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The notion of social capital was used as a conceptual tool in order to explore different aspects of the relational life of contemporary rural communities. This study has two aims: Accepted 2 July A. This evidence has instigated a new wave of research stemming from different disciplines such as rural sociology, cultural anthropology, social geography, community and applied social psychology. While mainstream accounts in rural mental health draw from postmodern perspective, another promising theoretical framework that may contribute to the understanding of the relational aspects of community life is offered by the social capital concept stemming from social and political sciences Bourdieu, ; Coleman, ; Portes, ; Putnam, Woolcock and Narayan identify four distinct views to social capital literature: The communitarian view which focuses on social ties, norms, civic participation and local organizations; the networks view which stresses the importance of vertical as well as horizontal associations between people and of relations within and among organizations; the institutional view which promotes the importance of the political, legal and institutional environment and the synergy view that values complementarity and embeddedness between government and citizen action. According to Szreter and Woolcock , bonding social capital refers to social ties and cohesion within a social group; bridging social capital refers to connections between people and groups of similar social position; and linking social capital cuts across groups and communities of differentiated power. This work is part of a large scale social psychological cross-sectional study examining the relationship between community context, social capital and mental health within rural settings in the region of the North Aegean in Greece Zissi et al. The broader research project investigates the relationship between social capital and mental health, which was measured with the Clinical Interview Schedule-Revised CIS-R , a fully structured psychiatric interview. The study was located in small rural communities in the region of North Aegean Sea. Their methodological proposal inspired our measures of social capital, which are described below. This investigation is, as mentioned, an opportunity to critically discuss the suitability of the concept of social capital within the socio-cultural context of Greece, given the reservations that have been raised by Campbell and Gillies about the conceptual correspondence of the notion of social capital to local conditions other than the American and Italian contexts within which its research was generated. In sum, the wider project was designed to add to the existing rural literature and offer a community and socio- psychological perspective on both individual and extra-individual aspects of Greek islander rural community life. First a full list of all households in each of the target communities was sourced from two mutually exclusive lists: The electoral register and the residents without electoral rights register. At the second stage, households were selected randomly within each community with equal selection probability across the region. Setting The examined region includes three prefectures, Lesvos, Samos and Chios and consists of nine small- large- and medium-size islands, spread along the northeastern part of the Aegean Sea. Trained social researchers conducted a fully structured psychiatric interview with each respondent, and collected information on measures of social capital and socio-demographic characteristics via structured interviews. How would you describe the life in the village in terms of social relations and ties? The islands are dispersed and many of the studied villages are remote, with poor transport facilities which made data collection quite labour intensive. Data analysis The social capital survey questions and the key informant structured interviews were analysed using descriptive statistics. These evaluations were coded into three categories: Positive views of the village life, negative views and mixed views after consultation within the research team. Field observation notes were not systematically analysed but they provided a qualitative context for the analysis. The measure drew on the social capital literature Lochner et al. Four themes were covered: Social support and solidarity. Sense of mutual aid, which is viewed as a kind of solidarity, was assessed by asking rural inhabitants to indicate the source of help in case of misfortune. According to De Silva this type of actual social supportâ€™ extent of help received from others for

