

Short Truths



By

I. Popovski

(Translated from Macedonian to English and edited by
Risto Stefov)

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rstefov@hotmail.com

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AN ARTIFICIAL NATION

It seems to me the situation with Greece today resembles the story of the thief who ran away from the village square yelling: “Help! Thieves!” Then as he left the village he stumbled and fell down dropping all the stolen objects he was carrying. At that same moment the villagers ran to help him and noticed all the stolen objects all around him. So, who was the thief?!

Greece, our “good” neighbour, with its politics is doing exactly that. We have Greek Foreign Minister Venizelos or Turkoglu, a so-called Greek of Turkish origin, trumpeting throughout the world claiming the Macedonian nation was artificially created by the Comintern (Communist International).

Perhaps it’s like that, I am not saying no. But here is the thing. How can so many Macedonians be “born” in such a short time? Was the entire Comintern presidency made up of women? I don’t understand! A lot is a lot! And another thing, my great-grandfather, may God bless his soul, was over one hundred years old and always used to say that he was Macedonian and knew nothing of the Comintern.

Believe me; I don’t know how to explain these “great” claims made by a minister of a “glorious” ancient state formed in 1830 with the help of the Great Powers. And now, that minister is leading the European Union! What a miracle! The Europeans are clever people and I don’t think they are wrong or have forgotten their European history.

I am certain that what the minister has said he learned from the Greek experience of forming the Greek nation over the last two centuries or so. First, if I am not mistaken, the so-called Greeks have origins from the old Ethiopian or Eritrean tribes. Second, the Egyptians who had occupied a large part of the Greek City States did not have enough ships to leave and remained there subsequently being forced to become Greeks and thus enriching the Greek people. Many of the Roman occupiers after Rome fell also stayed in Greece. The Vlachs who were brought to Greece by the Roman Empire and those who came from Dacia also stayed there. The Greeks even

usurped the Vlach rebellion against the Ottoman occupation, which took place from 1821 to 1825. That rebellion is now claimed as a “purely Greek” uprising. The leaders of that rebellion were Rigas Ferreos and Theodoros Kolokotronis, both pure Vlachs. Greeks, since then and to this day, have been celebrating that uprising as the biggest national “Greek” holiday but without saying that those leaders were Vlachs who formed their own Vlach state that encompassed Thessaly and Epirus.

The uprising was claimed to be “purely Greek” and has remained that way to this day because the Vlachs were, according to the same Greeks, an artificial people with the only difference; they were not proclaimed by the Comintern but by the Greeks themselves with the help of the Germans who had already installed a German king named Otto in Greece. And if I am not mistaken Otto was a young prince from some Bavarian dynasty.

Without going deep into history, let us say that Greece grew increasingly larger after its “glorious” war with Turkey in Izmir in 1921. The then Turks beaten “morally” but not militarily, expelled hundreds of thousands of Christian Orthodox Turks who ended up in Greece. So, in order to become “pure Greeks”, the “cultured” Greeks gave these Turks the lands of the persecuted Macedonians. In this way, the Greek nation became larger and more pure Greek.

Who dares deny the ancient Greek ancestry of Karamanlis, Turkoglu, and many other Turks whose names begin with “Kara” or end with “glu”? The Greeks wrote history and no one can change it. The Greeks claim “if you were born in Greece you are Greek”. What a privilege! This is how the rights of the “purest” and the most “cultural”, chosen nation in Europe were created, not an artificial nation like our nation which was created by some entity known as the Comintern.

No one needs mention the case with the promotion of Aryan politics at the Berlin Academy in 1832, which claimed that only the white man was the bearer of the most advanced European culture and civilization from antiquity to the time of Hitler. But who should have been the oldest bearer of that culture? The Romans? No! The Egyptians or Mesopotamians? No, because they were not

Europeans. The Semites or the Indians? Never! The Chinese? No! That privilege fell to the Greeks. At that time three German universities were given the task to write the “glorious” Greek history for the Europeans so that they could be proud of such a white nation. And the Greeks, encouraged by the Germans, began to hyperbolically upgrade their Hellenic history to match the claims made by Aryan politics, embellished with many of the stories belonging to the surrounding nations. They even usurped Macedonia’s ancient history. At that time there was no written version of Macedonia’s ancient history because some powerful people tried to destroy it and hide it from public view forever. By usurping the Macedonian people’s ancient history the Greeks usurped everything that was Macedonian including the Olympic gods and legends. They were baptized to be Greek by adding an “s” or “os” at the end of their names. This copyright the Greeks received was through the signature and seal of Germany, France and England the Great Powers of that time who had colonies around the world. Should you believe in a history guaranteed by the Great Powers!?

Much later, even Churchill reached the conclusion that a small country such as Greece could not create so much history as the Greeks did. But he said this jokingly.

In this way, the Greeks have become a favourite people... a spoiled European nation that has accumulated a lot of debt and experienced five economic bankruptcies most of which, apparently, very few Europeans have noticed. With this latest bankruptcy, however, Greece has been leading Europe, and even Germany, by the nose. A financial bankruptcy such as this has shaken the entire European Union.

Europe has suffered many consequences which this spoiled “child” called Greece has brought upon it, of course in the name of the great Aryan ideal.

This has been going on for nearly two centuries, even though Aryan politics was thought to have disappeared in history together with Hitler! But it has not! Dear Europeans, look around you!

When Bakoyannis, another Modern Greek minister, said that history has been written and no one has the right to change it, she was right. Even Sarkozy defended Greek history not because he had been paid to say that, but because he liked history the way it was written!! Only Germany's foreign minister was paid off, but for other reasons not for the Macedonian question or for Greek history.

