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Pathway to Freedom

By Peter Palivos

After the Lord Jesus Christ was resurrected, He appeared first "to Mary Magdalene out of whom He had cast seven demons." Mk. 16:9. Further, St. Mark wrote, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name (Jesus) they will cast out demons." Mk. 16:17.

The Lord Jesus "called His 12 disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases," Lk. 9:1. This writing comes from St. Luke a doctor.

Besides the Apostles, the Lord Jesus Christ had also appointed 70 disciples to go, two by two, before His face into cities. After their tour of duty, the 70 returned "with joy saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name (Jesus).' And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'" Lk. 12:17-18.

Before reading the remaining articles on the Spiritual World, the Author requests that the Reader consider reading the following Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant books:

1. Orthodox, The Ante- Nicene Fathers, (the Roman Number is the volume number and the second number is the page number, see below);

2. Orthodox, Rev. Eusebius A. Stephanou, Th. D., *Demonic Oppression and Exorcisms*, Booklet Nos. 53 and 65;

3. Orthodox, Archbishop Lazar Puhalo, Concerning Evil Spirits;

4. Catholic, Rev. Malachi Martin, Hostage to the Devil;

5. Protestant, Frank and Ida Mae Hammond, Pigs in the Parlor;

6. Protestant, Neil T. Anderson's two books: *The Bondage Breaker* and *Victory Over Darkness*; and

7. Protestant, Donald W. Basham, Can a Christian Have a Demon?

The Ante-Nicene Fathers, (see above), have written on the subject of demons, as follows: Demons, misrepresent Christian doctrine, i, 167; imitate divine things, 183; giants of Noah's day, iv, 203; recognized by heathen as well as Christians, iv, 189; not honored by Christians, 642, 648, 652, nor feared, 648-652; number acknowledged by the Egyptians, 662; vileness of their worship, 663; tempted Solomon, viii, 49; how permitted by God, iv, 638,651; mislead men, i, 182; raise up heretics, 182; turned into gods, ii, 68; teach the doctrine of fate, 68; economize astronomy, 68; to be punished, 71; vain display of, 72; false prom-

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Relief map for Greek debt? Not without a fight or two



Pretty much everyone agrees that Greece needs debt relief; what they don't agree on is what debt relief means.

Easing Greece's fiscal path forward is likely to be the next great struggle in the country's agonizing, seven-year, three-package bankruptcy saga now that a bailout pact has opened the door a crack to discussions on relief.

Only this time it will not just pit Greece against its lenders, but lender against lender as well.

Start with the numbers: At the last count, the Greek government owed 314 billion euros (\$343 billion) despite writing off about 100 billion euros



influence of, vii, 64; inventors of astrology and divination, 65,66,232, and oracles, 66; subject to Christians, iii, 37; iv, 190; exorcised by Christians, vii, 65, 159; identified with heathen gods, 232; their rage against Christians, 64, 158, which causes persecution, i, 182; the law given to, viii, 273, 274; the Gospel and prayer give us power over, 138, 277; power over, in proportion to the faith, 138, 277; tricks of, 277; power of, 278; their knowledge, 139; sometimes speak truth, why? 139; reasons why the deceits of are not detected, 278; props of the system of, 278; the weakest Christian mightier than the mightiest, 142; the baptized have power to drive away, 278; have no power over a man unless he voluntarily submits to them, 142; subject to believers, 279; none but evil, appear to the impi-

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owed to private bondholders in 2012.

That's more than the gross domestic product of South Africa.

It's also equivalent to around 179 percent of GDP, a ratio which despite improvements in Greece's economic performance goes up every time lenders make a bailout payment to Athens.

This is why debt relief is on the agenda – with Greece perhaps quixotically pushing for something as early as May 22, when the Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers meets to sign off on Tuesday's staff-level pact on support for Athens.

The battle will be fought on a number of fronts.

Firstly, there is the issue of whether the International Monetary Fund will participate financially in the current, third bailout.

The IMF says Greece's debt is unsustainable – with or without the reform measures taken – and it doesn't want to keep throwing money at the problem while that is so. Indeed, it is not allowed to by its charter.