different needs as well as perceptions of aid in case of emergency cover structural social capital at an individual level. Social support and solidarity survey questions were initially designed to assess social networks among villagers by asking them to identify the types of formal and informal groups to which they belong. Trust and social cohesion. Trust and social cohesion are aspects of cognitive social capital De Silva, Social cohesion, which focuses on shared values and norms, was assessed in our survey using the Sampson, Raundenbush, and Earls scale: Social trust of familiars, generalized trust i. This investigation examined two of these three types. According to Lochner et al. In the present study, sense of community was measured by two items: Female respondents were housewives and engaged in farming as a secondary occupation. With regards to basic infrastructure, principal public services were assessed as acceptable: When asked whether the community had been organized to address a problem in the past year, a third of key informants Most key informants reported a good quality of life Social support and mutual aid Rural communities have traditionally been viewed as social collective entities characterized by positive social virtues, such as neighbourliness and friendliness in the literature Rowles, However, a series of ethnographic studies of Greek rural communities challenged the conservative ideas of emotional proximity and harmony, and showed that these communities can have heterogeneity, competitiveness, uneven power relations and positional differentiation Papataxiarchis, , Similar counts were reported in relation to the number of friends that they could ask for money in case of need: This reveals a mixed picture since informal social interaction by some co- exists with isolation for others. Within the community psychology literature, Unger and Wandersman noted that sense of mutual aid is distinct from the actual and overt social interactions that include exchanges of goods and services. Rural residents frequently spoke of their lives being under the microscope because of high spatial visibility leading to their need to protect themselves from gossip and criticism which serve as types of informal social control. Indeed, in close- knit and homogeneous neighbourhoods, neighbouring could at times become disruptive and judgmental Merry, The notion of friendship may also hold different meanings and values in settings dominated by dense primary networks, leading people to rely more on relatives. Disdain was expressed towards central administration structures. An illustrative comment from a key informant was: For example, a key informant said: Interview AM The above statement can be understood only if it is contextualized historically and politically. The end of the Greek Civil War in found the nation deeply divided between nationalists and communists. The reported differences in mentality and lifestyle dispel the myth of homogeneity in rural communities. Field notes supported by comments made by a number of key informants indicated the existence of extensive gender-based differences. The following quotations illustrate the subordination of women which in some communities is quite evident: Kafenio is typically the centre of village life, both in terms of importance and physical location. However, kafenio is the locus where men exercise their masculinity by drinking, playing cards and debating over political party issues while women by holding ancillary positions stay either at home or around their home, in stone benches pezoules. The position of women is even more adverse in villages with few or no community facilities at all, such as local shops. These types of associations constituted a favoured ethnographic topic among anthropologists during s. The positive evaluations stressed issues of identity, ties, trust and physical environment as important dimensions of community formation. A sample of upbeat descriptions follows: Interview XE Those who made negative evaluations of village life dwelled on demographic, material and social decline of community life. Demographic decline due to unemployment, spatial isolation, natural morbidity, low birthrate and lack of educational structures was a pressing theme. The following statements are indicative: Apart from demographic decline, material resources, physical location and poverty were of great concern. The closure of a school was perceived as a major loss and a threat to village sustainability. The physical isolation combined with poor economic activity and poverty were reasons for negative evaluations. Here are some examples: Interview KM We know how to live with loneliness. Interview PP The decline of social ties was an additional reason for negative evaluations: Finally, those who offered mixed evaluations of the village life argued that both positive and negative elements co-exist. The negative elements concern economic and demographic decline while the positive concern the physical setting, levels of trust and local participation in church groups. Changing agricultural working conditions also played a role in this decline, since the technical transformation seriously

limited opportunities for social contact *para*. However, given the fact that Greek villages are composed by extended kin relations, extended family members are often overlapped with friends. The levels of mutual aid, solidarity and help in cases of emergency as well as expectations of collective action in order to address a common issue or to organize a festival or a fair were relatively high. A contrast between interpersonal and collective sociability organized around the moral and Christian values of helping behaviour and practical aid is implicated in this evidence. The ideological conceptions of compliance to the imposed morality of collective social organization are arguably counterbalanced by the need for personal autonomy and freedom. The visible and overt aspects of community life *e*. To these discrepancies, political party competitions are added indicating that civil war traumas have deeply and lengthily stigmatized the political culture of Greece. Despite these perceived divisions and an asymmetry between trust and shared values, a form of bonding social capital seems to exist across the communities, the components of which need further exploration. Social ties facilitate trust and local cohesion but at the same time they may employ heavy obligations discouraging rural inhabitants from active participation. Apart from ties and bonds generated by kinship, a bond with the place emerges as another psychological mechanism that connects the individual with the community. Moreover, they placed a great value on the physical environment in multiple terms; experiences of socialization, source of economic activity and natural capital and aesthetics. Stedman gives an account of how sense of place as a collection of symbolic meanings, attachment and satisfaction with a spatial setting can generate community identity. His perspective may well contribute to the examination of place related concepts in the development of social capital. In contrast to bonding relations, trust in central administration and politicians is lacking. Indeed, most of the respondents reported limited links out of the immediate locality and poor participation in more wide-ranging networks, either economic or social. The picture of problematic material infrastructure in many communities was perceived as neglect by the central administration. This lack of linking social capital combined with limited resources is arguably responsible for the almost non-existent levels of civil trust. However, this uneasy relationship of the civil society to the central government is a common feature within the Greek culture, being a favourite theme of analysis among social and political scientists arguing that mistrust to state authorities and political institutions is subverted by over-reliance on the family and social networks. Chtouris, The concept of social capital consists of social ties, levels of trust and level of civic engagement. Without people and human capital, basic material infrastructure and forms of extra-community networks, bonding social capital is unlikely to be transformed to other forms of social capital. In this study, social participation is a mechanism through which community identity is activated under certain circumstances, such as in need or emergency and in collective social events. It is evident that this type of social participation is unrelated to civic engagement as described by Putnam. From a conceptual and methodological point of view, this research succeeded in providing an overall picture of relational community life within the contemporary rural settings of an islander region, such as the North Aegean. It also illustrates rural communities of high devotion with deep roots and psychological sense of place.

