

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A VITAL ISSUE FOR HELLENISM: THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM OF GREECE

A study by a special interparty Committee of the Greek Parliament has identified a serious Demographic Problem in Greece. The Proceedings (PRACTIKA VOULIS) of February 11, 1993 tell the story. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)-births in a year in terms of the implied average number of children per woman over a lifetime-and Population Growth or Rate of Natural Increase (RNI)-birth rate minus the death rate-in Greece are at non-replacement levels, at 1.4 and 0.1 per cent respectively. Furthermore, there is steady aging of the population, with people over 65 now at 13 per cent of total.

At the year 2015 the population of Greece will be reduced by 500,000, at about 10,200,000. Greece has the lowest TFR from all other countries in the Balkans. However, Italy and Spain have a TFR of only 1.3. In sharp contrast all the countries and the two regions of the Middle East (including Israel) maintain a high TFR (from 2.9 for Israel to 7.9 for Gaza) and high natural increase of their population (from 1.5 for Israel to 5.0 for Gaza). Their total population in 1993 was 264 million and it is projected to increase at 2025 to 576 million (high estimate). Complete data for each nation and the two regions are found in the attached Tables (Population and Vital Rates Middle East).

There is high TFR and high Population Growth in Turkey, with 3.6 TFR and 80,000,000 people expected at year 2010. Albania by 2025 will have over 12,000,000 people (Including those in Kosovo, Skopje and Bulgaria), which will be 20 per cent more than the population of Greece. At 2025 Greece is projected to have 10,500,000 people and Turkey is projected to have 98,700,000.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? The problem in Greece is very low fertility, immigration and relatively high mortality. Those are the three factors, that control the growth of populations and Demography (a Greek word), means the study of populations.

Some of the specific reasons for negative population growth in Greece are: Extensive use of contraception and the liberal use of abortions and sterilization, as the means of family planning.

The precise effect of Mediterranean anemia (800,000 to 1,000,000 people in Greece are afflicted) is unknown. Immigration (1954-1971) accounted for 1,439,000 people leaving Greece, mainly young couples with children. Some people returned during the energy crisis but not enough to make an impact.

Motor vehicle fatalities and injuries are a scandal, with 4,000 deaths and 38,000 injuries per year. Traffic control is very non-ineffective, most accidents are head-on collisions, and the young





refuse to wear protective helmets, despite the existing rules.

In American terms it means 100,000 deaths(4,000 X 25) from motor vehicle accidents per year. However in America with the known astronomical number of motor vehicles and the endless freeways, there were only 41,467 fatalities in 1991.

Socioeconomic factors cited by the Greek Parliament as responsible for low fertility are: Housing shortage(35% of people live in small apartments); the low per capita income(\$6230 per year), coupled with high costs of education and childbearing; the high expectations among the young; THE LACK OF DAY CARE CENTERS; the loss of traditional values concerning marriage, family and children; the excessive materialism and consumerism, the drug abuse, the AIDS epidemic and other factors.

The fact remains that Greece in conformity with the rest of Europe has entered the second Demographic transition, marked by a drastic shift in behavior and attitude towards progressiveness, hedonism, individualism, and away from family, altruism and childbearing.

The Greek Government has adopted a good number of pronatalist measures for a third and fourth child; special bonuses, retirement benefits, leave of absence; housing allocation, rent subsidies, scholarships, day care centers, tax exemptions and other privileges. All this activity will be financed from the Greek National Budget every year. In my view these measures alone and the way they will be financed, will not solve this very expensive Demographic Problem.

This is why, after ten months of study, I have independently prepared a Preliminary Proposal and have submitted it (on 11-12-93), to the Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, George Papandreou. THE KEY POINTS OF MY PROPOSAL ARE THE FOLLOWING:

The Global definition of the Demographic Problem (this is a Problem for the people of Greek origin everywhere, not only for the people of Greece); emphasis on fund raising within and outside Greece to support the program; a mammoth educational campaign for the people of Greece and for the Greeks of Diaspora; the formation of a task force of top experts from Greece and from the United States, to finalize a Comprehensive Plan of action.

