

Cultural identities in crisis

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Abstract:

There has been nearly a third of a century during which major population movements took place globally. Most people who left their homes have chosen Europe to settle for a series of reasons, most significant of which are: chances for economic growth, political stability and a high degree of tolerance in European societies.

However, the present economic crisis in European Union brought along a series of changes in the social structure, resulting to consequent changes in the political arena. Also, the increase in the number of migrants in many European countries in conjunction to the negative economic climate gave space to the development of skepticism against migration. Thus the degree of tolerance raised and xenophobia appeared. And if these are marginal as well as extremist stances, we need to consider the number of ordinary people who have been affected and turned their mentality towards a neo-nationalist attitude.

The present paper reveals the results of a comparative study concerning the re-shaping of culture in Greece. The first part of this research is located on Spring 2009 before crisis started, while the second part was conducted in Spring 2010, in the apogee of the crisis. The results shown are apocalyptic: a considerable percentage turned towards beliefs about the uniqueness of the Hellenic (Greek) nation; the superiority of Classical civilization or the supremacy of Orthodoxy, beliefs counter to any egalitarian aspect and within the confines of nationalist schemata.

Keywords:

Culture, culture in crisis, neo-nationalism, Greece

Short Bio Note:

Themistoklis Gogas is Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. He holds a PhD in Education from Keele University, UK. He taught at the Technological Educational Institution of Epirus, Greece as well at the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education, Greece. He is author of a book, editor of two collective volumes and member of the editorial board of *the International Journal of Language Translation and Intercultural Communication*.