Unfortunately, behaving this way towards European countries has not made Greece a single friend and on top of that has created problems for all of Europe and left Europeans to solve them. It is not like that? Let's take a look at each of Greece's neighbours. Greece has had decades-long problems with Turkey, or the so-called Cyprus and coastal issue. Greece has unresolved issues with the Albanians living in Chemeria (Epirus) and with the status of one million and two hundred thousand Albanians who work in Greece. Greece's biggest complaint about them is that they "eat Greek bread" and "take jobs from the hungry local Greek labourers". These kinds of problems Greece solves in a "fine" manner by having these Albanians turned into instant Greeks. Let us have a look at an Albanian man named Alia who now calls himself Dimitri. He was given a fine bath and turned into a pure Greek. If he doesn't like his new name, then he can seek work outside, across the border. And this is another way of increasing the "pure" Greek nation!

Macedonia's neighbourly relations with Greece have been known for a long time and there is no need to comment. Greek relations with Bulgaria were created only on the basis of one problem: a common hostility towards the Macedonian people, but nothing binds them.

This is your European democratic policy of Greece! That is why Venizelos was sent to Macedonia to teach us how to listen to the Greeks, a chosen nation, and most valued by the European Union.

Only those European scientists who like to be autonomous are now showing some interest in analyzing who is who among the European nations and seeing how "clean" they are. Included among those scientists are the Swiss with their prestigious iGenea institute.

Accordingly, their results and conclusions have proven that the Greeks have an ancient Greek origin of only 4%. This is a far cry from the 100% purity claimed by Greece. This also means that the Greeks are 96% “impure”, a mixture of other nations. In contrast, Macedonians who do not claim to be 100% pure Macedonian were found to have 32% ancient Macedonian DNA. But how can that be? Well, as it was explained by the “European experts”, it appears that the apparatuses when analyzing the DNA for the Greek and Macedonian samples did not work properly. That is why Europe has no comment on this issue! But isn't this how the EU always behaves when it comes to Macedonia and Greece? Even though Switzerland, located in the centre of Europe, wants to scream to the world about this, its voice cannot be heard beyond the European borders.

But there remains only one small means through which all the results of the Swiss scientific institution's analyses can be seen. And then what do we see?

Well, this reminds me of the story of the thief who stumbled and fell at the exit of the village and was caught with the stolen things. And so it would appear that the Greek façade is slowly crumbling into small pieces and non-ecological harmful dust.

People do not say “lies have short legs” for nothing.

APPEAL FOR HELP!

Exactly 75 years and five months ago my first name and surname were changed by the Greeks like they did with all other Macedonians who lived in Greece. The explanation given for doing that was that a Greek law was adopted by the fascist Metaxas government which coincided with Hitler's "triumphant" appearance on the European scene.

My parents wanted to call me Philip, after my great-grandfather, to whom the Lord had granted a life of over one hundred years. I fulfilled that desire, only now, with the baptism of my nephew whom we named Philip. It is part of our tradition to name our children and grandchildren with the names of our older and deceased relatives!

Allow me to explain. I was born in Aegean (Greek occupied) Macedonia and was expelled from my homeland in 1948 during the Greek Civil War along with many other children ages 2 to 14. Some Greek children were also expelled with me but the Greek children were able to return home without any problems. Unfortunately none of the Macedonian children were allowed to return unless they gave up their Macedonian identity. This is how it was and still is to this day!

Later on the Greeks passed another fascist law to regulate the return of Greek Civil War refugees. This law allows the return of "Greeks by genus" which again excludes the Macedonians born in Greece.

These two laws are still in force in Greece, even though Greece entered the most democratic union of countries - the European Union!!

I now live in the Republic of Macedonia and for the last 15 years I have witnessed many European human rights experts, diplomats, experts on various issues and so on, tell us how to turn the Republic of Macedonia into a democratic state similar to those of the European Union!

These emissaries have asked us to even do pointless tasks. And we, with a great desire to join their club, the most democratic club in Europe, enthusiastically did everything they asked of us. And, even though we are praised for what we have done, we still cannot negotiate our entry into the European Union. The reason for that – Greece! On top of everything, we are also expected to fulfill every single Greek desire which includes changing the name of our country and our Macedonian identity. It would appear that they had forgotten to do this until now. Now they have the opportunity to do it elegantly, politically and culturally: through blackmail!

Here is why I am asking you for help: to preserve the name of my country, the Macedonian identity, the Macedonian language and my surname which I received, again, in the Republic of Macedonia. My name, even though it is pure Greek, has brought me happiness in life and I would not change it! I ask for help from those who know me as a Macedonian:

- First I ask for help from the former European Union Ambassador, Mr. Fouere, who personally awarded me the EU InfoCentre Certificate for participating in the exhibition of the most important innovations from Macedonia, Skopje 2009.

- I am asking for help from the European Parliament, from Brussels, in whose official hall I was awarded the prestigious ENERGY GLOBE Award from Vienna as a national winner of 853 projects from 109 countries for my wastewater treatment plant, which the kind Austrians called “MACEDONIA” after my country of origin – the Republic of Macedonia - Brussels, 2008.

- I am asking for help from the Belgian Government which, as a representative of the Republic of Macedonia, awarded me a Contribution Award for the protection of the environment, Brussels, 2001.

- I ask for help from the organizers of the 50th International Fair of Innovation and New Technologies, EUREKA, which awarded me the Gold Medal as a Republic of Macedonia winner and participant, Brussels, 2001.

