

## Original Paper

# Social and Ecological Floods in the Attica Basin

Savvas Mavridis<sup>1\*</sup> & Dimitrios Adamopoulos<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Business Administration, Alexandrian Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>2</sup> Alexandrian Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

\* Savvas Mavridis, Department of Business Administration, Alexandrian Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

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### **Abstract**

*Urbanization without industrialization, which is observed among others in many African countries and causes severe damage in the social system, leads to absolute or disguised dictatorships. This proportionally applies to the Attica basin, which counts up to 40% of the Greek population and 48% of the GDP. Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal, in their article written for the World Bank entitled "Urbanization without Growth: A not so uncommon phenomenon", highlight these phenomena in African countries, of course with significant differences between them, but also with similarities. In Greece, many similarities with these countries are also observed.*

### **Keywords**

*urbanization, construction sector, manufacture, social protest, Attica*

## **1. Introduction: Urbanism and the Individual**

Urbanism is a social phenomenon observed not only in the era of the industrial revolution, but in the middle Ages and in the antiquity as well (Boyd & Jameson, 1981). As Georg Simmel wrote in 1903, urbanization, under certain circumstances is a positive factor in the development of societies and economies, because both production and demand (consumption) lie in the same place (Simmel, 1971 {1903}). Thus, urbanization can be quantified either in terms of the level of urban development related to the total population, or as the rate at which the urban population ratio increases (UNFPA, 2016). However, under different conditions, urbanization can be a factor of social discomfort, since the individual is hurried in his daily routine to undergo a tough financial exchange of goods and money, which is not so intense in the relaxing rural life, as Georg Simmel argues (Simmel, 1971 {1903}).

Earlier, Fr. Nietzsche wrote in *Zarathustra: I despise the big city and not just this sucker. Here you can neither improve nor worsen something. Worry in this great city. I would like to see the fire columns in which this city is burning* (Neumayer, 1999). In *Das Passagen-Werk* (The Arcades Project) Walter Benjamin approached in philosophical and literary terms the way of life in Paris during the interwar period, and especially fashion, prostitution and advertising (Benjamin, 1982).

The fact is that the big city is too big for the little man. As nature's phenomena have a great deal of power over the little man, so the big cities are disproportionately bigger than the means of the individual to manage them.

In our times, this issue concerns in many ways art and research. Thus, the award-winner German director Rainer Werner Fassbinder, in his film *Deer Müll, die Stadt und der Tod* (Garbage, the city and death), refers among others to the urbanization of the city of Frankfurt, nowadays the seat of Euro.

Also, Kathryn Brown (*Undoing Urban Modernity: Contemporary Art's Confrontation with Waste-Disastrous Urban Modernity: A Modern Artistic Conflict with Waste*) speaks in her article about the art of natural waste of urbanization (Brown, 2013).

The aim of this paper is an approach of the urbanization and overconcentration of the population internationally and mainly in Attica and its goal is to formulate a proposal for an escape from the problem of urban hydrocephalic in Greece.

## **2. Urbanization and Population Overcrowding Internationally**

Kingsley and Golden have ranked Greece and South Korea among the most "overurbanized" countries of the world since the 1950s. They argue that countries become "over urbanized" when their urbanization rate is significantly higher than their industrialization pace. The approach of comparing the urbanization and industrialization of a country with those of another country is called synchronic (Kingsley & Hertz Golden, 1954). In the Greek language, the term "υπεραστικοποίηση" has not yet been established, while the corresponding term in English (over urbanisation) gave about 22.700 internet results on 24-5-2018.

According to Mansari's (2017) article, on the city and the capital of Sierra Leone, Freetown, more than 300 people drowned in floods there on 14 August 2017. In an area of 13 thousand Km<sup>2</sup> live 1.050.000 inhabitants while in the rest of the country with 71 thousand Km<sup>2</sup> of land live only 6.000.000 people! Real progress lies in the direction of decentralization, both territorial and functional, which the survey points out (Mansari, 2017).

