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The Coming Beast Empire

Louis A. Palivos



The Holy Scripture reveals the coming of an end time ten kingdom Beast Empire that many have attempted to decipher. What is this ten part Beast Empire? Is it a global ten part entity? Is it a European ten part entity? Is it a future G10 entity? Just how is this Beast Empire described in the Holy Scripture? The Prophet Daniel wrote about this Beast Empire. St. John, in the Book of Revelation, also wrote about two beasts. This article will address one of these beasts, that is, the Beast Empire that is a composite of a ten part kingdom. Keys to understand the ten part beast are: first, Holy Scripture is prophetically Jerusalem and Israeli centered; second, Holy Scripture interprets itself; and third, Prophets were revealed the unlocking meaning of images.

Holy Scripture

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You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that rushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As

(Continued p. 2)

*The more Turkey is
economically cornered,
the ruder its “diplomacy”
becomes*



The inauguration of the renovated Greek Consulate in the coastal city of Izmir was anything but a well prepared show by Turkey to challenge Greece. Not only did they stage a “show of power” with Turkish aircraft; the chief of Turkish diplomacy dared challenged Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias who had flown to the neighboring country as a guest.

Ankara brought up the issue of the 8 Turkish servicemen who fled to Greece after the failed coup in summer 2016 and were granted political asylum.

In typical Middle-East communications style, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu claimed that if things were “reversed”, Turkey would have never “host” coup plotters from Greece.

“I want to tell you that we will never allow people on our soil, people you describe as traitors, we will never allow aspiring coup plotters or terrorists,” Cavusoglu told counterpart Kotzias.

The leader of Greek diplomacy replied “we never host coup plotters.”

Kotzias added “What we have are the procedures of Law and International Law,” but he refrained from explaining to his counterpart the ABC of Law.

As the two ministers were cutting the inauguration band, a loud sound was heard from the sky. A pair of Turkish fighter jets were on relative low fly in the Gulf of Izmir and made their presence very .

The Turkish side claimed that the flight was “rehearsal for an air show.”

Everyone wondered if it was some kind of secret and coarse Turkish-symbolism to have the rehearsal coincide with the inauguration to the Consulate and the official visit of Nikos Kotzias.

Did Turkey want to remind Greece that despite the friendly relations between the two countries Ankara will keep sending its aircraft to violate Greek airspace? Who knows.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry, its awkwardly rude diplomats from top to bottom and the army's general staff will take the secret in their graves.

Fact is the more Turkey is economically cornered and collapsing, the ruder its political leadership becomes and its “diplomacy” has turned into a real farce.

I might have lost all my good manners two had I seen that my country's annual inflation hit 18% in just one month, from 15.9% in July.

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PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

**DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
CHRIS MERENTITIS DR. LOUIS PALIVOS**

THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

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8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

The Coming Beast Empire

(From page 1)

you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure. Dan. 2:31-45ing Nebuchadnezzar's dream of an image of a man is revealed and interpreted as follows: the head of gold is Babylon; the chest, hands and arms of silver is Medo-Persia; and the belly and thighs of copper is the Greek Alexandrian Empire. However, the legs of iron and the ten toes of partly clay and iron are not explained. Why?

Ehyah Ashar Ehyah's Promise



Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in

The Coming Beast Empire

this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. Dan.7:2-8 Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. Dan. 7:17-25 Is Prophet Daniel's Chapter 7 a retelling of Chapter 2? Daniel saw a lion, a bear, a leopard and a terrible beast, "Fearful, terrifying, and exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth." Daniel 7:2-7. Daniel is revealed, "These four large beasts are four kingdoms." Daniel 7:17. The fourth beast, kingdom, which has ten horns, Daniel is told, "Its ten horns are ten kings." Daniel 7:24. Daniel is revealed that a "little horn" uproots



three horns, Daniel 7:8, and again later is told that out of the fourth beast with ten horns, another shall arise. Daniel is told that this king will suppress all kings before and shall subdue three kings. Daniel 7:24. St. John in Revelation is allowed by the Lord Jesus Christ to see visions of beasts and writes, "The things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." Rev. 1:19.

Grace Fellowship

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded,

and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. Rev. 13:1-10 Again St. John writes about a beast of seven heads and ten horns. This beast is a composite of a leopard, a bear and a lion. The two beasts of revelation 13, one from the sea and the other from the land are understood to be from humanity and from Israel.

