

Project Report for
Political Learning as a Catalyst for Moderation:
The Case of Greek Elites

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In March 2002 I received a Faculty Research Grant for my project, “Political Learning as a Catalyst for Moderation: The Case of Greek Elites.” As specified in my grant proposal, my project aimed to determine the extent to which talks between Greek political elites as well as their American and European counterparts facilitated democratic consolidation in that country. Meant to complement archival research already undertaken in summer 2001 in Denmark on the many behind-the-scenes discussions that contributed to the consensual unity of Greek *socialist* elites, this research was to explore factors that motivated consensual unity on the part of the Greek *right*. Given the close relationship between the U.S. government and the Greek right (including the Greek military establishment) during the 1950s and 1960s, I believed such information would greatly illumine the right’s motivation for moderation in the decades that followed as well as the potential role of the United States and other actors in that process. To conduct this research I requested financial support that would allow me travel to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland to investigate newly-opened CIA, State Department, and American Embassy files. I also stated that I would use part of the summer in South Bend to review multiple years of the Congressional Record available at our own Schurz Library as well as to file several Freedom of Information Act requests for access to U.S. government documents not yet made available to the public.

Pursuant these goals, I spent several months at our own Schurz Library reading and taking notes on all congressional debates (both in the House and Senate) on the topic of the Greek military regime from 1967-73 (I have still to read the 1974 Congressional Record on this topic, which I hope to complete shortly). I also submitted several Freedom of Information Act requests to government agencies (Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Athens, and the CIA); my CIA request is currently being processed. Finally and most importantly, the grant also made it possible for me to travel to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, where U.S. government records are housed. While there I reviewed recently released documents from the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Athens. These archival materials proved quite useful and I returned home with photocopies of well over a thousand documents. I also became aware of other recently-released government documents, which I had not been aware of, including documents from the National Security Council that I plan to systematically review in the near future. While all of this research is still very much ongoing (I plan, for example, to return to College Park to finish reviewing these documents as well as documents from other government agencies), I nonetheless have already collected enough documentary evidence to begin the writing of a second monograph on this period of Greek politics. Thus, I continue to find this work promising and look forward to pursuing it into the future.

Thank you for finding this project worth funding. Without the financial assistance of a Faculty Research Grant, this research would have entailed a greater personal financial burden and may not have been as easily executable.

Respectfully Submitted,

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