shantytowns. These people too were forcibly assimilated and made into unwilling Greeks just like the rest of the ethnicities on Greek soil.

So, is Greece “truly pure and homogeneous” or has it developed an amnesia about its past? You decide!

Worse than pretending to be who they are not, modern Greeks are now interfering with Macedonian affairs, telling the Macedonians they can't be Macedonian because according to Greek logic Macedonians don't exist! In reality however, it's the Greeks who don't exist, not the Macedonians!

Here is a question for our neo-Greek friends: Please tell me, ethnically speaking, who are the “Maniates”, where did they come from and what language did they speak before they were made into Greeks?

Hint: The Maniates are a tall blond people now living in the Peloponnesus. Before they were turned into Greeks they lived in Mani in the region known as the Morea. They were/are supposedly the most loyal and trusted of all Greeks.

BIG Greek Lie # 11 - “Macedonian Monks Kiril and Metodi are Greek”

(Some Greek believe the Macedonian Brothers Kiril and Metodi were ethnically Greek)

Macedonia has been ravaged for its lands, its natural resources, its heritage, and its people but never for its identity and human contributions, that is, not until recently. What makes this particular incident sad and pathetic is that both Greece and Bulgaria are simultaneously laying claim to the contributions of Kiril and Metodi.

The Greeks claim that Kirilos and Methodios were ethnic Greek Monks from Thessaloniki who created the Cyrillic alphabet and gave it to the Slavs: a very generous “Greek gift” indeed. Although they don’t explain how exactly Kirilos and Methodios were ethnic Greeks, they do say that they spoke Greek, a pre-requisite for being an ethnic Greek. After all they were born in Thessaloniki which according to popular modern Greek beliefs, Thessaloniki (Solun) is considered an “ancient ethnic Greek city”.

To the Bulgarians Cyril and Methodius are “apostles” that delivered to them the first form of writing in their native Bulgarian tongue. To the Bulgarians, “Church Slavonic”, the language spoken and taught by Kiril and Metodi, is synonymous with “Bulgarian”. After all, according to modern popular Bulgarian beliefs, Solun (Thessaloniki), the birth place of Cyril and Methodius is Bulgarian Territory from Medieval times, from the time of the Great Bulgarian Empire.

So, who are we poor Macedonians to contest this and how can we compete with such great Greek and Bulgarian wisdom and know-how?

One can see why each side is desperately latching onto the idea that somehow Kiril and Metodi might belong to them, but can they not see the absurdity of it all? How can Kiril and Metodi, born in the capital of Macedonia, a pure Slavic city, not be Macedonians and simultaneously be both Greek and Bulgarian? Can they fool themselves any more?

Allow me to tell you a little more about Kiril and Metodi.

It was during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Michael III (842-867) that Solun had definitely established itself as the religious and philosophical center of the empire. This was the time when Kiril (Cyril) and Metodi (Methodius) set off on a series of missions to spread the doctrines of Christianity to various places in Eastern Europe and Asia.

I just want to mention here that by the eighth century AD the Macedonian eparchy was controlled by a Macedonian Archbishopric with its center located in Solun and bishoprics existed in eighteen towns including Lerin, Kostur, Voden and Serres.

The brothers Kiril and Metodi were Macedonians, natives of Solun, who were acclaimed as the “apostles” of the southern Slavs and the fathers of Slav literary culture. Kiril, the younger of the two, was given the name Constantine when he was baptized. It was much later that he received the name Kiril.

Kiril was very fortunate to have studied in Tsari Grad (Constantinople) at a young age and received his education from Leo the Grammarian and Photius, a prominent educator at the imperial university. Kiril was an extraordinary student and earned himself the nickname "the Philosopher". After he finished his education he was ordained deacon and later became professor of philosophy at the imperial school in Tsari Grad where he took over the chair from Photius. Soon afterwards he retired to the quiet solitude of a monastery. From there, in 861 AD, he was summoned by the emperor, Michael III, and sent on a mission to Christianize the Khazars of southern Russia who lived between the Dnieper and Volga Rivers. The older brother Metodi was a well-liked, intelligent man who started his career in his father’s footsteps. At first he served in the military in Solun. Later at age twenty he became governor of one of the Slav colonies in the Opsikion province in Asia. Then he became a monk and, like his brother, took part in a mission to Christianize the Khazars.

Kiril and Metodi were two of seven siblings. Their father Lev was a prominent Macedonian who served as assistant to the Solun military commander of the Pravoslav (Byzantine) army.

The careers of the Solun brothers took a turn for the better in 862 AD when Rostislav, the prince of Moravia, sent his ambassador to Tsari Grad seeking missionaries capable of teaching his people to read and write in their own language. Rostislav, fearful of his powerful German neighbours, sought the opportunity to strengthen his alliance with the Pravoslavs to counter-balance the German missionary influence in his kingdom. Rostislav preferred the ecclesiastical politics of Photius, now patriarch of Tsari Grad, over those of his western counterpart.

When word came that Emperor Michael was looking for capable missionaries, Photius decided that Kiril and Metodi were the most suitable candidates for the job. The Solun brothers, being Slav speakers themselves, knew the Solunian dialect of the Slav language well and accepted the task.

The old-Macedonian dialect was quite well understood by all the Slav tribes. Unfortunately, teaching the illiterate to read and write was easier said than done. Even though the Slavs had a written form of language described as “lines and incisions”, it was not an easy language to learn.

Kiril was familiar with the Glagolic script but that was also too complex a language for illiterate people to grasp quickly. According to Tsarnorizets Hrabar, an advocate of Macedonian literacy, Kiril and Metodi first tried to use the Koine and then Latin alphabets, but proper

pronunciation could not be achieved. Slav speech was far too complex to record with just Koine or Latin letters. Kiril was an intelligent man and solved the problem by constructing a new alphabet based on old Macedonian traditions. The pattern and some letters he based on the Koine alphabet but he enriched it by adding new letters. He borrowed some from the Glagolic script and some he fashioned from ancient Macedonian symbols that had traditional Macedonian meaning. "Peter Hill argues that Old Church Slavonic was more than merely a written dialect. It is naïve, he says, to imagine that this construction of a written language was possible without established tradition. Therefore it can safely be assumed that there was at least some tradition on which Cyril and Methodius could build. Presumably their familiarity with this tradition derived from the fact that they were Slavic themselves." [8]

When it was completed Kiril's alphabet consisted of 38 letters, each accurately and exactly representing a unique sound in Slav speech. The phonetic nature of Kiril's language made spelling words very simple. One only needed to learn the alphabet to have the ability to read and write. The same is true to this day.

In 862 AD Kiril and Metodi, along with a number of followers, arrived in Moravia in Rostislav's court. They immediately set out to work and to their surprise Kiril's vernacular was not only well understood but also became popular with the Moravians. The Pravoslav missionaries continued their work for a while, with much success, but were soon handicapped by the lack of Pravoslav bishops to ordain their priests. Also, their popularity with the Moravians displeased the German missionaries who saw them as competition and harshly objected to their presence.

German hostilities reached their peak when the German Emperor Louis forced Rostislav to take an oath of loyalty to him. The German prelate, the bishop of Passau, who had the power to ordain Pravoslav priests refused to do so out of contempt. Unable to continue their work the missionaries were forced to return to Tsari Grad. On their way back the Macedonian brothers took a detour through Venice where they learned that the Pope had excommunicated Photius, the Pravoslav Patriarch in Tsari Grad. Pravoslav missionaries and their liturgical use of the Macedonian language were vehemently criticized.

In 858 AD Emperor Michael III, on his own authority, deposed Patriarch Ignatius and replaced him with the more progressive Photius. The Pope, however, did not agree with Michael's decision and proclaimed his deeds invalid. At the same time the Pope denounced both Photius and the emperor.

When Pope Nicholas I found out that the Pravoslav missionaries were in Venice he summoned them to Rome. By the time they arrived, however, Nicholas had died and the political situation had changed for the better. In a turn of events Nicholas's successor, Adrian II, warmly welcomed the

strangers, especially when he found out that they were bringing him an important gift. Kiril it seems had recovered some relics of Pope St. Clement when he was in the Crimea visiting the Khazars and offered them to Adrian as gifts.

When they arrived, Adrian conducted an investigation and found no misconduct on the part of the Pravoslavs. In his judgment he permitted Kiril and Metodi to receive Episcopal consecration and allowed their newly converted priests to be ordained. He also approved Slavonic to be used in liturgy.

Sadly, Kiril died on February 14, 869 AD in Rome and never made it back home. After Kiril's death Metodi pleaded with Pope Adrian to allow him to take his brother's body to Solun for burial but Adrian would not permit it. It was the wish of Kiril and Metodi's mother that if either son should die, the other would bring the body back for a decent burial in the family monastery. Unfortunately Adrian would not allow it claiming that it would not be fitting for the Pope to permit the body of so distinguished a Christian to be taken away. He declared that a man so famous should be buried in a famous place. Kiril was buried with great pomp in the church of San Clemente on the Coelian, where the relics of St. Clement had been enshrined.

After Kiril died Metodi took over the cause and leadership of the mission from his brother. Having been consecrated, he obtained a letter of recommendation from the Pope and the Holy See and quickly returned to his duties. At the request of Kozzel, prince of Pannonia, who at the time wanted to revive the ancient archdiocese of Sirmium (now Mitrovitsa), Metodi was made metropolitan (Archbishop). He was given a large area of responsibility with boundaries that extended to the borders of Bulgaria. Unfortunately as the political situation in Moravia was shifting, Metodi's title and his papal approval did not mean much to the western missionaries, especially the Germans who began a smear campaign against him. To make matters worse Rostislav's nephew, Svatopluk, allied himself with Carloman of Bavaria and had his uncle driven out. After that it did not take long before Metodi was in trouble again.

In 870 AD Metodi was summoned before a synod of German bishops. They found him guilty of misconduct, no doubt on trumped-up charges, and locked him up in a leaking jail cell. It took two years of pleading before Pope John VIII could get him out. Unfortunately, to avoid further controversies Pope John withdrew his permission to use Slavonic, a barbarous language as he called it, for any purpose other than preaching. At the same time he reminded the Germans that Pannonia was never German and since age immemorial it belonged to the Holy See.

After his release Metodi continued his work in Moravia but there too he got into trouble. Metodi did not approve of Svatopluk's wicked lifestyle and made his displeasure public. In retaliation Svatopluk reported Metodi

to the Holy See. He accused him of conducting divine worship in Slavonic and of heresy, charging that he omitted the words "and the Son" from the creed. At that time these words were not yet introduced everywhere in the west.

In 878 AD, as a result of Svatopluk's accusations, Pope John VIII summoned Metodi to Rome and conducted an inquiry. Metodi, a serious man and a dedicated Christian, was able to convince the Pope both of his devotion to his religion and of the necessity to use Slavonic liturgy. Even though Pope John was in agreement with Metodi on most matters, he had certain reservations about the use of the Slavonic language. It seems that some of the western missionaries perceived the Slavonic language as a threat to their own mission and did everything in their power to condemn it. They alleged that, being created by mere men, the Slavonic language was not from God and that God had created the three principal languages, Hebrew, Koine and Latin. Metodi however fought back with equally persuasive arguments, counter-claiming that God did not create the Hebrew, Koine, or Latin languages. God created the Syrian language which Adam and the people after him spoke until the flood. Then during the building of the Tower of Babel, God distributed the various languages among the people and created the written form of the languages. His arguments may have bought Metodi some time but he was still in trouble with the German missionaries.

Seeing that he could not easily get rid of him, Svatopluk used his influence as king and persuaded the Pope to appoint Wiching, a known adversary, to work with Metodi. The German (or French) priest Wiching was brought in to assist Metodi as one of his bishops. Wiching was an implacable opponent of Metodi who worked against him tirelessly. This unscrupulous prelate continued to persecute Metodi even to the extent of forging pontifical documents.

After Metodi's death Wiching obtained the archiepiscopal see, banished Metodi's followers and undid as much as he could of Metodi's work in Moravia.

When Wiching was appointed as his assistant, Metodi must have realized that he was fighting a losing battle. In the last four years of his life he took a break from missionary work and translated most of the Bible from Koine to Slavonic. Metodi died in 885 AD probably from exhaustion. His funeral service was carried out in Koine, Slavonic and Latin. Metodi was very popular with the people and many came to his funeral to pay their last respects.

I just want to add here that Saints Kiril and Metodi were always celebrated in the lands of their missions and after 1880 they were also celebrated throughout the entire western world.

THE TRUTH

The Pravoslav (Upright and Glorious) Empire was multi-cultural and multi-ethnic in the modern sense of the word. Nationalism was not yet invented and no defined ethnicities existed at the time. If language can be used as an indicator of ethnicity, as the modern Greeks prefer to do, then Kiril and Methodi spoke both Slavic and Koine. Of course before the written Slavic language became codified, the Koine language was the official written language of the Pravoslav (Christian Orthodox) Church. As high ranking clergy of the Orthodox Church it was a requirement for Kiril and Methodi to speak and write in the Koine language.

If there was no written form of the Slavic language and if indeed Kiril and Methodi were Greek, how did they learn to speak Macedonian (Slavic)? Did they learn to speak the indigenous Macedonian language from their mother? If that were the case then their mother couldn't have been Greek. We know their father was not Greek. What self respecting "Greeks" would name their child "Lev", a Slavic name? If their mother and father were not Greek then Kiril and Methodi were definitely not Greek either!

This makes the Greek claim that "Kirilos and Methodios" were Greek, another BIG Greek lie.

BIG Greek Lie # 12 - “Greek-Macedonians”

(Some Greeks believe Greek-Macedonians live in Macedonia)

By Macedonia I mean the part of Macedonia that is currently occupied by Greece, the part of Macedonia Greeks like to call the “Greek Province of Macedonia”. The part of Macedonia the Greek armies occupied in 1912 and committed unspeakable atrocities against the Macedonian people in 1913 and onward.

Let me see now, was it not in 1928 that Greece declared to the world that 98% of the population living in Greece was pure Greek and 2% were Muslim Greeks? So where did these so-called “Greek-Macedonians” come from? But wait a minute? What is a “Greek- Macedonian”? Is it a person whose one parent is Greek and the other is Macedonian? If that is the case then where did these Macedonians in Greece come from? Was it not Greece that declared, by its own admission, that “there is no such thing as Macedonians”? So who and what are these so-called “Greek-Macedonians”? Are they Greek settlers who happened to live in Greek occupied Macedonia?

To be honest with you not even those people who call themselves “Greek-Macedonians” really know who and what they are.

This phenomenon is like a sickness that sprang up just before the Republic of Macedonia declared its independence from Yugoslavia. You see the Greek Government is so paranoid about being discovered for having illegally expropriated Macedonian lands and having committed atrocities against the Macedonian people, that every time there is a mention of anything Macedonian it becomes very defensive. What Greece is doing is in fact trying to confuse the world about who Macedonians are. If the Republic of Macedonia has Macedonians then so does Greece. After all Greece occupies 51% of the Macedonian lands, how could it justify its position without uncovering its deeds? Unfortunately Greece will try anything, even confusing its own people in order to hide from them and from the world its own past. Before the 1980’s there was no such thing as a “Greek-Macedonia” or “Greek-Macedonians”, there was only “Northern Greece” and “Greeks”, now there is a “Greek-Macedonia” populated by “Greek-Macedonians”. What next?

Allow me to break it down for you.

51% of Macedonia was occupied and annexed by Greece after the second Balkan War in 1913. At that time the ethnicities living in Macedonia were a large majority of indigenous Macedonians and smaller minorities of Vlachs, Albanians, Jews, Turks and others.

Upon occupying Macedonia the Greek State ethnically cleansed the population by forcibly assimilating most of it and that which couldn't be assimilated was either expelled or outright murdered. Then in the early 1920's the Muslim population was cleansed by deporting most Muslims to Turkey and importing a large Christian Turk population from Asia Minor and other parts of Turkey. After all that was done, Greece conducted a census and declared to the world that it was pure Greek.

So once again, where do these so-called "Greek-Macedonians" come from?