- I ask for help from the European Parliament, the United Nations and the World Bank as supporters of ENERGY GLOBE, who for the second time declared me the national winner of the Republic of Macedonia for 769 projects from 111 countries, and for my innovation “Plant for the removal of SO₂ and dust from smoke gases with heat recovery”, Prague, 2009.

- I am asking for help from my friends from all the Balkan countries who came to visit me and my constructed stations in the Republic of Macedonia. These people were my guests from: Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia...

- I ask for help from my guests from Germany, England, NATO, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iran, Dubai, Algeria and Qatar, as well as my friends from China and North Korea who visited me or were interested in my water treatment plants. All these guests received a visa to enter the Republic of Macedonia.

-I am looking for help from friends from 12 countries located on three continents, and with whose help I built my water treatment plants in their countries with Macedonian technology, and thus I solved one of the most burning environmental problems. I turned waste water into water for washing and irrigation on green and agricultural surfaces.

- I ask for help from all my friends from Greece who want to cooperate with me in order to apply my technology to the beautiful Greek resorts along the coastal blue waters in order to improve the quality of stay of tourists.

- I ask for help from all the Greek people capable of overcoming the perplexity caused by the nationalist hysteria of some of Greece’s politicians (Karamanlis, Venizelos, Samaras ...) whose grandfather’s surnames began with “Kara” and ended with “glu” or their “Samardzhi” (saddle maker) craft, heirs of the newcomer colonists and settlers who came from the Caucasus and the Turkish coast and who were settled in Aegean (Greek occupied) Macedonia. These politicians are now the “most numerous and pure Greeks” to inhabit

the territory of the Macedonians where we were expelled from Greek occupied Macedonia in 1948-1949.

- I ask for help from the international jury commission at the international innovation fair in Jena, Germany which, as a participant from the Republic of Macedonia, awarded me a silver medal for my innovation in 2012.

- I am asking for help from the Association of Innovators and the Academy of Malaysia who, as a representative of the Republic of Macedonia, gave me a gold medal for my innovation.

Is there an honest European from all those listed above that can convince me that I should lose my Macedonian identity and the name of my country in order to satisfy Greece's current absurd requirements? Please tell me!

With great respect and gratitude,
MA in Environmental Sciences,
Eng. Technologist,
I. Popovski

SHORT ANALYSIS OF THE NAME ISSUE

With any name change the Greeks gain the historical, territorial and spiritual heritage of ancient and modern Macedonia.

Why?

With any name change, the situation becomes as follows:

1. Greece will keep the name of Aegean (its occupied part of) Macedonia as MACEDONIA.
2. The name Macedonia is related to all spiritual, historical and territorial rights of Ancient and Modern Macedonia. It will all be given to Greece! This is the backbone of Greek demands for changing our name.

Hasn't Greece been trying to do this for the last two centuries?

3. Greece will also retain all rights arising from the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest.
4. It would not be a surprise that a year or so after the name is changed Greece will openly make territorial claims against the Republic of Macedonia. Will Greece not have that right?

Who had and, to this day, still has hidden territorial intentions?

Greece, of course, and not the Republic of Macedonia!

Another reason why Greece wants Macedonia to change its name and give up its history lies in the Greek business with tourism. Foreign tourists are fed up with listening to the same old "Greek" stories about their... ancient origins. By now they have read some of the books that have challenged their mythical origins (see historian Borza, Hans Lothar Stepan, David Holden, Fallmerayer, Edward Blaquiére, William St. Clair, T. J. Winifrith, J. McKeen Cattell, Lucy M. J. Garnett, James Bouchier, La Pouge, Schultz, Rennell Rodd, Michael Herzfeld, Clogg, Nigel Wilson, G. Droysen (the man who actually created Hellenism), Thomas Keightley, G. Bowersock,

Nicholas G. L. Hammond, Keith R. Legg, Richard Gleason Greene, William Z. Ripley, Colin Wells, Alexandra Halkias, Charles Eliot, G. P. Gooch, Rennell Rodd, G. A. Henty, Balasz Trencsenyi, Michal Kopecek, F.W. Walbank, Peter Green, Neni Panourgia, Vamik Volkan, Karakasidou, to name a few...) and have come to the conclusion that the Greeks are great boasters and big liars. Because of this many Western tourists have lost interest.

Well, in order to attract Western tourists again, the Greeks, in addition to serving “sirtaki”, want to serve Macedonian history and even Alexander the Great!

Will not everything be Greek if Macedonia is Greek?

In order for it not to come to that, even if we accept any name change, we should seek to change the name of the occupied part of “Greek Macedonia” to:

- “Aegean or Belomorska (Mediterranean) Macedonia”, the name that they gave us.

If this is not done, for the Greeks and for the world we will become “Slavo-Macedonians” or Slavophones who came to this region during the 6th and 7th centuries AD and stopped advancing at the Greek borders with Macedonia. Or we will become the nation that was created by the Comintern.

It is interesting to note that the Greeks found allies in some of the people here in the Republic of Macedonia who were willing to do their bidding (to direct the water to their mill). The first to appear, may God forgive his sins, was the first Macedonian president who was a good listener of Belgrade, and for Serbia’s “glorious” history, said that the Macedonians passed through the Serbian territories, gathered quite a lot of the Serbian culture and language and came to Macedonia during the 6th and 7th century where they found “Greeks”. The next to appear was another bright “Macedonian” person named Ljupco Georgievski who said don’t forget that there were also some Vlachs here and more Romans who came as “tourists” in the Balkans and forgot to go back because they liked it here.

Let us also not forget the supporters of Ljupcho's thesis. There were also some prominent academics who know our history very well, but only since 1941 and a few things from the Middle Ages. These "prominent" Macedonians were even respected by the Greeks and Bulgarians even though neither recognized the other.