Pat Marvenko

To a high degree of certainty there will be a total of eight Beasts Empires. The seventh empire is similar to the eighth empire. The first six empires were: Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persia, Grecian and Roman. Clues are given regarding the seventh! What are the seventh and eight Beast Empires? The eighth Beast Empire is a revival of the seventh Beast Empire, “the beast that was, and is not and yet is.”

Holy Fathers

St. Ephrem the Syrian wrote, “His (Antichrist’s) kingdom shall be revived and overcome three kings, Egyptian, Libyan and Ethiopian.” St. Hippolytus of Rome wrote, “The rebuilt Temple of Solomon shall be by the Antichrist, but before he will destroy the Egyptians, Libyans and Ethiopians.”

An enigmatic prophecy is written by Daniel the Prophet, “and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” Dan. 9:26. Who were these people? These people were from the Eastern Empire and were “Arab, Syrian, Egyptian and dominated by ‘provincials’.”¹ The reason this is so significant is that the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed by Arabs, Syrians and Egyptians, who today would be considered Islamic! However, confusion exists because the “prince” was General Titus, a Roman, who commanded the troops, that destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. In short, the equalization of General Titus as a type of Antichrist to come is false.

Another enigmatic prophecy is written by St. John, “Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness for Jesus and for the word of God who had not worshipped the Beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hand.” Rev. 20:4.

Which religion beheads people? Which religion beheads people because of the Lord Jesus Christ? Which religion beheads people because of the Word of God, Holy Scripture? The answer to both these questions is Islam.

Which countries today are Islamic and surround Jerusalem and Israel? Which countries today would encompass the Beast Empires of Daniel chapters 2 and 7, and Revelations chapters 13 and 17? These countries are Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan and Lebanon. These countries are Islamic. What happened to Christianity in these countries? Islam has eradicated Christianity and its culture and has replaced it, by in large, with an Islamic theocratic submission. Which religion denies the Holy Trinity; denies the Cross; denies the Father and the Son; blasphemes that Jesus Christ is a Savior; teaches that Jesus Christ was not incarnated or resurrected; acts through deception as a ploy to achieve ends; awaits a Caliph (leader); subjugates women; honors war and advances war?² The answer to all of these questions is Islam.

So what is the allure of Islam? It’s Jihadism as a message for salvation and entry to paradise. Salvation occurs at death and with the first drop of blood that is spilt, the martyr will be spared Judgment, a male martyr will have 72 virgins and will be allowed to intercede for 70 of his family members.³

Sir Robert Anderson who unlocked the exact day the Lord Jesus Christ would be “cut-off”, that is, put to death, Dan. 9:26, also wrote about Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, “but its chief force depends upon forgetting that in the prophet (Daniel’s) view the Levant (Eastern) and not the Adriatic (Europe), Jerusalem, not Rome, is the Center of the World.”⁴ Again the view is toward Islam.

In closing, prophecy is Jerusalem and Israeli centered. The Beast Empire of the last days shall be a composite of countries that beheads people for worshipping Jesus Christ and following the Holy Scriptures. At the present time, it’s reasonable to infer that based on Daniel’s and St. John’s visions, and the Holy Fathers, the revived Eighth Empire shall be Islamic. Some scholars believe that the seventh Beast Empire was Islam which ended in 1924 A.D. St. John wrote, “The beast arising out of the sea.” Rev. 13:1. The sea is a symbol of “people, multitudes, nations and tongues.” Rev.17:15. This beast shall not come from the “land”, which is Israel. Rev. 13:11. This Beast Empire and the Antichrist probably shall come from the surrounding countries around Jerusalem and be Islamic. In public executions of beheadings, why do onlookers cry out Allahu Akbar? What God condones beheadings? Mankind must guard against Islam or any religion or ideology that mercilessly beheads people and forces total submission.

1. Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, WND Books, Washington, D.C., 2012.
2. Walid Shoebat and Joel Richardson, *God’s War on Terror*, Top Executive Media, U.S., 2008.3. Ibid. p.106.
4. Sir Robert Anderson, *The Coming Prince*, Appendix II, Miscellaneous; *who and when*, Tregelles, p. 273, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI,



US President Donald Trump congratulated Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras for the ratification of the Prespes accord by the Greek Parliament that resolved the long-running name dispute with North Macedonia, state-run news agency ANA-MPA reported .

