

In Defense of the One and Only Macedonia

In April 1941 the Wehrmacht in pursuit of Hitler's expansionist designs launched a blitzkrieg invasion of Greece. The onslaught came through the Greek-Yugoslavian and Greek-Bulgarian borders. In the ensuing World War II and post-war years, other Balkan powers tried to exploit for themselves the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Greece by extracting her northern provinces adjoining the Aegean Sea in order to enlarge their own territory. Fostering and supporting the civil strife in Greece at the time was part of the scheme to accomplish their aggressive objective. This sinister effort is currently continued by the state entity of FYROM, which has indolently legislated as its constitutional name Greece's Macedonia. Sixty six years after the attack of the Axis forces, Greece must again defend herself against a renewed aggression, this time coming in a subtler form, involving encroachment of History and Culture. The Greek defense against resurfacing 20th Century mentalities, albeit appearing in the background of an enlightened Europe presently engaged in unification, rests on premises of historical facts that transcend millennia, a deeply rooted cultural reality and international law.

To remind and inform our members of these highly offensive and unethical to world-order happenings at the doorstep of Greece, we present the precise perspective of the very distinguished Macedonian scholar, Nikos Martis, former Greek Government Minister. Mr. Martis addresses the Skopje issue in an **Open Letter** to the European Council and the Foreign Ministers of the European Union.

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OPEN LETTER

by Nikolaos Martis

Former Gov. Minister

President of the "Macedonian Hestia"

to Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Foreign Minister of Germany

President of the European Council

cc: to the Foreign Ministers of the EU

Skopje and peculiarities of the German attack against Greece in 1941



March 2007

H.E. Mr. Frank -Walter Steinmeier

Foreign Minister of Germany

President of the European Council

Your Excellency,

May I send you my sincere congratulations for your important post and mission as President of the European Council and wish you every success.

From my seven – year military service as Artillery reservist officer during the Second World War, having participated in a) the battle of the Macedonian – Thracian strongholds in 1941, b) the battle of El Alamein and c) the battle of Rimini (Italy), I will refer here, as a Macedonian, to the German attack against the Macedonian – Thracian strongholds in April 1941, in which I served, and to the ensuing peculiarities of this attack in relation to the Skopjan issue.

1. As it is known, Mussolini attacked Greece in October 1940 and was subsequently defeated. Hitler, as mentioned in Riefenstahl and his Will, had in fact decided to help Mussolini attack Greece at the end of March 1941.
2. When the Yugoslavian Army overthrew the government of Yugoslavia on the 28th March 1941 (Eden's statement p.19 in my book), Hitler postponed the scheduled attack against Greece until the 6th April 1941 when he combined this attack with an attack against Yugoslavia.
3. In the battle of the Macedonian-Thracian strongholds unique acts of self-sacrifice and heroism took place by both defenders and attackers. But also, in this instance, acts of military propriety were performed by the German army, who, surprised and impressed by the heroism and self-sacrifice of the strongholds fighters, would hold up their arms before those who surrendered and only when the last Greek soldier would vanish in the distance would they raise the German flag.

Moreover, Hitler referred to the Greek heroism in Reichstahl on the 4th May 1941. He commented that historical justice compelled him to conclude that of all the adversaries, which Germany had confronted, the Greek soldier had fought with the utmost heroism and self – sacrifice.

4. On the same day the German army invaded Skopje where they were received as liberators.
5. At the Nuremberg Trials, **Marshal Keitel** declared: *«The unexpected resistance put up by the Greeks had delayed the German assault on Russia by two months. The outcome of the war on the Eastern Front and the War as a whole would have been different, he asserted, and others would now have been the accused».*
The struggle of the Greeks against the invasion of Italy and Germany lasted a total of 216 days, a fact that Hitler himself characterised as catastrophic for Germany and the outcome of the war.
6. The said invasion, however, had as a consequence the prevalence of communist Tito in Yugoslavia, who with Stalin's consent on the 2nd August 1944 and on Serbian territory, before the Bulgarians left Skopje and the Germans the Balkans, announced the foundation of the «Socialist Democracy of Macedonia», aiming at the extraction of Macedonia and Thrace from Greece. As it is known, the Communist and the Balkan Communist Parties had been pursuing since 1924 the autonomy of Macedonia and Thrace aiming at the exodus of the Soviet Union into the Aegean, so that during the cold war period Europe was in danger of becoming communist by the strong communist parties of France and Italy and following the destruction of Germany.
7. Following the departure of the Germans from Skopje in September 1944, Tito entered Skopje and set out to concoct on paper the non-existent ingredients of a non-existent Macedonian Nation, which, first, Stettinius, Foreign Minister in the Roosevelt government, condemned immediately as a fraud in December 1944.