I am sorry to say that these people never did have the opportunity to get together to determine the origin of the Macedonians who supposedly came from behind the Carpathian Mountains. Something which no one knew until recently. I suppose those who claim all these things have property deeds that belong to their forefathers that extend up to the Scandinavian countries.

One thing that is not clear to me is how the Bulgarians, who came from behind the Carpathian Mountains, could remember their forefathers, and they know for sure that they are from the Tatar countries, and yet we Macedonians don't know anything nor care about our forefathers?

We must take great care not to touch the road our "good" Bulgarian neighbours the Turkish Tartars took.

But we are confident and will always remain confident that these people will discover the origin of the Slavs as long as they don't go to the Hunza because there they will find serious problems with the Macedonian identity.

How many descendents of the ancient Macedonians could there be left still living on their own territory? There are two Macedonian academics who claim that the Ancient Macedonians were all drowned in the Aegean Sea. But the proof of the existence of the Ancient Macedonians is in the two or three drops of blood that still remains in the present Macedonians.

Bibliography:

HANS-LOTAR STEPAN:

"Macedonian Knot".

The identity of the Macedonians is depicted by the existence of the Balkan Alliance (1878-1914).

THE MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

The opportunity to write this article was given to me by the Symposium organized by the Ministry of Economy in cooperation with the Economic Chamber of Macedonia held in order to stimulate export in the economic sector.

Industry experts from the Ministry of Economy provided the businessmen with the newest targets for influencing companies to adapt to the new global economic conditions and to the economic crisis so that they can start exporting as soon as possible. All branches of the economy here were targeted as was done in the western countries visited by our people. We were told to do everything possible to get out of the crisis first.

We were instructed to apply for European funds to aid the development of small and medium-sized companies. For important things such as these, our experts offered us new workshops if we needed them or if we did not understand things because our companies were not as sophisticated as the western companies with rich backgrounds.

We were all so happy that no one touched the coffee issue which gave us a special impulse for the occasion!

As I sat there I thought to myself: when I came to Macedonia forty years ago, my goal was for my children to learn the Macedonian language. I always got angry when they told me that “it was more modern and musical” to say “zhuto” (yellow in Serbian) and forget about saying “Zholto” (yellow in Macedonian). But events have been creeping up over the years and many things have changed: today even my grandson who is eight years old is sifting and downloading all the “fire games” in my laptop and without anyone having to show him how.

What great progress: the Macedonian language is becoming richer and more extensive! I think that in a decade or so our language will be so musical it will surpass the Italian language which, for a long time, has been declared very melodious. Today it would appear it is important or “cool” to remove the Serbian words and replace them

with a mix of modern Anglo-American words and everything will be O.K.

When I was a little boy everyone around me used the word “spolaiti” for thank you.

Now you only hear “spolaiti” being said in old Macedonian stories and the word has become an archaism!

What great progress! Not even the modern computer technology can evolve with such a spin. What can we, the older generation, do when we can't even keep up with such trends? I bought myself a computer but very late in my life. Now I find it hard to figure out how things work. I even have difficulties sending and receiving e-mail messages, let alone attach documents or print them. I don't have anyone near me who I can ask to help me. But in the work I do corresponding with foreign companies I need to know how to attach documents, how to e-mail my messages, print documents, log on to various websites, and download information from the Internet. All I know is what I taught myself which is very little and difficult for an old man to do. It has not been easy and I have not made much progress. I don't know how anyone can call this progress?! I am almost ashamed to say that I am not able to contact even my best old friends electronically. As soon as I try I realize I don't know anything about the principles of this newest technology and things that are taught in the western advanced countries! This is how it is! If you haven't learned English from very young you will be like me... technologically challenged!

I feel handicapped. The world is changing rapidly around me. The Macedonian language is also changing. I think that in a few years our language will become Esperanto without any claims of copyright.

If you don't want to be a loser, you should learn English even if you have no money to pay for it. My wife and I often go to Solun to do some shopping and she always asks if she could spend all of our money. There is nothing wrong with asking except instead of calling it “pari” as we Macedonians do, she calls it “money” as if this English word is part of our Macedonian vocabulary. I no longer

argue with her... If it makes her feel more “modern” saying “money” instead of “pari”, so be it. It must be so... otherwise I will be fighting a losing battle...

There are many of us who like to use English words mixed with Macedonian in our daily communications. For example, our very well-informed journalists who have graduated from the faculty of Philosophy and have taken workshops abroad, which they believe are worthier than the faculty they graduated from, very often use foreign words in their daily vocabularies. In my opinion they believe they are enriching our language. They monopolize the media and when they come back from the west, they look down at our language because they believe it does not conform to modern western trends and conditions on the ground. Simply said, they believe the Macedonian language is not modern. Especially interesting are the television shows which interview elite and glamorous personalities such as the children of politicians and leaders in politics who decided to educate the children in western circles - or in workshops where they could learn everything about “modern man” in a short time and come back to implement what they have learned here and take maximum advantage all the benefits. Oh, how nicely they speak and pronounce the words of the most modern Macedonian language! How nice it is to hear the mix of words! It’s a miracle!! Just listen to them constantly chatting and laughing in front of the cameras wearing their brand name clothing and their imitations - N.Y. hats and hairstyles rich with the finest lotions... What a miracle!

They speak, smile so sweetly and laugh all the time... but say nothing. You can educate yourself about everything and about nothing... then talk about how to decorate the corners of the rooms in your house with all kinds of brand items. Or talk about what kind of underwear you bought at the Seychelles shop, or how many “lion” adventures you had, and so on. But, compared to them, we know nothing! That’s how they see us!