US shutdown: Parties in fresh talks as next deadline looms

Democratic and Republican negotiators are meeting on Monday to try to reach a deal on border security and avoid another government shutdown.

They remain divided on the detention of undocumented immigrants and on funding for President Donald Trump's promised border wall with Mexico.

Mr Trump said on Monday "it is up Democrats" to make a deal or take the blame for a renewed shutdown.



The previous shutdown lasted 35 days and was the longest in US history.

Congress has until Friday to pass legislation before the current federal funding agreement runs out. The previous shutdown ended on 25 January

as lawmakers agreed to negotiate.

If a new agreement is not reached by both the House of Representatives and the Senate - and signed by the president - a partial government shutdown will begin again on Saturday.

What is a government shutdown?

During the last shutdown, hundreds of thousands of workers were furloughed (put on unpaid leave) in December and January while others in essential services, such as hospital care, air traffic control and law enforcement, worked without pay.

Mr Trump approved a congressional measure to pay back federal workers last month, but many say they have yet to receive their paycheques, according to US media.

It remains unclear whether contracted workers will get any such payments. The shutdown's cost to the US economy was estimated at \$11bn (£8.5bn).

The talks on Monday are scheduled to take place in Washington, hours before President Trump holds a rally in the border city of El Paso, in Texas, aimed at gathering support for the border wall.

What is the latest impasse about?

Some 17 Republican and Democratic negotiators from the Senate and the House have been holding talks to try to reach a border security agreement that can be accepted by Congress.

The latest impasse seems to be centred on a Democratic demand to limit the number of undocumented migrants already in the US who can be detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Democrats want to cap the number of beds at detention centres reserved for those cases at 16,500.

By doing that, they hope to force ICE to focus on detaining irregular migrants with criminal records instead of those who have overstayed their visas and, Democrats say, are productive and offer no threat.

Media captionOther presidents got money for a border barrier - why not Trump?

ICE Deputy Director Matt Albence said on Monday that the proposal would be "damaging to public safety".

"This is a crucial public safety issue... There really shouldn't be a debate about us taking dangerous criminals and immigration violators off the street and out of our communities," he said during a White House conference call with reporters.

On Monday, Mr Trump tweeted that the "Democrats do not want us to detain, or send back, criminal aliens! This is a brand new demand. Crazy!."

During a later White House event before his departure for Texas Mr Trump continued the attack: "Not only don't they want to give us the money for the wall, they don't want to give us the space to detain murderers, criminals, drug dealers, human smugglers."

The Democrats are also looking at between \$1.3bn and \$2bn in funding for Mr Trump's proposed border wall, a long way off the \$5.7bn the president has been demanding.

President Trump tweeted that "angry" Democrats needed to "loosen up and have some fun"

As wall discussions labour on, Mr Trump plans on sending more than 3,700 active troops to the US-Mexico border to help agents with security efforts this month. With more than 2,000 troops already at the border, the new deployment would top November's mid-term election-time numbers of 5,900.

Meanwhile, pushing back against the Trump administration's call for border states to help with security, California's Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom says he will recall hundreds of the state's national guard from the border.

Gov Newsom's move follows that of his Democratic colleague, Gov Michelle Grisham of New Mexico, who pulled her state's troops from the border last week.

Both governors have cited the withdrawal as retaliation against Mr Trump's "fear-mongering".

Why is there the risk of another shutdown?

On 25 January, President Trump agreed to a three-week spending deal to end the shutdown and allow Congress to reach an agreement.

That funding ends at midnight on Friday. Another short-term deal could prevent a new shutdown, according to the New York Times.

Mr Trump made building a wall on the border with Mexico one of his key promises in the 2016 campaign.

Trump's border wall in seven charts

The president has backed away from calls to make Mexico pay for a concrete wall but during his State of the Union speech last Tuesday - delayed because of the previous shutdown - he insisted on a "smart, strategic, see-through steel barrier".

