



TRACING OUR
EUROPEAN SPIRIT
Erasmus+ 2017 - 2019

The Triumph of Democracy

GREECE FROM 1974 UNTIL TODAY
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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Transnationalism (1974)

- ▶ After the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in July 1974, comes the fall of the junta of Colonels. After 7 years of dictatorship, democracy is restored to Greece.
- ▶ The constitution of the country is defined by a referendum as **Presidential Parliamentary Democracy**.
- ▶ Konstantinos Karamanlis is appointed as the first Prime Minister.
- ▶ In 1975 the new Constitution of Greece is voted on.
- ▶ A period of development is inaugurated for the country with policies that determined the current state of Greece.



Greece's accession to the EEC (1979-1981)

- ▶ On 28 May 1979, the Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis signs the Treaty of accession of Greece to the European Economic Community on the patio of the Zappeion Palace.
- ▶ An historic moment in modern Greek history, a decisive decision on Greece's progress in the post-politicization.
- ▶ Karamanlis appreciated that accession to the EEC would ensure economic growth, and also contribute to stabilizing democracy, which was still extremely sensitive.



Period of Two-party System (1981-2012)

- ▶ During this long period, two parties dominate and alternate in the political scene of the country: the Conservative Party of Mr Karamanlis "New Democracy" and the "PanHellenic Socialist Party" (PASOK) by Andreas Papandreou.
- ▶ In 1981 A. Papandreou with the slogan "Change" rallied around him social and political forces, which gave him the impetus to bring about broad reforms in the field of education, health and the economy.



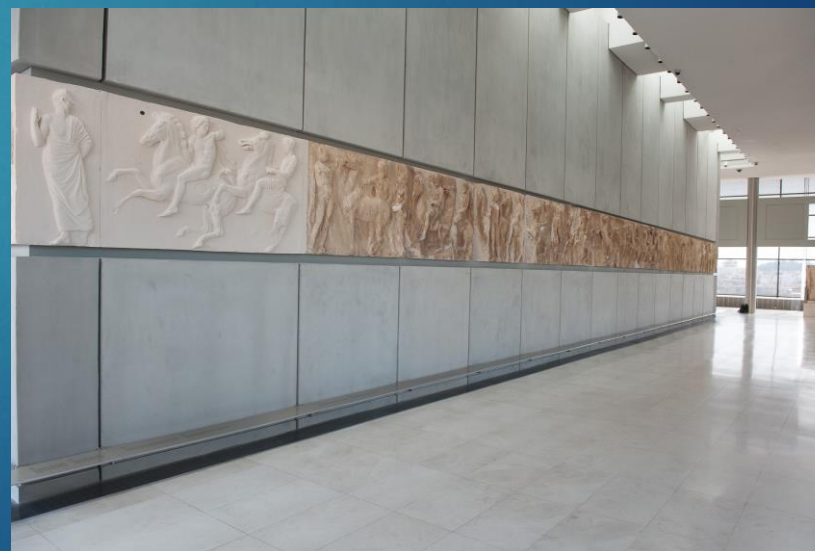
Request for the return of the Parthenon marbles

- ▶ Melina Mercouri laid the foundations for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece from the British Museum.
- ▶ Melina decided to make the returning of the sculptures a life goal in 1960, when during the filming of the movie "Phaedra" the British asked for payment to let the Greek crew film the sculptures.
- ▶ Twenty-two years later (1982), as Greek culture minister, she raised the issue in Mexico at the UNESCO International Conference of Ministers for Culture.



Acropolis Museum

- ▶ The new building of the museum opened to the public on 21 July 2009.
- ▶ In 2013 the British daily Sunday Times ranked the Acropolis Museum in 3rd place on the list of the 50 best museums in the world.
- ▶ One of the main arguments of the British Museum for the non-return of the marbles – the absence of a museum in Athens – now does not exist. The marbles have not been returned yet.



Greece's accession to the E.M.U.



- ▶ Costas Simitis' government put the country in Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), after a decision by the Council of Ministers of Economy and Finance of the European Union, at the summit held in Portugal on 19 and 20 June Of 2000, it was decided to join our country in the euro area.
- ▶ The integration of the country's full membership into the European family came with its accession to the common currency in 2000. The euro has replaced a number of national currencies, including the drachma, in the hope that the euro and the common European policy in all sectors will boost the economies of the Member States.

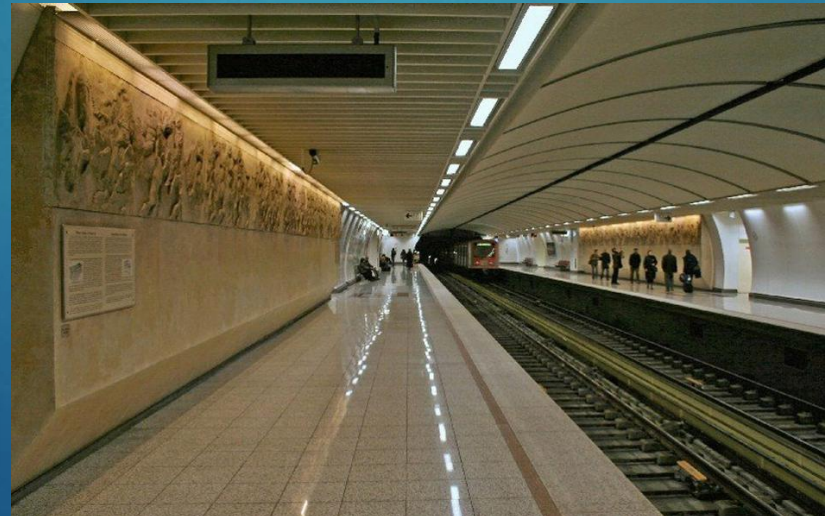


Infrastructures

- ▶ Apart from the Acropolis museum, very important infrastructure projects take place in the decades of '90 and '00.
- ▶ The most important of these major infrastructures were the Attiki Odos, the airport "El. Venizelos" and the Attica Metro, the Rio-Antirrio Bridge and Egnatia Odos motorway.