The glamour of our elite, surrounded by the finest Balkan habits, will be the subject of envy at the Cannes Festival! Hey, look how far we have come... fallen!

I also think that our Macedonian radio did not miss out on the “modernization” of our Macedonian language. No! It even got around the “framework” law on representation of the “old” Macedonian language in its programs. How nice is that? Everything that is in “old” Macedonian can be heard in the early morning programs when the elderly rub their sore, arthritic fingers and can’t fall asleep again, and everything that is in “modern” Macedonian and progressive American starts at ten o’clock. This is when the young and trendy who prefer the new Macedonian language wake up. In other words, everything is set in its place and is as it should be. There is only one exception; when the morning program begins, it starts with the hit song of the week which, without exception, is always an American song, of course, and that’s the way it must be. Even though when the Macedonian song “Tik-tak” was heard one time it was very beautiful and acceptable to all of us... What can we do: we need to be in the trend with things?

And now allow me to tell you how the Minister of Health introduces visiting doctors from the west who are here for screening visits. He downplays the skills and experience of our doctors and makes them feel like they need to be educated by these westerners. There is one thing I could not accept though; are our doctors not properly educated and therefore need to be educated or it is a pure exchange of experience? You know, this too happens to me often because I don’t speak English. It would appear that if you don’t speak English you are automatically assumed to be... let’s say inadequate and “stupid”! If this is how the Minister of Health feels then he should change the name of his ministry to the Ministry of Education and he should try to educate our youth in the “modern” Macedonian language in order to increase their quality, which will then automatically boost his “acceptance” from the westerners.

Take a look at Macedonian company advertisements and promotions and see how “advanced” they are. You would think they are targeting only American and English speaking consumers. And why not?! When the American and English speaking people enter the “Shouz Shop”, “Toy Shop” or “Gift Shop” they will see how low prices are and they will buy everything, right? Unfortunately, it’s too bad that the tourists from England and America don’t come here to shop. Most of the tourists that visit us are from Turkey, and they

are numerous, but they don't speak English. Well, that is why so many of these shops and markets go bankrupt so often.

The job-market too has become very fashionable. If you want to work in the west just go apply at the "job market" and everything will be opened up to you; the highest paying professional positions... but first you have to start with washing dishes and pans in a modest restaurant.

Who dares claim that Macedonians are poor when sandwiches or any kind of food will be catered to them even in bed!

We will soon surpass the French bourgeoisie of Ludovic XIV. Why did we have to lose fifty years being entangled in Marxist socialism, when we could have by now been even farther away from the billionaires we see every other day on television telling us how much they spend in one day - which equals half of what all of India cannot earn in eight hours?! Here is why we need to fight!

Macedonia can be transformed into a second California; we have all the right conditions. Our bourgeoisie has enriched itself a hundred fold in just a short time, much shorter than the Californians have. Just keep up with this pace and we will all become big "richmani" (rich men)!

The government is about to embark on amnesty for our wealthy people who keep their money in foreign banks in order to allow them to return to our country and freely walk on our streets without us having the right to call them "thieves"! Now imagine how far we will go if we continue with this kind of progress? What will we become!?

When I took my Californian guest to lunch up at Vodno, he asked me: "Do you know what the difference between California and Macedonia is?" I said: "It's huge!" He then smiled and said: "No, only two degrees Celsius just enough for you to raise up your sleeves a little". Not thinking of what he meant by that I was about to tell him that here in Macedonia we wear short sleeved shirts, but at that point our conversation was interrupted by the arrival of our waiter.

It is a pleasure for me to listen to the brave journalists on television, as they strongly criticize the state for allowing the Macedonian language to degrade, even though every national television station has several editors. Censorship was never suitable not in the Middle Ages and not now!

Is there a better government spokesman in the Balkans, who is so grandiose on the Macedonian TV program “Road Show” than our prime minister who claims that his targets and investment successes are the best in the entire world? No! No, there isn’t!

How can our unemployed go wrong with their applications when their activities are managed so well by NGO volunteers? It is nice to hear them eloquently pronounce the word “aplikatsija” (application) when urging the unemployed to apply quickly because they will lose the opportunity to find a good job.

When you hear the Minister of Agriculture so eloquently say that he donated so much subsidies to the development of “rural tourism” or, more precisely to our “village tourism”, you might think that the villages have advanced so much that every street is paved with asphalt the same as our city streets.

Oh my dear Minister, if the truth be told, you will be shopping in the village shops up to your knees in mud. Words, old or modern, are still just words. We need deeds not modern words!

Perhaps education and more practical educating may be needed here or perhaps less talk and more work!

A few minutes ago, a minister announced the construction of a “greenfield” at St. Nikole. What is a “greenfield” and what do the “rural people” around it know about it? Does he mean a park? A park in the villages, who wants a park in rural Macedonia?

I did not want to mention this but the “rurals” too have become “modern” and have started to apply in droves for benefits from the government and from the European Union. They do this because the “application” and not the request (groveling) for funds is the best diplomatic word for getting money from European funds. This is

where the benefits are! Applying for this money does not mean that they are seeking or begging for it. Not at all. It means that you do not have to work to get paid, it's a nice way to get money, just like the way the Greeks are doing. They managed to make a poor state, but with rich Greeks. And that's what needs to be done!