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Fighting Crime & Preventing Violence	<p>Under the Vallas administration, every neighborhood & community will have the public safety resources, police officers & support needed to ensure that <u>all</u> communities are safe & secure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Preserve <i>Beat Integrity</i> to ensure that officers working in a community are known to members of the community & members of the community are known to them✓ Revitalize the Bureau of Detectives to ensure that police understand the dynamics in their neighborhoods, violent criminals are captured & Chicago's homicide & shooting case clearance rate is drastically improved (currently fewer than 1/5 murders are solved)✓ Work with community organizations & programs to fund & implement community-based & led violence reduction strategies consistently proven to be effective
Ensuring Quality Schools	<p>Under the Vallas administration, <u>all</u> schools will have the resources & support to ensure that they are financially stable & offer a high quality education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ensure that every student in Chicago has access to a funded high quality school with excellent academic programs✓ Ensure that high schools offer both college preparation & career readiness opportunities for students✓ Maintain zero-tolerance for sexual abuse & address the lack of leadership & accountability for this tragedy✓ Rebuild strong relationships with the unions & employees & treat them as the critical partners they are in educating our children
Creating Jobs	<p>Under the Vallas administration, economic development will be in <u>every</u> neighborhood – not just the downtown business district & Near North Side</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ensure that sustainable economic development is aggressively pursued for all communities, including the long-neglected South, West, Southeast & Southwest sides✓ Pledge that economic development is capacity-building development – not simply the relocation of polluting factories, garages & scrap shredders✓ Adopt a "Buy Chicago, Sell Chicago, Hire Chicago" approach to contracting & hiring that gives preference to Chicago businesses & current city residents✓ Ensure <u>all</u> communities fairly benefit from City contracts & City hiring, in part through contracting & hiring preferences for minority-, women- & locally-owned Chicago businesses
Making Chicago an Affordable Place to Live	<p>The Vallas administration will make Chicago an affordable city in which to live & work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Expand affordable & attractive housing opportunities for all Chicagoans, including families on fixed income, seniors & people with disabilities✓ Limit increases in property taxes in <u>all</u> neighborhoods & protect homeowners in gentrifying neighborhoods✓ Keep real estate & other taxes down through creation of long-term financial plans & effective budgeting✓ Streamline process for restoring vacant buildings to viable housing & commercial properties✓ Change bankruptcies laws that unfairly impact senior citizens & low-income families who are unjustly bankrupted by punitive taxes & fees✓ Remove <u>all</u> red light cameras and end the current system of punitive fees and fines
Supporting a Healthy Chicago	<p>The Vallas administration will ensure Chicago has healthy neighborhoods, healthy homes & healthy people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Remove the sources of lead poisoning Chicago's drinking water, in part by providing subsidies for lead pipe replacement✓ Provide, expand & fund community-based health services, including mental health services, drug addiction treatment, trauma counseling & vital pre-natal & new mother care✓ Create a Neighborhood Conservation Fund to help homeowners & landlords pay for improvements that make homes & properties healthier & safer✓ Develop a plan & subsidize partnerships to permanently end all 22 Chicago food deserts✓ Bring modernization & "green" improvement initiatives to neighborhoods across Chicago
Maintaining Ethics & Integrity	<p>The Vallas administration will be open & honest with the public through real transparency, dialogue & integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ End "pay-to-play" politics in which companies get contracts because of their political friendships & contributions✓ Maintain full transparency, integrity & access to information for the public✓ Regularly communicate & initiate dialogue with the public, engage stakeholders in decision-making processes & fully explain mayoral decisions to the community✓ Ensure civilian representation on appropriate boards, including the partially-elected board for CPS

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Protesting farmers insist on meeting with ministers



The Agricultural Development Ministry said on Monday night it was keeping lines of communication open with unionists representing farmers in Nikaia, central Greece, who were meeting to discuss whether to scale up their protest action.

Farmers have set up 23 roadblocks around Greece over the last two weeks, demanding tax breaks and lower production costs.

Following a meeting on Sunday, unionists had issued a call for dialogue to the government, saying they expected a response by 7 p.m. on Monday.

However, members of the national roadblock committee said on Monday they were in contact with Agricultural Development Minister Stavros Arachovitis and were waiting for him to inform them which government members will take part in a meeting they have demanded.

Farmers have rejected a meeting that will only include the leadership of the Agricultural Development Ministry, insisting that other ministers should be involved, including Deputy Prime Minister Yiannis Dragasakis.

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Bureaucracy undermines scientific research in Greece



Science and Research are not road construction works although they are treated like this by the Greek government. As the chairman of the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Prof. Nektarios Tavernarakis says, “A looming problem that Greek research centers need to overcome, is the extremely complicated bureaucratic system for handling and dispensing research funds”!

The Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), established in 1983, is one of the largest research centers in Greece with well organized facilities, highly qualified personnel and a reputation as a top-level research foundation worldwide. The Foundation, with headquarters in Heraklion, Crete, includes eight Research Institutes in different parts of the country.

