

Modern Greek Politics after Democratization: Populism and the Idea of European Integration

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This essay aims to describe the characteristics of Greek politics from the post-military dictatorship period to the present by looking at them from the standpoint of populism. It gives three concrete examples. First, we examine how instrumental the populist politics of two main political parties (ND and PASOK) were in cultivating desirable relationships with their voters and why those politics were able to be maintained. Second, the case of populism combined with nationalism is explored over the issue of the exclusion of religion from identity cards. Third, we look at the populism of the far-right party “Golden Dawn,” which has been steadily attracting more Greek people after the collapse of ND-PASOK populism. In the last section we consider how populism in the Greek political arena during the last thirty years could be linked to the idea of European integration and what factors will play a crucial role in connecting future Greek politics with the EU.