I wonder about the Greeks! They have managed to pull all of Europe by the nose... even Angela Merkel! Hey, it must be very important to have a good language like the Greek language! The Greeks managed to shake the euro solely with their language which they speak without the coarse letters "Dzh", "Ch" and "Sh", and do it beautifully by wrapping their tongues around the letter "Ts" for all three. Even Sarkozy liked it! That is why he persuaded Merkel to kneel before these ancient Greek philosophers and gave them 23 billion dollars. She gave them this money so that these "chosen" people don't fail to carry the torch of Hellenism, synonymous with civilization, progress and, most importantly, democracy with complete human rights, inside and outside Greece, from ancient times to the present!

But, putting politics aside, when I heard that all the young people were invited to attend the "eco happening", I remember what my grandmother, who was not so lucky to have lived through these times, told me one time. She said she was taking me to a picnic when in actual fact she took me to a place in the woods near the village so that we could collect green grass for the donkey and dry wood for burning in the fire. We did this with bare hands. She is dead now, may God forgive her sins, and will not see the "benefits" of this "happening"!

That's modern times for you!

The academics Ristovski and Stardelov, joined by the eminent politician Ljupco Georgievski in the defense of the arrival of the Slavs from behind the Carpathians and the Slav brothers and their language, made a lot of effort for nothing. I don't know why they put so much effort into this defense? The two Slav brothers did cross the Danube with straws in their mouth to breath under water, like all other Slavs in the Balkans, but they went in the opposite direction. What is there about that that needs defending? There is no national

merit attached to their effort: they did not turn the Moravians into Macedonians even though they gave them Slavic literacy. Unlike the Turko-Mongol-Bulgars who only had a straw in common with us (the Slavs) when they crossed the Danube, they became the largest Slavs in the Balkans and even adopted the “orphan brothers” Kiril and Metodi as their own because they gave the Turko-Mongols literacy. Great generosity on their part wouldn't you say?!

Hey Macedonians, we need to think whether we will follow in the footsteps of the Bulgarians or develop a modern Macedonian language. Now we have plastic straws which our experts who are studying in western workshops can build for us with which we too can cross the Danube River in the opposite direction and take our “modernized” Macedonian language north just like the brothers Kiril and Metodi did at one time.

I don't know why the Greeks spend so much money and effort to prove that we are not who we are! Is it because we have an old Macedonian language? They don't even know that we are changing our language by ourselves and have modernized it to the extent that, if the English and the Americans find out about this, we will automatically become their allies and then the Greeks will not be able to do anything...

Chao, chao, “ai love you na site” (I love you all)!!

LETTER TO KARAMANLIS

Greetings Black Man! We in Macedonia know “kara” to mean “black”, so “karaman” in our Macedonian language translates to “black man”. I know this will never reach your ears but let me ask it anyway: “What gives you the right to claim that you are Macedonian when your ancestors were brought to Macedonia from Izmir, Turkey? Are you an ethnic Macedonian or a geographic Macedonian? Think about it and let me know!”

Do you know who Archimedes was? As the story goes, Archimedes jumped out of the bathtub naked and with joy ran through the streets of Sicily shouting “Eureka!” because he discovered one of the basic laws of physics: Every body placed in water will displace the same amount of water as its own volume. Why do you think you can squeeze more volume of water out of your volume?

Mr. Karamanlis, you said that history has long been written and no one can change it. You just forgot that history is written by the winners and corrected by the victors. Don’t forget that! I recommend that you read the book: “BLACK ATHENA” The Afro-Asiatic Roots of Classical Civilization Volume I, The Fabrication of Ancient Greece 1785-1985, by Martin Bernal.

Do you not think that the artificial European garment called Greece has become somewhat tattered?

The Greek people have a saying: “He who seeks a lot may lose the little he has.” What do you say to that? Don’t you think you are asking for a lot more than you deserve?

HOW POLITICS ARE LED – HERE

Are our domestic policies different from those of other people's domestic policies? We should know that by now. But, it appears that we don't! Why? For starters we did not go to any other country and ask how they are doing things, and what consequences they experience. Even if we did, their policies have a far-reaching arsenal to defend and conceal their real aims and intentions.

Even if you ask, they most likely will tell you that things run smoothly here. This is how it is when you are looking at things as a guest... things run smoothly!

Our privileged young people who get to go to the west for an education, because they feel in their own minds they will get a better education there, soon return as enlighteners. They learned so much over there in this very short time that they feel that they can no longer fully express themselves in the Macedonian language. Not that they forgot the language, but because it would appear our language dictionary does not have the finest English words they learned. It is not true that they are not in the habit of opening up the Macedonian dictionary and finding the appropriate words...!

But I noticed an interesting thing: It did not matter how long they spent in the west and how much they learned about local western political practices, when they return home they generally settle back to their old Balkan habits. This reminds me of the old folk saying that: "blood is not water" (blood is thicker than water).

So, no matter how "civilized" they say they are, when they stand behind the podium facing the public and the media, they still air each other's dirty laundry in public. The ruling party's spokesperson, for example, airs the opposition party's dirty laundry and vice versa. Unfortunately, they always do it on a platform that provides very little space for such purpose.

Even though we know about their dirty laundry, we, the people, unfortunately, still have to vote for them to represent us in parliament for another four years. We have no other choice! Working in politics seems to be very simple. No sweat and no effort

for another four years!! Where else can you find a job like that?
Only in Macedonia!? No!

Dear politicians take your dirty laundry home and put it in a washing machine. If you don't have one, buy one. You have money!

Another thing I can't understand is how no action is taken by the judicial authorities to investigate criminal acts after they are revealed in public? Are these acts real or merely a show of one politician discrediting another to get more votes? It looks more like the Branko-vs-Ljupcho show of defamation: The left hand washes the right and the money from Macedonia crosses the border on both sides.