### 2: Exploring rural Greece (Book, ) [[www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)]

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The island of the Knights Welcome to Rhodes, the capital of the Dodecanese , an island which is ideal not only for those who want to relax but also for those looking for an action-packed holiday! With its bright green hills, rich green valleys and uninterrupted line of golden beaches , Rhodes is truly a blessed place. Thanks to its strategic position, Rhodes has been important since ancient times. The ancient city of Rhodes, the construction of which began in BC, was designed according to the city planning system devised by the greatest city planner of antiquity, Hippodamus of Miletus. Rhodes soon developed into one of the most important seafaring and trading centres in the Eastern Mediterranean. When it became a province of the Roman, and later the Byzantine Empire, it initially lost its ancient glory. They built strong fortifications to protect the island, turning it into an important administrative centre and a thriving multinational medieval city. In Rhodes was conquered by the Ottoman Turks, and the Greeks had to settle outside the city walls. During the Ottoman occupation, new buildings were erected within the Old Town, mainly mosques and baths. In Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese , were seized by the Italians. The new rulers embellished the city with magnificent buildings, wide roads and squares. The Palace of the Grand Master was rebuilt and the Street of the Knights was reconstructed in order to regain its medieval purity. It was not until that Rhodes officially became part of Greece. Old Town As you enter one of the largest medieval towns in Europe through the Gate of Freedom, it soon becomes obvious that the Old Town of Rhodes is a mosaic of different cultures and civilizations; rarely does a visitor have the chance to stroll within medieval walls and explore twenty-four centuries of history. The fascinating medieval fortress-like buildings, the bastions, walls, gates, narrow alleys, minarets, old houses, fountains, tranquil and busy squares make it feel like you have stepped back into medieval times. The Palace, originally a Byzantine fortress built at the end of the 7th century A. The cobblestoned Street of the Knights, one of the best preserved medieval streets in Europe, is packed with medieval inns that used to play host to the soldiers of the Order of the Knights. Now it hosts the Byzantine Museum. The multicultural character of Rhodes is also evident in this part of the city, since next to the Prefecture stands the Murat Reis Mosque with its elegant minaret. Enjoy the sun and the sea at cosmopolitan Elli beach at the northern tip of Rhodes town, which is lined with modern hotels. Here you will also find the beautifully renovated historic Grande Albergo delle Rose, which today operates as a Casino. A visit to the Aquarium, one of the most important marine research centres in Greece, is a must! In the underground aquarium, reminiscent of an underwater cave, the visitor can see many of the species living in the Aegean. Saint Stefanos Hill known as Monte Smith marks the site of the Acropolis, one of the most important centres of worship, education and recreation in ancient times on Rhodes. At the top of the hill you will find the remains of the Temple of Apollo, a Hellenistic stadium and a gymnasium. In Byzantine times, there was a fortress on the hill which, in the 13th century, became a monastery dedicated to Holy Mary. It was beautifully restored at a later stage by the Italians and the British. Directly in front of the church there are the ruins of 3rd century temples of Zeus and Athena. The road from the beautiful seaside resort of Kolimbia leads through a forest and along the banks of the River Loutanis to Archipoli, a picturesque rural village. The route is ideal for walking or cycling. However, the most fascinating and popular attraction of the region is the Valley of the Butterflies, a habitat of unique value for the reproduction of the Panaxia Quadripunctaria butterfly. Admire an atmosphere of incomparable beauty with lush vegetation and streams as you stroll along cleverly laid paths. Also well worth a visit in the Valley is the Museum of Natural History. The locals live a more simple life style, almost untouched by the rapid growth in tourism elsewhere on the island and still reverentially maintain their age-old traditions, customs, their local dialect and even the distinctive decoration of their houses. It is also worth exploring the surrounding villages, such as Soroni on the north coast and Fanes to the south, a nice spot for kitesurfing and windsurfing. The road from Kalavarda leads you to Salakos, a traditional village with lush vegetation and flowing springs. From there you can climb up Profitis Ilias Mountain, with its classic