If you ask me I honestly don't know, but I do have a theory!

To understand where the "Greek-Macedonians" come from one has to determine who these so-called "Greek-Macedonians" are. As far as I can gather the people that classify themselves as "Greek-Macedonians" come from the following categories;

1. The majority are imported Turks and other immigrants that were settled in Macedonia in the 1920's. These people have been educated by the Greek Government into believing that they are the real-Macedonians and descendants of Alexander the Great and his Macedonians who were actually Greeks. They were taught to believe that they were the rightful heirs to the Macedonian lands. They were also taught to detest the indigenous Macedonian people and treat them as their enemy whom the Greek State labeled as "Bulgarian" and unworthy of the Macedonian heritage. Up to the 1980's these settlers were told that they were "Greeks" but the moment the Republic of Macedonia declared its independence from Yugoslavia, they were told they were "Greek-Macedonians".
2. There is a smaller minority of Macedonians who pay homage, for various reasons, to the Greek State and pretend to be Greeks because they are given favourable positions in society. There is also a criminal element of Macedonian descent who has committed crimes against the Macedonian people on behalf of Greece. These people enjoy the status quo because they believe they are untouchable as long as Greece refuses to recognize the Macedonians. They are loyal to Greece and to the Greek cause because they believe Greece will protect them from being prosecuted for the crimes they committed. Some actually have, they died of old age! These people will fight tooth and nail to prevent Macedonians from gaining any rights just to protect themselves.
3. There is also an element of people, including indigenous Macedonians, who actually believe the Greek propaganda and subscribe to the idea that they are the true descendants of the ancient Macedonians who were actually Greeks.

4. And finally there is a large xenophobic and ultra nationalist group of people who know the truth about Macedonia but are so poisoned and caught-up in the Greek propaganda that they will do anything to deny the Macedonians their rights.

And there you have it.

I just want to add here that the “imported Greeks”, just like the indigenous Macedonians, are victims of “Greek chauvinism” and I sympathize with their plight just as I sympathize with the plight of all victims of Greek chauvinism. You are not our enemies.

Although I am frustrated with those Macedonians who pretend to be Greeks, I hold no grudges against them because I understand that they are my brothers and sisters who have somehow lost their way. I hope someday soon they will come around.

Unfortunately I cannot forgive those who committed crimes against the Macedonian people or against any people and I believe the time will come when justice will be served. For those people who are lost in space, may the Macedonian sun and God’s light guide you back to find your way.

As for those of you who call yourselves “Greek-Macedonians”, for one reason or another, where will you stand when Greece recognizes the Macedonian nation? Where will you stand when you are no longer needed and have served your useful purpose in serving the Greeks who work against the Macedonians? Do you think that Greece will accept you as “True-Greeks” and respect you as “Greek-Macedonians” or will they cast you out as they have cast us out, when your usefulness has expired? Some food for thought!

THE TRUTH

The “Greek-Macedonian” phenomenon is a Greek State response to the Republic of Macedonia’s declaration of independence. There were no “Greek-Macedonians” before the 1980’s, in fact the official Greek position has been that “Macedonians do not exist”. So where did the “Greek-Macedonians” come from? They came from the Greek imagination. Greece created the so-called “Greek-Macedonians” or fake Macedonians to rob the real Macedonians of their heritage. Another Greek method of divide and conquer and spread confusion while doing it.

Thus what is fake is not real and what is not truth is a lie. Therefore, the “Greek-Macedonians” are nothing more than another BIG Greek Lie.

BIG Greek Lie # 13 - “No Macedonians Exist in Macedonia”

(Many Greeks believe no Macedonians exist in Macedonia)

Greece it seems is evolving but it is a sort of sideways evolution. If you have been paying attention to the Greeks you would have heard their claims that there were no Macedonians living in Greece, that is, not until the late 1980s. In fact, according to the Greek State, there was not even a Macedonia until the late 1980s. First it was called “New Territories” and then “Northern Greece”.

Today however, according to some Greeks, there are all kinds of Macedonians living in Greece except for Macedonian-Macedonians. Macedonian-Macedonians? What is that? Isn't that a bit confusing? That is exactly the whole point! That is precisely how Greece likes people to be, CONFUSED!

If you ask some nationalistic or brainwashed Greeks they will tell you that there are all kinds of Macedonians, there are “Greek-Macedonians”, “Bulgarian-Macedonians”, “Serbian-Macedonians”, “Albanian-Macedonians”, “Romanian-Macedonians”, “Russian-Macedonians”, “Slav-Macedonians”, “Armenian-Macedonians”, “Jewish-Macedonians”, “Muslim-Macedonians”, “Christian-Macedonians”, “Vlach-Macedonians”, “Turkish-Macedonians”, “Roma-Macedonians” and a whole slew of other types of Macedonians living in Greece today EXCEPT FOR “Macedonian-Macedonians”. They will also tell you that “Skopjans” and “FYROMians”, among others, live in the Republic of Macedonia but NO MACEDONIANS.

While the Macedonians (and by Macedonians I mean the real Macedonians, you know the ones who according to Greece don't exist) and the rest of the world are expecting Greece to move forward and recognize the Macedonian minority in Greece, Greeks are going off on a tangent fabricating Macedonian ethnicities while refusing to recognize the existence of the real genuine Macedonians. Why?

Why will Greece not admit to the existence of Macedonians in Macedonia? What is Greece afraid of?

Obviously, by fabricating a variety of “types of Macedonian” let's call them X-Macedonians, Greece is trying to confuse the uninformed into believing that Macedonia is a land of immigrants who are only geographically associated with Macedonia. According to Greece, there are no real Macedonians in Macedonia; they vanished a long time ago. The idea here is to give you the impression that Macedonia has no indigenous people living on its soil which is ironic because Greeks refer to the real Macedonians living in Greece as “endopyi” which in Greek means indigenous.

Yesterday there were no Macedonians at all but today there is a full range of Macedonians. Why is Greece doing this? Why are some Greeks risking being ridiculed around the world and I mean literally being ridiculed around the world, to cover-up the existence of Macedonians by inventing the X-Macedonians?

Perhaps they feel that no-one will notice the “bland Macedonian” if they are surrounded by an array of “flavourful X-Macedonians”, right? Sort of camouflaging the real with fakes. Or cloaking the truth among a dozen lies. What better way to minimize the worth of the real Macedonian with a variety of X-Macedonians.

Well only the Greek architects of this fiasco know for sure why they are doing it, we on the other hand can only speculate!

It has always been my belief that Greece will do anything to hold onto Macedonian lands and to the Macedonian heritage. Blinded by the glory of the ancients, modern Greeks committed acts of violence to re-capture something dead and long gone. In the process they hurt a lot of people, not only Macedonians but also some of their own. Most Greeks are aware of these realities, especially those in power, but refuse to face up to them.

The price for achieving Hellenism, which in modern terms is nothing more than a myth, was the destruction and death of a number of real and vibrant cultures. There are many Greeks even today who still buy into the idea that the cultures their state destroyed were not worthy of saving. It seems that modern Greeks prefer living the myth of Hellenism over the reality of being Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Macedonians, Roma and a number of other ethnicities that make up their multi-ethnic Greek nation-state today.

What is unfortunate about this is that Greece never bothered to ask people what they preferred. They simply bulldozed the old and real for the sake of creating the new and artificial.

There are Greeks today who refuse to accept the fact that they are descendents not of the ancient Greeks and ancient Macedonians but of the modern Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Roma, Macedonians and others; the very same ethnicities they so loathe and despise.

So why are Greeks afraid to admit that Macedonians exist? Allow me to state the reasons!

If they admit to Macedonians living among them, then they will also have to admit to the horrible things they did to them like lying to them about their existence, forcing them to become Greeks and imposing on them their Hellenic artificial values.

They will have to admit that it was wrong to invade Macedonia and take Macedonian lands illegally and by force.

They would have to admit that they were wrong about expelling people from their homes and native lands during those massive population

expulsions they perpetrated against an innocent people whose only fault was to be born Macedonian.

They would have to admit to being wrong in punishing people and sending them to prison for speaking their native mother language, the only language they knew.

They would have to admit to being wrong for changing all the toponyms, hydronyms, people's names and giving them alien names which they truly despised.

Greeks instinctively fear the loss of Macedonia, their bread basket, because they know exactly how they acquired it. But let me tell you of an old Macedonian saying which goes something like this; "That which you fear, you can not escape."

THE TRUTH

The truth is there is no harm in calling yourselves whatever you want but as far as being X-Macedonians you are not! Political motivation, fashion and desire to please your state are not prerequisites for belonging to an ethnicity, especially to the Macedonian ethnicity. Only Macedonians can be ethnically Macedonians. "Greek-Macedonians" cannot be ethnic Macedonians or ethnic Greeks (if there is such a thing) because they belong to a third category called "Greek-Macedonians". Also in order to belong to an ethnicity, that ethnicity must have its own existence, its own history and its own natural place in the world. "Greek-Macedonian" is a politically motivated idea, a belief in something that has no physical existence, which in actual fact is more like a cult than an ethnicity.

The only reason that there is even a mention of X-Macedonians is to serve anti-Macedonian interests, mainly those of Greece and Bulgaria which both deny the existence of Macedonians.

So, do X-Macedonians really exist or are they another BIG Greek lie? You be the judge!

BIG Greek Lie # 14 - "Macedonians are Slavs"

(Many Greeks believe Macedonians are Slavs)

Even before a typical Greek opens his or her mouth, I can tell you exactly what they are going to say when it comes to the Macedonians. To this day, I have received thousands of e-mails from Greeks and they all basically say the same things. "Macedonians don't exist", "Macedonians are Greek", "Tito created the Macedonian identity", "Macedonians are cultural and historical thieves", and of course the subject of this BIG Greek lie, "Macedonians are Slavs who came to the Balkans during the 6th century AD".

To prove my point I have included quotes from a number of these e-mails I received. Last names were removed to protect the authors;

George G. wrote: *"If you cannot accept simple historical fact and evidence that Ancient Macedonia was Greek then I suggest you visit a mental institution. Linguistics, artifacts, historical sources (like Herodotus etc.) all prove the Hellenic identity of the Ancient Macedonians. It is accepted common historical knowledge that you Slavs came into the Balkan area along with the Bulgarians 6-10th century AD."*

Pauk K. wrote: *"I am Macedonian; therefore I can not accept you being Macedonian unless you have the same culture, religion and even anthropology as I do. I do see you as a Slav left over after the Russians failed to gain a warm water port. Stalin's words at the time of your creation (by the comintern, 1945), says all you ever need to know read it and face the facts."*

Nenad D. wrote: *"Macedonia is South Serbia!!!! This was Macedonia's former name and the only reason it is called Macedonia today is because Tito a Croat communist, brainwashed your people (and you) into thinking they weren't Slavs but that they were descendants of the Hellenic peoples that lived in the Balkan Peninsula about 4000 years ago."*

Hessemo@aol.com wrote: *"Keep writing retard your rubber room is waiting for you??? Hey you learn to speak Albanian yet???? Your knees sore yet from bowing before them??? monon lave etan e epitas skopje born poor, cowardly void of history and culture, remains poor, cowardly void of history and culture and will die poor, cowardly void of history and culture never Macedonian !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"*

DNT73@aol.com wrote: *"Macedonians combined with their fellow Greeks long ago and were mixed up and spread all over the Roman and*

Byzantine empires. They are part of the Greek cultural legacy. The Slavs and Albanians who live in that small piece of geographic Macedonia have nothing to do with it. Real Macedonians already absorbed into the broader Greek world long before the Slavs arrived in the 600's. There was no separate Macedonian identity by then, just a geographic designation. Get your facts straight and stop spreading idiotic propaganda for a half Albanian, half-Bulgarian state. Also show some respect for the country that keeps your economy alive."

Nick V. wrote: *"Because you now live in an area that is called Macedonia you think you are Macedonians and descendants of the Hellenic Makedonians? No, you are Slavs, Bulgarians and God knows what else that came well after the era of Macedonia and Alexander and resided in the north part of Macedonia. I mean what language to do talk? Greek? No, you talk some Slavic dialect with a mix of Bulgarian, Serbian and Russian and in the south of your country with some Greek in there too. You wouldn't even know how to write and read if it wasn't for those two Saints that liberated you from the dark ages. In one of your sites someone says that you saved us from the Ottomans, are you serious?? You are only handful. I feel sorry for you guys coz obviously you had your identity brainwashed into you to believe that you are someone that you are not. I feel sorry that you had to steal another nation's history to feel that you belong somewhere You are Slavs or maybe Bulgarians with probably some villages that still speak a mix of Slavic and some Greek too, you are a mix of everything, Albanians, Bulgarians and with some Greek in there too, left behind from the communist wars. Wake up my friend and seek your true identity You can't use the name Macedonia as Macedonia is Greek and will always belong to Greece. You are saying that you have no intentions for claiming the south Makedonia, are you serious?? You are brainwashing your kids to believe otherwise, doesn't that create hate between us? You sites do as the same. We have never taught our kids that the north Makedonia belongs to Greece, it once did like many other places but not today, we don't want it, its all yours and you can leave peacefully with your fellow Slavs and the Albanian (one day they will take all your country if your not careful) but you can't and never will use the name of Makedonia, you put shame on the name! We are talking about 1000s of years of history and you come along from the north, barbarian tribes and now you think you can take our history from us? Not so."*

Nick V. wrote: *"I wish to know where you get all your fantasies/facts from? You should be ashamed for brainwashing your people with all these lies! Yes you are Slavs and you came from the north. The Macedonians are were and will be Greeks. People you need to wake up and stop stealing*

other people's history. You were brainwashed in to being so-called Macedonians by Tito and communism. Wake up!"

George K. wrote: *"Get back in you hole and take up another hobby - hear are the facts; Macedonia has been Greek for 3,000 years. In ancient times Macedonians spoke Greek, worshipped Greek gods, expressed their creativity through Greek art and maintained a refined Greek culture ... all archaeological discoveries continue to unearth more information attesting to the indisputable Greekness of Macedonia. Out of the blue, in 1944, the Yugoslav communist leader, Tito, wishing to weaken Serbia on the one hand, and set the footing for future territorial claims against Greece on the other, schemingly gave South Serbia the Greek name 'Macedonia' and re-wrote the 'history' books to declare that ancient Macedonia was Slavic and that these people were descendants of Alexander the Great. The existence of a 'Slav' Macedonia could never be, and indeed, has never been supported either by historical data, or by ethnographic maps, or by statistics, or by some census, or by archaeological finds, or by even an obscure mention of such a nation from antiquity till today. Macedonia has been the name of Northern Greece for more than 3000 years. The Greek region ... has one of the most homogeneous populations in the world (98.5% Greek). Its population speaks Greek, feels Greek, is Greek. An independent 'Macedonia would monopolize the name at the expense of the real Macedonians who are twice the number of the Slavs. The use and abuse of the name would cause widespread confusion as is already apparent. Macedonia is an indispensable part of Greece's historical heritage it cannot identify, in an ethnic sense another nation. The Skopje 'language' is undeniably Slavic."*

Helen V. wrote: *"I am a Greek Macedonian, who heard about the article you wrote in your so-called "Macedonian" weekly. Firstly I must stress how offended I was by the lies that you wrote in order to brainwash your people! Macedonia has and will ALWAYS be known as Hellenic Lands, incase you don't know what Hellenism means, it is Greek Land! Macedonia is an ancient kingdom of Ancient Greece, which existed well before your people of Slavonic race even existed. We are one of the oldest and most respected countries and have such a RICH history, which your people could only wish they had one hundredth of the richness our civilization has. Incase you didn't know in order to visit Alexander the Greats Kingdom you need to go to Pella, and King Phillips grave and kingdom is in Vergina. Both of these kingdoms are located in Greece (Macedonia not far from Thessaloniki), in order to visit these you would paid either a drahma (with the old currency) or Euro (today) and most importantly all of the inscriptions on the ancient ruins are in Ancient GREEK writing not Bulgarian (which is what your language is an*

offspring of). I pity your people as they are lost and confused and have no history or culture of their own, and for this reason have had to adapt our beautiful and rich ways in order to have some "history". I noticed that the map you put with your article, has included other parts of Greece that you claim were Slavonic Macedonian. Since when was the island of Thassos of Slavonic heritage? In fact since when was any part of our beautiful lands of Slavonic Heritage? You are an extremely SAD race, who has no real existence! Any well educated person knows that there is only ONE Macedonia and that is "GREEK MACEDONIA" which carries the names so proudly because of what it represents. Your people were quite happy to be known as Yugoslavia for a long time and then in the 90's were all the states were forced to separate you were forced to find a name for yourselves, and seeing as you don't have a real country, or flag or heritage, you poor, pathetic souls chose to try and take our name and history in order to brainwash your future generations with. My final comments to you are, "Read any encyclopedia or history book and you will see the truth that Macedonia is Greek, you will never get the name "Macedonia" as it's not yours to have, and Greece will NEVER approve it." You should be grateful that the Greeks gave you an alphabet, as your uneducated people wouldn't even be able to write if it wasn't for the GREEKS!!!!"