"For the IMF to be entering into a program with Greece would require that the program can walk on two legs. One leg is the leg of reforms and the other leg is that of debt sustainability," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said last month.

The European Union lenders – the European Commission, European Central Bank and European Stability Mechanism – want the IMF involved, primarily because it brings in an outside enforcer.

But the Europeans themselves have so far refused to say what they plan

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Pathway to Freedom

(From page 1)

ous, 322; the friendship of, involves men in disgrace, 151; and their connection with astrology, $185.^1$

Father Stephanou, who now is with the Lord Jesus Christ, wrote that the weapons of the Believer against the evil spirits are:

- 1. The Name of Jesus Christ;
- 2. The Blood of Jesus; and
- 3. The Word of God.²

Father Stephanou, in Booklet No. 65, has the prayer of Deliverance from the Evil Eye, in Greek it is called Vaskania, and the St. Chrysostom's and St. Basil's Exorcisms prayers.

Archbishop Puhalo refers to seven God bearing and fearing Fathers of the Church who wrote on the defeated power of Satan and demons, as follows:

1. St. Athanasios, "He (Jesus) cleared the air of the malignity both of the devil and of the demons.";

2. St. Chrysostom, "the devil cannot bring violence against the soul.";

3. St. Isaiah, "the demons cannot see the soul or angels who are above them.";

4. St. Diadockos, "the Grace of God in the soul is not perceptible to demons.";

5. St. John Cassian, "But the demons cannot come near the thoughts of the soul.";

6. St. Anthony, "We should not fear the demon or Satan for he is a liar, or fear visions for they are deceptive... demons have no power to harm believers.";

7. St. John the Solitary, "the devil cannot touch the soul but the members of the body only."³

Father Martin, who is also with the Lord Jesus Christ, wrote about 5 cases of persons possessed (the Author would say demonized not possessed, as possession would suggest ownership). Father Martin wrote about the cases of Marianne K; Jonathan Yves; Richard O, a transsexual; Jamsie Z; and Carl V, all of whom received the Rite of Exorcism. During the exorcisms, weird phenomena took place: like drawers rattling, doors opening and closing, a person's clothes were torn, strange voices heard cursing, unknown languages spoken, abnormal physical strength was manifested and/ir hidden knowledge was revealed. Father Martin wrote that after receiving the Rite of Exorcism, these 5 persons were freed from demonic afflictions and none fell back into possession. Father Martin wrote that the Catholic Church performs the Rite of Exorcism but that it is sparingly used by sanctioned Priests. The Priests who did the above exorcisms imparted their experience and instructions to other Priests. He further wrote that Priests needed "the wisdom and the selflessness needed for anyone who would voluntarily give himself as hostage in order to liberate another from the bondage of Possession."4

Relief map for Greek debt? Not without a fight or two

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to do, preferring a general pledge to provide debt relief once certain reform criteria are achieved.

Germany, for one, does not want to show this year's voters it is doing Greece a favor using German taxpayers' money.

That is not enough for the IMF.

Details, details

Then there is the question of what kind of debt relief to offer Greece. There is something of an edifice in place here, but so far it is a wall without cement.

There is no longer any talk of debt "forgiveness" – simply letting Greece off paying back its debt. The eurozone says there is no provision for that under its rules.

But there is less objection to stretching out payments, cutting interest on the EU debt and making repayments flexible enough that they do not amount to more than 15 percent of Greece's GDP annually.

For its part, the IMF cannot legally change its repayment structure, which in turn slightly undermines its demands of the EU.

How far to stretch out payments, where to cut interest rates to, and even what part of the debt is included are all issues to be argued over.

One more opportunity for a clash is over just how much of a primary budget surplus – the budget balance excluding debt repayments – Athens has to run for its debt to be sustainable. The IMF says Greece can hit 2.2 percent in 2018 and aim at 3.5 percent annually in 2019-2021. After that, though, it says it should only be 1.5 percent.

Eurozone lenders, however, want Greece to sustain a 3.5 percent primary surplus target over a slightly longer period to be able to pay the annual interest rates for its debt. After that, it is publicly undecided.

Few other European Union countries run surpluses of the size that Greece is being told to reach and sustain.