Of course, overurbanization has been used not only by individual researchers but also by international organizations such as the World Bank. The key finding of this international organization is that steady economic growth is always accompanied by urbanization. In Africa, urbanization took place without economic growth. Is this the result of the fact that the process of urbanization in Africa has been distorted? Or perhaps, urbanization is not always accompanied by steady growth. And so in times of economic recession, the poor and immigrant flock back to the rural areas without being forced (Fay &

Opal, 2000). These are the findings of World Bank executives Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal (2000) about the urbanization in Africa, which are at least statistically similar to the case of Greece and more specifically to the case of Attica.

The importance of the provision of the various services in different countries, cities and states has also been highlighted by the European Union itself. EU's style government (the European Commission) is in Brussels, the Parliament is in Strasbourg, the Central Bank is in Frankfurt and the European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) is located in Thessaloniki, Greece. But also in the nation states there is similar decentralization; Austria, Germany and Belgium adopt such models (Papadopoulou, 2007).

In the following Table 1 is illustrated the relationship between the capital cities population and the total population of selected countries in comparison to industrialization.

**Table 1. The Relationship between Capital Cities' Population Total Population and Industrialization of 15 European Union Countries, Switzerland and the USA in 2016**

Countries	Population of capital cities	Total population	2/3	% Manufacture /GDP
Spain	3.166.000	46.560.000	6,8%	12
Italy	3.772.000	60.600.000	6,2%	21,4
Greece	3.812.230	10.787.690	35,34%	9*
Belgium	1.175.000	11.350.000	10,3%	14
Portugal	2.810.000	10.320.000	27,2%	15,8
Ireland	216.000	4.733.000	4,5%	20,6
United Kingdom	8.788.000	65.640.000	13,3%	12,6
Finland	1.427.000	5.945.000	24%	15,04
Austria	2.600.000	8.747.000	29,7%	18,59
French	10.500.000	66.900.000	15,9%	23,12
Holland	524.882	17.200.000	5,16%	21,14
Denmark	775.330	5.731.000	13,5%	11,70
Sweden	949.760	9.903.000	9,5%	12,4
Germany	5.800.000	82.670.000	7%	22,2
Swiss	660.000	8.372.000	7,8%	21
USA	693,972	323.000.000	0,002%	20

Source: <https://national-pride.org/2011/07/24/o-πληθυσμός-όλων-των-δήμων-της-Ελλάδας>  
Greek Statistics, \* Statistical Yearbook of Greece 2009-10, p. 570.

Europäische Union: Urbanisierungsgrad in den Mitgliedsstaaten im Jahr 2013.

<http://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/249029/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-den-eu-laendern/>

[http://www.ccilaportugal.com/fileadmin/ahk\\_portugal/PDFS\\_CCILA/Wirtschaftsdaten\\_Kompakt\\_Portugal.pdf](http://www.ccilaportugal.com/fileadmin/ahk_portugal/PDFS_CCILA/Wirtschaftsdaten_Kompakt_Portugal.pdf)

Jonathan Ben Shlomo, Wissenschaftliche Hochschule Lahr=Unterschiede in den Eigentumsquoten von Wohnimmobilien—Erklärungsversuche und Wirkungsanalyse. p. 9.

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<http://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/249029/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-den-eu-laendern/>

Germany Trade and Invest: Wirtschaftsdatenkompakt.

<https://dc.gov/release/washington-dc>

The high percentage of Vienna into the total population of Austria is due to the fact that it was formerly the capital of an empire, with 21.8% of GDP into total GDP, which is more than double than the Greek one, while in Lisbon there are great similarities with Greece, which are still not as extreme as in Athens.

The critical point of comparison lies on the conjuncture called urbanization with or without industrialization, or Urbanization without Structural Transformation (Gollin, Jedwab, & Vollrath, 2012).

