



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

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Upcoming Events

Human-Induced Climate Change In Geologic Time

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents *Professor David Archer* in a lecture titled: “*Human-induced climate change in geologic time.*” The event will take place at 3:00 pm in Room 1610, at the Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Admission will be free.

Professor Archer will talk about what happens—from the perspective of Earth’s natural carbon cycle—when fossil carbon is combusted and released to the atmosphere, and what are the projections of climate impacts into the deep future. Due to the slow nature of the chemical reactions that dissolve rocks and remove atmospheric CO₂, the carbon cycle and atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) recover slowly, on a time scale of hundreds of thousands of years. On these longtime scales, because the great ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland take longer than 100 years to respond to climate change, the sea level rise would be 100 times greater than what is projected for the year 2100. Most of our current plans to avoid a climate change of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) involve cleaning up the atmosphere by scrubbing its CO₂. However, indications are that this process would be expensive.

David Archer is a professor in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago and a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. He has extensively published on Earth’s carbon cycle and its interaction with global climate. Dr. Archer has written a series of books on climate change, including *Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast*, a text for non-science major undergraduates now in second edition, and *The Long Thaw: How Humans are Changing the Next 100,000 Years of Earth’s Climate*. He teaches classes on global warming, environmental chemistry, and global biogeochemical cycles, and a free online climate science and modeling class on *Coursera.org*.

Annual Dinner Dance—Scholarship Awards

The *Annual Dinner Dance, New Year Celebration, and Scholarship Awards* of Hellenic Link–Midwest will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Road at Schiller Park, starting at 6:00 pm. The proceeds from the Annual Dinner Dance are used to support the cultural and educational program, the scholarships, and all other activities of our

organization. The generous support of our members and friends will be greatly appreciated. For tickets, at \$80 per person (\$40 for children up to 12 years old, from the special menu), please call 847-612-2202, or contact any of the Board members. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the night of the event, but purchase of tickets in advance will greatly facilitate the planning of the event, and it will be greatly appreciated.

In Brief

Greek Businesses and Greeks Continue Leaving the Country

On October 18, 2018, the Greek cement giant *Titan* announced that it is transferring its headquarters to Cyprus, at a time when the Greek state is strangling enterprises with its high taxes and social security contributions.

According to the Greek newspaper *Ekathimerini*, the transfer of headquarters will not affect the company’s production in Greece. *Titan* is one of many Greek firms looking in transferring their businesses elsewhere in Europe where they expect to enjoy better and faster access to bank financing – which is almost nonexistent in Greece – and with lower interest rates.

Greece has one of the highest corporate tax rates in Europe, that undermine the growth of enterprises. It has the highest in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, reaching up to 39.65 percent (earnings and dividend rates).

The Greek income tax rate for companies has risen to 29 percent from 26 percent in 2014, while the dividend tax has climbed to 15 percent from 10 percent. In Bulgaria the corporate tax and the dividend tax stand at 10 percent. In Cyprus, where *Titan* is moving to, the corporate tax rate stands at 12.5 percent, and is zero for the non-Cypriot shareholders who reside in Cyprus.

According to the latest available data, in the period from 2012 to 2017, 6,692 Greek corporations registered their businesses in Cyprus. Most of them made the move in the last couple of years. Many Greek companies decided to move their activities to Cyprus even when Cyprus was still in a bailout program.

Ekathimerini also reported in 2017 that there are about 15,000 Greek companies in Bulgaria, although Deputy Finance Minister Katerina Papanatsiou stated that eight in 10 Greek firms in Bulgaria - seeking to evade taxes - have a registration number but no activity there.

Many reports on the Greek business sector conclude that unless tax rates are reduced, the Greek economy will not be able to grow. Earlier this year a report by *Grant Thornton* showed that in Greece in the last three years 58 percent of corporate profits went to taxes.

A report published by *Washington Post* last August on policies that affect economic growth, showed that for the period from 1960 to 2016, Greece is in the group of the slower-growing economies together with Chile, Brazil, Philippines and Argentina. For this period, Greece registered a growth of about ten times lower than countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Botswana. The slower growth in these countries was attributed to one or more of unnecessary trade protectionism, government misallocation toward favored industries, corruption, and financial instability.