But then, none of them have a debt mountain the size of the South African economy. [Reuters]

Nikos Konstandaras The cost of endless talks: Play now, pay later

Whoever dares not govern but enjoys the wages of power will play for extra time. We can draw this conclusion from the way Alexis Tsipras has governed so far, using every possible tactic – from a referendum to endless negotiations with creditors – to avoid decisions and responsibilities.

It is as if the government operates in a nonexistent present – between a past where it is blameless for the country's ills and a future where it will have no responsibility for what happens.

That is why the negotiations with creditors take so long, why new cuts in pensions and higher taxes will come into effect in 2019 and 2020, respectively, why there will be loose ends until the very moment we must make our next payment to creditors.

In the years of the crisis we have learned that negotiations don't end until we see the money that will then go to pay past debt. So, despite the announcement early on Tuesday that there was agreement between the government and creditors, there is still a way to go.

On Thursday the deal was discussed at the Euro Working Group, preparing the ground for the Eurogroup meeting on May 22 and June

Father Martin in his book also delved into the life of the Priests who prayed the Rite of Exorcism and the heavy burden it had in their lives.

The road to freedom continues in the next articles.

Onward Soldier!

1. Ante- Nicene Fathers, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., Peabody Mass., 1995, p. 156.

2. Rev. Eusebius Stephanou, T.D., *Spiritual Warfare*, St. Symeon the New Theologian Orthodox Renewal Center, Destin, Florida, Booklet #53 and #65.

3. Archbishop Lazar Puhalo, *Concerning Evil Spirits*, Synaxis Press, Dewdney, B.C., Canada.

4. Malachi Martin, Hostage to the Devil, Harper, San Francisco, 1992.

15.

The government must submit a medium-term fiscal stability program to Parliament (in pursuit of primary surpluses equal to 3.5 percent of GDP for at least four years), with ratification expected by May 20.

At the G7 meeting in Bari next week, Christine Lagarde and Wolfgang Schaeuble are expected to debate their differences over the need for debt relief for Greece. Any deal will have to be ratified by some eurozone members' parliaments. The process is neither quick nor easy.

This should not make Athens unhappy. The longer a deal is delayed, the longer Tsipras can continue to ignore the consequences of the delay; at the same time, the SYRIZA-Independent Greeks government can strengthen its control of state mechanisms and institutions.

Even as the economy withers in uncertainty and private debt grows (with data showing that 4.3 million taxpayers have accrued debts in excess of 94 billion euros), and almost half of all bank loans in the red, the government acts as if this is not its problem.

The nonexistent present may be the greatest delusion, but its cost will be very real.

Greece's primary surplus hits 4.2% for 2016, outperforming 0.5% target

Greece overperformed in 2016 hitting a primary surplus of 4.2%, well above the 0.5% target, as announced by the Hellenic Statistical Authority

and confirmed by the European Commission.

PM Tsipras in an <u>opinion article in the WSJ</u>, notes that this is the result of the progressive tax policies that have modernized Greece's tax system and tackled corruption and tax evasion. He also explains that Greece has fulfilled its obligations, having undertaken an immense social and economic cost, and is now ready to enter a growth path by creating a fair and friendly investment environment, a stable tax environment, and incentives for investment.

"Long-term economic development is viable only through coordinated actions; however, regarding Greek debt, it is vital to proceed with decisive steps in a way that no economic cost would be incurred by EU taxpayers", argues PM Tsipras.

1st Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum

The first Ministerial Conference of the states of the "Ancient Civilizations Forum" (ACForum, more widely known as the GC10) was held in Athens on 24 April, with the participation of the ten countries that comprise this specific initiative. The meeting marked the official establishment of the Forum after a joint invitation of Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi.The holding of the Conference, with the participation -in addition to Greece- of China, Bolivia, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Mexico and Peru, is a cultural initiative among countries from different geographical regions that are cradles of ancient civilizations. Through shaping a broad and multifaceted positive agenda of joint actions of the ten states, the Ancient Civilizations Forum aims to transform culture into a source of soft power and a fundamental tool of a modern and multidimensional foreign policy. Another aim of the Forum is to highlight the international cultural cooperation as a factor for economic development.