The historical facts that followed as well as those that preceded 1944, all supported by irrefutable documentation, are already known to all competent parties of the EU to whose attention they have been repeatedly put.

In 1991, following the collapse of the Communist regime, several independent states were created in Yugoslavia among which South Serbia under the name of FYROM.

Like Germany did not pursue the reunion of West and East Germany, because it knew it would not have succeeded, likewise Greece did not seek the abolition of the Socialist Democracy of Macedonia. As from 1950

nevertheless, when Tito sought diplomatic relations with Greece, all the leaders of all the Greek political parties have been renouncing the existence of Macedonian minority and consequently of Macedonian nation, which was refuted by all neighbouring countries.

The Skopjans, particularly the new generations, who have been taught since 1950 in the school books that they are Macedonians and descendants of Alexander the Great, adhere to the name «Macedonia» in order to be legitimised as Macedonians, contending that this is their constitutional name. A name, concocted by Tito and Stalin in 1944, they audaciously keep abusing in a constant attempt to exploit its historical and cultural connotations.

Recently they have shamelessly named their airports «Alexander the Great» and «Apostle Paul» respectively and in 2000 they published the book «The Military History of 28 centuries of the Macedonian people», which cannot but become for the historians and particularly for the military historians a comical text.

The competent authorities of the EU know that Constantine Karamanlis, who signed in 1961 as Greek Prime Minister the Agreement Linkage with the European Economic Community of the 6 and the panegyric Greek membership in 1979, was Macedonian; like Macedonian is Costas Karamanlis, the present Greek Prime Minister. With regard to the Greek identity of the above-mentioned distinguished politicians and the few millions of Macedonians in Greece and abroad there is no room whatsoever for compromise or negotiation.

They also know that on the 3rd January 1992 Constantine Karamanlis, as President of the Greek Democracy, sent a letter to his 15 colleagues of the EU, in which he makes reference to his Macedonian identity and mentions that the inhabitants of Skopje consist of Slavs, Albanians, Turks and others who have no relation whatsoever to the Macedonians. The Council at the Summit Meeting of June 1992, out of respect for the historical truth concerning the Greek identity of the Macedonians, agreed to recognise Skopje, without, however, the word «Macedonia».

Apart from the above, an Agreement of Stability and Membership of FYROM and the EU was signed in 2001.

In the governmental website of FYROM they presented this agreement as a treaty of the «Democracy of Macedonia» (not of FYROM) with all and each one of the 15 states of the EU and not the EU as a whole, deceiving everybody that Greece signed an agreement of the «Democracy of Macedonia». Unfortunately the EU never denounced this fraud, which constitutes the essence of the problem.

According to this Agreement, as essential Articles are considered the Articles 2 and 3 (you will see them analytically in my book «The Essential terms and conditions of the Agreement of 2001»). As per these Articles, the Skopjans are obliged to respect the democratic principles (that presuppose the truth) and the human rights.

The foremost human right for every nation and person is one' s identity.

The identity of the Macedonians, however, is the identity of the Greeks.

Macedonia never existed nor does it exist, because the Macedonians were and are Greek.

The EU and especially the competent authorities know the Macedonian identity is Greek, but they have never really got down to solving the problem. They only keep mentioning that attempts are being made to find a mutually acceptable solution, about which not accidentally Kissinger stated in Paris in 1992 when he was asked what he thought about the name «Macedonia»: «I believe that Greece is right to object and I agree with Athens about the name. The reason is that I know history, which is not the case of most of the others, including most of the government and the administration in Washington. The strength of the Greek case is that of its history, which I must say Athens have not used so far with success»

I proposed to your predecessor to ask the Finnish Commissioner Mr. Oli Rehn to accompany the Skopjan Members of Parliament and the European Members of Parliament who are in the competent section of the 2001 Agreement, on a visit to: (a) The National Research Centre of Athens, where there are 5000 Greek inscriptions of Macedonia and 11.000 names of Macedonians and ask the Skopjans to come up with ONE, only ONE inscription in the so called «Macedonian language», (b) Macedonia (archaeological sites and Museums), (c) Similar sites in the democracy of Skopje. A necessary, useful and full of

surprises visit. An invitation to all directions for the verification of the historical truth by everybody, which, after all, constitutes the indispensable prerequisite for the establishment of Stability in the region.