Our point is that the basic criterion to distinguish the two kinds of urbanization/agglomeration of the population is whether it is a pre-eminent or a late one phenomenon with regards the creation of the national state. The fact however is that this phenomenon describes countries without a democratic tradition, such as Egypt, Argentina, or Iran (Fay & Opal, 2000) and .... Greece. This labeling is not only supported by the writers but also by the pre-existing literature (Fay & Opal, 2000; Ades & Glaeser, 1995). Population overcrowding coupled with the status of the city as a capital, that is as a center of power, create an explosive mixture which cannot be dealt without indirect or direct dictatorship, i.e., regimes which do not lead to social progress.

Jan K. Brueckner introduces the term over-investment in housing in the case of the USA (Brueckner, 1997). Since such a term is used in the largest economy in the world, this applies much more in our case. However, most closely related to the Greek case is Spain, for which most of the surveys converge on the fact that home acquisition serves consumption (Arrondel, Badenes, & Spadaro, 2010).

To the term over-urbanization should be added the term over-investment on the dwelling in order to impress the incoherence of the Greek economic reality. The turbulence lies on the simultaneous high urbanization with high ownership, and even more on the fact that these phenomena occurred at the same geographical area.

Besides the historical, political, and economic factors that led to Attic over-urbanization, an additional reason is the so-called Wagon effect which refers to the tendency of people to repeat what others do without too much of thinking. This is another version of Emile Durkheim's mechanical solidarity. The main mistake in the worldview of Greek citizen and politician is that he treats urban housing as a productive investment and not as consumption.

Guido Hischier, who conducted a comparative survey among African countries, identifies their governments as traditional regimes. These regimes, he argues, usually consists of an alliance between political power and a social class which stand hostile to the economic and social development (Hischier, 1987). In this context of population overcrowding, the urban bias phenomenon shows that economic growth is hampered by strong local interest groups, who due to their central location in urban areas, are able to exercise pressure on governments in order to protect or impose their interests (Gugler, 1983). Urban bias, according to Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal referring to African countries or Greece (2000, p. 8), is described as a financial urban bias, which seizes resources from the periphery and exploits them in urban areas (Chandavarkar, 1985). With respect to the proportions in Greece, the four systemic banks (National, Piraeus, Eurobank and Alpha bank) control 97% of the market share in May 2016, and they all have their headquarters in Athens (Note 1)! On a personal level, the various public work contractors, TV channel owners, as well as senior state officials, etc., could be classified in this category of urban bias. The alliance between political power and the social class hostile to economic and social development stressed by Guido Hischier, is similar to urban bias as Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal call it and they are virtually identical in the countries of Africa (Fay & Opal, 2000).

### **3. The Asymmetric Urban Settlement in Athens Today**

While there is no shortage in the existing bibliography inside and outside of Greece (Saligaros, 2005) on urbanization and more specifically on urbanization in the Attica basin, there are political and social extensions to which are not given the necessary attention!

Specifically for urbanization in the world and especially for Attica there is no lack of research from the perspective of the researchers. Thus, a few scholars examine Attica as an absolutely European case (Chtouris et al., 1993; Salligaros, 2005; Koukoura, 2016; Athanassiou et al., 2015) they even deal with urbanization in Thessaloniki. In an article of Greek-American origin, urbanization is being glorified in the ancient (reasonably) and modern Athens (rather unfortunately) (Polopolus). The city-state, which has given the world's civilization its democratic citizenship, devours its society today with greed. A relatively recent statistical survey deals critically with the Economic Crisis, Society and the Environment in Greece (Stamatiou & Psaltakis, 2015).

**Table 2. The Population Development of Attica Basin Compared to the Growth of the Greek Population and the GDP of the Country's Industry**

Year	Population of Greece	Population of Attica	Population of Attica/Population of Greece	% Manufactur e/GDP	Annual GDP growth
1879	1.679.470	195.159	11,62		
1889	2.187.208	267.880	12,24		
1896	2.433.806	323.180	13,27		
1907	2.631.952	418.612	15,90		
1920	5.016.889	634.529	12,64		
1928	6.204.684	1.024.657	16,51		
1940	7.344.860	1.300.271	17,70		
1951	7.632.801	1.378.586	18,06	15,04	
1961	8.388.553	1.447.182	17,25	18,59	
1971	8.768.372	2.233.160	25,46	23,12	8,9
1981	9.739.589	3.369.424	34,59	21,14	0,7
1991	10.259.900	3.523.407	34,34	11,70	0,0
2001	10.964.020	3.761.810	34,31%	12,4	4,2
2011	10.787.690	3.812.230	35,34%	9*	-7,1

Source: Greek Statistics, \*Statistical Yearbook of Greece 209-10, p. 570.