Property market becomes stable in Athens



Gov't, creditors edge close to a deal on measures



Government officials and foreign auditors remained locked in talks on Monday night aimed at tying up a deal that will conclude a pending bailout review by approving further cuts to pensions, tax increases, state sell-offs and market liberalization.

The agreement foresees further reductions of around 22 percent to pensions as well as a lowering of the tax-free threshold in 2020 and fewer restrictions on employers who want to conduct mass dismissals.

The deal also sets out a series of countermeasures, chiefly tax reductions and social benefits, but authorities will not be able to enforce them unless it meets fiscal targets in 2019.

Sources close to Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras indicated on Monday that a deal was close.

They said European officials who Tsipras met with on Saturday in Brussels for a summit about Brexit expressed their support for a swift conclusion to bailout talks. "I don't think we'll have big problems," one source said. "The major issues are already resolved and soon the details will be resolved too."

Tsipras himself, in his May Day message, defended his government's performance in tough talks with foreign envoys, saying it had "waged the most difficult battle in negotiations: that for the reinstatement of collective wage bargaining and normality in labor."

"After the conclusion of the second review, which brings us closer to exiting the memorandums, our strategic goal... is fair growth." The next major goal, he said, would be "healing the social wounds of the crisis."

The government remains focused on getting a draft bill with the new reforms to Parliament as soon as possible, with sources indicating Monday that a bill with around 50 prior actions will probably go to a vote in the House on May 18, ahead of a Eurogroup summit on May 22, when officials hope to conclude a pending bailout review.

Labor unions have called a general strike against the new austerity measures for May 17. On Monday they organized rallies for Labor Day that drew thousands of people out onto the streets.

After nearly a decade, the cycle of decline in the property market appears to be closing. In the year's first quarter prices in selected areas of the Greek capital may have shown a decline but this was at a rate below 1 percent on an annual basis, which has been the smallest yearly drop since the outbreak of the financial crisis.

In five representative areas of Attica (Holargos, Maroussi, Palaio Faliro, Ambelokipi and Peristeri), older apartments (more than 15 years old) posted a decline rate of just 0.77 percent from the first quarter of 2016, while newer apartments saw their prices fall 0.83 percent on average.

Market experts say the latest developments in the negotiations between the government and the country's creditors with the sealing of a provisional agreement are expected to consolidate the stabilization trend in the homes market at least up to the end of 2017.

Any potential buyers who have kept a wait-and-see stance to date, expecting a further decline in property rates, are now likely to start making decisions, bolstering transaction volume and contributing toward the stabilization of prices, says the head of Geoaxis chartered surveyors, Yiannis Xylas.

Still, experts are warning that unless there is sound handling of the issue of property auctions, it is possible that the market will be inundated with a multitude of new properties for sale, upsetting the balance. Former energy minister Panayiotis Lafazanis, the leader of the far-left Popular Unity party, which is not in Parliament, on Monday led a crowd of supporters to the Hilton Hotel, where government and foreign officials were holding talks. "The country is being run from the Hilton," Lafazanis declared.

"At this moment the neocolonial quartet [of bailout monitors] is imposing, in the manner of a coup, illegally and unconstitutionally, on a surrendered and treacherous government, a fourth and disastrous memorandum," he said.

ΛΥΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ "ΠΑΡΑΣΙΤΩΝ" ΣΤΑ ΡΑΔΙΟΦΩΝΙΚΑ ΜΑΣ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ. ΑΚΟΥΣΤΕ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΚΟΜΠΙΟΥΤΕΡ ΣΑΣ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΛΙΣΤΑ 24 ΩΡΕΣ ΤΟ 24ΩΡΟ.

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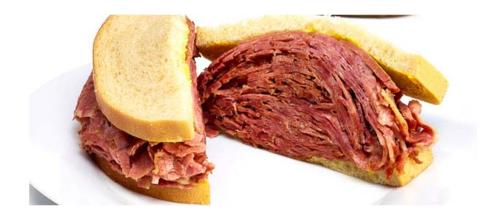
Mello Foods Inc. Montreal S

About Mello Foods

Mello Foods was founded in 1960 and has been a family run company since 1981. Since its founding, Mello Foods has always used the best quality



ingredients in order to produce an array of fine smoked meats and delicatessen products for our clients and consumers from all over the world.