Wellness programs and Preventive Medicine measures especially for Cancer and Cardiovascular disease in Greece; draconian rules for traffic control and reduction of motor vehicle accidents; the boosting of fertility and the reduction of abortions, with financial incentives; the development of a network of day care centers, financing of marriage at early age, together with generous subsidies for mothers and children; reduction of spinsterhood with financial support to young women; development of a National Center for injury control, similar to the Center in Atlanta Georgia; development of a Private Institute (not a Public Institute, which





will be another bureaucracy) as the center for Demographic Research, Education and fund raising.

Pursuing reverse migration from abroad with financial and other incentives;pursuing counterurbanization (people going back from the cities to rural areas) by boosting smaller cities in the provinces;pursuing the development of new water resources with reservoirs,to be used during the dry summer months for irrigation and recreation.

The development of expertise on Gene therapy which will help people with Mediterranean anemia.Young Greek doctors should be send to United States right now, to study Gene Therapy.

Attract Greek-American and other retirees from the United States to settle in Greece, by providing appropriate incentives.

Finally,as an American Professor,I wish to harvest the enormous scientific talent that exists in America on behalf of Greece.We have here about 60 first class Population Centers and Demography Departments at various Universities and about 186 Fertility Centers, with a large number of experts.

IN SUMMARY: I am proud to be the first to raise the alarm within the Greek-American Community.The negative Population Growth at 0.1 per cent and Total Fertility Rate(TFR) of 1.4, in Greece, should be unacceptable and should be reversed.

THIS IS THE GREATEST CHALLENGER TO THE GREEK NATION SINCE MARCH 25,1821.

For the Greeks to do nothing or to do little,about this problem now, it will mean the collective suicide of the Greek Nation beyond the year 2050. Thus,I am proposing a long-range strong pronatalist plan (as a supplement to the program adopted by the Greek Parliament),which if accepted by the Greek Government, will achieve brisk Population Growth in Greece. My plan will combine scientific talent from Greece and from the United States and will utilize the vast resources and ingenuity, of all people of Greek origin, no matter where they live.

This is the only effective answer to the vital Demographic Problem of Greece. Now is the time and now is the hour,to take action, because...

"Life is short;and the art long; and the right time an instant".

Hippocrates (460-370 BC)

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# POPULATION AND VITAL RATES, MIDDLE EAST

--1993-----2025--

Country/--Population--TFR--N.I--Population  
Territory (Thousands) %p.y. (Thousands)

Total	264,715	5.1	2.9	576,426
BAHRAIN	548	3.9	2.5	1,051
EGYPT	58,292	4.6	2.3	104,607
GAZA	694	7.9	5.0	1,889
IRAN	62,847	3.9	3.5	161,913
IRAQ	19,162	7.0	3.7	52,615
ISRAEL	5,270	2.9	1.5	7,994
JORDAN	3,824	6.0	3.6	8,281

KUWAIT	1,698	4.4	3.0	4,574
LEBANON	3,552	3.7	2.1	6,134
OMAN	1,664	6.7	3.5	4,872
QATAR	449	4.3	2.1	736
S.ARBABIA	17,502	6.8	3.2	48,749
SYRIA	13,463	7.1	3.8	36,529
TURKEY	60,705	3.6	2.2	98,744
UAE	2,096	4.9	2.8	3,200
W.BANK	1.600	5.7	4.0	2,980
YEMEN	11,319	7.5	3.2	31,558





# POPULATION AND VITAL RATES-BALKANS

P O P U L A T I O N				
millions				
Country----	TFR---	1993----	2010----	2025
GREECE	1.4	10.5	10.2	10.5
ALBANIA	3.0	3.3	4.0 (12)	4.5
FYROM	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.4
BULGARIA	1.6	9.0	8.9	8.7
YUGOSLAVIA	2.0	9.8	10.5	10.9
ROMANIA	1.6	23.2	24.0	24.4
BOSNIA	1.7	4.0	4.2	4.3
CROATIA	1.7	4.4	4.6	4.7
SLOVANIA	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3