<https://national-pride.org/2011/07/24/ο-πληθυσμός-όλων-των-δήμων-της-Ελλάδας>

As seen, e.g., between 1920 and 1928, while the population of Greece grew by 9.08%, the Attica population increased by 61.92%. Historically, the increase in the Attica population is due to the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey under the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 (Note 2). It is worth noting that while between 2001 and 2011 the population of Greece declined by 176,330 people, of Attica is growing by 50.420 people! From the previous table, it is concluded that we have to deal with the phenomenon of overurbanization, which, according to Josef Gugler, is observed when urbanization is higher or faster than industrialization (Gugler, 1982).

The data of the above comparison show that the population structure in Greece creates by itself an informal but powerful pressure group (Okeke, 2014), disproportionately higher than the one created in the comparison countries, by the respective population structure. If we take into account the weak economy and political progress of the country, then it is clear that social conflicts and environmental problems are expected to be particularly acute.

As far as the relation between urbanization and industrialization is concerned, as defined by the UN, we see that only in the statistics of the years 1961 and 1971, the industrialization rate in GDP surpasses

that of the urbanization of Attica only, and then the population concentration of Attica in relation to the secondary sector's share it is initially doubled-tripled to quadruple in 2011, i.e., in 2013. This fact proves a total lack of planning by the state and the society.

#### 4. Urbanism and the Construction Sector in Greece and Internationally

Urbanism is directly linked to the concentration of population and the development of the building sector where the population will live. Thus its management by the central administration of each state also shows its philosophy.

The Table 3 below (Note 3) shows the relationship between home ownership and urbanization, unemployment, industrial output to GDP and per capita income in 14 countries of the European Union, Switzerland and the United States.

**Table 3. Selected Sectors of the Economy of 15 European Union Countries, Switzerland and the USA in 2010**

Country	Home-ownership	Urbanization	Unemployment	Industry/GDP	Per capita Income
Spain	86%	79%	24%	12	28.156
Italy	80%	68,7%	12,3%	21,4	31.953
Greece	80%	77%	27%	9*	18.613
Belgium	78%	97,7%	8,5%	14	43.323
Portugal	76%	62,3%	14%	15,8	21.136
Ireland	75%	62,7%	10,7%	20,6**	69.330
United Kingdom	70%	82%	5,9%	12,6	39.720
Finland	58%	84%	8,9%	11,9	45.703
Austria	57%	65,5%	4,9%	21,8	47.290
France	56%	79%	10,3%	16,5	38.476
Netherlands	54%	89,3%	6,5%	14,4	48.223
Denmark	54%	87,3%	6,4%	16,7	56.307
Sweden	50%	85,5%	7,9%	14,6	53.442
Germany	44%	75%	5%	22,2	44.469
Switzerland	35%	67%	2%	21	80.189
USA	63,7	80,7%	4,1%	20	59.531***

Source: \*Statistical Yearbook of Greece 209-10, p. 570 (in the next GRESYE).

Data for the Year 2013. Source: Europäische Union: Arbeitslosenquoten in den Mitgliedsstaaten im November 2014.

<http://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/160142/umfrage/arbeitslosenquote-in-den-eu-laendern/>

Jonathan Ben Shlomo, Wissenschaftliche Hochschule Lahr=Unterschiede in den Eigentumsquoten von Wohnimmobilien—Erklärungsversuche und Wirkungsanalyse. p. 9.