The airport of Athens is located in the first three airports of the world rankings, according to the results of the annual AirHelp Score.



Tourism in Greece

- ▶ Melina Mercouri said that the "heavy industry" of Greece is tourism. Greece is an important tourist destination and attraction in Europe since antiquity, for its rich culture and history, which is largely reflected in the 18 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which are among the most in Europe and the world, as well as its long coastline, its many islands and beaches.
- ▶ Greece attracted 33 million visitors in 2018, making Greece one of the most visited countries in Europe and the world.
- ▶ Athens, which is the capital of the country, as well as Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, Corfu, Crete and Halkidiki are some of the main tourist destinations in the country.



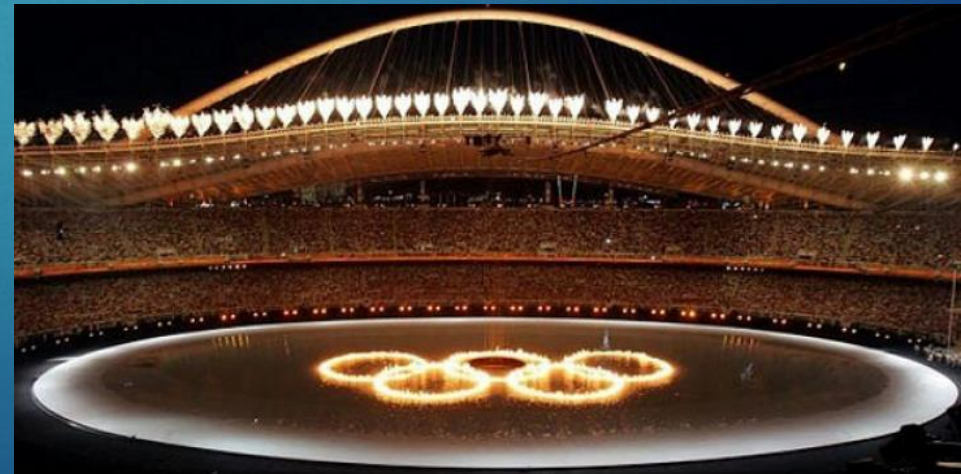
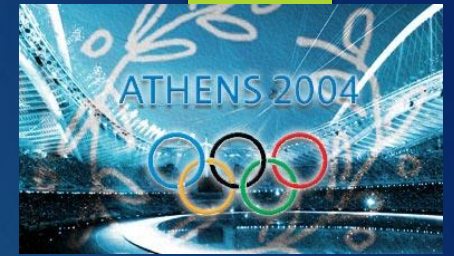
Distinctions in sports

- ▶ Greece has significant distinctions in the field of sports, with more important:
- ▶ Conquest of Euro Basket in 1987 and 2005 as well as second place in the Mundobasketball of 2006.
- ▶ Conquest of Euro 2004.
- ▶ Medals in Olympic Games and world championships, mainly in athletics and weightlifting.



Olympic Games 2004

- ▶ The assumption of the Olympic Games of 2004 from the city of Athens caused feelings of excitement and emotion in the vast majority of Greeks. But it created a huge responsibility as the races should combine the perfect organization with their historical connection with the ancients, as well as the first modern Olympic Games (1896).
- ▶ The opening ceremony took place on 13 August 2004 in a twenty-eight-second countdown — one second for each of the Olympic Games organized until the last one hosted by Athens — from sounds that give the rhythm of a reinforced heartbeat. It has also been declared as the best opening ceremony of all time to date.



Greek economic crisis (2009 ...)

- ▶ The Greek economy due to the long-term pathogenesis, its structural weaknesses and also the lack of flexibility of monetary policy as a member of the Eurozone has been weak against the challenges of the global economic downturn.
- ▶ In 2010 Greece recurses to the support mechanism jointly constituted by the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the European Central Bank.
- ▶ Unemployment rates are increasing dramatically. There are constantly massive demonstrations outside the parliament.
- ▶ 2015: Victory of SYRIZA (Left Party). Proclamation of a referendum on the new loan agreement for 5/7/2015. The citizens are emptying the ATMs (bank run). Imposition of capital controls and bank closure.
- ▶ 2017: The Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announces the country's exit from support programmes (memorandums) and starts a new period for the country.
- ▶ 2019: The New Democracy under Kyriakos Mitsotakis wins the elections and after 10 years a self-force government is formed in the country. Complete lifting of capital controls.
- ▶ *“Just before the dawn of a new day, a deep darkness exists. So, just before the dawn of a new hope, we live the deepest darkness.” (Antonis Samarakis)*