Panagiotis Z. wrote: *"Your deep-rooted complex is understandable, since your identity crisis as a Slav (from "slave") stems from the historical void further enhanced by the existence of the Greek nation and its overshadowing cultural and linguistic ramifications, which are now further ascertained by DNA studies that reveal a homogeneous continuity in the Greek region, not to mention southern Italy and a large chunk of Turkish speaking Asia Minor since pre-classical times. It is facile to hold that Greece is mongrelized by recurrent invasions. The fact is, though, that the Greek speaking core was always so overwhelming in Hellas that it absorbed any invaders pretty much the same way a healthy organism absorbs viruses only to become stronger in the long run. The Turks, by the way who settled in Greece were for the most part jannisaries whose lineage was of Greek parenthood, converted by force in the early days of the Ottoman empire, my ignoramus friend. The only myth you have to wrestle with is your lack of any significant background in your Slavic predicament. What an irony that history keeps repeating itself. In antiquity your region depended on Greek culture and now it depends on Greek finances. What a wretched state to be in! My sympathies"*

Athanasios F. wrote: *"I am not going to unfold any detailed historical facts about Greek/Macedonia and it's glorious past, but I will remind you*

your Slavic past in the northern greater area of Macedonia, around 800 A.D. I do remind you the General Tito's propaganda in order to issue an identity to your citizens. History is there for you and those who are trying (hopelessly) to propagate "facts" which have nothing to do with HISTORICAL facts. You can NEVER build an identity with stolen materials, no matter if unhistorical characters (International politicians) demand this. Facts are facts and NO one can change that. For Greeks you will always be Slavs and there is nothing wrong with that, by ALL means."

I think Athanasios said it; the Greeks will always call the Macedonians "Slavs" no matter what! The question is why?

From the e-mails above one gets the impression that Greece has done a wonderful job in indoctrinating its people with powerful anti-Macedonian propaganda. One also gets the impression that these Greeks are clueless about the reality of the Macedonian situation.

Greeks, at least the ones who wrote these e-mails, seem to talk in black and white clear cut terms about what happened 1,500 years ago, forgetting that from then until 1913 there were no borders between present day Greece and Macedonia. Whoever invaded Macedonia surely did not spare Greece. So if we are to believe mainstream history then it should be well known to these Greeks that the Slavs who invaded Macedonia also invaded Greece down to its deepest southern fringes. So if the modern Macedonians are Slavs, then so are the modern Greeks.

History also tells us that the present Greek-Macedonian border was erected after the Balkan Wars as a result of the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest. This is simply an artificial border that never existed before 1913. So how can modern Greeks claim that what is south of this border is "Pure Greek" and what's north of it is "Slav"? If we are to accept this "Greek claim" then we must also accept the idea that "pure Greeks" and "Slavs" co-existed in a borderless region for 1,500 years side by side without any contact between them. We must also ignore history and the fact that Greece became a nation state for the first time in 1829 and on its territory lived Slavs, Albanians, Vlachs, Turks and a variety of other ethnicities.

Our internet warrior Greeks seem to have forgotten that modern Greece annexed 51% of Macedonia fully intact and loaded with "Slav" speaking Macedonians as recently as 1913 and those Macedonians whom they call Greeks today were certainly not Greeks then.

From the e-mails above one gets the impression that some Greeks want the Macedonians to go away. There is no room for Macedonians in the Balkans. Greeks see their world in black and white, "pure Greeks" and "Slavs" even though it is clear both entities are made from the same raw materials which begs the question "how do Greeks distinguish between "pure Greeks" on one hand and "Slavs" on the other? What is the criterion that distinguishes these groups from one another? More importantly, why

is one group the “pure Greeks” deserving of the full Macedonian heritage with full rights and privileges while the other group the “Slavs” are deserving of NONE and have no rights or privileges whatsoever. Are they not both indigenous people of the same land?

By their own testimonies the Greeks admit that the so-called “Slavs” have been living in Macedonia since the 6th century AD, that’s 1,500 years or equivalent to 75 generations. How long do a people have to live on a land before it can call itself indigenous? How long must a people live on a land to have rights? More importantly, why do Greeks believe Macedonian lands belong to them and not to the people that lived on them for 75 generations? Besides how can these Greeks justify that these lands belong to them? Do they have deeds or proof that they are the true inheritors? How do we know that they are not imposters and the “REAL” swindlers of the Macedonian lands and heritage? Have these Greeks never bothered to ask themselves (a) what gives them the right to these lands and (b) why are Macedonians excluded from these rights? Have they never bothered to ask (a) what makes them “pure Greeks” and their neighbours “Slavs” and (b) why they have full rights and privileges and the so-called “Slavs” have none, not even the most basic human rights?

THE TRUTH

The truth is Macedonians are not “Slavs”, they are Macedonians. They speak the Macedonian language, practice Macedonian traditions, have their own folklore and enjoy their own music. Unlike the Greeks who have an imposed language, the Macedonian language is the mother tongue of the Macedonian people which has been with them for at least 75 generations. The Greek language on the other hand was imposed on the Greek people after Greece became a nation state for the first time in 1829. The reason Greeks call Macedonians “Slav” is because in their minds “Slavs” are apparently an unworthy species of human that does not deserve to grace Macedonian lands or have any human rights. This goes back to the “Aryan” heydays when it was popular to abuse people for various reasons, reminiscent of what the Nazis did to the Jews. Even though this type of practice is no longer popular and most of its practitioners fell off the “Aryan” bandwagon a long time ago, it appears no one bothered to tell Greece. So to this day some Greeks continue to practice “Macedonian bashing” like it’s still in style!

If you have been reading these types of articles (BIG Greek Lies) by now you would know that the so-called “Greek nation” is nothing more than a politically manufactured entity. It is a real shame that the Macedonian people who belong to a unique, rich and ancient culture are being punished for being “real” and all this is done for the sake of propagating another BIG Greek lie.

BIG Greek Lie # 15 - “Greeks are Hellenes”

(Modern Greeks believe they are Hellenes)

According to the Columbia Encyclopedia, Hellenism is “the culture, ideals, and pattern of life of ancient Greece in classical times. It usually means primarily the culture of ATHENS and the related cities in the Age of Pericles [495-429 BC]. The term is also applied to the ideals of later writers and thinkers who draw their inspiration from ancient Greece. Frequently it is contrasted with Hebraism – Hellenism then meaning pagan joy, freedom, and love of life as contrasted with the austere morality and monotheism of the Old Testament. The Hellenic period came to an end with the conquest of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC. It was succeeded by the Hellenistic civilization.” [9]

If you ask a Modern Greek today to identify his or her “ethnicity” they will say they are “Greek”. If you ask them what is that in “Greek”? They will say “Ellinas” or “Ellinida”. There is no word for “Greek” in the Greek vocabulary. If there is (Graekos) it is rarely used and unknown to most Greeks.

According to most modern Greeks today, “Greek” and “Ellines” are synonymous. In other words a “Hellene is a native of either ancient or modern Greece; a Greek”.

If I am to understand this correctly “a Hellene is a person who shares the culture, ideals, and pattern of life of ancient Greece in classical times” and “who is a native of either ancient or modern Greece”. In other words, again if I understand this correctly, any person of any ethnicity who is native to either ancient or modern Greece and who shares the culture, ideals and pattern of life of ancient Greece in classical times qualifies to be a Hellene.

Can a person be a Hellene and something else at the same time? According to Modern Greek standards, NO! One cannot be a Hellene and a Turk at the same time; according to some Greeks, why would they want to? “A Hellene is a superior being!” Also, according to some Greeks, “to be a Hellene one must be a descendant of the ancient Hellenes”.

Obviously there are people today who call themselves “Hellenes” or more accurately, “Ellines”. My question here is, “Who are these people and how did they become the Hellenes?”

Modern Greeks today consider themselves to be the inheritors of the ancient Greek and Byzantine civilizations and cultures. Historically, the self-perception of the Greeks and the definition of Greekness have varied, but with the emergence and consolidation of the nation-state, from the late 18th century, Greekness was redefined along the lines of what some people call romantic nationalism.

Romantic nationalism is the form of nationalism in which the state derives its political legitimacy as an organic consequence of the unity of those it governs. This includes, depending on the particular manner of practice, the language, race, culture, religion and customs of the "nation" in its primal sense of those who were "born" within its culture. This form of nationalism arose in reaction to dynastic or imperial hegemony, which assessed the legitimacy of the state from the "top down", emanating from a monarch or other authority, which justified its existence. Such downward-radiating power might ultimately derive from God.

Greece accepts all those who agree with this principle and rejects those who disagree.

So what exactly is this principle and what are the criteria for belonging to it? Or, what is this club called "Hellas" and how does one sign up to join it?

Is it ethnicity? Obviously not! Modern Greece is made up of Slav speakers, Albanians, Vlachs, Turks, Christian Turks, Roma, etc.

Is it the Christian Orthodox Religion? Obviously not, even though most conservative Greeks like it to be! The so-called ancient Hellenes were Pagan.

So what exactly is a "Hellene" then in modern terms?

A Modern Hellene is a person who has rejected his or her real ethnicity, forsaken his or her real culture for the sake of belonging to a "CLUB".

A Modern Hellene or Modern Greek, since Hellene and Greek are synonymous, has abandoned reality and the truth for the sake of living an Idea.

When Greece was coming together as a country for the first time in the early 1800's, ethnically it could not hold itself together because of the various ethnicities living together and pulling in different directions. It is well known and every Greek should know that the majority of their national heroes of the "Greek uprising" against the Turks were not Greeks. They were Albanians (Arvanites), Vlachs and Slav Speakers (mostly Macedonians).

Even though there were many roads Greece could have taken during its national awakening it chose the road to "Hellenism". Unfortunately, appealing as it might have been to the Greek State it was destructive and devastating to the indigenous people of the region who are reeling from it to this day.

Greece wiped out half a dozen natural cultures and vibrant languages for the sake of resurrecting something that had died two thousand five hundred years ago so that it could re-live the old glory days and satisfy the imperial ambitions of the Great Powers of the day.

THE TRUTH

The truth is “there are no Hellenes living today”, and as per the Columbia Encyclopedia definition, they died, came to an end with the conquest of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC.

You Greeks can all pretend to be “Hellenes” but the only ones you’re fooling are yourselves, which is fine by me. Unfortunately when you claim that the Macedonians, a real, vibrant living people don’t exist, I take offense to that.

When you adamantly insist that Macedonia belongs to Greece, a group of people who fabricated their own identity, and not to the real Macedonians, I take offense to that.

When Macedonians are murdered, sent to prison, exiled from their homes and lands, forbidden to speak their mother tongue, not being recognized as people in their native lands, for the sake of propagating a Greek lie, I take offense to that.

When Macedonian names and toponyms are erased, Macedonian Bibles and tombstones eradicated, and peoples’ identities stripped from them for the sake of creating “Hellenes” an identity that died many eons ago, I take offense to that too.

So please take a good look at your creation and tell me that “Hellenism” is not another BIG Greek lie!

BIG Greek Lie # 16 - “The Macedonian Language does not exist”

(Most Modern Greeks believe the Macedonian language doesn't exist)

“If you peel away all that Greece has taken from others, you will find an empty carcass of a people shocked to find that they have been living a lie-a lie that they invented and a lie that will ultimately destroy them.”
(Steve S).

There are some western academics and authors today who believe that the suppression of the Macedonians in Greek occupied Macedonia has arisen out of Greek efforts at nation-building. After Macedonia's occupation and partition in 1912, 1913, a great effort was made to turn its inhabitants into the citizens of the Greek nation-state. In order to make sure its citizens were loyal to the Greek state, politicians and intellectuals rewrote history, creating a myth that ALL Greek residents were “ethnic Greeks”. “Ethnicity” was purposely confused with “nationality” which led directly to the denial of the existence of the Macedonians. Denying the existence of the ethnic Macedonians quickly led to the denial of everything that was Macedonian and for those who insisted otherwise, denigration and human rights abuses followed.

After denying the ethnic existence of an entire nation, it was not difficult for Greece to deny the existence of the Macedonian language. Unfortunately for Greece, it was not as easy to hide a language as it was to hide an entire ethnicity. Ever since Macedonia's occupation and partition in 1912, 1913, Macedonians living inside Greece or should I say inside Greek occupied Macedonia, continued to speak their language even at the risk of being persecuted. After numerous efforts on the part of the Greeks to ban this language and make it illegal, Macedonians continued to speak it. Having to explain themselves why there are so-called “Greeks” speaking a non-Greek language inside Greece, Greek authorities resorted to calling the language “Slav”, “Bulgarian”, “Serbian” and even an “idiom” but never Macedonian. This idiom, according to some Greek explanations, was some sort of lost Slavic dialect probably a remnant of the “Bulgarian schools” from the Exarchate days when Macedonia was still under Ottoman rule.

“...I asked him what language they spoke, and my Greek interpreter carelessly rendered the answer Bulgare. The man himself had said Makedonski. I drew attention to this word and the witness explained that he did not consider the rural dialect used in Macedonia the same as Bulgarian, and refused to call it by that name. It was Macedonian, a word to which he gave the Slav form of Makedonski, but which I was to hear farther north in the Greek form of Makedonike”. [10]

The Greeks may have been able to fool their own people and outsiders with no interest in Greek or Macedonian affairs, but they could not fool those people who actually had interest in learning the truth and those who spoke Macedonian and whose mother tongue has been Macedonian for dozens of generations. In fact some believe that Macedonians spoke Macedonian and lived on Macedonian lands before the so-called “Ancient Greeks” were civilized. One thing is certain, Macedonians spoke Macedonian before the Bulgars descended from the Volga.

“The Greeks will not admit the Slav language in Churches or schools; the inhabitants of Macedonia are in the great majority Slavs; they call themselves now Macedonians, and what they desire and what we ardently desire for them is an autonomy under European control. -In whatever way Macedonia might be divided, the people would always be discontented, and would fight again as soon as possible. The only hope I can foresee is in a strong autonomy, which neither Greeks nor Bulgars nor Serbs would dare attack; then the Macedonians, who are really intelligent and docile when they are well treated, would peacefully develop this beautiful fertile country, and might learn to be civilized. -Surely Europe will not leave Macedonia under people whom the Macedonians hate, and whom they will continually fight. As the little Balkan states can never agree, but always fight for Macedonia, let none of them have it. -We might then have peace, the Catholics would again have heart, and all the years of hard work among them would not have been wasted.” Catholic Sister of Charity, Augustine Bewicke, January 4th 1919. Letter to Ian Malcolm, a British diplomat. Sister Augustine lived in Macedonia for 33 years.

The Macedonian language is at least three thousand years old and fifteen-hundred years ago formed the basis of what we now call Church Slavonic, the language of Kiril and Metodi from Solun and the language of all Slavonic Churches. There are also people who believe that the Slavic family of languages began in Macedonia and was spread throughout Eastern Europe by Macedonians.