Mission Statement:

Quality, Consistency, Cooperation and Service are the cornerstones of Mello Foods' corporate philosophy.

Customization:

Through cooperation, Mello Foods' customer service team can help you customize or adapt to your clients' particular food service needs.



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All of our products go through rigorous testing and quality screening in order to ensure that only the finest quality products are sent to our partners and customers.

About Montreal Smoked Meat

Montreal Smoked Beef Brisket, better known as Montreal Smoked Meat Brisket is a type of deli meat made by salting and curing a specially selected aged Canadian beef brisket (breast or lower chest of beef) with spices. After a week, the beef brisket is hot smoked to cook



4

Smoked Meat - Viande Fumée

through and then steamed before being served. Montreal Smoked Meat is typically served in the form of a rye bread sandwich slathered with yellow mustard.

Cutting Montreal Smoked Meat

There really is an art to this! Montreal Smoked Meat Briskets must be cut across the grain, not with the grain. If you are unsure which direction the grain runs, here are some tips: when you are cutting against the



grain, each slice will fall onto the cutting board wanting to split easily. If you stretch the slice, the grains will come apart. If you are cutting with the grain, the slices will exhibit a slight curl when they hit the board and will be very tough to tear. Keep all slices thin.

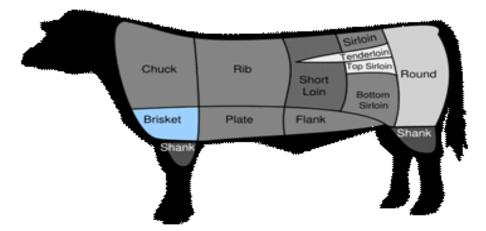
Cooking Instructions

The Montreal Smoked Meat Brisket should be placed in vapor for an hour and a half to two hours (depending on size). Alternatives are to boil the entire piece, pan fry and even microwave the sliced meat (some chefs microwave the product as needed).

It is recommended that smoked meat be served on rye bread however, a Kaiser bun will do in a pinch (just don't serve it to anyone from Montreal!). Place mustard on the bread (some Montreal restaurants mix pickle brine into the mustard for added flavor) and then top with a healthy stack of sliced meat (around 6 oz is normal).

Menu Ideas and Suggestions

Super Stacked Montreal Smoked Meat Sandwich Platter



- Montreal Smoked Meat Sliders
- Montreal Smoked Meat Club Sandwich
- Montreal Smoked Meat Lasagna
- Montreal Smoked Meat Spaghetti
- Montreal Smoked Meat & Eggs
- Montreal Smoked Meat Poutine
- Montreal Smoked Meat Nacho Platter
- Montreal Smoked Meat Pizza

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An ancient wonder of engineering on Samos

My shoes were covered in mud. Water from the roof dripped down onto my jacket. I was walking along a 9-meter-high tunnel. My head – thankfully, I wore a helmet – bumped against the rocks several times. But I didn't mind: Visiting the Eupalinian Aqueduct is a unique experience.

The middle section of the aqueduct was designed in the mid-



6th century BC by the great architect and engineer Eupalinos of Megara for the ancient city-state of Samos, site of the modern-day town of Pythagorio. It was commissioned by the tyrant Polycrates, the ruler of Samos from 538 to 522 BCE, and it can still be appreciated today as one of the most admired engineering achievements of antiquity.

This month, once approved by the Central Archaeological Council (KAS), it will be reopened to visitors following a complex and demanding three-year restoration, maintenance and promotion project that cost 3.1 million euros. Thanks to its completion, visitors will soon be able to walk through the 1,036-meter tunnel for the first time.

The "new" Eupalinian Aqueduct was presented to the media by Culture Minister Lydia Koniordou and those involved in the project. "Enter the tunnel, feel the energy of the mountain, listen to what it has to say," Koniordou urged reporters while describing the monument as a "gem" for the island that will act as a tourist attraction.

cal achievement; it reveals layers of thought and reflection, and that is the uniqueness of the experience it offers," said Samos MP Dimitris Sevastakis. For his part, Demosthenes Svolopoulos, head of the Directorate of Restoration of Ancient Monuments at the Ministry of Culture, said the project "is worthy of the monument's radiance and of ancient Samos."