So, it appears to be safer for both sides if neither side reports these criminal acts to the judicial authorities. In the end all this is about getting more votes and taking power.

In this way the people remain impaired and nothing is done against anyone. This kind of behaviour has been proven to be sustainable!

POVERTY

The largest opposition party recently made a surprise announcement to the media claiming that there was great poverty in Macedonia. I don't remember all the details but I do remember seeing a well-groomed opposition spokesperson on television dressed in a luminous suit, looking like he had just stepped out of a hair salon.

This was the first time I heard of such a thing so I decided to go out and investigate it for myself. As I stepped outside of my house I began to count the jeeps in the neighbouring building parking lots. I counted ten in the first building lot and then stopped counting after I counted thirteen in the next building lot. Each building had forty apartments and I began to wonder "how many jeeps should there be in the lot of a building before that building can be classified as belonging to poor people?"

The next thing I did was count the cars in the lots and tabulate them by category. I first looked for old and small cars. I specifically looked for the "Ficho" which is considered the poor man's car. I did not find any. I then started counting the other cars... but I quickly gave up. There were too many to count and sort because they were parked all over the place around and between the buildings. In my frustration I asked my self: "How can these people be called 'poor' when there were more cars in the lots than apartments in the buildings? I decide to look further and went to look around in the "Boris Trajkovski" hall parking lot. There was an international match taking place at that time. This too I found impossible. There were too many cars to count. The parking lot and the space around it looked like an ant colony!

I didn't find any poverty looking at the cars. Perhaps I could find this poverty the politician was talking about in the restaurants and cafés. First I went to the City Mall, one of the newest shopping facilities just built. As I looked around I thought it us unwise to have so many restaurants and cafés existing in the same facility. But as I looked around all these places were packed with people. There was not a single place where one could sit and have a cup of coffee. And the food was so expensive. I was really surprised. Most of the chairs in the cafés were occupied by young people. I began to wonder

where these people found money if they had no jobs. If their parents were so poor as the politician claimed? They were all happy and smiling with a cup of coffee in their hand. What poverty?!

It was a good thing for the government to give their parents a free ride on the city bus so that they too could go to the city dressed in their beautiful old-fashioned folk dress.

Another way to measure poverty would be to see how many people actually buy things in the stores. So, I made my way into the department stores in City Mall. The first thing I saw were the automatic doors opening and closing for the customers as they entered and exited the mall with bags full of things. There were so many one would need an electronic counter to count them all, especially on Saturdays and Sundays when the mall is really busy! Where did these people find the money to buy all these things if they live in such great poverty, as our politician claimed on television?

Another criterion of poverty could be expressed by the number of unemployed people. Has anyone counted how many people there are who have no jobs? I don't think so. Because outside of the people employed by the government and the registered industry, no one keeps track of who works, where they work, how many hours they work, and how much money they make, and so on, especially in the unregistered industry.

When I started looking for contractors to renovate various parts of my apartment I found about thirty of them in various trades who worked as independents, that is who did not work for a registered firm. They all said they would do their part of the job for cash. Each one of these tradesmen was legally unemployed while working in my apartment, a job that lasted a month and a half. Do you know how many renovations are taking place on a daily basis in Karposh alone? How about in the entire country? I don't know for sure but I know they are in the thousands. Now, if someone were to count all the unregistered workers who are actually working and subtract them from the workers who are seeking work then one may find the real number of unemployed people in Macedonia. I only used the construction sector as an example. This kind of work goes on in the

auto sector, on farms, in machine shops, in locksmith shops and so on.

Who can keep track of all the unreported work that is done? If you look at the situation this way, you will realize that unemployment is not a big issue in Macedonia and poverty is a relative thing. We will always be poor if our appetites have no limits. Food is plentiful and very inexpensive in Macedonia but most Macedonians don't even have to purchase their food. Everyone, it seems, has friends or relatives who either have properties in the villages or gardens in the city that grow food and often supply their friends and relatives for free. And all this food is organic. Food for which westerners pay a hefty price in the markets, Macedonians get for free from their families and friends.

But, it seems politicians in Macedonia care less about the real situation on the ground and more about getting elected. They would do anything to discredit those in power, even by inventing fictional scenarios in order to come to power. What a way to live...

Here is another example of how people make money. Here in Macedonia we have cleaners who clean entrances, exits, stairwells and hallways of buildings. It remains to be seen if any of them are registered workers or if they pay taxes on the money they earn. But that does not matter. What matters is that every month each cleaner collects 150 denars from each apartment. In other words they collect from about 2,250 denars to 9,000 denars on average a month depending on the size of the building. I know one woman who does this job in four buildings and collects 36,000 denars a month. I also know that her neighbour's daughter, who has a doctorate of science, makes 21,000 denars a month. From this we can see that a person doing a job that requires little or no education in Macedonia, and who is willing to work, can make good money. If you don't believe me do some investigating of your own?

So, this business of claiming that there is "great poverty" in Macedonia is nothing more than a game politicians play to win more votes? What they fail to understand, however, is that they put down the quality of life in Macedonia, demoralize the Macedonian people by making them believe they are really poor and at the same time

put down their own country in the eyes of the world. No wonder everyone in the west believes Macedonia is the second poorest country in Europe after Albania.

Here is another example that proves Macedonians are not poor. Not too long ago I heard the mayor of Solun (in Greece) say that the Macedonians... pardon me... the Skopjans fill the cash registers of the stores in Solun... pardon me... Thessaloniki... and the seaside with money especially during the summers. If I am not mistaken he was talking about a lot of money. Well, ladies and gentlemen, are we going to believe the politicians who make off the wall remarks just to get more votes or look at the situation on the ground and make up our own minds? Dear politicians who should I believe you or the mayor of Solun?