Here is what Christian Voss has to say. “The case of the Slavic-speaking minority, which until today is officially denied in its very existence, in a comparative perspective is very strange, especially in view of their large number. The Slavic dialects in Aegean Macedonia - a territory of about 35.000 square kilometers - have approximately 200,000 potential speakers. Since only one third of them makes active use of the vernacular, which since 30-40 years is not the primary code any more, the term “Slavic-speaker” presents a more or less ethnic category which is supported on the sociological level [11].

The demographic development in the region is determined by several waves of ethnic cleansing in form of population exchange between Greece and Bulgaria (Neuilly 1919) and Greece and Turkey (Lausanne 1923) as well as in form of expulsion (during the Balkan Wars 1912-1913 and at the

end of the Greek Civil War 1948-1949). As a result, the indigenous Slavic-speaking population, which until 1912 constituted the majority in Aegean Macedonia (with 30-40%), became minorised – except the western part, i.e. the prefecture of Florina, where they are still the majority and where many villages had no settlement of Asia Minor and Pontos refugees. [12]

My survey of 270 villages in Northern Greece, where until today Slavic dialects are spoken, results from fieldwork conducted in the area between 1999 and 2003 [13], 112 of them are in Western Macedonia (i.e. the prefectures Kastoria, Florina, and the northern part of Kozani), 121 of them belong to Central Macedonia (i.e. the prefectures Pella, Kilkis, Thessaloniki and the northern part of Imathia), 38 of them in Eastern Macedonia (i.e. the prefectures Serres and Drama).”

So, without going into details, it is not a case where a Macedonian language never existed or a case where a Macedonian language did exist and became extinct and is no longer in use. It is a case where a Macedonian language existed, exists and is spoken by Macedonians today.

So, the big question here is why is Greece insisting that there is no such thing as a Macedonian language? And why do they insist that the Macedonians in Greek occupied Macedonia are “Slavic Speaking Greeks”?

Yes, the Macedonian language is a “Slavic language” but so is Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian, Czech, Slovak, etc. The Greeks have no problem with the Russians calling their language Russian or with the Poles calling theirs Polish. So why do they have a problem with Macedonians calling their language Macedonian?

THE TRUTH

It is well known that the Macedonian people living in Macedonia spoke a dialect of the Slavic branch of languages since the days of Kiril and Metodi. If I am not mistaken, by the turn of the 20th century there were at least fifty Macedonian dialects spoken in the territories of Macedonia. The Macedonian language, especially the dialects spoken in Greek occupied Macedonia, is an old and widely used language which took its time to develop and mature into the many dialects of this day. It is an oral and a mother language to all Macedonians and has been for as far back as the collective memory of Macedonians can recall.

Also, there are more than four-hundred million people in Europe that speak variants of this language so how can Greece say it doesn't exist?

Unlike “Greek” which is an imposed language, Macedonian is a natural language that has been orally passed on from generation to generation and has survived and flourished in the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people. I would say it is a precious language facing extinction that must be protected and preserved under all circumstances.

Unfortunately Greece is totally ignorant of what a precious jewel it has and instead of cherishing it, it is bent on destroying it, choking the life out of it.

The Macedonian language exists not only in Macedonia but also in Canada, the USA, Australia and the world over. Only the Greek state and some Greeks deny its existence and that makes them conspirators in another BIG Greek lie.

And now I leave you with this:

“Being shocked and increasingly concerned, I struck the village mayor when I heard him speak Bulgarian, which he wishes to call Macedonian, and I recommended that in the future he should always and everywhere speak only Greek, and that he should recommend that his villagers do the same.” [14]

BIG Greek Lie # 17 - “The Ancient Macedonians were Greek”

(Some modern Greeks believe the Ancient Macedonians were Greek)

Why is it so important to modern Greeks today to believe that the ancient Macedonians were Greek? Why is it so important for them to believe that the modern Macedonians are not at all related to the ancient Macedonians yet the modern Greeks are “direct descendants” of the ancient “Greeks”?

Before looking at the arguments and evidence presented we will examine the politics behind these claims.

Modern Greece today is holding 51% of Macedonian territories for which it has absolutely no justifiable reason. In 1912, 1913 Greece along with its partners Serbia and Bulgaria, under the pretence of liberation, invaded, occupied and brutally partitioned Macedonia into three pieces. Ever since this invasion Greece has systematically and tyrannically oppressed the Macedonian people to a point of extinction. There is no justifiable reason or logical explanation for Greece’s behaviour but in the last century or so it has committed genocidal crimes against the Macedonian people including mass murders [15], mass expulsions, mass confiscation of properties, mass denationalization, oppression, discrimination and all sorts of other abuses. Greece attacked the Macedonian people with the intent of eradicating them by any means possible. These are crimes that cannot be taken lightly or forgotten.

How has Greece justified all this and gotten away with it unpunished for almost a century?

Since its inception in 1829, Greece has systematically lied to the world about its own and later about Macedonia’s past claiming Macedonia was and still is “Greek”. Greece has also made claims that only “Greeks” live in Greece and has literally waged war against people who continued to claim to be non-“Greeks” and against those who refute its official position.

Since Greece has no legitimate claim on Macedonian territories it had to invent far fetched ideas such as the ancient Macedonians being “Greek” in an effort to legitimize its claim. Greece looked back in history 2,400 years to justify its hold on Macedonian territories while ignoring not only Macedonia’s but its own present reality. In the last century or so, Greece has behaved as if no one else but “Greece” had rights of ownership not only to Macedonian lands but also to the Macedonian heritage and history. When Greece forcefully imposed itself on Macedonia, it saw it as a vacant place ripe for colonization, treating its true inhabitants, the Macedonian people as vermin to be exterminated.

In the eyes of the world, the Macedonian people were seen as “Slav speakers” presumed to have come to this region during the 6th century AD. Slav speakers during the 19th century were considered the enemy and were

looked upon unfavourably by the western world. So, in the last couple of centuries the world looked the other way while Greece waged war on the Macedonians in an attempt to exterminate them.

Since the 19th century, Greece has used the term “Slav” to refer to Macedonians in order to emphatically show to the world that the Macedonians of today are not at all related to the Macedonians of two thousand years ago. It also uses the word “Slav” to denigrate Macedonians making them feel like foreigners on their native lands.

Why has Greece chosen to lay claim to the ancient Macedonians before the Roman conquests and not to the Macedonians of a later period?

When Greece became a nation for the first time in 1829, its future was set not by its own people but by the politically motivated Great Powers, foreigners who artificially chose the character of this nation to suit their own political agendas. Modern Greece was created to be a continuation of the so-called “ancient Greece” of two thousand four hundred years ago. Two thousand four hundred years is a big historic gap for a new nation to fill especially one that has forgotten its past. Yes, there is a 2,400 year old historic gap between today’s Greece and the phantom almost mythical “Greece” of yesteryears. Greece’s course was set and its artificial history written by foreigners before its own conscience was developed. The people living in modern Greece were literally told who they are. They were told to forget their present reality, language, culture and customs and embrace a new politically and artificially created reality. Once this transition was successfully completed in Greece proper it was easy for the “new” Greece to make claims on Macedonian territories. History clearly shows that Macedonia was not considered part of Greece in Greece’s early days. This consideration was made only after Macedonia became ripe for conquest. So when the right time came it was natural for Greece to look at its own artificial construct and envision the ancient Macedonians as part of it. Then when the Germans and others developed the idea that the Slavs came to the Balkans during the 6th century AD, Greece was quick to take advantage of this situation and label the Macedonians “Slavs” thus making them look like “newcomers” in comparison to its own past. Slavs were naturally seen as undesirables and the world saw nothing wrong with legitimizing their abuse. Labeling the Macedonians “Slavs” gave Greece a way not only to show that these were “different” people, not related to the ancient Macedonians, but also that they did not belong on those territories even though they were there for 1,500 years. And because they were “Slavs” it was okay to treat them as vermin.

What evidence has Greece used to show that the ancient Macedonians were “Greek” and what evidence has it ignored that shows the opposite?

Even today some Greeks will argue to a point of exhaustion trying to prove that the ancient Macedonians were “Greek”. They will tell their own version of history and stick with it while making remarks that it is

universally understood and supported by the most important historians, therefore it must be true.

Here are some of the arguments they use to prove their point;

1. The Ancient Macedonians spoke a dialect of the Greek language.

From the various inscriptions found in archeological digs it has been established that one of the languages employed in ancient Macedonia was the Koine language commonly known as the language of trade and commerce. This was an international language which was used in the Macedonian court and by the Macedonian administration.

The Greek argument here is that “if Macedonians spoke Greek they must have been Greek”. It is the same as saying “if the Macedonians speak English they must be English”. While making statements such as these, most Greeks ignore evidence that proves that the ancient Macedonians, Alexander the Great included, spoke another language, a language indigenous to Macedonia, which makes them bilingual thus placing great doubts on the validity of this Greek argument.

Instead of trying to prove that the ancient Macedonians were “Greek”, these Greeks who like to argue about their Greekness should look at their own relationship to the ancient “Greeks”. They may be surprised to find that the modern Greeks have nothing to do with the ancients. In fact, if they dig deep enough they will find that the so-called “Greek language” they speak today is as foreign to them as “ancient Greek” was foreign to the ancient Macedonians. Modern Greeks today speak an imposed language that was forced upon their great grandparents. A great majority (98%) of modern Greeks during the early 19th century did not speak Greek. They had to learn to speak Greek in school and some under the cruelest conditions. No common Macedonian spoke Greek before the Greek state made its presence in Macedonia. Then almost overnight Greek occupied Macedonia became “Greek speaking”. I wonder how that happened?

2. The ancient Macedonians prayed to the same “Greek gods” as the ancient “Greeks”.

Again, according to inscriptions found in archeological digs the ancient Macedonians did share beliefs in some gods with the other people in the region including those living in the ancient city states. Sharing a common religion and believing in the same deity unfortunately is not a valid indicator of sharing a common ethnicity. Two people can speak the same language, share a religion and believe in the same God without being of the same ethnic origin. Take Christianity for example. Today we have hundreds of ethnicities living in Toronto, Canada who speak English, are Christians and believe in Jesus Christ. It would not only be wrong but

outright ridiculous to even think that all these people have a common ethnicity or somehow are ethnically connected because they share a religion.

The so-called “Greek gods” lived on Olympus (which by the way is in Macedonia) and were worshipped by many people. They were regional gods who belonged to the entire Balkans; not just to the “Greeks”. It is 19th century politics and Greek propaganda which turned the mythical gods of the Balkans into “Greek gods”.

3. The ancient Macedonians united the ancient “Greek” city states and spread the “Hellenic” language and culture to the known world.

This is a case of “Greeks” believing their own lies for so long that they forgot the truth. According to historic accounts;

“On August 2nd, 338 BC, in the shallow Cephissus River valley near the village of Chaeronea on the road to Thebes, the two opposing armies met face to face. On the north side stood Philip’s Macedonians with 30,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, the largest Macedonian army ever assembled. Among Philip’s commanding generals was his 18 year-old son, Alexander, in charge of the cavalry. On the south side, stood the allied Athenians, Thebans and Achaeans who assembled 35,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, the largest army ever assembled since the Persian invasion.

Closely matched, the armies clashed and while the battle ensued the Macedonian right flank fell back and began to retreat. Seeing the Macedonians weakening, the “Greek” allied general gave orders to push on and drive the Macedonians back to Macedonia. As the Macedonians retreated, the allied flanks broke rank and began the pursuit. Not realizing it was a trick, the allies found themselves surrounded and slaughtered by Alexander’s cavalry. When it was over, the majority of the allied army, including the elite Theban Sacred Band lay dead in the fields of Chaeronea.” [16]

Macedonia fought and defeated the so-called “Greeks” in battle and subjugated them from 338 BC until 206 BC when they were briefly liberated and again subjugated by the Romans. So, according to “Greek” logic, the Macedonians united the so-called “Greek” city states by subjugating and subordinating them under Macedonian control. By the same “Greek” logic we can conclude that Hitler too, in WWII, united the Europeans by subjugating them and placing them under German control.

As for spreading the so-called “Hellenic” language and culture, there is no evidence that the Macedonians exclusively did this for the sole purpose of honouring the “Greeks”. The Macedonians gave the world what the Macedonians had and considered to be of value. The Macedonians also took what they considered valuable and adopted it as their own. Unlike the so-called ancient “Greeks” who were xenophobic and loathed everything

foreign, the ancient Macedonians loved everything foreign and if it was of any value to them they did not hesitate to adopt it as their own.

It is difficult for modern Greeks to accept that everything has its time and that the so-called ancient “Greeks” ceased to exist a long, long time ago. It is difficult for them to accept the fact that; like the modern Macedonians, they are the product of evolution, of mixing and matching. It is difficult for them to accept that they are the children, at least in part, of the conquerors, invaders, settlers and plunderers that roamed the Balkans for the last two and a half millennium. It is difficult for them to accept the fact that they may not be the direct descendents of those “glorious Greeks” but mongrels of every race that visited the Balkans. It is easier for them to believe lies and fairy tales than face the fact that their grandparents and great grandparents may have been Albanian, Vlach, Turkish or Macedonian, yes Macedonian, the very same people they negate and insist don’t exist.

THE TRUTH

Modern Greece is a modern creation, a Great Power concoction. Britain and France in the early 19th century desperately needed an ally in the Balkans to protect their precious interests from Russia. Greece was created to prevent Russia from accessing Mediterranean waters, from spoiling Britain’s back yard. Macedonia’s partition and Greece’s gain have nothing to do with “historical rights” but plenty to do with loyalty to an ally. Greece did its job well in serving as a “guard dog” for Britain so it was rewarded with Macedonian lands. The rest are lies to keep the innocent and unaware tangled in arguments from which there is no escape.

If you don’t believe me ask yourself these questions;

1. How could the ancient Macedonians die off to the last one making them extinct and the so-called ancient “Greeks” survive?
2. How can all the modern Macedonians be “Slavs” that came to the Balkans during the 6th century AD and all the modern Greeks be “Hellenes” direct descendants from the ancient “Greeks”? Didn’t Greece in 1912, 1913 invade and occupy a fully populated Macedonia? What happened to those Macedonians? Did they turn into “Greeks” overnight? (Yes they did! In 1928 Greece declared to the world that it had a 98% “pure Greek” homogenous population).
3. How has Greece maintained all its territories “pure Greek” with a 2, 300 year old open border?
4. How is it possible in this day and age for Greece, a “newly created” state to be allowed to have 2,400 year old inheritance rights (without a shred of evidence to prove it) and evict

Macedonians from their lands on which they lived for more than 1,500 years?

Even by Greek accounts, Macedonians have lived in Macedonia since the 6th century AD, yet Greece is still evicting them. Greece is punishing Macedonians for being Macedonian! What do you think the name dispute is all about?

Like I said before, modern Greece is a newly created state modeled after the ancient city states with a 2,400 year old historical gap. Greece has usurped the ancient Macedonian heritage and Macedonian lands and will do anything to hang on to them including fabricating history and spreading BIG Greek lies. Macedonians are an obstacle to Greece's survival. The existence of Macedonians proves that Greece has lied all along and is now afraid that one day the crimes it has committed against the Macedonian people will be exposed. If Greece admits Macedonians exist, it will also have to admit that it has lied to the world and to its own people.

BIG Greek Lie # 18 - “Philip II United the Greeks”

(Some modern Greeks believe that King Philip II of Ancient Macedonia united the so-called “Greek” City States)

In spite of what we know today about the ancient Macedonians and the ancient City States, some Greeks still argue that King Philip II of ancient Macedonia did not subjugate the ancient City States but unified them instead. Some have even written to me declaring that Macedonia was another “Greek City State”.

It has become painfully obvious that some Greeks will cling onto what they believe and ignore all evidence to the contrary. Some have admitted that arguments can even be developed to prove night is day and day is night. I say good for them, if that is what it takes to keep Greece Greek so be it, but for all those who need evidence to prove the obvious here it is;

During one of their campaigns south of Olympus, Macedonians took prisoners and Alexander asked one of the women who she was to which she replied: “I am the sister of Theogenes who commanded our army against your father Philip, and fell at Chaeronea fighting for the liberty of Greece.”