The *Financial Times* reported last August that since 2010 between 350,000 and 400,000 Greeks, mostly in their 20s and 30s, have emigrated — mainly to other EU countries. More than two-thirds are university graduates and many have postgraduate degrees.

Last June the New York Times wrote: “*Today, in North Rhine-Westphalia, a booming industrial region that includes Düsseldorf and Cologne, an estimated 130,000 Greeks ply in-demand modern skills at German technology, telecommunications and construction companies, as well as banks, hospitals and pharmacies.*”

Violence in Greek Universities

The Greek newspaper *Ekathimerini* wrote last November that according to a study carried out by Thessaloniki’s University of Macedonia, 358 instances of lawlessness and violence were reported in the period from 2011 through 2017. These acts of violence range from physical attacks to raids on university campuses, vandalism, drug dealing, robbery and rape that occurred in 19 universities.

The largest number of attacks, 113, occurred on the grounds of Thessaloniki’s Aristotle University, the country’s largest, followed by 70 at Athens University, and 36 at the National Technical University of Athens.

Of the 358 cases, university professors or lecturers were targeted in 95 and students in 34. The study notes that the real number of incidents is probably significantly higher than those recorded.

The perpetrators of violence in the Greek universities take advantage of the peculiar Greek law of “*asylum*” on the grounds of universities. The New Democracy party has called for immediate changes to legislation on university asylum, which the SYRIZA-ANEL government reinstated last year after a previous ND administration had revoked it.

About a year ago a group of around 15 people, all wearing crash helmets and wielding wooden sticks, attacked students attending a function at the campus of Athens University in central Athens. The assailants beat up several students, four of whom were transferred to Evangelismos Hospital, and wreaked serious damage to the building. Before fleeing, they stole a box of money that the students had collected at the event. Two days earlier a group of unidentified vandals used iron bars and wooden sticks to wreak serious damage at the University of Macedonia (UOM), in Thessaloniki. At the time the UOM’s rector, Achilleas Zapranis, had said “*We have to realize that this kind of violence only happens in our country.*”

Drug dealing and the trade of counterfeit goods, mainly cigarettes, clothes and bags is said to be rife at the Athens University of Economics and Business, with addicts from the nearby “*Pedio tou Areos*” park visiting the grounds with increasing regularity.

The night of November 18, 2018, rioters, celebrating the 45th anniversary of a student uprising against Greece’s then-ruling military junta, smashed sidewalks and windows, and burned chairs and tables used to erect barricades. Police said that that night the rioters threw about 1,000 firebombs and 200 flares. Of the 19 people arrested, 15 were Greeks aged 17-37, including a 28-year-old member of the “*Rouvikonas anarchist collective*,” and foreigners including a 30-year-old Afghan, a 17-year-old Romanian, a 13-year-old Palestinian and an Albanian.

The union representing university professors called on the government “*to finally grasp the scale of the problem, to assume its responsibilities for the situation on university premises and to protect, as it should do, the lives of students and staff as well as university public property.*”

From Our History

The Cyprus Tragedy and the Culpability of the British

(Excerpts from the book: *The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community in Istanbul*, by Speros Vryonis)

The published memoirs of the seasoned Turkish diplomat, Mahmut Dikerdem, are explicit on the matter. As a member of the mission that then acting foreign minister Zorlu took with him to the conference, Dikerdem was in a position to give a revealing account of the Turkish side—and, in particular, of British behavior and of the British attitude in getting a more vigorous Turkish reaction on Cyprus. He emphasizes British efforts to secure a strong stance from Turkey on the issue, which would basically bolster the faltering

British position. Further, he remarks that after Zorlu had read his lengthy and derailed catalogue of demands on Cyprus to the assembled conferees, Harold Macmillan terminated the day's discussions and hastened to congratulate Zorlu on strengthening Turkish policy on Cyprus and articulating Turkish demands.