Addressing myself to you, dear Minister, who knows that the historical truth constitutes a prerequisite for stability and good neighbourhood, I ask you to please protect the authority of the EU, which should have pointed out to the Skopjans that they could not call themselves «Macedonians», because the Macedonians were and are only Greek.

I am pleased to enclose my book «The falsification of the History of Macedonia» about which **Chancellor Helmut Schmidt** wrote, as testified in his attached letter: «*I want to congratulate you for your excellent and very impressive book about the Macedonian History, which of course is also an important contribution to the European History*».

I hope that you, coming from a country with a long tradition of love and knowledge of the Greek culture and ideals (Hegel, Nietzsche, Schiller, Goethe, Holderlin, Heidegger, Beethoven, to mention only a few –Schiller characteristically regarded Goethe as Greek), will defend the historical truth and condemn the unprecedented forgery of History committed by the Skopjans. You will thus be able to preserve your own cultural identity, as an inheritor of the Graeco – Roman culture and not of the non-existent Skopjan one. Solely the «History of Alexander the Great» » by your compatriot **Gustav Droysen**, the first and best book on the subject in modern times, constitutes a disarming and irrefutable proof of the Greek identity of the Macedonians.

I shall look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



NIKOS MARTIS

Former Gov. Minister

President of the «Macedonian Hestia»

Attached: A list of significant historical dates and facts.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL DATES AND FACTS

1. March 1878 – The St Steven’ s Treaty with which the Tsar compelled the Ottomans to cede Macedonia and Thrace to the Bulgarians, a move against which the Greeks rose.
2. In July 1878 the Treaty of Berlin overturned the St Steven’ s Treaty.
3. The Macedonian struggle (Greeks – Bulgarians) followed, which was armed from 1904 till 1908. This struggle was suspended in 1908 after the uprising of the New Turks.
4. In 1905 the general census of the population (Hilmi Pasha) took place. Not a single Macedonian was listed.
5. In 1912 the new Turkish Government proclaimed Parliamentary elections with the participation of the minorities. Not a single Macedonian was a candidate or a voter.
6. In 1912 upon the declaration of the 1st Balkan War of Greece – Serbia – Bulgaria – Mavrovounio against Turkey, as soon as the Greek army liberated Thessaloniki, as part of the wider area of Ancient Macedonia, the General Administration of Macedonia was founded. No one reacted as they all knew that Macedonia is Greek. A small strip of ancient Macedonia which had been occupied by Serbia and Bulgaria was incorporated in the Serbian and Bulgarian territory.
7. In 1913 the 2nd Balkan War (Greece – Serbia - Rumania – Mavrovounio) against Bulgaria took place. When Bulgaria was defeated the Treaty of Bucharest (1913) was signed and the borders of Greece – Bulgaria and Greece – Serbia were defined. The Treaty mentions that the mountain crest of Beles was set as the Greek - Bulgarian border, while the centers which were occupied by the armies on the day of the armistice were set as the border of Greece – Serbia. It is a lie that Macedonia was divided because nowhere in the Treaties is mentioned the word «Macedonia», which did not exist during the Turkish domination.
8. In 1914 the First World War was declared. Nowhere is mentioned the presence of Macedonians. In 1919 with the Paris Treaty Croatia and Slovenia were added to victorious Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia

was created. If there had been a nation of Macedonians there would have also been a kingdom of Macedonians.

9. In 1917 the Communist Party prevailed in Russia, which through the Comintern, as I have already mentioned, pursued the extraction of Macedonia and Thrace from Greece having as target the control of the Aegean by the Soviet block, the same way the Tsar pursued it in 1878.
10. The Second World War (1939-1945). In October 1940 Mussolini attacked the Greek positions of Epirus and Macedonia. In April 1941 Germany attacked the Strongholds of Macedonia and Thrace. In 1941 the British army defended Central and Western Macedonia. The sole Macedonia since antiquity and 1912.

