

## *Andreas Papandreou: The Making of a Greek Democrat and Political Maverick*

STAN DRAENOS

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Stan Draenos' book *Andreas Papandreou: The Making of a Greek Democrat and Political Maverick* has come at a time when Greece is facing tremendous economic, political and social problems. The role played by PASOK and Andreas Papandreou's son George Papandreou also brings to the limelight the heritage left by the founder of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement.

Writing about Andreas Papandreou is no easy task when considering his complex and controversial persona in addition to contemplating the active part he played and his influence on modern Greek politics. Andreas Papandreou had such an avid personality that could not leave anyone indifferent: people either admired and followed him or came to strongly oppose him.

Stan Draenos has taken a number of years to carry out his research into the life of Andreas Papandreou. The book in its 340 pages covers very interesting aspects of Papandreou's life. The early part of the book (the first four chapters) deals with Andreas' successful academic career as well as his personal life; it also analyses in a thorough and meticulous way the transformation of an excellent academic into a politician slowly but surely being attracted to Greek politics. The persistent efforts of his father George Papandreou are described in a detailed and lively manner and the author leads us gradually to understand this transformation.

The magnetism of the personality of Andreas Papandreou as well as his passionate temperament comes out vividly through his early life in America. The incident with the authorities described on pages 5 and 6 indicates that Andreas was not the kind of person who easily conformed to restrictions. It also marked the beginning of a new life. The meeting with Margaret Chant and what was to follow, throw light on the passionate aspect of Andreas' character which he was to exhibit later in his political career.

The author describes very skillfully the efforts of George Papandreou to draw his son into Greek politics. The involvement was slow but steady and after some years Greece was to acquire its 'Messiah'. The maverick of Greek politics decided to stay in Greece and subsequently was to be a key player in Greek politics for the next thirty years or so.

A book on Andreas Papandreou could not be complete without reference to Cyprus and the Cyprus problem. Andreas Papandreou came onto the Greek political scene at a time when Cyprus

was facing serious internal political problems and the threat from Turkey was looming in the background. Andreas Papandreou is seen in the role of a modern Greek politician trying to steer a middle path between American politics, Greek interests and internal politics. This was to change in later years as Papandreou moved away from the United States and became more deeply involved in Greek politics and the Cyprus problem. Progressively, the Greek Cypriots were to see a strong supporter of their cause; a leader who was at times even prepared to go to war for the sake of Cyprus. The later years however, are beyond the scope of this book.

The book ends with the tragic events of April 1967: the coup by the Greek colonels, his confinement and his departure from Greece in January 1968.

As Draenos states in his concluding statement '... Andreas Papandreou's transformation into a political maverick had reached its fulfillment at the level of analysis and understanding. The consequences for his politics were to follow' (p. 307).

This is a well-researched and well-written book. It covers the early years of Andreas Papandreou's life in academia, his personal life and his gradual pull and involvement in Greek politics. The coverage is balanced and dispassionate and brings to life the man who was to be a leading figure in modern Greek politics.

Draenos writes in a style that is attractive, smooth and easy to follow. Reading the book was both interesting and easy. As the flyer to the book states 'it will appeal to general readers as well as to scholars and students of international affairs'.

The bibliography is not so extensive but it covers important works on the period. In addition the book has been published in Greek by «Ψυχολόγος» in a translation by the writer and journalist Christos Economou.

It has been described by Andreas' son Nicos Papandreou, as one of the best books written on his father. It probably contains the best coverage to date of the early years of Andreas Papandreou.

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