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<http://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/249029/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-den-eu-laendern/>

**\*\*2014**

[https://www.bak.de/w/files/netzwerk-architektur-export/07laenderinformationen/europa/irland-11.2015\\_wirtschaftsdaten-kompakt-irland-november-2015.pdf](https://www.bak.de/w/files/netzwerk-architektur-export/07laenderinformationen/europa/irland-11.2015_wirtschaftsdaten-kompakt-irland-november-2015.pdf)

\*\*\*World Bank Group 2017 (In US\$), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>

The previous table shows that the low participation of industry in GDP means high unemployment, while the high rate of owner-occupation does not necessarily mean low unemployment or high per capita income. Therefore, only processing sector involves employment rather than building activity. Indeed, industrial production must be preceded of building activity. Thus, Spain and Greece as countries with high percentage of ownership and low participation of industry in GDP, show the highest unemployment.

Still other statistics show that:

For the years 1983, for dwellings were spent 36.900 million Drachmas (GRESYE, 1984, p. 270), whereas in 1987 spent 76.485 million Drachmas, so it increased by 2.07 times (GRESYE, 1988, p. 330). In the year 1983 GDP grew from 2.731.303 million Drachmas to 5.339.100 million Drachmas in 1987, so it increased by 2.02 times (GRESYE, 1987, p. 467).

Furthermore GDP increased from 7.832.252 million Drachmas in 1988 to 14.592.532 million Drachmas in 1993, i.e., 0.86 times, while construction from 472.358 in 1988 increased to 945.501 million Drachmas in 1993, or 1.01 times (GRESYE, 1987, 1994-1995, p. 496).

In the period 1995-2000, the GDP increased from 27.235.205 to 41.406.732, or 1.52 times, while construction increased from 1.619.005 to 2.583.420, or 1.59 times (GRESYE, 2001, p. 542).

From all these statistics, it is easy to conclude that housing expenditure in Greece has been increased one and a half times the GDP between 1953 and 2000, while in Germany between 1950 and 2006 GDP has been constantly doubled the rate of growth than housing (Borger, 2008). Another factor in the macroeconomic assessment of construction-purchase costs, etc., is the increase in population, as shown in Table 2, has increased since the Second World War little in opposed to building activity and population overconcentration. From a macroeconomic point of view, the importance of the construction sector to GDP growth is considered to be of secondary importance. On the contrary, it is responsible for creating the so-called building bubble in the United States (Lehman Brothers), partly responsible for the current Greek crisis as well (Note 3). And in Switzerland there is the opinion that the rise in building prices leads to the impression that wealth is growing and so society saves less and spends more and over time borrows more (Meyer, 1998). The economic crisis that follows, as in the Greek case, of is a very negative precondition for a smooth functioning of the political system. This is because



a good economy means good policy (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2013), or as Max Weber has argued, even in the case of the charismatic leader, the economy guides political power and is not guided by it (Weber, 1922). When the economy operates without macroeconomic planning but is considered to be a panacea or an uncontrollable and unbearable market, social dissatisfaction is inevitable and social conflicts are a direct consequence of it.

The building construction sector and construction in general are indispensable infrastructures, especially after anomalous times or wars, as Keynes rightly argued in his work, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (Keynes, 1936). The reason is that re-energizing the economy via the multiplier mechanism is being used for a certain amount of time. But its tooling, which is the growth for speculation, leads to building bubble and derailment of the economy. The multiplier is then low and speculation high. The structural problem of the construction sector, unlike other sectors of the economy, is that building is not being exported. The only case of using it as a permanent source of income is tourism, or renting a home where society does not have a high percentage of home ownership, but this is not the case with Greece as we have seen before. For this reason, the construction sector must be part of a more general macroeconomic planning and not be developed as it is (Osei, 2013; Mavridis & Vatalis, 2015).