Italian hotels in the forest and a chapel on the summit. On the mountain slopes, there are several smaller villages with springs and age-old plane trees: The highest mountain on Rhodes, the imposing Mt. The amazing view will compensate those who will make the effort to reach its summit! The biggest settlement in the region is Embonas. Built on a mountainside covered with vineyards, the village is famous for its excellent wines. If you want to escape the crowds, explore the rocky coast and bask in small, well-hidden bays, such as Fournoi, Glyfada or on the beaches of Kritinia. By following a path through the village or by hiring a donkey from the main square you can climb to the ancient acropolis, which is surrounded by well-preserved walls. Here you can see the remains of buildings from ancient times, the Byzantine era and the era of the Knights, such as the 4th century BC temple of Athena Lindia, the Propylea, the large Hellenistic arcade, the Byzantine chapel of Ayios Ioannis and the castle of the Knights of Saint John. You can also enjoy astonishing views of the town and the sea – an experience not to be missed during your visit on the island. In southern Rhodes nature is unveiled in all its splendour: The villages of the area were built in medieval times, or even earlier, and still maintain their traditional colour, just as their inhabitants still maintain their local dialect, traditional customs and even the traditional decoration of their houses. Follow old paths and discover the beauty of golden fields and shady woods, gentle hills and valleys – magical landscapes that will rejuvenate your body and soul. Only people live on the island today but the town and its magnificent neo-classical houses reveal the former prosperity of the island. Emborio, with its grand houses and a picturesque waterfront offering fresh fish, is the only inhabited hamlet on the island. Extra tip for trekking enthusiasts: Following breathtaking routes on foot is the ideal way to discover the unique natural beauty of the island: More information about walking trails on the island at [www](http://www). Getting there -By aeroplane from the airports of Athens and Thessaloniki. Flights are operated by Olympic Airways and Aegean Airlines. The trip lasts approximately 12 hours with intermediary stops at the islands of Patmos , Leros, Kalymnos and Kos. Rhodes is also connected directly to all the other islands of the Dodecanese and Crete.

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*Buy a cheap copy of Exploring Rural Greece (Exploring book by Pamela Westland. In this guide the author divides the country into nine regions, including Corfu, Crete, Rhodes and the main island groups and describes in detail over 30 tours.*

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Reviews Loring M. The Death Rituals of Rural Greece. Princeton University Press, Culture and History of an Ulster Community , "is not the end of our task. Scholars are citizens in debt to their society. Our study must push things to meanings and grope through meanings to values. Ethnographic descriptions and a sustained focus on individual participants are coupled with extensive analysis. It is the combination of visual and textual documentation, analytical and lyrical prose, theoretical and deeply personal perspectives that gives this work its special value and effect. On the whole, I find that this book makes an enormous contribution to the anthropology of death, the field of Modern Greek studies and Greek folksong, as well as to our understanding of ritual in the context of changing folk communities. The book opens with the forceful depiction of an exhumation ceremony in which a mother, aided by relatives and friends, faces the remains of her daughter Eleni, dead for five years. Moreover, the slowly unfolding details of daily life allow us a fascinating view of the process of change in Potamia, governing alike society and expressive forms, such as laments. Attention to the expressive language of laments, while maintaining a sensitive eye and ear for contextual detail, is another major contribution of Death Rituals in Rural Greece. We are thus able to understand how context and individual performers can combine songs which are apparently disparate and which are frequently sung in other contexts mainly at weddings , ordering through performance a meaningful totality. One wishes, however, for more consideration of performance elements. The author devotes a good part of the chapter on laments to the symbolic and structural analysis of lament texts e. Such analysis relies almost exclusively on secondary sources, missing the opportunity fully to utilize the performers themselves. Why do they select certain songs and on what basis? How have they learned laments and to whom are they transmitting them? What are their rules for substitution and embellishment , for appropriateness in song selection during performance, etc.? What are the rules and criteria of the indigenous aesthetic and interpretive systems? Instead of tackling some of these questions, Danforth bases many of his You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

