## **Global SOLIDARITY for Greece and Real Democracy**

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## Put an End to the ruinous influence of PARASITIC Bankers

By implementing participatory democracy Greece has overcome the first major hurdle in its pursuit of freedom from financial oppression and debt SLAVERY. Make no mistake, an economic WAR is being waged against Greece, its government and DEMOCRACY as I write. However, the first battle has been won by the people of Greece, which rejected the cruel, demeaning and ruinous demands of the global banking cartels.

It is now up to the world's population to not only support Greece in its fight for freedom but to free themselves from the same evil horror that considers human lives expendable and ruined nations an acceptable cost in its psychopathic pursuit of profit and oppressive social control. It is true that banksters are now kicking themselves in the arse for pushing beyond acceptable/tolerable limits and inviting their own destruction -- may it be swift and permanent! The final outcome will be determined by the global population if they follow Greece's lead. OUR support is now imperative if the global population wishes to remove its imposed shackles and RESTORE Democracy and freedom throughout the world.

From the cradle of democracy, <u>a lion has roared</u>. It is difficult to overstate the pressure the Greek people have <u>both endured and defied</u>. A country that has already experienced an austerity-induced economic disaster with few precedents among developed nations in peacetime has suffered a sustained campaign of economic and political warfare. The European Central Bank – which has <u>only recently deigned to publish some of the minutes of its meetings</u> – capped liquidity for Greek banks, driving them to the verge of collapse. There were stringent capital controls, and desperate queues outside banks followed. A country desperate to stay within the euro was told it would be ejected, and with calamitous results.

Martin Schulz, the European parliament's president and a so-called social democrat, whose attitude towards democracy can be generously described as ambiguous, called for the removal of Greece's elected government in favour of a technocratic government.

It wasn't bluster. That's what the EU and the markets previously pulled off in Greece and, yes, in Italy: however much justifiable distaste exists for Silvio Berlusconi, it should have been his own people who removed him. In <u>Greece</u> itself, the oligarch-owned "free media" acted as a political machine (sound familiar?), pumping out relentless propaganda in favour of capitulating to the creditors' demands. An alliance between Greece's economic elite and the EU great powers told the Greek people: however tough your lives have been in the last few years, your world will cave in unless you acquiesce. And still the Greek people voted no – not narrowly, but overwhelmingly.

The referendum was, of course, a rejection of an austerity programme that has unleashed what is commonly described in Greece as a humanitarian crisis. Since <u>Lehman Brothers crashed in 2008</u>, austerity has always relied on the displacement of blame from elites to elsewhere. It was Goldman Sachs who helped the then Greek government to cook the country's books to win entry into the euro. It was German and French banks who profitably and recklessly lent to Greece, just as US banks disastrously showered subprime mortgages on low-paid Americans. It was Germany who benefited

from being able to export its consumer goods to peripheral European countries such as Greece.

After the crash, Greece was forced to implement measures that sent debt hurtling to 180% of GDP, doubled poverty, left a quarter of Greeks and over half of young people without work, raised the suicide and infant mortality rate, left many without healthcare, and shrunk the economy by a quarter. Precious little of the bailouts went to Greece; instead they went to the European banks that had recklessly lent in the first place. While Germany's postwar economic renaissance owed everything to debt relief – including from war-devastated countries such as Greece – Athens was denied the write-offs it desperately needed. As French economist Thomas Piketty points out, "Germany is the single best example of a country that, throughout its history, has never repaid its external debt", and Berlin is "profiting from Greece" because of its high-interest loans. The weak euro makes German goods so internationally competitive, and has been a linchpin of the country's recent economic success.

But this revolt was about something much bigger, and that is why Greece remains in great danger. This is about the very nature of the European Union itself. The European project was founded in the rubble of a war of annihilation, genocide and totalitarianism. It was intended to secure peace, prosperity and democracy for the people of Europe. This dream has become something of a nightmare for a growing number of Europeans. A democratic deficit is unaddressed. The Transatlantic Treaty Investment Partnership is <u>negotiated in secret with large corporations</u>, conspiring to give them the power to sue elected governments in secret courts to try to stop policies they believe hit their profits. The EU treaty negotiated in 2011 effectively forbade any future eurozone government from <u>pursuing an expansionary fiscal policy</u>. Other treaties and directives enshrine free-market dogma in law. Austerity is mindlessly implemented across the eurozone with terrible human consequences: in Spain, too, around half of young people are out of work.

Syriza was a revolt against this Europe of austerity and corporate power, in favour of a democratic, socially progressive Europe. Podemos in Spain is part of this revolt, as is Sinn Féin in Ireland. If the referendum had produced a yes, then it would have represented a potentially terminal defeat for this gathering pan-European revolt. Instead, it has now been emboldened. Unfortunately the EU elites are not stupid, and realise this. They fear – justifiably – that if Syriza is seen to win concessions, the rebellion will spread. The resignation of Yanis Varoufakis is almost certainly part of an attempt to allow them to save face and do a deal.

But the EU is in a genuine bind. If Greece is ejected from the eurozone, the currency is no longer an indivisible union and a precedent will be set for the ejection of its members. If the ECB abandons Greece, the eurozone's reputation will not recover. This is why Greece has bargaining power in its quest for debt relief and for an abandonment of austerity that has already ravaged the country. The EU still wishes to make an example of the country: by forcing Syriza to implement policies that will destroy the government, by making "the economy scream" (to quote Henry Kissinger) until it is ejected from office, or even a disastrous default and removal from the eurozone. It may still succeed. And that is why Greece desperately needs support.

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