A new legislation obliges hundreds of researchers in Greece to draft detailed budgets months or even one year in advance. A detailed budget, which must be submitted before the start of the new year, is obviously unfeasible to estimate because of science and research needs are quite unforeseeable. “When we talk about scientific research trajectories, you can never predict all the minute details. You don’t know the outcome of experiments, you may need to change strategy or design a different plan which requires additional budget, or you may need more, or different, consumables and instruments for another experiment.

According to this new legislation, researchers are expected, from as early as September or October, to determine their research and budgetary needs for the upcoming year. Such bureaucracy can’t be applied in research. And this has caused considerable pain to Greek researchers. “Just think about it”, says the Chairman of FORTH and continues: “In our Institution hundreds of research programs are currently running. Each of them requires detailed planning with an accuracy of up to the last euro. According to the new terms, detailed budgets should be available from the beginning of the year. For even the slightest change, the whole process should be repeated and budgets revised. During the year, hundreds of forms will need to be processed by each researcher, for each activity or budgetary item. However, research, by nature, requires planning flexibility”.

Research is a dynamic process which can’t be trapped in complicated management processes that dissuade researchers from their scientific targets. “Moreover, secretariat support is undoubtedly an issue which should be taken into account to facilitate the management process and to help researchers understand the complicated and oftentimes demotivating bureaucracy”, claims Dr. Costas Demetzos, a Professor of Pharmaceutical Nanotechnology and Director in the Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Technology, Department of Pharmacy of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

“What is more, there are several procedures required for each of these actions like search estimation, pre-approval, public announcement (as if this whole process is increasing transparency!), and several documents that need to be signed. Following the above, one needs to put across a detailed claim form, composed of several documents that need to be signed by several people too. In the past, I used to employ 1 and then 2 project managers that could handle all my projects. I now use 5, and they are not enough. They spend more than 4 hours per day queuing in the University Research Committee document receiving desks. In the past, it used to take us some minutes to complete a transaction. It now takes several days!” adds Dr. Panagiotis Bamidis an Associate Professor in the Lab of Medical Physics, Medical School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

In addition, another danger that may arise from the increased bureaucracy, is the loss of human capital. Many researchers may be discouraged to continue their research in Greece and may choose to become part of the brain drain. If we are to achieve “brain gain”, we should establish a research environment that would be favorable for scientists to carry out their research in Greece. Apart from facilities, funding and infrastructure, we should be able to provide an attractive research legislative framework.

The Hellenic Researchers Association, in an open letter sent to the Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, urges that several concrete steps should be taken to solve this huge problem which is caused by the persistent bureaucracy. Otherwise, the Greek government will realize in practice that bureaucratic behavior is even more damaging than it thought. Bureaucracy must be understood within the broader research bodies in which it operates otherwise, it fails to identify the real problems.

“Last but not least, it has to be said that transparency is not equivalent to bureaucracy! This whole system is insane; we do end up paying much more, spending/wasting public money for doing less work, less efficiently. It’s a real danger!”, Professor Bamidis concludes. [source: euroscientist](#)

Did Greece win the name dispute? Should it?

SOTIRIS GEORGANAS



The Macedonia issue as a liberation struggle was closed in 1914, and wrapped up in 1945, with a complete and utter Greek victory. Thessaloniki, while having a minority of Greeks, became irreversibly Greek, along with the surrounding territory. Today no sane Greek would consider it fair to expand the country’s territory northward, nor can there be any realistic dispute of the border from the other side.

The teacher’s chalk, the worker’s hammer, the small businessman’s hotel and the knowledge worker’s laptop have held the borders, not the soldier’s rifle (and if danger does come, it will be from the ever unstable east).

The Macedonia issue today remains just a naming dispute – an issue of international marketing. It is not a scientific issue which could be resolved at a big international conference. Neither is it simply a bilateral issue involving only Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; rather it is a matter of influencing international public opinion. This has been a complete Greek failure. Mindless nationalism scored the first own goal in 1993, and goals against Greece have not stopped since.

To realize it is just a marketing issue, consider that Greeks don’t care what the country is called in their private conversations (most refer to it as Skopje), or within FYROM (however they please, despite any agreement). It will not make a difference to Greeks if they get to call the neighboring country Skopje for all eternity, or if their neighbors themselves switch to the Republic of the Lone Pine Tree. What really matters to them is what the rest of the world calls it.