### 4: Visit Greece | Rhodes

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Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Less than one-third of the land area is cultivable, with the remainder consisting of pasture, scrub, and forest. There corn maize , wheat, barley, sugar beets, peaches, tomatoes, cotton of which Greece is the only EU producer , and tobacco are grown. Since the last quarter of the 20th century, Greece also has been exporting hothouse-grown vegetables to northern Europe during the winter. Greek wine, including the resin-flavoured retsina, has been produced primarily for domestic consumption , but by the s Greece was producing wines of higher quality for the world market. Sheep, goats, pigs, cattle, and chickens are raised for export and local consumption. Although inefficient, Greek agriculture has benefited substantially from EU subsidies, and there are many signs of growing rural prosperity. In general, however, the importance of the agricultural sector to the economy is diminishing. Forests, mostly state-owned, cover approximately one-fifth of the land area, but they are prone to major forest fires. Forest products make no significant contribution to the economy. However, overfishing and the failure to conserve fish stocks properly, a problem throughout the Mediterranean, have reduced the contribution of fishing to the economy. Resources and power Greece has few natural resources. Its only substantial mineral deposits are of nonferrous metals, notably bauxite. The country also has small deposits of silver ore and marble , which are mined. Fossil fuels, with the exception of lignite , are in short supply: From the late s the country began developing solar and wind power. Manufacturing The manufacturing sector in Greece is weak. An established tradition exists only for the production of textiles, processed foods, and cement. In the past, private investment was oriented much more toward real estate than toward industry, and concrete apartment blocks proliferated throughout the country. In the s many ships that had hitherto registered under flags of convenience returned to the Greek flag; only a small proportion remains under foreign registry. Greek ships, which are predominantly bulk carriers, are extremely vulnerable to downturns in international economic activity, as they are principally engaged in carrying cargoes between developing countries. In the early 21st century about one-fifth of the labour force was employed in manufacturing and construction. Finance The central bank is the Bank of Greece, which issued the drachma , the national currency, until , when Greece adopted the euro as its sole currency. Greece has been a member of the EU since The state also exercises considerable control over the insurance sector. There is a stock exchange in Athens , but, for many Greeks, real estate, foreign currency, gold , and jewelry have proved to be more attractive investments than securities and bonds. Although Greece has a pension and social insurance system of considerable complexity, many Greeks have opposed changes to it. By the late s it had become easier for Greeks to obtain their pensions and get medical care. The principal exports included food especially fruit and nuts , clothing and apparel, machinery, and refined petroleum and petroleum-based products. Major export destinations Greece: Government services were significantly reduced, however, as part of the austerity measures undertaken in response to the economic crisis at the end of the decade. A host of World Heritage sites are found in Greece, including the Acropolis in Athens designated a World Heritage site in , the medieval city of Rhodes , and the archaeological site of Olympia , to name but a few. Starting in the s, the number of tourists , notably those from European countries, increased significantly, although Greece faced increasing competition from countries such as Portugal and Turkey. Improved road transport and infrastructure and the creation of a network of truck- and car-carrying ferries linking mainland Greece to the numerous islands and to Italy were instrumental to this growth. By the beginning of the 21st century, some 14 million visitors were arriving annually, many of them from the United Kingdom and Germany, and there was a new emphasis on attracting tourists from China. Labour and taxation In the mids, with the return of parliamentary democracy , trade unions became mobilized. For the next decade and a half there was a period of increased strike activity, characterized by greater militancy and expanding membership in organized labour. By the early s, however, as the Greek economy became more stable and less industrial, trade union membership and bargaining power were diminished. Though not officially recognized, there are

trade union factions belonging to each of the major political parties. Whether they belong to unions or not, Greeks in a wide variety of occupations—from physicians to public transportation workers—have shown a willingness to undertake wildcat strikes. There was widespread union opposition to the austerity measures which included reductions in benefits and pensions introduced by the government in response to the economic crisis that began in Greece instituted a value-added tax VAT in . In the first decade of the 21st century, the government began to reduce the corporate income tax rate. Individual income tax is progressive, with rates as high as 45 percent in the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century. Although the canal significantly shortens the sea route from the Italian ports to Piraeus the port of Athens , it has never fulfilled the economic expectations of its builders, because of its shallow draft and narrow width. A program to modernize the railway system with the aid of EU funding commenced in the mids. Public transport in the Athens metropolitan area is heavily dependent on an often overcrowded and sometimes unreliable bus network. Much of Athens is serviced by the Metro; construction of that subway system began in the s but proceeded relatively slowly, as the digging unearthed a treasure trove of antiquities. The extensive nationwide bus-and-ferry network has been augmented since the s by the development of a flight network linking Athens with a few dozen domestic airports. For several decades Olympic Airlines was owned by the government and had a virtual monopoly on air travel within Greece, but in it was acquired by a private investment group. Meanwhile, several small, privately owned airlines began offering limited service, primarily within Greece. In the early 21st century the saturation rate of cellular phone use was extremely high, with almost as many subscriptions as there were citizens. Government and society Constitutional framework Greece is a parliamentary republic. The current constitution , introduced in following the collapse of the 1974 military dictatorship, initially gave considerable powers to the president , but revisions to the constitution in made presidential powers largely ceremonial. The president, who is the head of state, is elected by the unicameral Hellenic Parliament Vouli and may serve two five-year terms. Parliament Building, Athens, Greece. The latter, the unicameral Hellenic Parliament, consists of deputies who are elected to four-year terms by direct universal vote; it has the power to revise the constitution. A distinctive feature of the Greek electoral system has been the practice of incumbent governments amending the electoral law to suit their own political advantage. However, another round of constitutional revisions in introduced safeguards against political abuses, bringing about greater transparency in political operations.

