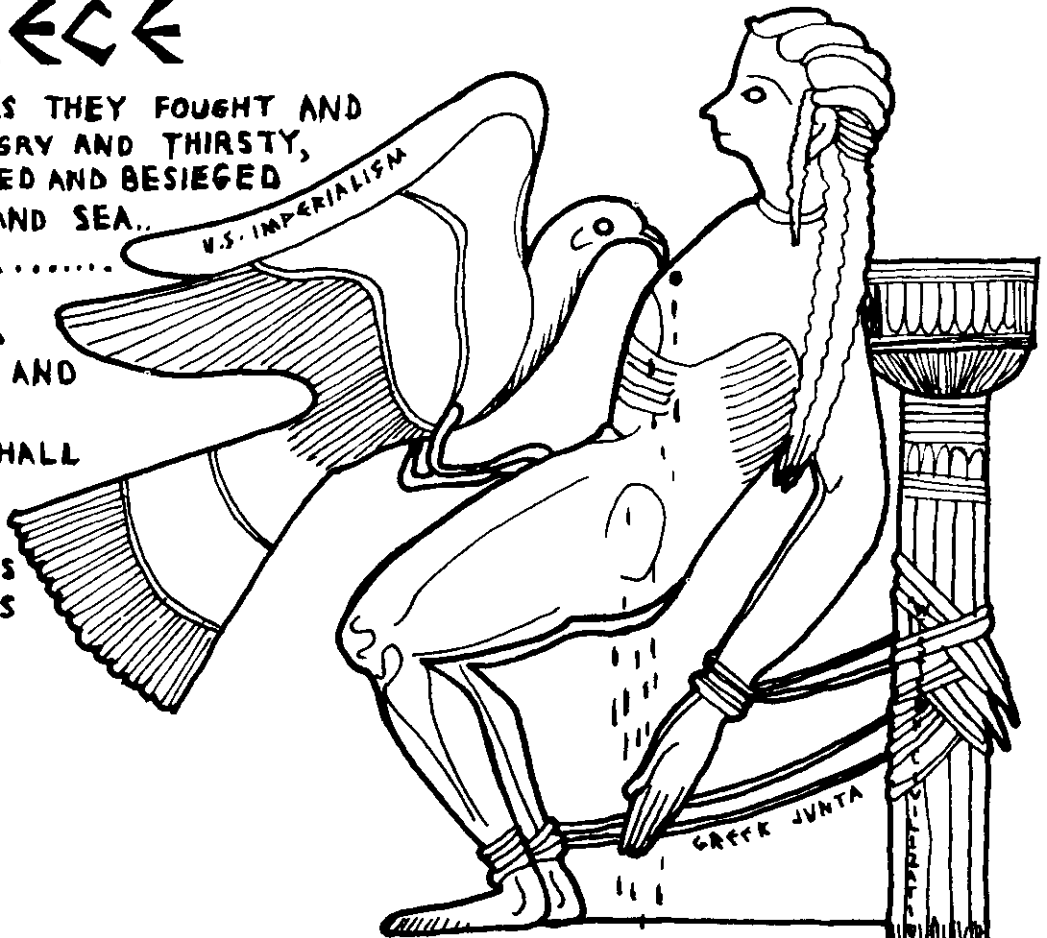


# GREECE

FOR YEARS THEY FOUGHT AND  
DIED, HUNGRY AND THIRSTY,  
SURROUNDED AND BESIEGED  
BY LAND AND SEA..

.....  
THIS LAND  
IS THEIRS AND  
OURS,  
NOBODY SHALL  
TAKE IT  
FROM US!  
YANNIS  
RITSOS



# VIETNAM

EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE WAS  
AIMED AT LIBERATING SOUTH VIETNAM  
AND FREEING HER FROM OPPRESSION.  
THAT IS THE WHOLE OF IT.  
NGUYEN VAN TROI



## IMPERIALISM IS THE COMMON ENEMY OF THE VIETNAMESE AND THE GREEK PEOPLE

We, the democratic Greeks and Americans of the United States and Canada, salute the Mobilization Against the War in Vietnam with the wish that the Vietnamese people are soon victorious in their struggle against American imperialism.

The Greek people, like the Vietnamese people, have been struggling against foreign dominated fascism for a very long time. Like the people of Vietnam, Greeks are confronted by military hardware and puppet generals, made and paid by the U.S.A. The similarities between the two countries are not a matter of historic coincidence. Both Greece and Vietnam are examples of a clear pattern of exploitation by old colonialism and contemporary U.S. imperialism -- a pattern which has affected all parts of the world.