Unfortunately, such marketing cannot be done through demonstrations or anthems, nor with leaders’ signatures on a piece of paper. Greece has tried: FYROM has been internationally isolated for years. However, what diplomats have resisted, the international public has widely embraced. Ignorance, love of simplification, and the eventual sympathy for the underdog that most neutral people felt in the matter led to a simple fact: The whole planet calls FYROM’s citizens Macedonians.

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GREEK NEWS



US Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), a well-known supporter of Greece, urges Prime Minister Tsipras to recognize Juan Guaido as the Interim President of Venezuela. Rep. Mike Bilirakis has already sent Tsipras a similar letter:



Greece closes chapter “Macedonia” with ratification of FYROM’s accession to NATO

The plenary of the Greek Parliament ratified the “Ratification of the Protocol of the North Atlantic Treaty for the Accession of North Macedonia” with a majority of 153 votes late on Friday. Opposition parties down voted the bill with 140 votes, one lawmaker voted “present.”

During the roll-call voting procedure, all 145 SYRIZA MPs and another eight independent deputies voted in favor. Five out of six absent deputies voted against the draft bill by absentee ballot. Main opposition party, conservative New Democracy voted against although its partner EPP in the European Parliament favors the accession of “North macedonia” both to NATO and the European Union.

“I would like to again welcome North Macedonia, a country that is friendly toward Greece, a country that must be a supporter — and not an opponent — of our efforts to establish safety, stability, and cooperation in the wider region,” said Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tspiras.

With the ratification, Greece ended the 26-year-long name dispute with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, out of fear it would threaten its own region of Macedonia.The ratification process will admit FYROM to NATO under its new name “Republic of North Macedonia” once all of the North Atlantic alliance’s members approve similar protocols.

“It is a matter of days we formally change our country’s name into “Republic of North Macedonia,” FYROM Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov said on Wednesday, during a ceremony in Brussels, in which he signed the Accession Protocol together with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Greece’s seismologists at war over prediction for “major earthquake 6+R”

A fierce war has broken out among Greek seismologists after one of them told a private television station that an earthquake measuring over 6 R could occur in the next two months.

It was on Tuesday, when the director of the Athens Observatory Geodynamic Institute, Akis Tselentis, told ANT1 that there is a possibility of a tremor measuring more than 6 Richter in the next two months.

At the same time, his VAN earthquake predictions team has issued an report saying it had predicted the 5.2R earthquake off Preveza in the Ionian Sea on Tuesday.Seismologist and Member of Special Scientific Committee for Seismic Risk Assessment, Gerasimos Papadopoulos, raised doubts on Tselentis map, saying that that his prediction covers half of Greece.

“Tselentis map is vague, one cannot take measures for half of the country,” Papadopoulos told news website newsit.

Tselentis’ statement and the VAN-team report became the target of the President of Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization, Efthymios Lekkas.

Speaking to ANT1 on Thursday morning Lekkas described as “criminal irresponsibility” Tselentis’ prediction about the possibility of a major earthquake.

He stressed that “the state is ready to deal with a major earthquake but we do not know when it will occur.”

Lekkas urged citizens to not pay attention to “irresponsible predictions.”

Kammenos loses his parliamentary group

Renegade Independent Greeks MP Papachristopoulos resigned his parliamentary seat which goes to Deputy Foreign Minister Terence Kouik

The Independent Greeks parliamentary group was dissolved today after party leader and former defence minister Panos Kammenos expelled MP Thanasis Papachristopoulos, leaving the party with four MPs.

The party now is one MP short of what is required to have a recognised parliamentary group, which permits the party leader more time to orate in parliament and permits the party to keep a state-paid staff of about 50 employees and an enhanced security detail.

Parliament’s advisory Scientific Council delivered an opinion that upheld parliamentary rules which state that a parliamentary group must have at least five MPs all of whom must have been elected on the party ticket.

The Papachristopoulos saga with his on again off again resignation was spurred by the MPs decision to break the party line on three crucial occasions – he backed the government in a confidence vote, voted to ratify the Greece-FYROM Prespa Agreement, and today voted to ratify the Nato protocol permitting North Macedonia’s admission to the Alliance.

Kammenos today expelled Papachristopopulos, effectively dissolving his parliamentary group, and reported that in a letter to Parliament Speaker Nikos Voutsis.