If Philip and later Alexander were "unifying" the Greek City States then why were the so-called “Greeks” fighting for the liberty of Greece? Were not Thebans and Athenians and their allies fighting together for the holy soil of Hellas on August 2nd, 338BC at the sleepy village of Chaeronea? Fellow Hellenes, the Athenians and Thebans, fought against the Macedonians, the barbarians from the north.

If the Macedonians were “Greeks” then this would have been a civil war. If Macedonians were “Greeks” why did they not fight to safeguard “the holy soil of Hellas”?

When another Macedonian king, Archelaus (413 to 399 BC) attacked Larissa in Thessaly, Thrasymachus wrote what was to later become a “model oration” on behalf of the Larissans. Only one sentence has survived which reads as follows: “Shall we be slaves to Archelaus, we, being Greeks, to a barbarian?” If the ancient Macedonians were “Greek” then why did Thasymachus refer to them not only as barbarians but very much distinguished them from “the rest of the Greeks”?

What about Demosthenes and what he had to say about the Macedonians, particularly about Philip II? Modern day Greeks would like to dispatch off Demosthenes castigations of Philip II as political rhetoric, and yet Demosthenes was twice appointed to lead the war effort of Athens against Macedonia. He, Demosthenes, said of Philip that Philip was not Greek, nor related to Greeks but comes from Macedonia where a person could not even buy a decent slave.

Soon after his death the people of Athens paid him fitting honours by erecting his statue made of bronze. On the base of his statue the following famous inscription was carved: "If only your strength had been equal, Demosthenes, to your wisdom, never would Greece have been ruled by a Macedonian Ares". The actions of his contemporaries, the ancient "Greeks" speak much louder about Demosthenes' character than the words of any modern Greek. Demosthenes, in modern terms, was a patriot, not a crackpot politician as some modern Greeks would have us believe!

When news of Philip's death reached Athens, Demosthenes appeared in public dressed in magnificent attire and wore a garland on his head. The following is what was subsequently written about that moment in history: "For my part I cannot say that the Athenians did themselves any credit in putting on garlands and offering sacrifices to celebrate the death of a king who, when he was the conqueror and they the conquered had treated them with such tolerance and humanity. Far apart from provoking the anger of the gods, it was a contemptible action to make Philip a citizen of Athens and pay him honours while he was alive, and then, as soon as he has fallen by another's hand, to be besides themselves with joy, trample on his body, and sing paeans of victory, as though they themselves have accomplished some great feat of arms." [17]

If the Macedonians were "Greek" why did so many "Greeks" join the ranks of the Persians to fight against them? Weren't the Persians the worst enemies of the "Greeks"? If Alexander indeed fought the Persians to avenge the "Greeks" shouldn't the "Greeks" have willingly and voluntarily joined him?

"Darius' Greeks fought to thrust the Macedonians back into the water and save the day for their left wing, already in retreat, while the Macedonians, in their turn, with Alexander's triumph plain before their eyes, were determined to equal his success and not forfeit the proud title of invincible, hitherto universally bestowed upon them. The fight was further embittered by the old racial rivalry of Greek and Macedonian." [18]

For those who think Philip II "unified" the Ancient City States or the "Greeks" as some modern Greeks would like to call it, please read carefully the next quote. "Alexander meanwhile dealt swiftly with the unrest in Greece - not only did the Athenians rejoice at Philip's death, but the Aetolians, the Thebans, as well as the Spartans and the Peloponnesians, were ready to throw off the Macedonian yoke. "[19] If you read the quote carefully you would have noticed the word "yoke". The Aetolians, Thebans, Spartans, and Peloponnesians were ready to throw off the Macedonian yoke. Allow me to emphasize that when one "unifies" there is no "yoke" to be thrown off!

"Alexander also referred to his father Philip as conqueror of Athenians, and recalled to their minds the recent conquest of Boeotia and the

annihilation of its best known city.” [20] Allow me to also emphasize that when one “unifies” there is no “conquest”! Need I say more?

Apparently with some there is “need” so here are some more quotes (By Quintus Rufus “The History of Alexander”): “Men! If you consider the scale of our achievements, your longing for peace and your weariness of brilliant campaigns are not at all surprising. Let me pass over the Illyrians, the Triballians, Boeotia, Thrace, Sparta, the Achaeans, the Peloponnesians - all of them subdued under my direct leadership or by campaigns conducted under my orders of instructions”. When one “unites”, one does not “subdue” or “force submission” or “conquer” people.

“Starting with Macedonia, I now have power over Greece; I have brought Thrace and the Illyrians under my control; rule the Triballi and the Maedi. I have Asia in my possession from the Hellespont to the Red Sea.” [21]

According to Arrian in “The Campaigns of Alexander”, Alexander continues to speak to his Macedonians and allies: “Come, then; add the rest of Asia to what you already possess - a small addition to the great sum of your conquests. What great or noble work could we ourselves have achieved had we thought it enough living at ease in Macedon, merely to guard our homes, excepting no burden beyond checking the encroachment of the Thracians on our borders, or the Illyrians and Triballians, or perhaps such Greeks as might prove a menace to our comfort.” [22]

After reading the above, an unbiased reader or a reader who has no political agenda, would come to the conclusion that there is some doubt in the modern Greek belief that the ancient Macedonians were “Greek” and that King Philip II of Macedonia “unified” the “Greeks”. It should become obvious that Philip II fought the “Greeks” in battle and with his victory conquered and subjugated them and added them and their territories to his own growing empire. If indeed Philip and Alexander unified the so-called “Greeks” in that manner and by those tactics according to modern Greek logic, then they must also have unified the Illyrians with the Thracians, the Triballians, Maedians and every other tribe in Asia as far east as India.

THE TRUTH

It is time these modern Greek unbelievers either put their biased beliefs aside and face reality or admit that the only reason they insist the ancient Macedonians were “Greek” is to justify their occupation of 51% of Macedonian territories. Ancient Macedonians were as akin to the so-called ancient “Greeks” as modern Macedonians are akin to modern Greeks. The rest is “Greek logic” which should be classified as “Greek lies” and filed under the “ancient mythology” section called “Big Greek Lies”.

BIG Greek Lie # 19 - “4,000 years of Greek Civilization”

(Some modern Greeks believe in a 4,000 year existence of a so-called “Greek Civilization”)

4,000 year “Greek Civilization”? Very impressive! But, what is a “Greek Civilization”?

According to Oxford a civilization is “an advanced stage of social development” and civilized is “being brought out of barbarism, being made into a fully organized State, enlightened and refined”. According to Webster a civilization is “a social organization of high order, marked by the development and use of a written language and by advances in the arts and science, government etc., the total culture of a particular people, nation, period, etc.” and civilized is “to bring or come out of primitive or savage conditions and into a state of civilization, to improve in habits or manners.”

So “4,000 years of Greek Civilization” must mean “an advanced stage of Greek social development marked by the development and use of a written language and by advances in the arts and sciences, government, etc., the total Greek culture and Greek nation spanning for 4,000 years”.

4,000 years of “Greek” civilization? Indeed!

I have been accused (by Greeks of course) of “fabricating information”, “not including sources”, “telling lies”, “speculating”, “providing no conclusions”, “not making footnotes”, etc., etc., so for this article I will do my best not to fabricate information, include sources and refrain from doing all those things. In fact, in this article I will go one step further and provide you with direct quotes from Western authors.

“Although the Greek-speakers of Constantinople may have been beneficiaries of a rich cultural tradition associated with the Byzantine Empire, a position retained also through the church during Ottoman times, years before the concept of a Greek state (which was a product of Great power politics and a concerted effort to de-stabilize the Ottomans) ever existed, ‘the Greeks did not know who they were’”. [23]

“The ethnic mix of the Greek-speakers of the Ottoman empire (Greek was often learned as a second language by wealthier non-Greek people) was as diverse as any in the Ottoman Empire, possibly more. ‘The islands and the seafarers from the coastal regions were distinguished by their peculiar ethnicity, many were of mixed Albanian-Greek origin’. [24]

“The Koundouriotos, for example, the most powerful maritime family on the island of Hydra, who led a substantial faction during the war (of independence), were of Albanian origin’. [25]

“Although modern day Greek nationalists like to boast about how they never forgot their rich heritage and cultural icons, this next piece contradicts their theories. The 'Klephts' were the Greek equivalent of the Komiti or Hajduci, the warriors who championed the notion of a free nation. ‘The 18th century Greek scholar, Koumas, tells of a visit to one of the most influential Klephts, Nikotsaras (possibly of part Slavic descent, Niko-'tsar'-as). In order to show respect, Koumas addressed the Klepht leader as Achilles. Nikotsaras retorted angrily: 'What rubbish are you talking about? Who is this Achilles? Handy with a musket was he?'” [26]

“The philhellenes of America, Britain and Western Europe had called for a free Greek state in a romantic passionate attempt to bring to life the Hellenic culture of the past. Little did any of them know of what extreme changes had taken place in the region of what was once the Greek City States. ‘Naturally, many travelers and philhellenes were shocked at the Greeks’ lack of sophistication, and the ABSENCE OF A PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO THE HELLENES of their classical imagination. All came expecting to find the Peloponnesus filled with Plutarch’s men, and all returned thinking the inhabitants of Newgate more moral.’” [27]

“It was not only the resemblance, or lack of it but also the fact that ‘politically speaking the Greeks were Asiatics, and all their oriental ideas, whether social or political, required to be corrected or eradicated, before they could be expected to form a civilized people upon civilized European principals’. [28]

So much for the cradle of European civilization”. [29]

“As it is clearly obvious the Greek nation had many divisions and diversities within that had to be addressed before they could start telling the world that they are the descendents of the ancient Hellenes. Unfortunate though it may be, the modern-day Greek has more in common genetically with the Albanians, the Latin speaking Vlachs and the Turks than with ‘Plutarch's men’”. [29]

“The inherent instability of the Balkan Peninsula—located as it is at the crossroads of invading Turks, migrating Slavs, and colonizing powers from western or central Europe (Venetians, Austro-Hungarians)—has bequeathed a bewildering amount of cultural confusion to Greece.”
(Britannica)

“One of the most vexing questions concerning the history of medieval Greece has been that of the extent to which the indigenous “Hellenic” population survived and brings with it the question whether this term can properly be used of anything other than a cultural (as opposed to ethnic or racial) identity. The archaeological data, certainly, can offer answers only in terms of cultural similarities and differences, so that the question, as it has been traditionally expressed, of a Hellenic ethnic survival, cannot be answered. The issue must be explored in the context of the influx of large numbers of Slavs during the later 6th–8th centuries as well as the

migration across Greece of nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoral groups such as the Vlachs from the 10th or 11th century and the Albanians from the 13th century. Although the evidence of place-names suggests some lasting Slavic influence in parts of Greece, the evidence is qualified by the fact that the process of re-Hellenization that occurred from the later 8th century seems to have eradicated many traces of Slavic presence. Evidence of tribal names found in both the Peloponnesus and northern Greece suggests that there were probably extensive Slavic-speaking populations in many districts; and from the 10th century to the 15th century Slavic occupants of various parts of the Peloponnesus appear in the sources as brigands or as fiercely independent warriors. Whereas the Slavs of the south appear to have adopted Greek, those of Macedonia and Thessaly retained their original dialects, becoming only partially Hellenophone in certain districts.” (Britannica) [29]

“For Christians of the early and middle Byzantine worlds, the terms Hellene and Hellenic generally (although not exclusively, since in certain literary contexts a classicizing style permitted a somewhat different usage) had a pejorative connotation, signifying pagan and non-Christian rather than ‘Greek’” (Britannica)

“Canning (a British politician, 1812-1862) had planned to head off Russia's advance, not by direct opposition, but by associating her with England and France in a policy of emancipation, aimed at erecting national States out of the component parts of the Turkish Empire. Such States could be relied upon to withstand Russian encroachment on their independence, if once they were set free from the Turk.. The creation of the Kingdom of Greece was the immediate outcome of Canning's policy”. [30]

“To me, philhellenism is a love affair with a dream which envisions 'Greece' and the 'Greeks' not as an actual place or as real people but as symbols of some imagined perfection”. [31]

“Further back still beyond the War of Independence, when the modern nation-state of Greece came into being for the first time, the whole concept of Greece as a geographical entity that begins to blur before our eyes, so many and various were its shapes and meanings. But if geography can offer us no stable idea of Greece, what can? Not race, certainly; for whatever the Greeks may once have been, ..., they can hardly have had much blood-relationship with the Greeks of the peninsula of today, Serbs and Bulgars, Romans, Franks and Venetians, Turks, Albanians,...,in one invasion after another have made the modern Greeks a decidedly mongrel race. Not politics either; for in spite of that tenacious western legend about Greece as the birthplace and natural home of democracy, the political record of the Greeks is one of a singular instability and confusion in which, throughout history, the poles of anarchy modulated freedom has very rarely appeared. Not religion; for while Byzantium was Christian, ancient Hellas was pagan.” [32]

“The Greek nation-state was a product of western political intervention-'the fatal idea' as Arnold Toynbee once called it, of exclusive western nationalism impinging upon the multi-national traditions of the eastern world. By extension, therefore, at any rate in theory, it was a child of the Renaissance and of western rationalism...” [33]

“Its international use to describe the sovereign state that currently occupies that territory is merely a reflection of the fact that 'Greece' in this modern sense is literally a western invention” [34]

“Greek natural identity was not a 'natural development' or the extension of a 'high culture' over the region of Macedonia, although now it is frequently portrayed as so. The ideology of Hellenism imposed a homogeneity on the Macedonian region and its inhabitants”. [35]

“Modern Greek identity is based on an unshakable conviction that the Greek State is ethnically homogenous. This belief ... has entailed repeated and official denial of the existence of minorities which are not of 'pure' Hellenic origin. The obsession with Greek racial identity involves the distortion of the history of the thousands of years when there was no such thing as a Greek nation state.” [36]

“A sharp and brutal revolution altered the whole character of Hellas... It also involved a steep decline of civilized life and an almost total rejection of former values... The most striking change affected the ethnic composition of the people and resulted from the mass migration of Slavs into the Balkans which began in the sixth Century.” [37]

“What is the word for this obsessive Greek pseudo-relationship with their country's past (they even have a magazine, *Ellenismos*, devoted to the subject)? It is not quite pretentiousness. There is too much passion for that. No, the Greeks, the ancient ones, had a word for the modern Greek condition: paranoia. We must accept that Mr. Andreas Papandreu (Greek prime minister) and the current EC presidency are the sole legitimate heirs of Pericles, Demosthenes and Aristide the Just. The world must nod dumbly at the proposition that in the veins of the modern Greek ... there courses the blood of Achilles. And their paranoid nationalism is heightened by the tenuousness of that claim.” [38]

“The most usual ideological abuse of history is based on anachronism rather than lies. Greek nationalism refused Macedonia even the right to its name on the grounds that all Macedonia is essentially Greek and part of a Greek nation-State, presumably ever since the father of Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia, became ruler of the Greek lands on the Balkan peninsula ... it takes a lot of courage for a Greek intellectual to say that, historically speaking, it is nonsense. There was no Greek nation-State or any other single political entity for the Greeks in the fourth century B.C.; the Macedonian empire was nothing like the Greek or any other modern nation-state, and in any case it is highly probable that the ancient Greeks regarded the Macedonian rulers, as they did their later Roman rulers, as

barbarians and not as Greeks, though they were doubtless too polite or cautious to say so". [39]

"It is a striking fact that the leading defenders of Greek liberty at this time were largely Non-Greek. Koundouriotis was descended from the Albanian invaders of Greece in the 14th century, and spoke Greek only with difficulty. His principal colleague was John Kolettis, a Vlach who had been Ali Pasha's court doctor at Ioannina. One of the few leaders who maintained resistance far to the north of the Gulf of Corinth was the Souliote, Marko Botsaris, whose followers were largely Albanian. By a strange chance, it happened that two of the Turkish commanders-in-chief during the war, Khurshid Pasha and Muhammad Rehid Pasha (known to the Greeks as Kiutahi), were by birth Orthodox Christians, who had been converted to Islam for the sake of career in the Sultans service." [40]

"Greece included considerably fewer than half of those who regarded themselves as Greeks by virtue of their language, their religion, and (less plausibly) their race. It was easy to stir up agitation in favour of enlarging Greece's frontiers by a progressive extension of 'enosis' (union)". [29]

"Greek demographic continuity was brutally interrupted in the late sixth to eighth centuries A.D. by massive influxes of Avar, Slav and later, Albanian immigrants.....modern Greeks could hardly count as being of ancient Greek descent, even if this could never be ruled out." [41]

"Basically, the current historical 'narrative' of modern Greece, removes all diversity from its pages. The young modern Greek State legitimized its existence, at least to the Great-Powers that supported it in the day, by claiming it represented ancient Greece, at a time when there weren't any 'Greeks' to be found anywhere, and the 'Greek' language between the Church and anything vaguely resembling it on the ground was unintelligible.