Indeed, Samos in the mid-6th century BC had earned a reputation for its material and spiritual achievements. Trade and shipping ensured wealth, sparking a cultural blossoming. But there was one basic necessity missing: water. That's why Polycrates commissioned Eupalinos to bring water into the settlement from the rich Agiades spring on Mount Ambelos.

The project was almost impossible as the mountain lies between the spring and the city. But ingeniously, Eupalinos, using simple measuring instruments and complex mathematical calculations, decided to simultaneously bore through both sides of the mountain, creating a 1,036-meter-long tunnel measuring 1.80x1.80 meters.

The achievement made a great impression on the ancients, not least the well-traveled historian Herodotus. The two crews, using hammers and chisels, carved through the tough limestone and met in the middle of the tunnel with negligible deviation. It was a costly state project as it took 8-10 years to complete the excavation of 12,500 tons of rock and the installment of 5,000 clay pipes. But water started to flow plentifully into the city's fountains.

The aqueduct continued to operate for about 1,100 years. During Byzantine times, the tunnel served as a refuge for the inhabitants during raids. It was later abandoned. It was excavated by the German Archaeological Institute in the 1970s.

From then until its closure three years ago, only 130 meters had been open to the public for safety reasons. But recent work shored up the tunnel, ensuring its stability, the stone linings were maintained, sheltered walkways were constructed, a lighting system was installed, and the surrounding areas were spruced up. Much still needs to be done.

The ministry has referred to "a holistic strategy" to showcase and promote the Eupalinian Aqueduct. It remains to be seen if it's actually implemented in practice. The only sure thing is that Samos needs and deserves support.

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"The Eupalinian Aqueduct is not only an impressive technologi-

GREEK NEWS

ND will not support new bailout pact, spokesman says



Greece's largest opposition party, the conservative New Democracy, said on Tuesday it would not support the deal cut by Athens and its lenders when it comes to Parliament.

"We will not vote in the new austerity measures that cut pension and tax Greece more," spokesman Vassilis Kikilias told Reuters.

The government has a small but working majority. It is expected to succeed in passing the new measures which stem from latest bailout review by the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

Pitch battles mar PAOK's Cup triumph.



PAOK Deat AEK 2-1 In the 75th Greek Cup Final on Saturday at the Panthessaliko Stadium of Volos, central Greece, on one of the most disgraceful soccer occasions in the Greek sporting history. The final was marred by extensive clashes between rival fans and separately with the police, leaving dozens of people injured, some of them with stab wounds.

This was the first trophy for PAOK in 14 years, since its cup win in 2003.

AEK was the better team in the first half in a rather entertaining start to the final, but fell behind on the 24th minute. Djalma Campos created PAOK's first major chance and Diego Biseswar converted it shaking off the challenge of Didac Vila.

Just three minutes later AEK equalized as PAOK keeper Panayiotis Glykos mishandled a Lazaros Christodoulopoulos shot, the ball slipped through leaving several dozens injured. The police was unable (or unwilling) to intervene and it was a miracle there were no fatalities at that spot, as anyone thrown off that bridge would have died.

The Volos hospital reported an endless stream of injured men flowing in, some with cuts and bruises and others with serious head injuries and stab wounds.

The clubs, the referee and the police agreed that in spite of what had already happened a postponement of the final would only make things worse, so they decided to go ahead with the game that kicked off almost half an hour late.

The final was preceded by a week-long saga over whether the Panthessaliko Stadium was fit to host the final as the two clubs had agreed.

It took a lot of hard work by the authorities of Volos and the stadium and by the federation for Panthessaliko to acquire some basic services such as CCTV, a few toilets etc., and even numbers on seats. The latter issue almost forced the postponement of the final as the tickets to the fans were printed without any seat numbers on, in violation of the legislation. Eventually the stadium recruited volunteers to put a numbered sticker on each seat and then on every ticket as the fans flocked to the stadium on Saturday.

Two days before the match the federation had promised in a statement that this would be a memorable final. It was so indeed, but for the wrong reasons.