### 5: Greece - Agriculture, forestry, and fishing | [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*The purpose of this paper is to explore aspects, dynamics and experiences of the crisis in the Greek countryside. The 'rural' is emerging in public discourse as a resilient milieu of solidarity, of social innovation, and of opportunities for employment, especially in farming and in rural entrepreneurship.*

Most people in ancient Greece had an occupation. The majority of occupations were found in the cities. Most rural work was difficult as fertile land on the Greek peninsula was hard to come by. Urban work in the cities revolved around the agora, an open market place. In most cities, the agora was a square lined with trees and surrounded by buildings. It was an open area where people could meet, chat and do business. Refer Image1 Most urban work that took place in the agora was related to trade. Anything could be bought or sold from pottery, food, furniture and jewellery. Livestock and slaves were also sold. Small shops were set up around the agora. Local farmers could travel from the country to sell their produce. Fresh foods such as meat and fish were displayed on cool marble slabs. There were also tradesmen such as barbers and shoe repairers who offered their services to people in the agora. The Greeks had a cash economy. They traded with coins. Most city states minted their own coins. In most agora in Greece, there were ten officials to check the weights and measures of coins to make sure all coins were of the same standard. Some traders attempted to use counterfeit coins, or coins not made entirely of gold or silver. These officials stopped any counterfeit money from being traded. There were also officials appointed to check the quality of goods in the agora. Refer Image2 The ancient Greeks had many crafts and trades. Potters made clay vessels and painted them with beautiful designs. Pots and vases came in many different sizes and had many different uses, drinking and wine-mixing jugs, oil and storage pots, even grain transporting pots. Athenian pottery reached its height of sophistication in design and decoration in the 5th century. There were two main styles of pottery decoration, red-figure and black-figure vases. When a clay pot was fired, the areas that were designed to be black were painted in black clay. Red-figure pots were painted black with the figures and designs left bare. When a pot was fired, the uncovered sections would turn red, creating either a black- or red-figure vase. Decorations varied from Oriental styles featuring lions and flower motifs to scenes from popular mythology and geometric designs. There were also craftsmen who specialised in sculpture, painting, inscribing and building. These craftsmen found work in constructing and decorating temples, making pieces for private consumers and making pieces for international trade. Greek craftsmen were skilled in metalworking. They made weapons and jewellery in bronze, gold, silver and iron. The Greeks developed a sophisticated mining system. Unlike the slave mines of the Romans, the Greeks built safer and worker-friendly mines. Archaeologists have discovered Greek mines that included pillars of rock left in place to hold up the roof of the mine. Tradesmen and craftsmen worked in a specific section of the city. In Athens, this area was called the kerameikos. Some craftsmen were employed in small factories, some worked independently, depending on the size of the city. There were some urban occupations that Greeks disliked. Sausage sellers and tanners were frequently made fun of in Athenian comedy. Sausage sellers were considered cheats and poor men. Tanners were associated with the smell and labour involved in their work. They took the hides of animals and dried them in the sun. The tanners then rubbed oil into the dried hides to help make the leather supple. It was a messy and smelly job. Wealthy Greeks often did not have to work, and were able to spend their time at leisure reading, discussing philosophy, engaging in politics or involved in organising religious worship. Some wealthy Greeks owned factories. The Athenian politician Cleon owned a tanning factory. His opponents often made fun of him and used this messy occupation against him in political debates. Rural work Good farmland was hard to acquire in Greece. The peninsula was divided by mountains and small rivers. The soil was laced with limestone, leaving it dry and infertile. The areas of Greece best suited for farming were limited to valleys, plains and coastal land. The Greeks used the land as best they could, farming the land that was able to be farmed and using the mountains and infertile land as grazing for sheep and goats. In some areas, farmland was so poor it could only produce enough food for a small family. In the plains around Sparta, the land yielded enough crops to support the entire polis city state. Farmers who could grow enough produce would travel to