Consequently the respect for the memory of the dead heroes (German, Italian, British, Australian, New Zealand and Greek) who fell in 1940–41 in the sole MACEDONIA that existed, makes it imperative that all Members of the European Parliament, but especially the German, the British and the Italian Members, should take a clear stance about the identity of Macedonia as Greek and the identity of the Macedonians as Greek.



NIKOS MARTIS



Mosaic floor, similar in style to that in the palace of Vergina, is in the newly discovered city at Ai Khanum, founded in the wake of Alexander and peopled with Greeks along the River Oxus.

MACEDONIAN NATION NEITHER EXISTED NOR DOES IT EXIST

The Macedonians were Greek. They had all the elements, according to Herodotus, (1,581), which characterise a nation. Namely they had the same language with the rest of Greeks. The same sanctuaries and gods whose abode was the Macedonian Mountain Olympus.

It would be inconceivable to think that the Greeks would have had their Gods' abode in a non-Greek area. The 9 Muses also came from mountain Pieria of Macedonia.

The Macedonians, like all Greeks, took part in the Amphictyony and the Olympic games. The President of the First International Olympic games of 1896 that took place in Athens was Dimitris Vikelas from Veria of Macedonia. The Macedonians had, like all other Greeks, four ancient theatres. It is noteworthy that the Greeks were the only people in antiquity that had theatres.

There are also two ancient Greek theatres in the Southern part of the Democracy of Skopje where the Serbian Army occupied a small strip of land, which belonged to Ancient Macedonia and annexed it to the Serbian territory.

The identity of the Macedonians, which is the identity of the Greeks, constitutes the essence of the Skopjan problem and not the simple name of the State without bearing any relation to history.

The identity of the Macedonians as Greeks, as I analyse in my letter to Mr. Oli Rehn, verify the sacred texts of the Old and New Testament, texts of ancient Greek, Hebrew and Roman writers and thousands of Greek Inscriptions. The Central Israelite Council of Greece with a letter on the 11th January 1993 (*Doc. 2*) to the World Hebrew Conventions and Councils mentions: *"The Jewish religion and philology constitute the irrefutable witnesses of the ancient ethnological character of Macedonians as Greeks"* (*Doc. 2*).

"The ancient and contemporary Macedonians are Greek and the language of the Macedonians is Greek", declared with unanimous decrees the Legislative Bodies of 14 States of the USA (*Doc. 3*).

The above historical truth confirmed the 15 leaders of the EU in June 1992 at the Summit Meeting of Lisbon where they unanimously resolved to recognise Skopje on condition that they would not have the word "Macedonia". The issue was put at the time by the Macedonian President of Greek Democracy

Constantine Karamanlis who wrote in his letter of the 3rd January 1992 that *"The ethnological compositions of the Former Yugoslavian Democracy of Macedonia comprised Slavs, Albanians, Gypsies who had no relation whatsoever to the Macedonians"*.

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The ethnological composition of the inhabitants of Skopje as Slavs (Bulgarians and Serbs) confessed also their former President Mr. Kiro Gligorov with his statement: *"We do not claim Alexander. We are Slavs."*

1. In February 1993 at the Council of Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament I asked for the minutes but I was informed that there were none of that period.
2. On the 9th September 1991 on the day following the referendum in Skopje during an exclusive interview to Greek journalists, but also
3. Further above, in the revealing statement made by Gligorov to Australian young people, as mentioned in page 2.
4. On the 15th March 1992 (Newspaper STAR of Toronto) "We are not Macedonians, but Slavs. We are not related to Alexander the Great and to the Macedonians.
5. On the 24th February 199 the Ambassador to Canada Yordan Vassilinov in an interview to the newspaper "CITIZEN" of Ottawa admitted: We are not related to the Northern Greeks, who have produced leaders such as Philip and Alexander the Great. We are Slavs and our language is akin to Bulgarian. There is some confusion about the identity of the people of my country.

The historical truth is expressed also by Kissinger' s statement in 1992 *"Greece is right about the name. I say this because I know history, which is not the same with Ministers and High Officials in Washington. History is Greece' s strong weapon"*.



NIKOS MARTIS

From my book: "The EU and the Pseudo-Macedonian Nation of Skopje".