Following that, Papachristopoulos resigned his parliamentary seat as he had pledged to do. The seat goes to Deputy Foreign Minister Terence Kouik.

Degradation of public life

There is no precedent for the current catfights between MPs in parliament and on television that have debased public dialogue and the Parliament.

There is no precedent for the current catfights between MPs in parliament and on television that have debased public dialogue and the Parliament.



Spineless individuals without principle or ideology provoke with their presence and undermine the prestige and credibility of institutions.

Unfortunately, the crisis of the past years led the public to heap scorn on traditional political forces and brought to the forefront of public life individuals of dubious quality

and seriousness. Top offices were occupied by individuals whose only qualification was that they expressed the anger of those who derided politics and politicians.

With no shame or sense of consequence they abandon their parties and leaders and easily offer themselves up to buttress a crumbling government.

In the past there were cases in which MPs did not honour their office or the choice of the citizens who elected them, but there is no precedent for what is going on now.

The responsibility of those who picked them as cadres and who now are getting their comeuppance is great. Yet the citizens who rewarded them either in order to express their rage or to attribute responsibility for the crisis to the political system also bear responsibility.

Those who today are complaining and denouncing the level of political dialogue should perhaps weigh their decisions more carefully in the future. After the fact protests against the decline of public life are futile.

We cannot constantly wonder why individuals with authority, knowledge and experience do not involve themselves in politics but when elections come around those whose only qualifications are skirmishes and senseless clashes on television news programmes survive.

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Virginia Republican embroiled in blackface scandal



Image caption Senator Tommy Norment was managing editor of a yearbook Virginia Republicans claimed the moral high ground this week as a blackface scandal left the state's Democratic leadership on the brink of implosion.

But now a racist yearbook has come back to haunt a top Republican.

It has emerged that Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment edited a 1968 college publication chock-full of slurs and blackface photos.

The bombshell comes after Virginia's Republican party said top Democrats had lost the authority to govern.

The uproar has shaken the state capitol in Richmond, which still grapples with its painful past as the capital of the pro-slavery Confederacy during the American Civil War.

Mr Norment, 72, was the managing editor of the Bomb, Virginia Military Institute's yearbook. The Republican Senate leader denies he is among those pictured in blackface in the publication.

But the yearbook was strewn with slurs against black and Asian students, according to the Virginian-Pilot newspaper, which broke the story.

It contained Confederate imagery and at least one instance of the N-word, as well as racist terms referring to a student from Thailand.

Another student was nicknamed the "barracks Jew" for "having his fingers in the finances of the entire corps".

In a letter from the editors section, Mr Norment had written: "Work on the Bomb has permitted me to release four years of inhibitions."

In a statement on Thursday, he distanced himself from the controversial content. "The use of blackface is abhorrent in our society and I emphatically condemn it," said Mr Norment.

"As one of seven working on a 359-page yearbook, I cannot endorse or associate myself with every photo, entry or word on each page. "However, I am not in any of the photos referenced."

Virginia Military Institute communications director Col Stewart MacInnis told the BBC the school has changed its policies over the past decade to ensure advisers review the yearbook.

But he noted: "This is a self-supporting student publication. There is a tension between institutional oversight and the cadets' First Amendment rights."

The scandal blew up last Friday when a picture from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's 1984 yearbook page showed someone in blackface and another in Ku Klux Klan robes.

Mr Northam apologised for the photo, then denied he was in the picture, but admitted wearing blackface while mimicking Michael Jackson on a separate occasion that year

Image caption Ralph Northam's page in the 1984 yearbook of Eastern Virginia Medical School

On Wednesday, the state's Attorney General Mark Herring - second-in-line to the governorship - revealed he too once wore "brown makeup" to a party.

Mr Herring had earlier urged the governor to resign over his racism scandal.

Meanwhile, Virginia's Democratic lieutenant governor, Justin Fairfax, is facing an allegation of sexual assault that he denies.

Vanessa Tyson, a politics professor, released a statement on Wednesday accusing Mr Fairfax of forcing her to perform a sexual act on him in his hotel room at the 2004 Democratic convention in Boston.

Amid public protests in Richmond this week, the Virginia Republican Party issued a statement saying the Democratic elected officials "have lost the trust of the people of Virginia and have lost the moral authority to govern".

If all three Democratic leaders were to resign over these controversies, Virginia could be led by the state's highest-ranking Republican, Speaker of the House of Delegates Kirk Cox.