Any opportunity to influence public opinion in modern Greece and abroad, about the Greeks being 'pure' and 'homogenous'...etc is enthusiastically seized upon by the Greek State. It is not hard to work out that this kind of 'lie' would not really be well received if it could be shown that Greece had a lot of diverse ethnic groups still living there. The removal of Latin from the Vlach and Slavic from the Macedonian, among other things, is part in parcel of this censorship. The modern Greek State censors and abuses all its 'minorities'. The Greek historical 'narrative' prospers only by hijacking different ethnic groups, removing their language, denying the 'differences', and literally inventing a complete new history for them. It's just plain crazy". [29]

"The Editor of The Sunday Telegraph argues that Greece has been ruthless in erasing traces of ethnic diversity, and suggests that the desperation of its actions, including the Greek claim to a monopoly of the classical past (in which all peoples of European origins have a share) can

be explained by the fact that the Greeks today are a mixture of Slavs, Turks, Greeks, Bulgars, Albanians, Vlachs, Jews and Gypsies”. [29]

“I watched the Koutsovlachi disappear in Thessaly over a period of twenty years. I remember the first time I went up there in 1957, I was stunned, it was another world--it was Rumania. Blond, blue-eyed women wearing incredibly beautiful costumes: white, with about twelve to fifteen inches of thick fringes at the bottom, in saffron, black, and ocher. And everywhere I went, there were ducks and geese, which I didn't see anywhere else in Greece. Ducks and geese and pigs--standard East and Central European farm culture. But I saw all of that disappear.

It's a pity because Greece has lost the Sarakatsani, it's lost the Vlachi, the Koutsovlachi, the Karagounidhes -- it's lost all these fascinating minority groups, and now people are getting up and trying to stop it, but they're about twenty years too late.” [42]

“According to anthropologist Roger Just, most of the nineteenth-century "Greeks, ‘who had so recently won their independence from the Turks, not only did not call themselves Hellenes (they learned this label later from the intellectual nationalists); they did not even speak Greek by preference, but rather Albanian, Slavonic, or Vlach dialects.’” [29]

“The obsession with Greek racial identity involves the distortion of the history of the thousands of years when there was no such thing as a Greek nation state. The early Slav invasions which reached far into the Peloponnesus and left Slav-speaking settlements well into the fifteenth century are conveniently ignored. So too is the fact that in the early nineteenth century the population of Athens was 24 per cent Albanian, 32 per cent Turkish and only 44 per cent Greek.” [43]

“No wonder the kodjabashis, the Peloponnesian notables, were disparagingly referred to as ‘Christian Turks’. One hero of the war of independence, Photakos Kyrysanthopoulis, said that the only difference was one of names: instead of being called Hasan the Kodijabashi, he would be called Yanni: instead of praying in a mosque he would go to church.” [44]

“The Academy was built with bequest from Simon Sinas, the hugely wealthy son of Georgios Sinas, a Hellenized Vlach whose family came from Moschopolis in Southern Albania, who made his fortune in the Habsburg Empire and was himself the donor of Theophilos Hansen's observatory (1843-6). [45]

And finally, some haunting final words for the Greeks:

In the 1830's an Austrian classicist called JJ Fallmereyer made a study of the South Slav migrations and concluded that “not only are the modern Greeks Slavs, but not a drop of pure Greek blood was to be found in the modern Greek State”. In Athens needless to say, his name is not much.

“Consequently the medieval and modern Greeks are not the descendants of the Greeks of Antiquity, and their Hellenism is artificial”. [46]

“Slavic blood, Albanian heroes, Pontian Orthodox Turks, Latin speaking Vlach politicians, assimilated Macedonians and Albanians not to mention the dozen other ethnicities? Is any one truly Greek today?” [29]

In the presence of company it is not how one sees himself or herself it is how others see them that counts. So, I dedicate this article to those Greeks who love to ridicule Macedonians feeling very smug, secure and confident in their place and proud of their 4,000 years of Greek Civilization. What they really don't know is that they are standing on a rotten foundation ALL built on Greek lies.

You can believe the myths and fairytales your propagandists and government feed you or you can look at the evidence and start thinking for yourselves. You may be standing on what appears to be a solid foundation on the surface, but in reality you are standing on thin ice which with the slightest shock will crack and crumble before you.

Ask yourselves, why do so many people dispute your past? Are they all propagandists paid by rich Skopjans who have nothing better to do with their money but cause you trouble? Or are they in pursuit of finding the truth and telling you something that you should know? You can't say ALL these people are Skopjan propagandists or accuse me of “fabricating information”. All the quotes given in this piece are written by western authors and I expect you will find them fair and impartial.

So, do you believe modern Greece is a unique nation that belongs to a 4,000 year old “Greek Civilization” like no other or do you believe your Government and benefactors have been feeding you a load of anachronisms (the representation of something as existing or occurring at other than it's proper time, Webster)?

THE TRUTH

The truth is Greece is a modern state created for the first time in 1929. Modern Greece just happens to be located where once upon a time a so-called civilization existed for a brief period. The only reason we know about it is because the people preserved their thoughts by writing them on rocks. It would be naïve to think that it was the only civilization in existence or that it miraculously survived for over 4,000 years.

Modern Greece was created for a specific purpose, to act as a barrier to Russia and fulfill the political desires and agendas of the 19th century Western Great Powers. To believe anything different is foolish and to infer that there exists a 4,000 year old Greek Civilization is simply a BIG Greek Lie.

BIG Greek Lie # 20 - “Macedonia was liberated in 1912, 1913”

(Some Greeks believe Macedonia was liberated from the Turks in 1912, 1913 and awarded to Greece)

“If the Greek State truly valued the thinking and methods of Socrates they would question themselves and their actions” (Dedo Kire)

Close to a century ago in 1912 under the guise of liberation, Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria invaded Macedonia and with the help of the Macedonian people, evicted the Turks. But instead of helping the Macedonian people create their own independent State, Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria occupied Macedonian territories and fought one another each to gain more land for themselves. Then in 1913 they partitioned Macedonia into three pieces under the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest. After placing artificial borders where such borders never existed before, each State treated its newly acquired territory as its own and began to colonize it. Those inhabitants who refused to recognize their new overlords were exterminated or evicted; those who remained passive were assimilated. This process was halted due to World War I but was resumed after the 1919 Treaty of Versailles when the Great Powers with minor changes sanctioned the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest making the partition permanent.

These are historic facts that cannot be denied. One only needs to examine events during the signing of the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest to understand the conditions under which Macedonia was partitioned.

Some Greeks today, ignoring historical evidence, insist that the 1912, 1913 Balkan conflict was about liberating ancient territories that belonged to Greece some 2, 400 years ago.

If that were true then;

1. Why did Greece agree to sign the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest allowing Serbia to gain some 38% of Macedonia’s territory and Bulgaria 11%? Why did Greece NOT demand, at least for the record, historical rights while signing the Treaty?
2. On what basis are these claims made? By now it should be well known to every Greek that there was no “Ancient Greece” or “Ancient Hellas”. If you don’t believe me then try and find an ancient source that speaks of “Greece” or “Hellas”. How can Macedonian territories belong to “Ancient Greece” when such a name never existed?
3. If the word “Greece” or “Hellas” did not exist 2,400 years ago, how then can modern Greeks claim that “Macedonia was Greek”?

Was it not the Macedonians, Philip II and his son Alexander III who conquered the City States during the Battle of Chaeronea in 336 BC? Or do some Greeks still believe Philip II and Alexander III united the Ancient City States?

Here is a quote to refresh their memories:

“On his return trip home from a battle with the Scythians Philip’s convoy was attacked and his booty was lost to Thracian Triballians. During the skirmish, Philip suffered a severe leg injury, which left him lame for life. After returning home he spent several months recovering.

While Philip was recovering, the City States to the south were making alliances and amassing a great army to invade Macedonia. On hearing this, Philip decided it was time to meet this aggression head on and end the treachery once and for all. On August 2nd, 338 BC, in the shallow Cephisus River valley near the village of Chaeronea on the road to Thebes, the two opposing armies met face to face. On the north side stood Philip’s Macedonians with 30,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, the largest Macedonian army ever assembled. Among Philip’s commanding generals was his 18 year-old son, Alexander, in charge of the cavalry. On the south side, stood the allied Athenians, Thebans and Achaeans who assembled 35,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, the largest army ever assembled since the Persian invasion.

Closely matched, the armies clashed and while the battle ensued the Macedonian right flank fell back and began to retreat. Seeing the Macedonians weakening, the allied City State general gave orders to push on and drive the Macedonians back to Macedonia. As the Macedonians retreated, the allied flanks broke rank and began the pursuit. Not realizing it was a trick, the allies found themselves surrounded and slaughtered by Alexander’s cavalry. When it was over, the majority of the allied army, including the elite Theban Sacred Band lay dead in the fields of Chaeronea. Philip erected a statue of a lion to commemorate the sacrifice of the Theban Sacred Band who upheld their tradition and fought to the last man.

Ancient City State and Roman historians consider the battle of Chaeronea as the end of City State liberty, history and civilization.” [47]

After reading the above, do you still believe Philip and Alexander united the Ancient City States? Would it not be more correct to say “the Macedonians by way of war conquered and enslaved the Ancient City States thus making them the property of Macedonia”?

The question still remains; if not by historical rights then by what right does 51% of the present Macedonian territory belong to Greece?

I can understand if a successor of the Roman Empire such as Italy, which held Macedonia for two centuries makes claims that Macedonia is Italian based on the fact that Macedonia once belonged to the Roman Empire or that Macedonia is Turkish based on the fact that Macedonia for five centuries belonged to the Ottoman Empire, but as God is my witness, I cannot fathom this Greek logic on how Macedonia could possibly be Greek?

“One can fool some of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time”

I am not the only one looking at this “Greek Logic” as a bit unusual:

In Plutarch “The Age of Alexander” on page 212 we read: "While Demosthenes was still in exile, Alexander died in Babylon, and the Greek states combined yet again to form a league against Macedon. Demosthenes attached himself to the Athenian convoys, and threw all his energies into helping them incite the various states to attack the Macedonians and drive them out of Greece." Why didn't Plutarch include Macedonia as part of Greece if Macedonia was Greek?

In M. Cary's book “The Geographic background of Greek and Roman History” (ISBN 0-313-23187-7) we find the following constituent parts of Greece: Epirus, Acarnania, The Ionian Isles, Aetolia, Thessaly, The Spercheu Valley, Locris, Phocis, Boeotia, Euboea, Attica, Aegina, Corinth, Achaea, Elis, Arcadia, Argolis, Laconia, Messenia, The Greek Archipelago, Crete, The Outer Isles, The Northern Aegean, The East Aegean, Rhodes. It makes one wonder why M. Cary omitted Macedonia from the general description of Greece? Perhaps for the same reason the German classical scholar Bursian failed to include Macedonia in his otherwise comprehensive geographical survey of Greece “Geographie von Griechenland”. [48]

On page 91 in "Hellenistic World" by F.W.Walbank we find: "It is necessary, in any assessment of the role of Macedonia in the Hellenistic world to bear in mind that although our sources naturally, being Greek or based on Greek writers, lay their emphasis on Macedonian policy towards Greece, Macedonia was in fact equally a Balkan power for which the northern, western and north-eastern frontiers were always vital and for which strong defenses and periodic punitive expeditions over the border were fundamental policy." [49]

In N.G.L.Hammond's book "The Macedonian State" on page 141 we read: “Philip and Alexander attracted many able foreigners, especially Greeks, to their service, and many of these were made Companions.” [49] If Macedonians were Greeks why did Hammond call them foreigners?

In Eugene Borza's "Makedonika" on page 164 we read: "Alexander seems to have imported troupes of performers from Greece." [49] How does one import Greeks from Greece into Greece?

In Plutarch's "The Age of Alexander" on page 264 we find: "Thebans countered by demanding the surrender of Philotas and Antipater and appealing to all who wished to liberate Greece to range themselves on their side, and at this Alexander ordered his troops to prepare for battle." [49] Were they also going to liberate Macedonia, i.e. Alexander's homeland, because according to modern Greek logic “Macedonia is Greek”?

In Quintus Rufus's "The History of Alexander" on page 50-1 Alexander, in a letter, responds to Darius: "His Majesty Alexander to

Darius: Greetings. The Darius whose name you have assumed wrought utter destruction upon the Greek inhabitants of the Hellespontine coast and upon the Greek colonies of Ionia, and then crossed the sea with a mighty army, bringing the war to Macedonia and Greece." [49] Shouldn't Alexander have said "Greece and Greece"?

In Arrian's "The Campaigns of Alexander" on page 292 Alexander speaking to his officers: "...But let me remind you: Through your courage and endurance you have gained possession of Ionia, the Hellespont, both Phrygias, Cappadocia, Paphlagonia, Lydia, Caria, Lycia, Pamphylia, Phoenicia and Egypt; the Greek part of Libya is now yours, together with much of Arabia, lowland Syria, Mesopotamia, Babylon, and Susia;..." Point of interest: "The Greek part of Libya is now yours?" How can the Greek part of Libya become Greek again, if it already was in Greek hands to begin with? [49]

"Only in Thessaly and Boetia, and outside Greece, in Macedonia, was there cavalry worthy of the name." [49]

"The Peloponnesian War was a fratricidal war among the Greeks, a fact that was not altered by the intervention of foreign powers, Macedonia, for instance and later the Persian Empire." [49]

In Agnes Savil's book "Alexander the Great and his Time" on page 180 we find: "For a time Hellenism revived when Demetrius of Bactria, half Macedonian, half Greek, tried in 187 B.C. to reclaim the Indian empire of Alexander." Should we assume that there is such a person who is half Greek and half Greek? [49]

In Quintus Rufus's "The History of Alexander" on page 188 we find: "Accordingly, one festive day, Alexander had a sumptuous banquet organized so that he could invite not only his principle friends among the Macedonians and Greeks but also the enemy nobility." "Macedonians and Greeks?" Not Greeks and Greeks? [49]

In Arrian's "The Campaigns of Alexander" on page 294 we read: "Gentlemen of Macedon, and you my friends and allies [Greeks], this must not be. Stand firm; for well you know that hardship and danger are the price of glory, and that sweet is the savor of a life of courage and of deathless renown beyond the grave." [49]

In Quintus Curtius Rufus's "The History of Alexander" on page 195 regarding the trial of Hermolaus we find: "As for you Callisthenes, the only person to think you a man (because you are an assassin), I know why you want him brought forward. It is so that the insult which sometimes uttered against me and sometimes heard from him can be repeated by his lips before this gathering. Were he a Macedonian I would have introduced him here along with you - a teacher truly worth of his pupil. As it is, he is an Olynthian [Greek] and does not enjoy the same rights." [49]

In Robert A. Hudley's paper "Diodoros 18.60.1-3: "A Case of Remodeled Source Materials" dissects "Eumenes": "We then come upon

Eumenes' second observation that, being a foreigner, he has no right to exercise command over Macedonians. At no point, however, in Diodoros' prior narrative does Eumenes' Greek origin excite animosity among the Macedonians. More important, Eumenes does not see his foreign origin as an impediment to accepting the dynasty's offer of a supreme command in 18.58.4 and he proceeds to exercise that authority in 19.13.7 and 15.5 without any qualms on his part that he is not a Macedonian. Eumenes's foreign origin does become an issue at one point among the commanders of the Silver Shields." [49]

If the Ancient Macedonians themselves did not consider themselves to be kin to the people of the Ancient City States why should we?