the nearest city and trade their grain for other products. The agricultural year began in October when grain was sown. By April and May of the next year, the crops were ready to be harvested. After the grain had been collected, the land was left unplanted so that the soil could recuperate. Refer Image3 Wheat, emmer and barley were planted. These were the staple crops used to make bread and porridge, an important part of the Greek diet. Olives and grapes were also important crops. The climate was well suited to the cultivation of olives and grapes. Olive trees and grape vines flourished for a long time with minimum upkeep. Olives were eaten, used in cooking, and were crushed to make oil. In the ancient world, olive oil was used more widely than in modern times. It was used in medicine, lighting, cooking and even cosmetics. Greek olive oil was a prized commodity in ancient trade. Grapes were eaten and made into wine. Greek wine was also popular in the ancient world. The ancient Greeks drank wine mixed with water. People who drank their wine undiluted were considered barbarians. The ancient Greek farmers also kept animals. The primary domestic animal was the goat. Farmers also kept pigs and poultry for meat, sheep and goats for milk. Beef was only eaten at religious ceremonies. Oxen were used as working animals, pulling heavy equipment and carrying loads. Horses were imported from northern Greece. The life of the farmer and urban worker was not easy. The comic writer Aristophanes wrote many plays with old, hard-working farmers as the heroes, triumphing over the soft, wealthy, urban politician.

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Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. In winter the belt of low-pressure disturbances moving in from the North Atlantic Ocean shifts southward, bringing with it warm, moist, westerly winds. As the low-pressure areas enter the Aegean region, they may draw in cold air from those eastern regions of the Balkans that, sheltered by the Dinaric mountain system from western influences, are open to climatic extremes emanating from the heart of Eurasia. This icy wind is known as the boreas. Occasionally the warmer sirocco shilok winds are drawn in from the south. The western climatic influences bring plenty of precipitation to the Ionian coast and the mountains behind it; winter rain starts early, and snow lingers into spring. Few populated areas have lasting snowfalls, but snow is commonly found on the highest peaks. Topography is again a modifying factor: In other regions, such as Crete, the hot, dry summers are accentuated by the parching meltemi, or etesian winds, which become drier as they are drawn southward. However, atmospheric pollution has become a serious problem in the cities, notably Athens, obscuring the sky and posing a hazard to the ancient monuments. Plant and animal life As in other Balkan countries, the vegetation of Greece is open to influences from several major biogeographic zones, with the major Mediterranean and western Asian elements supplemented by plants and animals from the central European interior. The subtle but complex vegetation mosaic is a product of the climatic effects of elevation, the contrast between north and south, local relief, and eight or nine millennia of human settlement and land use. Degraded plant associations areas where the variety and size of species and the density of plant cover are reduced and soil erosion are common. Vegetation types from central Europe prevail on the mountain flanks and generally in the north. Evergreen trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants are found in the lowland, their flowers offering brilliant patterns in springtime. Pines, plane trees, and poplars line the rivers, the higher slopes, and the coastal plains. Oak, chestnut, and other deciduous trees are found in the north, giving way at higher elevations to coniferous forests dominated by the Grecian fir, in which clearings are carpeted in spring and summer with irises, crocuses, and tulips. Greece is home to about 6, species of wildflowers, of which some are endemic. Oleg Polunin The forested zones, especially in the north, harbour such European mammals as wildcats, martens, brown bears, roe deer, and, more rarely, wolves, wild boars, and lynx. Animals of the Mediterranean regions include hares, wild goats, and porcupines, all adapted to the heat and lack of moisture. Birds include owls, vultures, pelicans, storks, and herons, and many varieties from farther north spend the winter in Greece, while others stop on Greek land and water while migrating to and from Africa. Reptile and marine life have come under increasing pressure, the former by overdevelopment and the latter by exhaustive fishing. Ancient Greek mosaic showing the sea god Poseidon riding two dolphins. Dinkum People Ethnic groups The population of Greece, in particular that of northern Greece, has always been characterized by a great deal of ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity. Migrations, invasions, imperial conquests, and 20th-century wars all contributed to this cultural diversity, which continues to characterize modern Greece—in spite of several instances of population exchanges, which occurred as a result of treaties between Greece and Bulgaria in and between Greece and Turkey in, along with long-standing government policies of assimilation, or Hellenization. According to the dominant ideology of the Greek state, all the people of Greece are, or should be, Greek. As a result, the existence of ethnic and national diversity in the country has remained a sensitive issue. Greek Orthodox priests from the monastery of St. Those ultimately gave way in the 19th century to Modern Greek except in the liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church, which still uses Koine, although from roughly the 15th century onward, the language had a very modern aspect to it. Modern Greek comprises Standard Modern Greek and the various regional dialects. Standard Modern Greek is the official state language, and it is an amalgamation of two historical forms: Demotic, which is widely spoken, and Katharevusa, a deliberately archaizing form that was primarily written, appearing in official government documents and newspapers until the mids. Separate transliteration