Like Vietnam, Greece was a victim of pre-World-War II European imperialism. While the Vietnamese were exploited by the French, Greeks were under the "sphere of influence" of the British empire. To protect their interests, the British used the corrupt Greek throne and the capitalist oligarchy which rallied around it. In 1936 the British, officially opposing German and Italian fascism, did not hesitate to encourage the take-over of Greek parliamentary democracy by a fascist military regime. In the years that preceded World War II, thousands of Greek patriots were held prisoners in concentration camps, where torture and death were the order of the day. It is characteristic that then, as now, the fascist colonial puppets excuse was the "danger of communist subversion", and that, as now, they used the brand "communist" to stifle all political opposition to the Greek oligarchy -- all those, that is to say, who were not willing to accept foreign domination as a substitute for national independence.

But the advent of World War II served as a catalyst in Greece, as in so many other parts of the world, including Southeast Asia. Confronted by Axis -- totalitarianism, the French and British empires were crumbling. The ruling puppets in Greece, as in Vietnam, torn between serving their class interests and serving their colonial masters, were unable to present any resistance to the invading Axis troops. But the people were willing to fight -- and fight they did. The Greeks gave the Axis powers their first defeat in checking the Italian invasion on the Albanian front. This, of course, was misunderstood by the British colonialists, who like their French counterparts, thought their 'allies' were simply faithful to them. They could not see that their colonial slaves, in opposing the fascist enemy of their imperial rulers, were expressing their will for independence and their opposition to any kind of foreign oppression.

Some did understand this. The people who cooperated with the Germans in Greece were none other than those who were servile to the British earlier -- and indeed, several members of the present Greek junta served in the German-organized stormtroops or collaborated in other ways with the Axis occupation forces.

In the meantime, as in Vietnam, the resistance was organized in Greece in a National Liberation Front (EAM) which fought the Nazis for the twin purpose of liberating the country from Axis occupation forces and also establishing a truly independent socialist state. The British, like the French, were eager to express solidarity with the fighting peoples they had so long exploited -- until the Axis powers were defeated. Then the first task of the old colonial masters was to recuperate their possessions. To the French the legal successor of the Japanese occupation forces was Bao-Dai, the puppet in whose name the Colonial armies were to return and impose the status quo ante bellum. To the British, it was King George II and his government in exile, whom they tried to restore in 1944. But the fighting partisans were not ready to surrender their hard-earned freedom to the returning colonialist armies. Thus the same guns which had opposed the fascists were now aimed at the peoples of Haiphong and Pireaus, Hanoi and Athens, in the months following the end of the war. In both countries the war had clearly not ended: in Vietnam it was carried on until 1954, when the French were defeated and half the country was liberated. In Greece, the liberation resistance continued until the British, on the verge of bankruptcy in their own country, were forced to leave after, under their tutelage and direction, thousands of Greek patriots had been murdered and tens of thousands had been thrown in jail, or sent to exile, and tortured by their puppets -- the ex-collaborators of the German and Italian fascists. In 1947, however, the new super-power which took on the 'burden' of white man's rule -- the U.S.A. -- in the name of anti-communism stepped in to continue the fight against the Greeks. By 1950 they succeeded in bringing complete victory to the forces of pre-World-War II fascism, whom they helped to form a parliamentary "democratic" regime -- under which the people were still under the claws of foreign and local economic interests, and still thousands of people were held prisoners, and political opponents could be eliminated in the name of anti-communism.

Here is where ends, temporarily, the parallel between Greece and Vietnam. In both countries Americans were able to enter as the successors to the earlier foreign colonialist-imperialist rule. But while they succeeded in gaining control of Greece, in Vietnam they were faced from the beginning by a well-organized, determined and unrelenting resistance, which, under the leadership of the same fighters who fought the French and the Japanese, is today bringing U.S. imperialism to defeat.

Those who carry out the policy of this country, on behalf of the interests of the industrial-military complex, tell us that they are fighting in Vietnam in order to establish 'Democracy'. It would be interesting to see exactly what they mean by 'Democracy' in Greece where they have been in complete control for over twenty years. After a decade and a half of rightist rule, with a net loss to emigration of more than a tenth of the Greek population (out of a total of nine million) and a failure to offer a constructive solution to the country's need for economic development and social justice, a liberal, non-communist party came to power. George Papandreu, its leader, had a long record of anti-communism -- he was the one, after all, who headed the government which the British fought to restore in 1944. Nevertheless, Papandreu's mild reforms were unacceptable to the Greek oligarchy and their U.S. masters. In every attempt Papandreu was confronted by the King, under the direct control of the U.S. Embassy, and by the Army, whose higher officers were required to pledge direct allegiance to the crown. Although a NATO country, Greece had in fact no independent army. Soon it became obvious that even rank-and-file officers were completely infiltrated by the CIA, and it is characteristic that when the CIA-directed coup d'etat eliminated democracy in Greece, the military leader, and present Prime Minister of the Junta Government, George Papadopoulos, was none other than an ex-member of the Greek CIA, who had received special training in the U.S. It is precisely in this fashion that American imperialists have brought Democracy to Greece.