Dangerous times in the Aegean and Cyprus



The concept of gray zones (the

Ankara the opportunity to add more issues to the agenda.

Over time, these have become permanent and ever-expanding. Currently, Turkey considers significant parts of the Aegean to be gray zones. This includes islands that have been inhabited for decades.

It is questioning Greek sovereignty through its actions, not just its words, by the frequent presence of naval vessels in Greek waters and overflights by fighter jets. Over the last few months, it has being doing this more systematically and openly.

Greece's approach has also changed. The doctrine that existed in the wake of the Imia crisis in 1996, when the two countries almost went to war, was based around not building up tension following various incidents and maintaining a low profile.

Apart from the government of Costas Simitis, this policy was also followed by his successor as prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, and others.

The current government, however, is following a different tactic, with visits by officials to islands that are in Turkey's sights. Often, the temperature rises, and sometimes it reaches dangerous levels. Experienced diplomats are surprised that this has not yet led to a "hot incident."

While this is going on, Turkey is trying to asphyxiate Kastellorizo in order to deny Greece's claim to a continental shelf that borders Cyprus's.

A dangerous situation is also playing out in Cyprus. The Turks are trying to impose the concept of gray zones there as well.

July (when a new round of drilling for hydrocarbons is due to begin off Cyprus) promises to be a difficult month.

Ankara will attempt before then to intimidate the companies that plan to start drilling or try to obstruct them if they are not scared off by threats.

The international community can see the danger and will make another, possibly final, effort to solve the Cyprus issue.

Things are going to get serious. And all this will be taking place within an uncertain and unpredictable international environment.

Turkey says Greek court's decision will impact relations

Turkey on Thursday slammed a Greek court decision to block a second extradition request for Turkish soldiers who fled to Greece after last year's failed coup, calling it a political decision that would impact relations.

Turkey's foreign ministry said Greece's judiciary had "once again" disappointed Ankara, adding it was not receiving the necessary support from an ally in the fight against terrorism and crime.

A Greek court on blocked a second extradition request by Turkey for the final two of eight soldiers who fled following the coup attempt in July last year.

Macron to be Greek 'friend,' Moscovici says



Europe's Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici believes that Emmanuel Macron, who was expected to be elected French president on Sunday night, will be a strong ally for Greece.

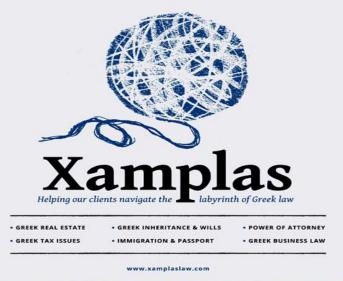
"I have no doubt that with Macron as president, Greece will continue to have a friend in France, its president and government. This is why these elections are important for Greeks," Moscovici told the Athens-Macedonian News Agency.

"I know Emmanuel Macron very well," added the EU commissioner. "We worked together when he was economy minister... to find positive positions for Greece."

Moscovici said being Greece's ally meant "encouraging reform efforts" but also showing solidarity.

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his hands and went into the net for 1-1.

The second half lagged in action, and it took an offside goal to settle the final on the 81st minute: Pedro Henrique scored PAOK's second goal from an offside position after a Marin Leovac pass, prompting strong protests from AEK and a pitch invasion by celebrating PAOK fans.

In the remainder of the game PAOK was more threatening in its counterattacks than AEK was in its efforts to equalize.

Yet it is what happened off the field that will stay in the memory of everyone involved in this Cup final.

Fans clashed with the police on their way to the stadium, with the riot police using tear gas to handle the hooligans.

Then face-to-face battles raged on for more than half an hour across a bridge connecting the two sides of the stands where the opposing fans met, claim that the sovereighty of a number of islands and islets in the Aegean is undetermined) was a novel idea that Turkey came up with 20 years ago.

At some point, Ankara reached the point of including the Greek island of Gavdos in its gray zones list.

Whenever Athens made an official request regarding the islands or rocky outcrops that Turkey had on its list, the answer was always very vague: "Anything that is not clearly included the bilateral agreements that set out Greece's borders with other countries."

At first, many people thought this was a bargaining chip that Ankara would trade as part of a grand bargain. They were wrong. The failure to settle differences between Greece and Turkey gave



Trumplomacy: What does Tillerson's speech mean?

