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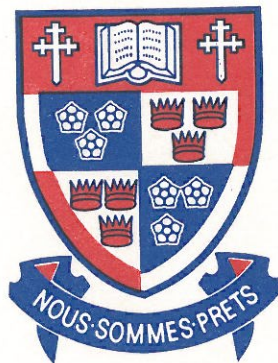
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Edited by
Harry J. Psomiades and N. M. Vaporis



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Contents

KKE Reactions to the Truman Doctrine OLE L. SMITH	1
The Truman Doctrine in Greece: America's Global Strategy and the "New Kind of War" HOWARD JONES	9
The Truman Doctrine: Was There a Development Agenda? STAVROS B. THOMADAKIS	23
The Termination of the Greek Civil War: Its International Implications BASIL KONDIS	53
Postwar Planning in France and Greece: An Essay in Comparison CHRISTOS HADZIIOSSIF	63
At the Borders of Identity: Greek and Arabic Fiction and the Impossible Beyond MARY LAYOUN	75
Cyprus, the <i>Enosis</i> Struggle and Greece: Sir John Stavridi and the British Offer of 1915 JOHN T. A. KOUMOULIDES	85
Saint George in Folk and Ecclesiastical Traditions of Greece GEORGE PILITSIS	123
The Continuity of Greek Culture BERNARD M. W. KNOX	139
The United States and its Aegean Odyssey S. J. RAPHALIDES	151

Thukydides, Eleutherios Venizelos, and Classical Scholarship EVIE ZACHARIADES-HOLMBERG	165
Capital Accumulation and the Rate of Profit in the Postwar Greek Economy PERSEFONI TSALIKI AND LEFTERIS TSOULFIDIS	189
Literature as Consensus of <i>Now</i> Interpreters JOHN CHIOLES	211
Contributors	225

KKE Reactions to the Truman Doctrine

OLE L. SMITH

ONE WOULD HARDLY THINK THAT THE REACTION OF THE KKE to the Truman Doctrine, when it was announced in March 1947, could be a problem to the historian. There were so many good reasons to expect what the reactions would be like. Still, the Greek communists did react in a way one would not have easily predicted and which creates a problem for the historian today. This problem might be characterized as similar to the famous mystery of "the dog that did not bark," as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle put it.

Previous studies of the period have not seen the problem in this way, but if we look at just two interpretations, we can see, at least, that scholarship is divided on the point, even though no one, as far as I am aware, has discussed the matter along the lines that can provide a cogent answer. To illustrate existing views, I may quote the following examples.

In his penetrating analysis of KKE history from 1940 to 1949, the German historian, Matthias Esche, writes about reactions in the KKE to the Truman Doctrine:

To the Greek communists, the announcement of the Truman Doctrine came as a shock. They had not expected United States engagement on this scale. Their hope that the Soviet Union would take the place of Britain in the Eastern Mediterranean was not fulfilled. The expectations of success for the communist dual strategy were diminished seriously.¹

On the other hand, Lawrence Wittner in his *American Intervention in Greece* has this to say about leftist reactions:

Ironically, even EAM, while criticizing "arbitrary American intervention," was not totally hostile to the American initiative. An official delegation from the left-wing coalition told MacVeigh that EAM favored American economic aid but opposed the presence

¹Matthias Esche, *Die kommunistische Partei Griechenlands 1941-1949* (Munich-Vienna, 1982), p. 268.