

SKOPJE CONTRIBUTES TO ITS OWN INSTABILITY

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KEYWORDS:

Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Nationalism, Propaganda, Balkan Stability

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

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Regional Stability

Stability in a country can be the result of internal or external causes all of which are sociologically rooted. Whether we classify stability as political, social, or economic it undeniably contributes to a country's uninterrupted function otherwise the country's uneven operation could lead it to either political troubles, collapse of the government or in multi-national societies even the country's demise. Besides their expected contributions to the normal operation of a society, multi ethnic societies have an additional burden. Good ethnic relations have to be maintained in order for a country to prosper. Ethnic infighting in a country increases the possibility for social, economic and political hazardous undertaking with devastating results.

Closer to daily life and welfare, a society is susceptible to corrupt governments implementing unrealistic economic strategies, intransigent foreign policies, domestic laws that phenomenally protect citizens. Bad laws in the name of respect and equality could be used to suppress freedoms and human dignity, are detrimental to the country and the region. Adding to the above, local or across the board unemployment and heavy reliance of a country on foreign investments, produce foundations for domestic upheavals. Truly democratic societies produce governments that care about their people in a real sense and do anything for the welfare of its people.

Balkan countries, with the exception of Greece, have discovered that although under communist rule doctrinal education was essential in the survival of a regime albeit the gap between theory and practice was great, in a democracy there is only practice. As former communist countries attempt to reconcile their societies' gradual transcendence to democracy it is evident that their understanding of how democracy works is absent. The majority of the citizens in the former communist countries of the Balkans are content with their undeniable right to vote, while some of their governments care to offer more democratic institutions than just voting. Successive governments of the FYROM are very concerned that with real democracy the spirit of *Macedonism* would be a thing of the past bringing such social instability that no government would be able to withstand. *Macedonism* is the concept that keeps the Slavs together. Without it, not only the country will lose the Albanian inhabited lands, but it will create havoc to its inhabitants seeking their identity destabilizing the region.

For Greece, stability in the Balkans is of paramount consideration. But stability in the region cannot be accomplished unless all Balkan countries cooperate and reason. When one of its countries advocates violence in a row of absolute nationalism advocating an identity which one could argue is the result of euphoric recall considering that in the last century

their alleged identity changed four times. The education in history of the Slavic children of the FYROM does just that.

Slavic Nationalism

The issue of a probable instability in the FYROM because of the name is very real albeit the government in Skopje purposely ignores the root of the potential domestic social instability with evident political and economic consequences. Feeding ethnic tensions against the Albanian nationalism could have dire consequences taking into account that Albanians are about 35% of the FYROM's population. As if the internal problems are not enough, Skopje exports domestic genetic engineering and homemade cultural anthropology to its neighboring countries "Macedonizing" anyone and anything that could be used by their propaganda machine in their effort to build a past that never was. Words of scientifically proven Greek glosses pertaining to Macedonia have been re-invented as part of a vocabulary of an ancient "Macedonian" language that by the admission of FYROM's former Prime Minister Lubco Georgievski never existed adding that there is no connection between the ancient Macedonian dialect to the modern language of the FYROM.

Instead of addressing the issue with seriousness and responsibility, Skopje domestically perpetuates the plague in a gradual but steady upgrade while

externally it plays the victim card in an attempt to gain international sympathy and support rallying uninformed individuals and political sympathizers to their corner. Although it has already succeeded in its external goals due to Athens' consistent diplomatic ineptness, low-tone policies, and political indolence Skopje has conscripted its Diaspora and employed Public Relations firms to accentuate its so-called victimization. Athens did not complain about Skopje's perpetual violation of articles 7 and 11 of the Interim Agreement unless the Greeks of the Diaspora alerted the Greek press.

Given the fact that the Slavic population of the FYROM has changed its national identity four times during the 20th century wavering from Bulgarian to Serbian to Bulgarian to "Macedonian" the insistence of Skopje not to give up its "Macedonian" identity feeds increasingly Athens' suspicions that Skopje's end goal is the eventual claim of all Macedonian territories (Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania). For more than 18 years Skopje has done all possible to maintain its "Macedonian" identity and increasingly forces the issue through speeches or deeds of its governments blaming Greece for all the ills of the FYROM society as if it is a spoiled child in a tantrum.