On the other hand, the development of manufacturing reproduces lasting employment, while the demand for building activity is limited, especially when the population of a country like Greece suffers from low birth rates. Greece, the only country with a single-digit and a higher percentage of industry/GDP, fails to meet its needs with domestic industrial production, thus occupies the first place in unemployment. Demand for domestic industrial production has a beneficial effect on other sectors and, above all, on reducing unemployment. Each additional unit of industry/GDP percentage corresponds to a reduction of unemployment of more than one centimeter. Every man and every national economy in the world freely chooses whatever goods, but must produce them, or produce others that have a demand and exchange them, because if they do not produce them in another way, they will have to import them. But if consumption takes place without previous production, unemployment occurs, as evidenced by the above statistics for Greece, namely the single digit figure for the percentage of industry in total GDP and the unemployment rate approaching 30%.

This whole social conjuncture refers once again to the report paper written by Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal for the World Bank entitled “*Urbanization without Growth: A not so uncommon Phenomenon*”, where authors address these phenomena existing in African countries. The same phenomena seem to be noticeable in Greece too.

## **5. Political and Ecological Implications of Population Overconcentration in Attica**

As mentioned at the beginning of Part 3 of this article, while the bibliography on the urbanization in Greece is not poor, according to the authors' opinion, has not been given the proper consideration to the political and ecological implications of population overconcentration in Attica. Therefore in this

part an initial approach to a taboo issue for Greek data is attempted. Floods and demonstrations are not directly related but indirectly they are related. To make this population concentration speculatively possible to happen in a single geographical area, natural barriers such as river beds, forests, etc., may have to be circumvented. For instance in 2017 in the suburb Mandra, Attica drowned 30 people and in 2018 in suburb of Mati, Attica got killed 100 people in major fires.

This way there is an immeasurably strong pressure on the physical and social space when extreme weather or a prolonged economic crisis such as the period of modern Greece in which the public debt doubled the GDP (Note 4). On one hand the natural phenomena are created due to the dead end of the water bodies. On the other hand the social phenomena are created due to the impasses of the people who are crowded in a narrow geographical area, and so in every difficult economic situation erupt with incalculable indignation. Both phenomena have a common cause: the misconception of the economic priorities that apply to every economy in the world, but which were not implemented in Greece as required by rationalism.

Firstly, the relevant statistics are listed.

**Table 4. Number of Floods and Flood Victims in Attica**

<b>Date of event</b>	<b>Overflowing river</b>	<b>Number of deaths</b>	<b>Number of flooded buildings</b>	<b>Duration of thunderstorms</b>
14-11-1895	Kifissos	61	450	24 hours
23-11-1925	Kifissos	8	127	4 hours
22-11-1934	Kifissos	6	-----	6 hours
6-11-1961	Kifissos	43	400	10 hours
2-11-1977	Kifissos	37	1900	1 hour 30 minutes
27-10-1980	East Attica	1		
5-10-1989	Northern suburbs	7	-----	-----
21/22-10-1994	Podoniftis	17	-----	-----
22-2-2013	Kifissos	1	1850	7 hours
15-11-2017	Mandra	23	1184	4 hours

*Source:* Greek Press, Karymbalis Epaminondas, Estimation of Flood Risk in the Drainage Basin of Giannoula River (Thrasio Field). Postgraduate Diploma Thesis at Harokopio University, Athens 2015, pp. 34-35.

From Table 4 we can conclude that human lives lose and economic catastrophes due to floods in Attica are very high. Compared with the rest of Greece, human lives lose in Attica is analogically three times higher (Lialios, 2017). Compared to other over-concentrated areas, we see that in Namibia for example, the cost of reconstruction of the transport infrastructure was estimated to be almost 350 million USD

after the major floods in 2009 (Freire, Lall, & Leipziger, 2014; Henderson, 2014). Similar studies prove that urbanization has diversified river beds and increased floods (Hollis, 1975).

In modern times many demonstrations take place in different cities of the world. Unlike in case of Athens where the causes are located in the internal sociopolitical status, elsewhere demonstrations take place due to external factors. In Hong Kong, for example, demonstrations happen due to the refusal of the region to be incorporated into China (Dapiran, 2017), in New Mexico due to NAFTA (Note 5) and in Berlin for or against the entry of foreigners into the country (Note 6).