Mr Cox was asked by reporters on Thursday at the state capitol whether he had any racial skeletons in the closet. "I have never appeared in blackface," Mr Cox, 61, said. "As you know, I was a schoolteacher, and that's abhorrent."

The scandal goes beyond politics. While the Richmond racism row has provided ample fodder for late-night show hosts, two primetime funny men have steered curiously clear of the topic. NBC's Jimmy Fallon and ABC's Jimmy Kimmel have both used blackface for comedy routines in the past.

Indian man to sue parents for giving birth to him

A 27-year-old Indian man plans to sue his parents for giving birth to him without his consent.



Mumbai businessman Raphael Samuel told the BBC that it's wrong to bring children into the world because they then have to put up with lifelong suffering.

Mr Samuel, of course, understands that our consent can't be sought before we are born, but insists that "it was not our deci-

sion to be born".

So as we didn't ask to be born, we should be paid for the rest of our lives to live, he argues. A demand like this could cause a rift within any family, but Mr Samuel says he gets along very well with his parents (both of whom are lawyers) and they appear to be dealing with it with a lot of humour.

In a statement, his mother Kavita Karnad Samuel explained her response to "the recent upheaval my son has created".

"I must admire my son's temerity to want to take his parents to court knowing both of us are lawyers. And if Raphael could come up with a rational explanation as to how we could have sought his consent to be born, I will accept my fault," she said.

Mr Samuel's belief is rooted in what's called anti-natalism - a philosophy that argues that life is so full of misery that people should stop procreating immediately.

This, he says, would gradually phase out humanity from the Earth and that would also be so much better for the planet.

"There's no point to humanity. So many people are suffering. If humanity is extinct, Earth and animals would be happier. They'll certainly be better off. Also no human will then suffer. Human existence is totally pointless."

A year ago, he created a Facebook page, Nihilanand, which features posters that show his images with a huge fake beard, an eye-mask and anti-natalist messages like "Isn't forcing a child into this world and forcing it to have a career, kidnapping, and slavery?" Or, "Your parents had you instead of a toy or a dog, you owe them nothing, you are their entertainment."

Mr Samuel says he remembers first having anti-natalist thoughts when he was five.

"I was a normal kid. One day I was very frustrated and I didn't want to go to school but my parents kept asking me to go. So I asked them: 'Why did you have me?' And my dad had no answer. I think if he'd been able to answer, maybe I wouldn't have thought this way."

As the idea grew and took shape in his mind, he decided to tell his parents about it. He says his mum reacted "very well" and dad too "is warming up" to the idea.

"Mum said she wished she had met me before I was born and that if she did, she definitely wouldn't have had me," he says laughing and adds that she does see reason in his argument.

"She told me that she was quite young when she had me and that she didn't know she had another option. But that's what I'm trying to say - everyone has the option."

In her statement, his mother also said it was unfair to focus on a "sliver of what he believes in".

"His belief in anti-natalism, his concern for the burden on Earth's resources due to needless life, his sensitivity toward the pain experienced unwittingly by children while growing up and so much more has been ruefully forgotten.

"I'm very happy that my son has grown up into a fearless, independent-thinking young man. He is sure to find his path to happiness."

Mr Samuel says his decision to take his parents to court is only based on his belief that the world would be a much better place without human beings in it.

So six months ago, one day at breakfast, he told his mother that he was planning to sue her. "She said that's fine, but don't expect me to go easy on you. I will destroy you in court." Mr Samuel is now looking for a lawyer to take up his case, but so far he's not had much success.

"I know it's going to be thrown out because no judge would hear it. But I do want to file a case because I want to make a point."

His Facebook posts have also attracted a lot of responses, "some positive, but mostly negative" with some even advising him to "go kill yourself". He has also had worried mums asking him what would happen if their children see his posts.

"Some argue logically, some are offended and some are offensive. To those abusing me, let them abuse me. But I also hear from many who say they support me but can't say this publicly for whatever reasons. I ask them to come out and speak up," he says. His critics also say that he's doing this to get some publicity.

"I'm not really doing this for publicity," he says, "but I do want the idea to go public. This simple idea that it's okay to not have a child."

I ask him if he is unhappy being born.

"I wish I was not born. But it's not that I'm unhappy in my life. My life is good, but I'd rather not be here. You know it's like there's a nice room, but I don't want to be in that room," he explains.