In a cryptogram sent to Ankara on August 28, Zorlu informed his government that even at this late hour (that is, before his speech to the conference), the British were still uneasy over the prospect that the Turkish mission would not make any strong claims in opposition to those of the Greek representatives. By the first half of 1954, the British government was uneasy over the possibility that Turkey would not support Britain on Cyprus. On July 15 1954, a member of the Foreign Office suggested that Britain actively court Turkey:

I am informed that the Turkish Foreign Minister has given an official promise that his government will not actively oppose Greece's effort to secure a favorable decision from the United Nations Organization's General Assembly on the question of the unity of Cyprus and Greece ... "She [Turkey] will rather maintain a neutral attitude. Moreover, should the question take an active turn during the General Assembly discussion the Turkish delegates will try to suggest [a] means of settlement capable of easing the tension You may think it wise to give the Turks further encouragement to keep them up to the mark. It would, of course, severely damage our position in the United Nations if the Turks were to adopt a neutral attitude in the question of considering Cyprus on the Assembly agenda.

By October 1954, it seems that British efforts had largely succeeded in persuading the Menderes government to reverse its official position of "neutrality" in the Greek-British dispute over Cyprus. Under prodding by British ambassador James Bowker, Ankara had quietly reoriented its position in a series of secret instructions to its embassies abroad and, although remaining outwardly neutral on Cyprus, had nevertheless responded favorably to the British ambassador. British efforts to elicit a more determined Turkish stand on matters, and thus to buttress their case, were transformed by the start of the armed campaign of EOKA (*Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών* in Greek, or National Organization of Cypriot Fighters) against British rule at the beginning of April 1955. This, in turn, set in motion a hysterical outpouring from the Turkish press, along with the activities of Fazıl Küçük and Faiz Kaymak, and their efforts to exert pressure on the Turkish government. The British consul in Istanbul wrote to the Foreign Office on April 19, 1955, that the renewed violence had persuaded Ankara to display much greater concern for Cyprus, and that this marked a decisive turn in the Menderes government's policy toward more active involvement in the issue:

The strong Turkish press reaction to the recent outbreaks of terrorism in Cyprus has continued but there is now an increasing tendency to criticize the Cyprus [British] government for its handling of the Situation.

This tendency has not been helped by the wild and exaggerated statement made on his arrival here by Fazıl Küçük, the Secretary General of the Cyprus National Turkish Union...Several Turkish newspapers, including the largest in the country, Hurriyet, which has always maintained a dose interest in Cyprus, have sent correspondents to the island to follow the situation and most of their reports have been extremely critical of the supposedly ineffectual way in which the Cyprus authorities have handled the Greek terrorism.

A fairly large section of the press is taking the line that British policy aims to set Turks and Greeks on the island at each others' throats so that the problem can be shown to the world as merely a private quarrel between the two communities ...

*Even moderate press comment here has adopted a less favorable line than hitherto towards British policy... **Although no cases of Greek terrorism directed against the Turks have been reported here,** most of the press has referred to the dangerous position in which the Cypriot Turks find themselves...Throughout this violent and often garbled reaction the constant theme, of course, has been repeated emphasis that Turkey will never in any circumstance agree to the island being ceded to Greece and that she will take the necessary action in the event of any move in this direction by Britain ... So far in all this the Turkish government has remained aloof and has made no official pronouncement..."*

Soon thereafter, Turkey made a formal request to the Foreign Office "for immediate access to British thinking and decisions over Cyprus." About a month later, on May 15, 1955, Britain consented grudgingly, as it not only needed a more aggressive Turkish policy but realized that Turkey now understood that the British position in Cyprus was weakening before both EOKA's campaign and the Greek government's success in bringing the issue before the United Nations.

This is a disturbing but natural development. The Turks are (a) naturally rattled by the recent disorders in Cyprus and afraid that we shall be bundled out... [They are] taking advantage of their position as our only and essential supporter to raise their price in terms of having an increased say in Cyprus affairs. So far, the Turkish government has been restrained but they may not remain so.

Apart from restoring order in can only do our best to appease the Turks by giving them full information about our intentions, whilst continuing to make clear that we, not they, rule the island (To be continued)

From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage

Ποίηση Νίκου Γκάτσου

Nikos Gatsos was born in 1911 in Asea, Arcadia and died in Athens in 1992. In his poems, surrealism, the rhythms of the Bible, and the traditions of Greek folk ballads were combined in a strange, arresting, and elegiac manner. His verse is characterized by an ever-present tension between the violent and the lyrical, the harsh and the tender, the crude and the beautiful. In addition to poetry he played a great role as a lyricist in Greek song. He wrote lyrics for major Greek composers, including Manos Hadjidakis, Mikis Theodorakis, Stavros Xarchakos, Demos Moutsis, Loukianos Kelaidonis, Christodoulos Chalaris and Eleni Karaindrou.

