

ABOUT GREECE

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This book has been prepared by the Laboratory of Political Communication
at the University of Athens.

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of Professor Ch. Chryssanthakis and Professor M. Spourdalakis.

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responsibility of the individual authors.

The cover illustration is a detail from the left part of "Laiki Agora" (Street Market),
triptych by P. Tetsis (National Gallery Collection)



This rich compilation of essays gives the facts on modern Greece but also aims to capture the pulse and the dynamism of a country that has recently been rediscovered by the international community. When the last edition of “About Greece” went to press in 2004, a small but proud country was about to impress the world with its excellent Olympics Games.

Today, almost three years later, Greece has built on that glorious moment in its modern history: she progresses and prospers thanks to bold reforms, brisk extroverted growth, and an active international presence. It is no wonder, therefore, that everything About Greece seems more promising than ever.

Theodoros Roussopoulos
Minister of State



Always admired for its Ancient History and beautiful landscape, Greece is now respected for the whole spectrum of its comparative advantages. From its status as an energy hub, a financial center and overall gateway to Southeastern Europe to its leading role in shipping, Greece counts an increasing number of accomplishments and an increasing number of friends. A beacon of stability and prosperity in its neighborhood, Greece is perceived by its partners as an invaluable strategic asset. “About Greece” provides great evidence that, although never complacent, Greece will continue to live up to expectations.

I wish to sincerely thank Professor A-J. D. Metaxas and his team, as well as Reader at the London School of Economics, Christos Hadjiemanuil, for the tireless work in coordinating and editing this edition.

Panos Livadas
General Secretary of Information



“About Greece” contains useful information on contemporary Greece. The aim of this volume is not to praise the country but rather to present an objective overview as possible. Moreover, this is a precondition for the involvement of the Laboratory of Political Communication of the University of Athens. For each topic we relied upon authors who we knew would be able to present a justified analysis. We thank all of them—scholars and specialists—warmly, for their collabora-

tion and for the quality of their contribution. I am grateful to the General Secretary of Information Mr Panos Livadas and notably the diligent staff of his Secretariat whose co-operation was impeccable. In particular, I would like to thank Dr Ioannis Panagiotopoulos, director of the General Secretary’s of Information office, the press attachées Ms Ioanna Katsigianni, Ms Eleni Moutsaki, Ms Margarita Adamou, as well as the press attaché Mr Lazaros Kozaris. Likewise, I would like to thank Christos Hadjiemmanuil, Reader at the London School of Economics for his significant contribution to the realisation of this project.

To the extent to which the cover illustration of this volume had to reveal something immediate and complete about the country, I believe that the choice of the work of Panagiotis Tetsis was the best possible one. I wish to express my gratitude both to the painter and the National Gallery for permitting us to use a part of this painting, “Laiki Agora” (Street Market).

My colleagues at the University of Athens, Professor in Political Sociology Michalis Spourdalakis, and Professor in Public Law Charalambos Chryssanthakis contributed their expertise during every stage of the project. I thank them both.

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Professor A-J. D. Metaxas