**Table 5. Number of Demonstrations in Athens after 2010**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number	4.268	1.705	1.563	1.594	1.362	1.157	1.394

*Source:* <https://www.vice.com/.../se-exi-xronia-mnimoniou-zisame-11045-diadilwseis-sto-kentro-tis-athinas> “Σε 6 Χρόνια Μνημόνιο Ζήσαμε 11.045 Διαδηλώσεις στο Κέντρο της Αθήνας”

Table 5 shows that around 3 to 4 demonstrations took place daily in Athens from 2010 to 2016.

Let’s add that people concentrations in the center of Athens are often banned so their number is decreasing (Note 8), but is unknown how much. This prohibition is interwoven with the history of Greece since it happened in May 1936 and the demonstrations were organized in Thessaloniki with 12 deaths (Note 9) and also on 17 May 1963 when Parliament Member Grigoris Lambrakis was murdered again in Thessaloniki (Gkekes et al., 2017). In both cases a dictatorship was imposed, in the first case of Metaxas (4-8-1936 until 1940), and the second case of Papadopoulos (21-4-1967 until 20-7-1974). The overconcentration of the population in Attica is a structural and timeless problem of Greece. In any case, the number of demonstrations is abnormally high and refers to the social upheavals they are talking about Marianne Fay and Charlotte Opal (Civil disturbance or politically motivated violence, p. 16).

The principle of the so-called Wagon effect is applied again in the exercise of power. Every government exercises across the country the same form of power that its predecessor assumed to be necessary to cope with the social discomfort of Attic overurbanization.

Hence, for example, corresponds to Greece of 452 police officers per 100,000 inhabitants (Note 10), while in Germany, which is considered to be a model country of law and order, there are only 296 police officers according to Interpol, or 341 per 100,000 inhabitants according to German Newspaper Welt (Welt, 2017). Thus, while more police officers are appointed, other repression mechanisms, such as the TEAs which were founded in 1948 and operated until 1982 when they were abolished. In continuum, however, various other so-called left-wing groups of hoodlums are being set up and operated, who dissolve every demonstration and scare the terrible and causing huge material damage

and sometimes human lives as well (Note 11). These right-wing or left-wing ideologists were known under the term “parastate” (Note 12).

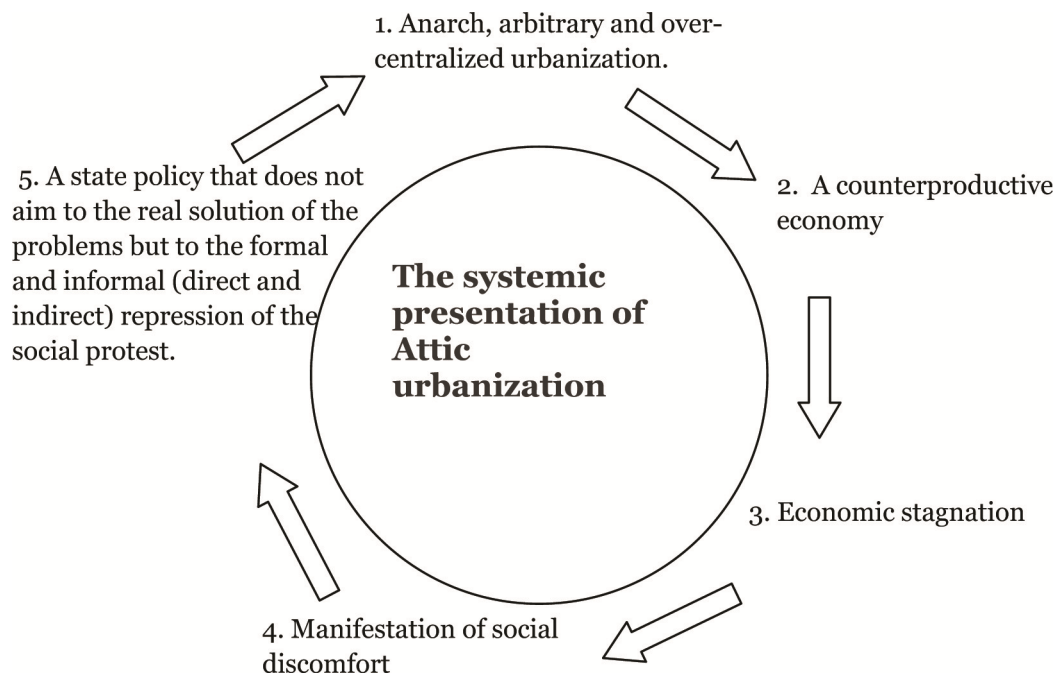
In a similar way, deliberate and systematic obstacles are raised to prevent upward social mobility both in the business sector and in the educational process, which makes it more difficult for society to understand exactly what is happening.