In the thirty-one months since the April 1967 coup, thousands of Greek patriots have been tortured, many killed. The jails and the concentration camps resurrected by the new fascists of Greece are well filled. Tens of thousands of wage-earners have lost their jobs: work permits, like university registration slips, have to be approved by the security police, which carefully exclude 'communists' or 'communist sympathizers'. And while the people suffer, Onassis, Esso-Pappas, Union Carbide, Litton Industries, and Chase Manhattan Bank appropriate for themselves more and more of Greece.

Such is the 'blessing' of American Imperialism in Greece -- which the heroic people of Vietnam have been experiencing in greater intensity for many years. We, Greeks and Americans of the InterAmerican Federation for Democracy in Greece, on behalf of our oppressed compatriots and brothers in Greece, send to the fighting people of Vietnam our greetings. The hundreds of thousands who filled the streets of Athens a year ago -- defying martial law -- at the funeral of the last prime minister elected by the Greek people, and the various forms of passive and active resistance, which, since that time, has been escalating and spreading throughout the country, are an indication of the fighting solidarity of the Greek people with all the peoples who are struggling for liberation. The Greek people in their long history of struggle for freedom and justice are now entering a new hard fighting phase. And this is where the parallel between Greece and Vietnam is restored. The peoples of both countries are engaged in a struggle against the same imperialist oppressor. This struggle will continue until final and complete victory.

Other peoples, African, Latins, blacks and whites of this country, have already entered, or are about to enter the same struggle for liberation. At the end all the oppressed and exploited peoples of the world, in international solidarity, will take into their own hands the all important matter of ridding our planet of the destructive, blind and tyrannical yoke of imperialism. The elimination of the death and war machine of imperialism is the only truly possible and effective way to establish permanent freedom, justice, and PEACE ON EARTH.



**MIKIS THEODORAKIS**

The music composer of "Zorba the Greek", and the greatest composer of modern Greece. Founder of the presently active resistance organization Patriotic Liberation Front. Ex Deputy and leader of the Gregores Lambrakis democratic youth. With his health seriously shaken, he is now in prison.



**MANOLIS GLEZOS**

Ex Deputy and hero of the Greek resistance. At the age of seventeen, he tore down Hitler's flag from Acropolis, Athens. For his patriotic exploits, he received the 'Lenin' award. Today, he is prisoner in a concentration camp.



**YANNIS RITSOS**

The greatest Greek contemporary poet. He became, and presently is gravely ill, after he was forced to live in the cruel conditions of a concentration camp. He was liberated thanks to world pressure.



**GREGORES LAMBRAKIS**

Ex Deputy and President of the Greek Committee for Peace. He was the first victim of the international peace movement. The fascists assassinated him in Salonica, Greece, in 1963.

**FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE OF NORTH AMERICA, GIVE YOUR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO THE GREEK PEOPLE WHO ARE PRESENTLY FIGHTING IN THE RESISTANCE!  
JOIN AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY ACTIVITIES OF THE MANY COMMITTEES OF THE INTERAMERICAN FEDERATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN GREECE: ADDRESS TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**USA**

Chicago, Ill. P.O.B. 48052, Zip 60648  
Mpls. Minn. P.O.B. 9751, Zip 55440  
" " 808, 4th St., Apt. 102, S.E.  
New York, N.Y. 634, 8th Ave., Zip 10018  
Raleigh, N.C. P.O.B. 5863, Zip 27607  
Cincinnati, Ohio, P.O.B. 20001, Zip 45220  
Philadelphia, Pa. P.O.B. 6606, Zip 19149  
Detroit, Mich. P.O.B. 7415, North End Station-  
60 E. Milwaukee., Zip 48202  
Baltimore, Md. 2525 Maryland Ave. c/o People's  
Action Center., Zip 21218  
W. Lafayette, Indiana, P.O.B. 2102

Seattle, Washington, P.O.B. 43 University Station, 98105.  
Waltham, Mass. P.O.B. 648, Zip 02154  
Berkeley, Cal. P.O.B. 164, Zip 94701

**CANADA**

Montreal 30, P.O.B. 66, St. Henry Station  
Montreal 30, 5148 A. Park Ave.  
Montreal 30, 3650 St. Lawrence Blvd.  
Montreal 30, St. George Williams University, 1455 Maisonneuve Blvd.  
Toronto 5, 648 A. Yonge Street