The federalization of the FYROM is eminent and the dissolution of that country could be near unless the Slavs

come to terms with who they actually are leaving away wishful thinking. Skopjan nationalism increased as the years passed as a result of encouragement they received from NATO and EU countries which were disinterested in Greece's rights, interests or sensitivities promoting their own agendas. Greece's veto was a rude awakening not only to Skopje, but also to all those behind the scheme.

Sociological maturity is normally a matter of time and although the shock of the veto could wake the Slavs up bringing them closer to reality, it practically made them increasingly negative attacking Greece in any way possible. At the end, Skopje attributes its instability to Greece instead of its own revanchist, nationalistic and expansionistic education. Greece's national interests counter the FYROM's plans, and that is why Greece has to do what it has to do to protect if not its rights, at least protect its interests.

One has to assess that it is not Skopje's fault, but Greece's partisan irrationality and political inconsistency. Had consecutive Greek governments had checked Skopje's moves from the beginning and had Greece established a sound national policy remaining consistent in her policy towards Skopje, Greece would not have found herself in the diplomatic guagmire that she is today. Greek politicians having as their first priority their self-indulgence,

second their political party's interest and Greece's benefits in the backburner they created an inconsistent stage on which various actors played their role as they wished with Greece being the only spectator watching Skopje pulling the strings setting the agenda and imposing its terms. One should add that Skopje's efforts are indirectly funded by EU and the Greek taxpayer. For a nation that keeps stating that it has no claims on Bulgarian or Greek Macedonian territories it spends a lot of time, effort and definitely Greek money to consolidate what it is not theirs, the epithet *Macedonian*. It appears that Skopje waits for the right moment to legally deprive the epithet Macedonian from its neighbors, especially Greeks, exercising the inherent by that time right to anything *Macedonian*.

Nation and Nationality

The system of *narod* (nation), *narodnost* (nationality), and *malčinstvo* (minority) worked during Tito's leadership. The Yugoslav Communist League accredited Tito with the liberation of the country and the defeat of Draža Mihajlović's "fascist" forces giving a dictator credit that did not deserve. Because of the communist fascination on promoting minority rights in the name of "brotherhood and unity" communist policies emphasized, rather than downplayed, ethnic consciousness.

The communist party of Yugoslavia gave a new meaning to words *nation* and

nationality which was interesting and complex. In a simplistic way, anyone of the six constituent peoples of Yugoslavia i.e. Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Montenegrins, "Macedonians" and Muslims constituted *narod* or nation. If the mother country of a people of a certain ethnic group regardless of their population size was outside the borders of Yugoslavia, that group was considered *narodnost* or nationality. Under this definition, Albanians being more numerous than the "Macedonians" within SFRJ they were a nationality, but the Slavs of Skopje were a nation. Based on the above logic Skopje became the center, the mother "country of all "Macedonians" having the inherent right to demand union with all Macedonian lands under the Skopje's leadership.

The Albanian Factor

Albanian nationalism has exacerbated the already inflamed situation in the region. Albanian diaspora enlisting all possible means and taking advantage every opportunity they could to make a point that no government would be able to push them around. It goes back to the former Yugoslavia as a result of Tito's internal policies explained above that played ethnicities against each other, granting specific rights and increasing autonomies to minorities to ensure the state's slogan, "brotherhood and unity." In fact the system had long term effects of enmity of perceived weak ethnic groups toward alleged privileged ones.

Albanians claim territories from Montenegro (Malesia), the FYROM (Ilirida), Greece Tsameria, and they have arguably achieved independence for Kosovo bringing the unity of their lands in harmony with their national goal. Due to Albania's backwardness it is expected that its neighboring territories as more advanced will be the ones to achieve either direct independence or through union with the neighboring Albanian inhabited lands before achieving independence. Since Kosovo is considered independent, next in line will be Ilirida which will be achieved through federation with the Slavic part of the FYROM in a couple of years from now.