tables are generally used for Classical and Modern Greek; however, changes in the pronunciation of the Greek language and conflicting transliteration conventions have resulted in widespread discrepancies, even in the rendering of Modern Greek names in Roman orthography. The form of Greek known as Tsakonian is different enough from other varieties that it could be considered a separate language too, and a similar claim could be made for the Pontic variety and the Cappadocian variety as spoken now in Greece these last two occurring in Greece as a result of the population movements mandated by the Treaty of Lausanne. An autocephalous ecclesiastically independent Eastern Orthodox church, this body appoints its own ecclesiastical hierarchy and is headed by a synod of 12 metropolitans under the presidency of the archbishop of Athens. Almost all Cretans belong to a special branch of the Church of Greece headed by the archbishop of Crete, who is directly responsible to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, as are the monks of Mount Athos, who constitute a semiautonomous entity with a Greek governor but with their own administration. Roman and Greek Catholics, predominantly located in Athens and the western islands formerly under Italian rule, account for the rest, except for a few thousand adherents of Protestantism and Judaism. Traditionally, towns and villages have depended on the fertility of the surrounding land. Isolation, which contributes to this self-sufficiency the *autarkeia* of the ancient city-states, survives in the remote villages of mountainous Greece. Only Corinth Modern Greek: The other trading areas were located where sea and land routes coincided with cultivable land. Of the three-fifths of the population that is urban, a relatively small slice is classified as semi-urban. Urbanization is extending into the countryside, where agrarian reform has severely fragmented landholdings and attracted urban-based financial and marketing entrepreneurs. Emigration was significant in 1915, and it became particularly heavy after World War II. The most common destinations of the emigrants were the United States, Canada, Australia, and, somewhat later, Germany, Belgium, and Italy. This was, however, almost wholly because of international population movements rather than from an increase in natural growth rates, which remained low. At the middle of the first decade of the new millennium, the majority of immigrants were from central and eastern Europe, primarily Albania, followed by Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine. In the early 21st century, as the fertility rate remained below the replacement rate and as immigration slowed, the overall population growth rate declined. Although the life expectancy of Greek men and women was for some time slightly longer than that in other western European countries, the difference has been decreasing since the late 20th century because of changes in the diet and activities of Greeks. Catherine Delano Smith John S. Shipping, tourism, and remittances from expatriate workers the last of which have been decreasing steadily are the mainstays of the economy. Gerald Clyde FPG Although the Greek economy traditionally has been based on free enterprise, many sectors of the economy have come under direct or, through the banks, indirect government control. This process of establishing state ownership of the economy has been associated with both right and centre-left governments; however, in the first decade of the 21st century, the centre-right government partly in response to pressure from the EU showed an inclination for privatizing some sectors. Trade unions, which are fragmented and highly politicized, wield significant power only in the public sector. Measures taken since the late 1980s, however, have begun to decrease the degree of state control of economic activity. Unemployment, which historically has been low, grew in the last decades of the 20th century as temporary migrant workers returned to Greece and as demand for immigrant labour has declined in other European countries. Some sectors of the economy, notably shipping and tourism, have shown considerable dynamism but have been highly vulnerable to international developments. In late the Greek economy went into a tailspin. Severe austerity measures were not enough to rescue the Greek economy and government, and in March and April of the EU and the International Monetary Fund IMF fearing the collapse of the euro currency zone, which Greece had joined in stepped in with two huge aid packages that came loaded with new demands for austerity measures.

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