Again the question still remains; if not by historical rights then by what right does 51% of the present Macedonian territory belong to Greece?

Allow me to summarize:

1. The name "Greece" or "Hellas" did not exist in ancient times
2. The Ancient Macedonians did not consider themselves in any way, shape or form to be akin to the people from the Ancient City States
3. The Ancient City States were conquered and enslaved by the Macedonians; not united
4. The Ancient City States belonged to the Macedonians for nearly two centuries and not the other way around
5. No "Greek" or "Hellenic" State ever existed before 1829

So how can Macedonian territories in 1912, 1913 be liberated by Greece when those lands NEVER belonged to Greece?

THE TRUTH:

The truth is Macedonia NEVER belonged to Greece. The 1912, 1913 conflict was simply a land grab perpetrated by Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria and sanctioned by the Great Powers to feed the imperial appetites of those three States. The so-called "historical" claims were an afterthought designed to keep the innocent and uninformed tangled in a web of BIG Greek Lies.

NO! Macedonia is NOT and NEVER was Greek. Macedonia BELONGS to the Macedonians! In the words of William Gladstone "MACEDONIA FOR THE MACEDONIANS"!

Conclusion

Macedonians have no problem with Greeks calling themselves “Greeks” or “Hellenes”, with their fabricated ethnicity or with the idea that they see themselves as the “direct descendants” of the so-called “ancient Greeks”. The problems Macedonians have with Greece and some Greeks, is that while Greeks see themselves as a “real identity” they deny the Macedonians, they’re claiming Macedonians doesn’t exist. Even though it is well known that Greece is an artificial 19th century creation, Greece itself dares to imply that the Macedonian Nation is artificial. Why?

Greece can only claim legitimacy by denying what is real and imposing its own will and artificiality.

The Greek lies documented in this book were created a long time ago as part of a violent nation building process designed to destroy what was old and replace it with something even older, “Hellenism”. Unfortunately the massive Greek effort to assimilate Macedonians and other indigenous cultures into the “Hellenic” fold has not worked. After nearly a century of trying to eradicate everything that is Macedonian, Macedonians still exist and are now in the process of reasserting their identity not only in Greece but worldwide.

With the passing of time and the lack of objection from the world community, Greek lies generated long ago are well ingrained in the modern psyche and are still peddled as truth to this day. The world does not know the truth about Greece.

With the publishing of “The Little Book of BIG Greek Lies” we hope to give you an insight on what it is to be a Macedonian. You will experience the conditions Macedonians have to endure even outside of Greece where the Greek government and Greek institutions have no control. We will show you how Greece was made.

Imagine you are a Macedonian and what life would be like for you living inside Greece. Imagine yourself living in Greece three or four generations ago and what you would have to endure under the repressive Metaxa era when your Macedonian language is banned and made illegal. Now imagine yourself living in Greece and speaking no other language other than the one that was made illegal.

To my Greeks opponents: “*What would you have me say?*” Should I keep silent and hope that (after how many centuries?) Greece is going to willingly do something for the Macedonians? Would you find comfort in my silence while Macedonians are denied their existence, not to mention their rights?

I have said it before and I will say it again, “When Greece comes clean with the Macedonians and gives them their rights to exist as people, we will stop airing your dirty Greek laundry in public.”

A Macedonian

What will you say to a stranger when they ask, “What is a Macedonian?”

We are often confronted with this question but have we ever given it a second thought? There are people in this world that genuinely don't know who the Macedonians are especially since their neighbours have been busy trying to erase them, to make them extinct like the Dodo bird. But in spite of all odds they are still here and thriving.

It has not been easy or fun being Macedonian, far from it; it has been darn hard. They don't know why fate has dealt them such a lousy card but they know they can't argue with fate. Some say they are the “cursed” children of Alexander the Great, cursed for the violence and destruction he befell upon the world. Others say they are too passive and meek and let others bully them and push them around. But deep down in their hearts Macedonians know that their kindness, no matter how misconstrued, will not go unrewarded. Isn't it the bible that says “the meek shall inherit the earth”? The bible also says “violence begets violence” heed for those who wish them ill.

Today's Macedonian reminds me of Ancient Macedonia before she became mighty and glorious. They had their neighbours who raided their homes every fall after the harvest, took their crops and burned their villages to the ground without giving it a second thought as to the hardships and pain they caused them leaving them hungry and cold to endure the winter. But they were agile and industrious determined to survive and rebuild their livelihood to again have it destroyed the next fall. Such was life in the distant past until they became passive and offered their enemies to “take what they wanted” and leave them be and not burn their villages down. Macedonians never raised a hand in anger then and they have not raised one today. It has been the Macedonian way.

But there is only so much even Macedonians could take!

It's a different world today but they still have their enemies who wish them ill. Their enemies may not raid their crops and burn their villages down but their deeds are just as hurtful. Today their enemies have taken Macedonian lands, denied the Macedonians their language, changed their names and denied their existence. They stole their history robbed them of their heritage and made them feel like strangers in their own homes. Such is life today as Macedonians remain passive and offer themselves to their enemies.

Again, there is only so much Macedonians can take!

As it was then in the distant past it shall be again in the future, a Macedonian will be born who will declare “this is no way for my people to live” and will rise and make Macedonia glorious and her people proud again. As it was then when there was no greater honour than being a

Soldier of Macedon it shall be again when there will be no greater pride than being Macedonian.

So, what do you say to a stranger when they ask, “What is a Macedonian?”

A Macedonian is a human being who has suffered and is still suffering for what she or he is.

To be Macedonian is to have been robbed of your dignity, land and identity.

To be Macedonian is to have witnessed your enemy burn your home and kill and torture your relatives.

To be Macedonian is to have endured and lived through other peoples wars who fought on your native soil.

To be Macedonian is to have survived attempts at integration, assimilation and denationalization.

To be Macedonian is to have endured pain, humiliation, denigration and persecution.

To be Macedonian is to have felt isolation, forced expulsion and the pain of having to leave your beloved home, Macedonia without wanting.

To be Macedonian is having to never speak your mother tongue in public on your native soil.

To be Macedonian is to have been told you don’t exist.

To be Macedonian is to have to endure being called derogatory names like Slav, Skopjan, Fyromian, Gypsy, Bulgarian, Old Bulgarian and many more, but never Macedonian!

To be Macedonian is to have to endure listening to your enemies telling you who you are and who you are not.

To be a Macedonian is to have absolutely none, not even the basic of human rights on your own native soil.

To be a Macedonian is to have more freedom and rights in foreign lands than in your own native Macedonia.

To be Macedonian is to have your enemies tell you who you are and force it upon you if you don’t agree.

So, why would anyone want to be Macedonian?

As it was said before and it will be said again and again, “Macedonians want to be Macedonian because that is what they are, Macedonian”. There are no choices to being Macedonian just as there are no choices to being born human. Macedonians accept who they are just as they accept who others are, even if they are their enemies. There is a deep, almost spiritual feeling to being Macedonian. To be Macedonian is to have willingly accepted the burden of being Macedonian.

Why do Macedonians put up with this suffering?

This is the same as asking, “Why did Christians put up with their suffering?” Why did the Christians put up with abuse and torture for so many years before they became strong? Did their enemies fear them? Were they jealous of them? Did they loathe them for their strong spiritually? Did they detest them for their strong faith in their God?

Macedonians put up with suffering because, above all, they are true to themselves. Macedonians can be no other, just as a goat cannot be a sheep no matter how hard it tries. Suffering after all makes them stronger and more appreciative of who they are. Macedonians are an enduring people that see their troubles like a passing storm. Experience has taught them that patience is a virtue and like a violent storm comes and goes their suffering too will pass. They have learned to hope that the future will bring a better day.

So the next time you meet a Macedonian know that he or she exists. She or he comes from a rich culture that has a long standing unique tradition, a rich history like no other, an unshakable faith and pride in being Macedonian and has long suffered for being Macedonian.

DECLARATION

In response to Greek misrepresentations claiming the ancient Macedonians were Greek, we as concerned Macedonians declare the following:

We, the indigenous people of Macedonia who have lived in Macedonia for centuries:

- Were present in Macedonia before the Ottoman Turks invaded the Balkan Peninsula,

- Existed as a people before the Greek, Bulgarian and Serbian states were formed,

- Opposed the forcible occupation and illegal partition of Macedonia by Greeks, Bulgarians and Serbs, in 1913 by the Treaty of Bucharest and,

- Witnessed the mass expulsion of Macedonians and the subsequent resettling of foreign people into our homeland,

We further declare that:

1. By virtue of our distinct language and customs and by our efforts to liberate Macedonia during the Ilinden uprising of 1903, our national character is different from that of Greeks, Bulgarians and Serbs.

2. As the indigenous people of Macedonia we have a separate national identity. As such, we have the right to identify ourselves as we feel, to declare our own ancestry and to ascribe our own history.

3. Being indigenous to Macedonia and having lived in the region for centuries, it is only reasonable that we have the right to call ourselves Macedonians, our language Macedonian and our nation Macedonia.

4. We, as a distinct people, have the right to assert ourselves and be awarded recognition as Macedonians by all states and peoples who respect universally accepted human rights treaties and laws.

5. Prior to the invasion and partition of Macedonia in 1912-1913, the unique national character of the indigenous people of Macedonia was misrepresented by Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia. After Macedonia's partition the Macedonian people witnessed the destruction of our ancestral villages and churches, suffered under brutal assimilation practices, ethnic cleansing, confiscation of property, population transplantations, torture, rape, murder, humiliation and systemic state discrimination.

6. To this day Greece and Bulgaria still refuse to recognize a distinct Macedonian nation within their borders. We, the indigenous people of Macedonia, call on the Greek and Bulgarian States to acknowledge us and grant those of us living within their borders status as a national minority with full rights and privileges in accordance with international norms.

7. We, the indigenous people of Macedonia, demand an apology from the Greek, Bulgarian and Serbian governments for our past and present maltreatment.

We, the indigenous people of Macedonia, also demand that:

a) All Macedonians born in Greece and Bulgaria, who were forcibly expelled because they were of Macedonian ethnic heritage, be re-instated as citizens in their respective countries and compensated for their suffering and material losses.

b) All confiscated properties be returned to their rightful owners or their heirs.

c) All perpetrators who have committed internationally recognized criminal acts against the Macedonian people be brought to justice.

NOTES

[1] See John Shea, chapter 4 "The Great Ethnic Mix of Greece", pages 77 to 96, in his book "Macedonia and Greece, The Struggle to Define a New Balkan Nation".

[2] Pages 83 and 84, John Shea, "Macedonia and Greece, The Struggle to Define a New Balkan Nation".

[3] Aleksandar Donski pages 146 to 173, "The Myth about the so-called 'Greek Mythology'", in his book "The Descendants of Alexander the Great of Macedon".

[4] <http://public.kubsu.ru/~usr02898/sl45.htm>
http://www.carantha.net/anthony_ambrozic.htm
http://www.unet.com.mk/ancient-macedonians/lac_a.htm
<http://www.mymacedonia.net/aegean/hellenization.htm>

[5] This text, with the Greek title "Apologia Enos Anthellina", is the introductory essay of the eponymous collection (1997, Opera Publishers) as translated by the staff of Odyssey magazine. A few paragraphs have been omitted.

Hemlock is no longer prescribed by the city of Athens-there are, however, other poisons. As the century comes to a close, the accusations weigh heavily on my mind, and I feel the need to unburden myself. Especially since most of the attacks leveled against me concern things I have never said. I am charged with harboring ideas, attitudes, and theories in which I have never believed. And so, once more, I will attempt to clarify what I do in fact believe, so that those who wish to judge me will be able to base their case on facts.

Let me say up front that I feel no guilt, and that I use the term "Apology" ironically-with Socratic irony, if you will. And I deliberately omit placing quotation marks around the word anti-Hellene. They are unnecessary. I consider the term an honorable title, won by many worthy Greeks. As Nietzsche once wrote (I don't remember where and haven't been able to find it again), it was the anti-Germans who proved to be the best Germans.

To whom do we refer as an anti-Hellene? As a rule, to Greeks or foreigners who write (or say) unpleasant things about Greeks, who criticize us, or express opinions we don't like.

Regarding the Greeks who are placed in this category: Is it really so difficult to understand that such a critic does his country a greater service than the most enthusiastic cheerleader?

The foreign anti-Hellene is another story. He may be a journalist who reports or editorializes, or an academic who propounds a theory. He is called an anti-Hellene from the moment we disagree with his opinions, regardless of how appropriate or how accurate. Fallmerayer would be considered an anti-Hellene, even if his theory of the descent of Greeks from Slavs were proved 100 percent correct. (Indeed, then he would be considered even more culpable).

In truth, this categorization of people into Philhellenes and anti-Hellenes is, at best, naive. Journalists, politicians, and (especially) academics, historians, etc., rarely think or act on the basis of emotion. (I very much doubt that Fallmerayer hated Greeks). Nor are they such racists as to be prejudiced against entire peoples. The ludicrousness of the label becomes even more obvious when one of those supposedly confirmed anti-Hellenes (Henry Kissinger, for example), comes out pro-Greece on the Macedonian issue, whereupon he is immediately credited with a philhellenic outlook.

Dimou the Anti-Hellene

In 1975 I published *The Misfortune of Being Greek* and immediately became 1. well-known, 2. of questionable intellectual gravitas (because the book became a runaway best-seller), and 3. the bearer of the two titles I have carried since, as does a camel her humps: "the author of *The Misfortune*" (so what if I've written 40 other books), and "Dimou the anti-Hellene".

It didn't happen right away. The first reactions to the book were positive. Greeks, still dazed from the dictatorship, initially embraced a text laden with bitter truths. But soon this introspective phase passed, foreigners were blamed for everything ("puppet" dictatorship), and *The Misfortune* became bothersome. Even more bothersome was a seven-page interview I gave in 1977 to the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. This interview, which once again stated bitter truths, was deplored and distorted by the Greek press, while the original text was never published in Greece. I actually managed to land in the line of fire of the Left and the Right, being christened an anti-Hellene by both.

But my reputation wasn't really sealed until the period 1991-1996, during which I rebelled against the eruption of Greek nationalism. The daily newspaper *Kathimerini* promptly expelled me from its ranks. Meanwhile, *The Misfortune* was added to the Index of Anti-Hellenic Publications.

Yet now as then, I maintain that this document was born out of a love (possibly an excessive one) of Greece. If anyone reading it failed to perceive how much I feel for this country, then surely he must be biased. Satire is always born of pain-the satirist is a sensitive person who

transmutes his disbelief and rage into bitter sarcasm. Nevertheless, there are many who maintain that I do not love my country, that I would rather live elsewhere, (e.g. Western Europe), and that this is the cause of my discontent.

It is true that I would rather live elsewhere. But I would prefer that other place to be here. That's what I've fought for-to spread and to cultivate the positive elements of Western (i.e. Greek) civilization in our country. For 20 years, in addition to my books, I have made use of all forms of media in order to publicize my views. I got involved with newspapers, television, and magazines -all of which, in the eyes of the intellectuals, called my credibility into even greater question. And it was all pretty much in vain. In the past few years, waves of nationalism, religious fundamentalism, racism, anti-westernism, and isolationism have overcome our country. As I read the various studies analyzing the opinions, the outlooks, and the attitudes of Greeks, I think how pointless all my efforts have been. The brainwashing by the Helleno-centrists is insidious and unremitting. In this land, the words "Europeanist" and even "modernizer" have come to sound like insults, or, at least, like ironies.