## POPULATION AND VITAL RATES-BALKANS (Cnt.)

Country---	Land Area-P/Sq.M--	PDY--	N.I. (a%)	
GREECE	50,250	207	990	0.1
ALBANIA	10,580	314	35	2.0
FYROM	9,930	198	70	1.0
BULGARIA	42,680	210	--	-0.2
YUGOSLAVIA	26,940	366	141	0.5
ROMANIA	88,930	261	693	0.1
BOSNIA	19,740	203	90	0.8
CROATIA	21,830	203	990	0.1
SLOVANIA	7,820	256	267	0.3







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#### THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM OF GREECE

##### NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ZERO POPULATION GROWTH OR OF POPULATION DECLINE.

1. Perpetual aging of the population. The proportion of older people rises dramatically (18 percent by the year 2010).
2. Low population density in certain areas of the country.
3. Negative effects on the armed forces.
4. Health care expenses increase considerably (8 to 15 times higher for older people).
5. Low ratio of working to retired people, which will threaten the social security system, and retirement and pensions schemes, which are funded by current taxation of economically active people.
6. Inadequate labor force.
7. Increased unemployment.
8. Increased migration from other countries which creates a unique separate set of problems (cultural, linguistic, racial, ethnic).
9. Weakening of family and culture.
10. Geopolitical and Geocultural problems.

#### THE ADVANTAGES OF STRONG POPULATION GROWTH

1. Larger labor force.
2. Better economies of scale and production.
3. Larger internal market.
4. Larger Gross National Product (GNP).
5. Easier financing of defense.
6. Wider Demographic power.





7. Larger military establishment which is essential in military high-tech world.
8. A larger population can build more easily the infrastructure of industry, transport, and communications, all of which support national defense. Even in the atomic age only large dynamic populations have tax bases broad enough to support the defense systems, which form the basis for national power and security.
9. Technological advancement and leadership requires a critical mass of scientists found only in a sizable and thriving population. America had twice the population of Japan in 1941 and Japan got crushed.
10. If opposing nations have equal scientific, educational, material and industrial advancement, the population level makes a major difference.
11. This is why a sharp demographic imbalance between traditional competitors is extremely dangerous, especially when living next to each other.
12. The population size plays a heavy role in international affairs, where military power and wealth are the chips in the game the nations play.
13. China and India are nuclear powers because they are demographic giants. Both have per capita income of less than \$300. However, due to the cumulative weight of their economic production, their large potential armies and the fact that it is not possible for an enemy to subdue such large populations, they are accorded national status and power, well out of proportion to their low economic standing.
14. Israel is a special case. It has 5.3 million people and is surrounded by 100 million hostile or potentially hostile neighbors. However it has a Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.9 and a brisk immigration to Israel. It enjoys strong support from America (\$1000 per citizen), and 30 per cent of the GNP for defense, and requires military service up to the age of 49 and has in addition an excellent officers corp. Israel is not a model for other nations. Furthermore, there are also 6 million Jewish people in America who provide enormous support to Israel.
15. Specifically for Greece which is the outpost of Europe and is adjacent to the Western\Moslem fault line, population growth is imperative for her survival and the survival of her cultural heritage.

With an aging and static population the enormous cultural heritage of Greece will be in dire jeopardy due to plagiarism and outright annexation by its rivals.





"The Black Athena" atrocity of Martin Bernal and the Book by the late President Ozal, claiming the Homer was a Turk, constitute a chilling foretaste of things to come. All people of Greek origin know that "drios pesousis, pas anir xylevete".

16. Does the size of the population influence cultural potency and durability? YES IT DOES. Population size has an effect on power, on politics, and economics and all these factors interlink with culture, with values and with customs and traditions.

The small and weak nations imitate the strong ones in several ways. Big and wealthy nations export goods and services that directly or indirectly transmit culture, values and customs and ideas.

SUMMARY: The 1.4 fertility rate and 0.1 per cent population growth are and should be unacceptable for Greece. Under the present Demographic parameters the doubling time for the population of Turkey is 32 years, and for Greece is 990 years.

A strong and comprehensive Pronatalist Program for Greece is both imperative and unavoidable. By a strange twist of historical forces Greece is confronted by a Geopolitical and Geocultural predicament. The Greek nation has no other choice but to implement a powerful Pronatalist policy.