When Rex Tillerson announced a town hall meeting at the state department this week, employees were hoping their boss would "man up" and give them details about deep budget cuts that could axe 2,300 jobs. He didn't.

Instead he spoke generally about the need to adapt institutions to a post-Cold War era, invited them to participate in a "listening exercise" about how to do so, and promised them a "much more satisfying, fulfilling career"



when the pain was over.

He also gave them an unexpected tour of his thinking about how "America First" translates into foreign policy, which involved a breakdown of how human rights and democratic values fit into policy making in the Trump era. Which, it seems, is not very much.

Here's the quote: "We really have to understand, in each country or each region of the world that we're dealing with, what are our national security interests, what are our economic prosperity interests, and then as we can, advocate and advance our values."

This was decried as an ominous shift in Washington's global outlook by many foreign policy observers.

Separating interests and values in US foreign policy reflects a misunder-



standing of both the country's past and its national character, wrote Eliot Cohen, the state department counsellor under George W Bush, in an excoriating take down of the speech.

It's worth reading the full text because Mr Tillerson is still a bit of an unknown quantity, and this is the first comprehensive statement he's made on his strategy.

Rush to get bailout deal to Parliament with eye on QE



After rallying his ministers, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras must now get coalition MPs behind him for a new multi-bill of austerity measures that is set to go to Parliament this coming week.

Although some lawmakers have expressed reservations about the deal, which foresees further cuts to pensions and more tax increases, along with changes to the energy and labor markets, it is widely expected that Tsipras will get the support he needs to push the bill into law.

A raft of so-called countermeasures – social welfare interventions that will come into effect in 2019 if the government meets budget targets – will be voted on separately and is sure to get the support of coalition MPs. The government has also appealed to the main political opposition New Democracy to back the offsetting



measures but ND has refused to oblige.

According to government sources, Tsipras is already looking beyond the vote, expected on May 15 or 16, and beyond a scheduled Eurogroup summit on May 22 where the agreement between Greece and its creditors is expected to be rubber-stumped.

Aides to the prime minister said he is considering a cabinet reshuffle to give his government a lift and inspire investors as talks on lightening Greece's debt and the inclusion of Greek bonds in the European Central Bank's quantitative easing program are next on the agenda.

To unpack the meaning of his "America First" balance between values and policies, I turned to Stephen Walt, a professor of international affairs at Harvard and a foreign policy realis.

At one level, he says, there's nothing new here: everyone understands there are trade-offs between security and economic interests on the one hand, and moral interests or democratic values, on the other - no-one better, frankly, than the experienced career diplomats in Mr Tillerson's audience.At another level, says Mr Walt, if the Secretary of State is signalling that as a matter of policy, the US won't be putting much weight on promoting American values, there is something new here.

The past three presidents all did to some degree, whether it was supporting colour revolutions in Eastern Europe or welcoming the Arab Spring.

Mr Tillerson didn't explicitly say the US was out of that business, and he kept stressing the administration was not abandoning the values that have distinguished US foreign policy.

But it was unusual for him not to "downplay those moments of hypocrisy" inherent in governing, says Mr Walt, and instead place them right at the beginning of his speech, not "buried on page 12 and with a sense of reluctance."

Yes, traditionally it's seen as an undesirable outcome when administrations fail to achieve that difficult balance between values and broader interests. Was Mr Tillerson saying it's not necessary to try and achieve that balance at all? It remains unclear whether Tsipras is considering a "cosmetic" shake-up or a radical overhaul, or whether key cabinet members such as Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos would keep their posts. But it appears that the government is keen to send out a message that it is turning a page following the completion of a tough bailout review that dragged on for months.

The procrastination of the review, and its contribution to a greater sense of uncertainty, is believed to have played a role in a decision by the European Commission to reconsider its predictions regarding Greece's economy.

The Commission is planning to revise down its growth forecast for Greece this year to around 2 percent from a previous 2.7 percent, it emerged last week.

According to sources, although pleased with the fact that a deal was finally reached after so many delays, Greece's creditors are frustrated about the lack of progress in key areas such as privatizations.