Maybe my leaving would have been, on a personal level, the simplest and most effective solution. I wasn't forced to stay. I had managed (after much effort), to acquire the financial means to live abroad. As for the other requirements (foreign languages, familiarity with foreign lifestyles), I was already prepared. And I do admit that there were moments when I seriously considered it. It saddens me when I compare my experience to that of western European friends and classmates, who have never had to confront the cannibalistic and small-minded behavior that prevails in our spiritually cramped marketplace.

I stayed, though, and fought. Because what mattered to me wasn't just to live in a decent place-but to improve the one I lived in. I believe that this country has a lot to gain from proper modernization and a lot to learn from the West. Because the West is not something foreign-it is a continuation of our culture. What Greece should aim for is a synthesis of the positive aspects of our neo-Hellenic identity and heritage with the positive qualities of the West. (At the moment, we do exactly the opposite: combine the least flattering elements of our national character with the worst the West has to offer).

I won't discuss here my love for Greece-for the past 40 years I've shown it through my writing, and illustrated it with my photographs.... But for me love doesn't mean uncritical praise, blind adherence to myths and mirages, jingoism and demagoguery. As the old Greek saying goes, He who loves, troubles. Real love is revealed by how much we grumble and rage at all that's wrong and crooked in our land.

Greece gets to me so much that I've devoted seven books and countless other writings to her. In *Diary of a Heat Wave*, I wrote: "This country is

killing me. You know how we say 'flood victim,' or 'earthquake victim'-well, I'm a Greece victim. Greece-with all her beauty and all her absurdity-has run me over like a steam engine."

The Pitfalls of Fanaticism

My image of my country isn't based on an idea, but on a feeling, an affection for the familiar. I consider my homeland neither better nor more important than any other land; I merely love it-the way I love my neighborhood, because it's my corner of the world. But, just as I would never dream of turning my neighborhood into an ideology and killing for it, I don't see any reason to do the same in the name of the nation, and to sacrifice people for a false idol.

I love Greece the way someone loves his house and the people close to him. But that doesn't mean I'm blind to her faults, just as I don't consider my own house and my own relatives better than other people's. Even as a child I used to wonder at fanatics-whatever their cause. And I still find it hard to understand how someone can become a sworn supporter or a blind follower. It always surprised me when I saw grown-ups argue over political parties or soccer teams, and stop speaking to friends because they backed the "wrong" group.

Personally, I never felt such a passionate need to belong. Perhaps as a result of the fanaticism I witnessed as a child (I was nine years old at the time of the "Dekemvriana"-the December 1944 clashes between rightists and leftists), I developed the opposite passion: that of fanatic disengagement. As a consequence of this, I've now become, at the age of 60, completely marginalized. (In Greece, unless a political party, clique, media group, religious or soccer organization backs you, you might as well not exist).

Still, in spite of all this, I'm not in the least inclined to alter my opinions. I'm merely tired of arguing-especially with people who haven't the slightest interest in what anyone else has to say. In Greece, the minute you express a view you get stuck with a label (e.g. supporter of the West), and, subsequently, anything you say is considered more or less predictable. The supporters of your group will automatically agree with you, while those on the opposite side will disagree, without even knowing what you said. A Panathinaikos fan will never discuss the views of an Olympiakos supporter. As a result, there's never any real dialogue. What with all the slogans, the labels, and the stereotypes, the intellectual scene is coming to seem more and more like a soccer stadium.

Know Thyself

Greeks' contemporary self-image is built upon a series of myths. The myth of continuity. The myth of the racial and cultural superiority of our ancestors (and, thanks to continuity, our own). The myth of being special. The myth of racial and religious purity. The myth of the genius of the Greek race.

The existence of these myths provokes certain predictable reactions. Thus, my typical compatriot, while proud to be Greek (95 percent, according to polls) will abuse and censure his countrymen at the slightest provocation. And this, naturally, because they fail to live up to the expectations and the demands created by the myths.

This explains why we're simultaneously the greatest eulogizers and the worst critics of ourselves. Depending on our point of view (and on the moment), we either denigrate Greeks or sing their praises. (In the former case we usually refer to them as "Romious"). Naturally, both attitudes are wrong. Instead of applauding or cursing, it would be better to stop, and think. Calmly, and rationally. (But I forget myself. Rationality is also a Western, imported Evil for our Helleno-centric intelligentsia. So much for Aristotle!)

The "Evil" West

Manichaeism (i.e. the contrast between black and white) is one of the ills that corrupts us. There is no such thing as pure evil or pure good, and what's called for isn't antithesis, setting one against the other, but synthesis. Yet we've become so used to this game of tug-of-war, that when we don't have enemies, we invent them. Thus, for example, we have the "evil" West, or our "bad" neighbors.

It's amazing how much we oversimplify and distort certain things, in order to transform them into enemies. We have a distorted image of Europe. But Europe contains everything, including us. It contains rationalists as well as anti-rationalists, nationalists, cosmopolitans, and romantics. There is no tendency in Greek thought today that doesn't have its European counterpart-maybe even its progenitor. The West today includes the East, which has had such a profound influence on the art and thought of this century. It encompasses the whole range of schools of thought, from rationalism to non-rationalism, from Descartes to Derrida. Even Dostoyevsky-the anti-Westerner, the slavophile-is a fundamental part of the Western tradition.

Actually, it's a mistake to speak of Western culture. What the West represents now is a world culture, one that has integrated all the cultures that came before it. It's the first culture in history that has kept and still cultivates all tendencies and traditions. Older cultures, on the other hand, always began by uprooting those that came before them, or those that were

different (as the Christians, for example, destroyed the monuments and writings of the ancients).

Of course, as soon as we hear talk of a world culture, we're gripped by the anxiety of integration, of losing our identity. It's an understandable reaction for a small nation. But there really isn't anything to fear. Centuries of coexistence within the same national bounds didn't turn the Sicilians into Milanese, the Bavarians into Prussians, the Welsh into English, the Provençales into Normans. So why will our culture be swamped? The spread of Coca-Cola and blue jeans doesn't necessarily go hand in hand with the spread of cultural values. (Most anti-Americans I know wear jeans). Concurrent with the internationalization of culture is the opposite tendency, an obsession with difference, which, as witnessed in the former Yugoslavia, can be defended with far too much zeal. At no other time in history has humanity been so sensitive to the rights of minorities-and at no other time have local traditions been so respected and nurtured. The new international culture can ensure both unity and difference.

I don't know how bad the West is for us. I do know that we owe it a lot. From our independence (no one ever mentions Navarino in 1827, when Western navies helped salvage our battle for independence) to our love of ourselves.

If any Western import has harmed Greece, it's been neither rationalism, nor the political system, nor technology. It's been the idea of the continuity of Hellenic civilization.

Oddly, this idea, which today is waved about like a banner by anti-Westerners, is an entirely Western notion. Foreign "Philhellenes" uncovered our ancient monuments, and it was they who taught us to believe that we were the immediate successors to the ancients, responsible for the continuation of their traditions. The Romioi of the 18th century didn't feel Greek-much less of the ancient variety. They were a Balkan nation, originating from the admixture of many races and cultural traditions, with their own attitudes and ways of thinking. Out of the blue, the Western "Philhellenes" (and their mimics, our own "scholars") stuck a helmet on their head, dubbed them keepers of the ancient flame, and injected them with a passion for purity.

Pure race, ergo, pure language. How this nation has suffered in the name of purity! It was a first in the history of linguistics: the creation of an artificial language, a retro-dialect. All impurities were rooted out, place names were changed, history was distorted-for the sake of proving...what? That Greece was not a Balkan nation like the others, but a racially pure aristocracy, not only of the region but of the whole world. Like certain pseudo-bluebloods who fake their family trees to prove their superiority.

But you don't become worthy on the strength of your lineage, but on the basis of your achievements. The son of a Nobel prizewinner has no birthright to a Nobel prize. The ancient Greeks belong to the whole world,

especially to those who study them. An English classicist at Oxford is nearer to the ancients than an ignorant Greek.

Yet even today our intellectuals call the Greeks "the aristocracy of nations." Even today many (most) Greeks believe in their hearts that we are a chosen people. This is why we're always complaining about the way we're treated. Like spoiled children, we demand of everyone their unconditional support-even when we're wrong. And we insist on believing that we're always being cheated, ignoring the fact that we happen to be the only country in the region to have doubled its size in the last 150 years. We've woven endless conspiracy theories so as to absolve ourselves of responsibility, and to cast the blame on others instead. Our belief in our superiority shows up clearly in our racist attitudes. What Greek doesn't consider himself better than the Turk, the Albanian, or the "Gypsy-Skopjan"? Go ask a Greek educated audience about Turkish civilization-they're certain to chuckle.

Well, this Greek, this Greek who asks the world "Do you know who I am?", who shouts at demonstrations, who denies the Other his basic human rights, who has conducted pogroms against his Jewish (in the past) and Muslim (today) compatriots, who ends up shooting (by mistake) the Albanian and the gypsy; this Greek, I don't like. And on this point I remain, incurably, an anti-Hellene.

History as a Western

Not a day goes by without the papers ranting about some anti-Hellenic threat. The Turk coughed, the American scratched himself-woe to us! Since my childhood, Greece's history has seemed like a (cheap) Western movie, one in which the Greeks were, always and unequivocally, the Good Guys. The Bad Guys were always changing. There was "the threat from the North," then from the East, then it was the North again, and back to the East. When I was a child, the word "Bulgarian" was a curse, more so than "Turk." It was forbidden for Greeks in northern Greece to design themselves as "Macedonian." "Albanian" then had a neutral tone; today it's become a threat.

Sooner or later we need to free ourselves from this Balkan mindset. That in which, in the words of the writer Fred Reed, "one man's national martyr is another's war criminal, where one country's founding myth is another's tale of woe and usurpation." Here, the ideological exploitation of history has become state-of-the-art. I was amazed to realize, on reading the history books of West European nations, that there are histories that aren't based on competition and enmity, that don't indulge in nationalism and hate. Where neighbors are even regarded with sympathy.

But do you dare compare Greeks with other nations? Well, yes, I do, and we would do well to forget our uniqueness in misfortune as well.

History isn't a comforting mother who you can run to when things go badly-who will pet you and show you special favor. All the nations on earth have been through bad times-there's no sense in competing to see who can feel the most sorry for themselves. It's time we grew up!

And above all we have to stop living history as Western. Every morning the papers scream (like the little kid in the movies), "Look out! He's right behind you!" Every day the same fear: What are the Bad Guys up to? (As if they do nothing else from morning till night but conspire against us.) When will we realize that in history, as in life, people can't be divided up into the purely good and the purely bad. That the greatness of nations isn't measured in myths or fears, but primarily by their capacity to overcome problems of the present (and of the past, when it becomes present). Consider what it took for the French and the Germans to reconcile their differences-differences reinforced by centuries of bloody warfare. Each time I read about the European Community's French-German axis, I remember my first French teacher, and how she used to curse the "Boches" with rabid fury.

The One & Only "National" Issue

I don't consider the Aegean or the Macedonian issues "national issues." Nor even the economy and public administration problems.

For me, the one and only national issue is the one posited by poet Dionysios Solomos: The nation must equate the national with the true. If this isn't done (and it can't be achieved from one day to the next-it requires years of effort, mainly in education) then we won't be able to stand up in today's world. We'll always be in a limbo between whining and belligerence. We'll spend billions-in blood and sweat-on useless armaments. We'll continually be quarreling with our neighbors, and with the whole world. We'll see paranoid schemes and conspiracies everywhere. Like a sick, maladjusted person, we'll spend our lives wavering between hysteria and depression.

Who will dare to teach Greeks the truth about their history? (Including, for example, the aforementioned pogroms...). About the history, and culture, of their neighbors? Who will dare to teach them the truth about certain "national issues" (like the FIR Athinon, our irrational airspace)? When will Greeks succeed in seeing themselves as they really are: a nation like all the others, with abilities and weaknesses, with talent (often more than this land can hold), and insecurities, capable of both generosity and meanness.

Beyond the overhaul of the economy, I preach the revamping of our attitudes. Am I really an anti-Hellene? Or do I love Greece? The future will decide.

You can learn more about Nikos Dimou at his website:
http://www.ndimou.gr/index_en.asp

[6] "I shall review the evidence for the existence of a modern Macedonian ethnicity with reference to my recent work in a Macedonian ethnic community in Steelton, Pennsylvania. Both the gravestones in a local cemetery and US census reports from the early twentieth century provide evidence that émigrés from Macedonia who lived and died in Steelton in the early twentieth century considered themselves to be distinct from their Serbian and Bulgarian neighbours" (Eugene Borza).

[7] For evidence on the existence of Macedonians throughout the ages (that is before Tito's time) see <http://www.oshchima.com/hdocs.htm>

[8] Page 198, John Shea, "Macedonia and Greece The Struggle to Define a New Balkan Nation", Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co., 1997).

[9] Page 930, Columbia Encyclopedia, Third Edition 1963, New York and London.

[10] Allen Upward, "The East End of Europe". London, 1908, pp. 204-205.

[11] cf. Voss 2003: 116-117.

[12] Voss 2003a: 62-64.

[13] Voss 2003d.

[14] Greek Infantry Lieutenant Dim. Kamburas, Armensko, January 25, 1925.

[15] George F. Kennan. "The Other Balkan Wars" A 1913 Carnegie Endowment Inquiry in Retrospect with a New Introduction and Reflections on the Present Conflict. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment For International Peace, 1993.

[16] Stefou, Chris. History of the Macedonian People from Ancient times to the Present. Toronto: Risto Stefov publications, 2005.

[17] Page207 Plutarch "The Age of Alexander".

[18] Page119 Arrian Book II - Battle of Issus, "The Campaigns of Alexander".

- [19] Diod. 17.3.3-5, Quintus Rufus “The History of Alexander”.
- [20] Page 41 Quintus Rufus “The History of Alexander”.
- [21] Page 277 Quintus Rufus “The History of Alexander”.
- [22] Page 294 Quintus Rufus “The History of Alexander”.
- [23] Page 26, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers”, by Misha Glenny.
- [24] Page 23, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers” by Misha Glenny.
- [25] Page 25, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers” by Misha Glenny.
- [26] Page 31, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers” by Misha Glenny.
- [27] Page 33, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers” by Misha Glenny.
- [28] Page 32, “The Balkans, Nationalism, War and the Great Powers” by Misha Glenny.
- [29] Many thanks to Paul for his research for this piece. I also want to thank Soldier of Macedon for his contribution and commentary in some of these articles.
- [30] Page 372, Trevelyan, “British History in the 19th Century”.
- [31] Page 12, Holden, David, “Greece without Columns”.
- [32] Page 23, Holden, David, “Greece without Columns”.
- [33] Page 28, Holden, David, “Greece without Columns”.
- [34] Page 29, Holden, David, “Greece without Columns”.
- [35] Page 94, Karakasidou, Anastasia N., “Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood”.

[36] Simon McIlwaine

[37] N. Cheetham

[38] The Sunday Telegraph, London, March 27, 1994.

[39] Eric Hobsbawn

[40] C.M. Woodhouse

[41] Anthony Smith

[42] A Point of Contact: An Interview with Nikos Stavroulakis, by Peter Pappas in "The Greek American" (January 9, 1988).

[43] Simon McIlwaine, "The Strange Case of the Invisible Minorities, Institutional Racism in the Greek State", International Society for Human Rights, British Section, Dec 1993.

[44] Page 42, "A concise history Of Greece", Richard Clogg.

[45] Page 79, "A concise history Of Greece", Richard Clogg.

[46] Robert Browning, "Greece Old and New", edited by Tom Winnifrith and Penelope Murray, the Macmillan Press, London 1963.

[47] Page 67, Stefou, Chris. History of the Macedonian People from Ancient times to the Present. Toronto: Risto Stefov Publications, 2005.

[48] Quotes provided by Dedo Kire.

[49] Excerpts taken from The Greeks and Persians, from the sixth to the fourth centuries; edited by Hermann Bengston; published by Delacorte Press, New York.

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