Given the fact that Albanians form about 35% of the population in the FYROM they resent the name *malčinstvo* or minority, pinned by the Slav government of Skopje. The rise of Albanian nationalism found an unprecedented appeal among young Albanians who went far to ancient history in order to consolidate their roots to something more concrete than new rootless ethnocentric nationalism with expansionistic tendencies. Albanian nationalists content that their ancestors are Deukalion and Pyrrha parents of Hellen, Illyrus, etc. appropriating even ancient Macedonian History declaring Myrtale a.k.a. Olympias, Philip and Alexander the Great as their own.

Despite the fact that Albanian consanguinity and direct lineage to the

ancient Illyrians is greatly questionable lacking archeological evidence Albanians believe in their Illyrian ancestry. The fact that the ancient Illyrian language belonged to the *centum* branch of the Indo-European group of families while modern Albanian belongs to the *satem* branch without any linguistic or archeological evidence connecting the two languages is absolutely inconsequential to young Albanians. Great grammatical differences exist between the two Indo-European branches and absence of archeological data and linguistic continuity deprive linguists scientific arguments connecting even remotely the languages of the FYROM Slavic to the ancient Macedonian as much as Modern Albanian to the ancient Illyrian providing ground only to speculations, assumptions, and hypotheses driven to the extreme by imagination, wishful thinking, and definitely megalomania.

Thus the FYROM is inhabited mainly by two peoples ethnocentrically nationalistic and expansionistic who due to falsified education both claim same or related ancestry speaking *satem* languages versus the *centum* of their imagined ancestry and a Slavic government fueling its own nationalism antagonizing the Albanian one which is fueled by political patrons who hope they will benefit from the result.

Greece's Right to Veto Justified

According to the FYROM and its friends, Greece did not have the right to veto FYROM's membership to NATO and the EU because of the Interim Agreement that both countries signed in 1995. Looking back to the FYROM's behavior we realize that from beginning was a behavior of rejection of their provisional name. The FYROM and its friends did anything possible not only to maintain the name "Republic of Macedonia," but also spread it through half truths and schemes demanding recognition under that name from any that wanted to do business with Skopje. In October 2007 the President of the FYROM declared from the podium of the UN that the name of his country is "Macedonia" renouncing the provisional name and denouncing any country that calls it The FYROM. The official websites of their government do the same. These are indicators that the FYROM has abolished its right to expect to join any organization under the name The FYROM when it suits its agenda and interests. They and their friends must understand that they are either "Republic of Macedonia" and stay out of any organization or "The FYROM" and receive membership. The rejection of the name "The FYROM" by its own president not only meant an official rejection of the provisional name that its country joined the UN, but also the violation of Article 11 of the Interim Agreement which refers to the UNSC resolution 817 of 1993 that "this State

[The FYROM] being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as 'former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State." The expression "within the UN" has much broader meaning than the building of the UN. It means the institution for what it stands with all organizations, countries, etc. including treaties, conventions, protocols, correspondence, and activities connected with the UN which includes recognitions of countries, alliances, etc.

As for the argument that the FYROM stability is in danger, all people, countries and organizations concerned should be talking to the FYROM not to Greece because it is up to the FYROM government to correct the problem. Nevertheless, the day that the "Republic of Macedonia" signed the military co-operation agreement with the US a couple of weeks ago the agreement vacated any danger and possibility of

destabilization of the country and the region. The United States by guaranteeing the FYROM's survival and security has vacated all dangerophobia and fearmongering surrounding Greece's veto, which means that Greece does not have to rush to solve a problem that Skopje should have taken care of by changing its faulty education. Its rationale, under which all of Skopje's friends pressure Greece, does not exist anymore.

These politically destabilizing factors along with high unemployment, corruption, heavy dependence on foreign investment, an education founded on baseless megalomania, create greater instability. The government of The FYROM has already chosen its country's own fate.