The Greeks themselves say that they are not satisfied with the German tourists but are satisfied with the people of “Skopje” (Macedonians) because they come with pockets full of money while the Germans sometimes bring their own food with them... Who is richer: the Germans or the Macedonians?

Who has not heard of Dubai, the richest emirate of them all! Isn't that so? As many skyscrapers as your eyes can see. Sixteen lane roads! Many, many cars traveling along those roads looking like ants from high above. You can see dozens of skyscrapers from the 33rd floor of your hotel room. You can also see the empty sandy areas everywhere without any green space. In Skopje alone one can see more green space in a park than one can see in the entire emirate. The annual cost for irrigating a single palm tree in Dubai is 500 dollars. They have to pay a lot of money for their green space in Dubai; we pay nothing for ours in Skopje. Let's not talk about polluted air with sandy dust and temperatures like those in an oven! So, the question is who has a better life: the rich in Dubai or the so-called poor in Skopje? Not that the people of Skopje are poor: they may not have as much money as those living in Dubai, but like I said being rich or poor is a relative term!

So, please tell me who has a better life: the rich in Dubai or the poor in Skopje?!

If you are still unconvinced that there is no poverty in Macedonia then let us have a look at Shuto Orizare, the most deprived settlement in Skopje. Do you know that the most beautiful and luxurious houses in Skopje are located exactly in... Shutka? If you don't believe me then go check it out for yourself. When you do go just ignore the compost heaps around the houses, this is not a sign of poverty but a habit. People like to make their own compost so that they can feed their grass and flowers. People there are proud of their green space and put a lot of effort into it.

Now that you have looked at Shuto Orizare yourself, tell me which other settlement has more beautiful villas and houses? You see my friend, everything is relative and depends on your desire of how you want things to look.

LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE

The first time I came to Macedonia, I found two things that disturbed me. First and most important: I couldn't find a single Macedonian book or newspaper sold in the stores. The places were drowning in Serbian and Croatian books, newspapers and other reading material. This situation lasted for a long time but eventually Macedonian books and newspapers began to slowly surface. Now, 40 years later, there is new situation developing and it's not positive. The Serbian and Croatian material has been replaced with English material. You can't even find a single Macedonian book in some bookstores. But when you do find a Macedonian book, you will want read it and read it again because it left you with deep impressions. How can we explain what is happening? It seems to me that some of us think foreign books are more valuable and we expect to get more out of them than out of our own books. But it's not like that. We first need to read our books and then read the foreign books in order to do a comparative analysis and reach our own conclusions. But, how do we do that if no Macedonian books are available for us to purchase and if we can't read the foreign books because we don't speak the languages in which they are written?

I am a chemical engineering technologist and the second thing I found that disturbed me had to do with how some things were done at my job. The people in the paint and varnish factory where I worked had become dependent for everything on the Croatians and Slovenians in terms of solving technical problems. The machinery for making formalin and resin were unused. The adhesive plant produced only one type of urea adhesive. When I was appointed head of these synthetic plants, I was advised that my first job was to hire 5 apprentice trainees, not experienced engineers. We spent two hours every day listening to a Croatian or Slovenian engineer telling us what to do instead of referring us to the documentary material that was supposed to be collected from technical literature on the technologies which we could have applied in our plants ourselves. After a lot of discussion we went to the plants to see if it was possible for us to produce the same products.

The resin boiler was put to work with technology from Color Medvode, Slovenia. The team of young engineers and technicians

quickly learned the technology and put the paint and varnish plant to work producing about 200 tons of resin during the first year. The same team of engineers and technicians produced about 1,000 tons of resin the second year. Despite the volume there were no complaints from quality control. After that the adhesive plant began to deliver adhesives all throughout Yugoslavia.

What happened? Not much really! Our team of technicians and engineers took the initiative to do everything themselves without any outside help. Our crew did not study in Cambridge University or have any practice in Slovenia or Germany; it developed the know-how here in Macedonia. The entire crew was educated in a faculty or technical school here in Macedonia. Toshko, one of those engineers, became a top engineer in a well-known Dutch company. Pero, the other engineer went to work for a large German company.

The question here is “should we place confidence in our Macedonian people to do the hard jobs or should we seek the help of outsiders who we think are ‘better’...”?

Like the American businessman and my guest from California said: “...you need to raise your sleeves up a little higher...” I hope by now everyone understands what he meant by that...

Here we have proven that with some initiative many things are possible. Our team from the synthetic plants achieved great successes by investing in the right people and by thinking that anything was possible... even things deemed impossible...

But not all of our innovations went as smooth as I described them. We did not always have the necessary confidence from our managerial factors. But, in spite of all that, there was almost no international fair, from which Macedonians returned without a gold or a silver medal in their hands. Were these awards awarded to them because these people loved the Macedonians?

No! The Macedonians genuinely earned them!

Macedonian innovations have ranked among the top innovations in Europe. An example of this was the exhibition organized by

Ambassador Fouere at the European Centre in Skopje on the occasion of Innovators of Europe Day. Here 16 innovations were selected and exhibited. When I asked one of the organizers for his opinion on how the quality of the Macedonian innovations compared to the others, he said they were as good quality as any other European innovation, even those prepared by large teams of engineers. I talked with most inventors there and asked why their innovations were not implemented. Almost all of them said because they were waiting for help from the government. This is where everything stops. It is truly a sin not to implement successful inventions!

My personal experience tells me that there is still a need for constructing and experimenting with prototypes.