

## **Simitis book review on the Greek Crisis**

### **1. Outline of the project**

This book is written by a former Prime-minister (1996-2004) of Greece Costas Simitis. This book is not his memoirs but his own reading on the Greek crisis. In the book Simitis strongly defends his governments' record with regard to the Greek finances (dismissing the accusation of corrupt Greek statistics and unworthy EMU membership) and accuses the next government of New Democracy as the main culprit of the Greek crisis. He also offers a number of insightful comments about the EU and EMU operation. His conclusion is a rather pessimistic one – suggesting that the EU and EMU has lost its political cohesiveness, it has become very intergovernmental and dominated by Germany and France.

### **2. Critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses**

#### **Strengths:**

- Original analysis from a ex Premier of a country under spotlight about the Euro-crisis
- Insightful comments about Greek and EU politics
- The book is well-written and has good structure

#### **Weaknesses:**

- The author is obviously political and he overlooks some omissions of his governments and puts all the blame on the New-Democracy government. One could wonder how impartial the analysis is.
- Many statements are without references. For instance when the author talks about the EU and its intra-EU politics there are no studies/references supporting his claims. But maybe this is OK as he speaks as a former leader and not as an academic.

### **3. Recommendations for revision: improving structure/content**

The author should add more references wherever possible. For instance some points about the Greek statistics are not supported with any Eurostat data. Similarly, many statements about EU politics are without any other support besides the author's opinion. It would greatly help the quality of the argument to have some additional references on key points made (e.g. EMU becoming more intergovernmentalist; Central and Eastern European countries not interested in political Union, etc)

### **4. Quality and significance of the project**

The project offers a unique reading of the Greek and Euro crisis. It is well-written and offers new insights into the Greek and EMU crises.

5. Originality and relation to existing works in the field

The project offers a unique reading of the Greek and Euro crisis. It can be juxtaposed with existing studies as the account of a Greek policy maker and an insider of the Greek political system.

6. Structure, Organisation and Presentation: is it well thought out? Inclusive? Well-written?

Yes

7. Timeliness and likely shelf-life of the research

The book should be published as soon as possible given its very timely theme (Greek and EMU crisis). I assume that the self-life of the work will be good given that the book will be indispensable for any researcher of the Greek and Euro crisis.

8. Likely competition or comparable books

See above

9. Likely readership/market

Academia and policy makers. See above.

10. Potential use in sources (courses, level, essential or supplementary)

Supplementary in undergraduate and graduate courses

11. Should it be published and English language version of it?

Yes