ΟΔΗ ΣΤΟ ΦΕΔΕΡΙΚΟ ΓΑΡΘΙΑ ΛΟΡΚΑ

Δε γνώρισα τη μορφή σου!
Μπορεί να σ' έβλεπα μιαν αυγή
Να κατεβαίνεις απ' τα βουνά σαν ποτάμι
Η να κοιτάξεις τη θάλασσα
Μιαν ανοιξιάτικη βραδιά κάτου απ' το κρύο φεγγάρι
Οπως κοιτάζει ο άνεμος μια κοιμισμένη καρδιά.
Μπορεί να σ' έβλεπα να περνάς
Σαν αστραπή του καλοκαιριού μες στ' ανθισμένα λιβάδια
Σα μια φωνή νοσταλγική να τριγυρνάς στα δάση
Μικρέ καθρέφτη που φώτισες
Στην ασημένια νύχτα σου την κουρασμένη καρδιά μου
Σαν ένα μακρινό βαθύ συλλογισμένο αστέρι
Σαν το νερό των πηγαδιών όταν κοιμάται αμίλητο
Ρίζα που κλαις από χαρά βαλσαμωμένη στο χώμα
Φύλλο που λάμπεις ήρεμο στο μέτωπο της μέρας
Αίμα ρουμπίνι που κυλάς μες στο κορμί της άνοιξης
Χιόνι λιωμένο κρύσταλλο στη φλέβα ενός ονείρου !

ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΑ

Τι ζητάς Αθανασία στο μπαλκόνι μου μπροστά
δε μου δίνεις σημασία κι η καρδιά μου πώς βαστά
Σ' αγαπήσανε στον κόσμο βασιλιάδες, ποιητές
κι ένα κλωναράκι δυόσμο δεν τούς χάρισες ποτές
Είσαι σκληρή σαν του θανάτου τη γροθιά
μα ήρθαν καιροί που σε πιστέψαμε βαθιά
Κάθε γενιά δική της θέλει να γενεί
Ομορφονιά, που δεν σε κέρδισε κανείς
Τι ζητάς Αθανασία στο μπαλκόνι μου μπροστά
ποια παράξενη θυσία η ζωή να σου χρωστά
Ήρθαν διψασμένοι Κροίσοι, ταπεινοί προσκυνητές
κι απ' του κήπου σου τη βρύση δεν τους πότισες ποτές
Είσαι σκληρή σαν του θανάτου τη γροθιά
μα ήρθαν καιροί που σε πιστέψαμε βαθιά
Κάθε γενιά δική της θέλει να γενεί
Ομορφονιά, που δεν σε κέρδισε κανείς

ODE TO FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA

I did not recognize your form!
I might have seen you at dawn
Go down from the mountains like a river
Or look at the sea
A spring night under the cold moon
As the wind looks at a sleeping heart.
I may have seen you pass
Like the lightning of the summer in the blooming meadows
Like a nostalgic voice walking around in the woods
Small mirror lit up my tired heart
On your silver night
Like a distant, deeply contemplated star
Like the water of the wells when it's silently asleep
Root that you cry over with joy wrapped in the soil
Leaf shining calmly on the cusp of the day
Blood ruby that rolls into the body of spring
Snow melted crystal in the vein of a dream!

ATHANASIA¹

What are you looking for Athanasia¹ in front of my balcony
you don't pay attention to me and my heart can't stand it
Kings and poets of the world have loved you
and you never gave them a sprig of mint
You're cruel like the fist of death
but there were times when we believed deeply in you
Every generation wants to own you
Pretty girl, that no-one has conquered you
What are you looking for Athanasia in front of my balcony
what strange sacrifice does life owe you
Thirsty Croesuses, humble pilgrims came to you
and you never watered them from your garden's fountain
You're cruel like the fist of death
but there were times when we believed deeply in you
Every generation wants to own you
Pretty girl, that no-one has conquered you

¹ Athanasia is a Greek female first name, and also means "Immortality".