So, with regard to the economic environment, the tax jurisprudence, from 1975 to 2017 has changed, 250 times! (Hatzinikolaou & Liagou, 2017). At the same time, the system of enrolment examinations for tertiary education has changed 40 times! (Note 13)

Semeiotically, the phrase used by Greeks as an indirect assumption of the gap that is observed in every sphere of social life between Greece and the rest of Europe when they want to point out something wrong is “in Europe” and not “in the rest of Europe”. (Note 14)

### 5. The Systemic Presentation of Attic Urbanization

Taking into account the empirical evidence presented in the previous chapters, Attic urbanization could be represented by viciousness as follows:



After all these disasters we have not, but we need to have a state policy review as K. Smith rightly argues (Smith, 2006).

## 6. Conclusions—Proposals

The answer to overurbanization is decentralization. The overcrowding of the population in the Attica basin has led to a number of economic, social, political and ecological problems. As discussed, Greece and Spain as countries with high percentage of ownership and low participation of industry in GDP, show the highest unemployment. Thus measures must be taken to enhance employment not in Athens, as the act Nr. 296/10-7-2007 foresees for Aspropirgos which is 19,2 Km far from Athens city center, but in the remote periphery.

Following the European Union paradigm, it very important to decentralize the provision of the various public services in different cities rather than keep them in Athens, the capital. This will create new jobs at the remote areas and will attract people to move, settle and prosper there. This will than attract private investments and so on so forth.

Therefore it is necessary to give a reversed direction to policy which will exfoliates the pressure in Attica and will revitalize the sub-regional areas.

Unfortunately, the more time the developments run without central planning and programming, the harder decisions must then be made to partially correct at least the mess. The private economy and free citizens are not subject to the second phase of the state's will-to-state correction as state actors. So such a policy would start with the transfer of powerful poles outside the capital. Decentralization would lead to the decompression of the political system and would make the mechanisms of indirect suppression unnecessary and thus gradually democratize the political system. Decartelization will save people life and properties and will give extra space to individuals for physical and emotional self development which will lead to less physical and mental illness. Decartelization will also give space to the environment and nature and will bring back the chased by the overbuild space Flora and Fauna.

Transportation of Ministries:

The Ministry of National Defense would be more appropriate to be in a remote and critical area, while the Ministry of Agriculture or Rural Development would be in Thessaly. The Maritime Ministry of course belongs to Piraeus. The Ministry of Tourism could be based on an island. These proposals are based on the fact that public administration has to serve the economy rather than itself.

So there must be steady and timeless political will for:

- 1) Transferring public services by providing income incentives to their employees.
- 2) Transferring businesses by tax and other favorable exemptions and measures.
- 3) Opening all rivers that have been closed either by private or public decisions.

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## Notes

Note 1. Of the 18 mergers of banks over the past 3-4 years, which were the most successful ones? <http://bankingnews.gr/travel-news/item/253662-while-18-concourses-passes-the> last 3 years. (in greek)

Note 2. The Treaty of Lausanne was a treaty of peace that set the boundaries of modern Turkey. It was signed in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 24 July 1923 by Greece, Turkey and the other countries that fought in the First World War and the Asia Minor Campaign (1919-1922) and participated in the Treaty of Sevres including the USSR which did not participate in the previous Treaty.



Note 3. When the crisis began: The collapse of Lehman Brothers.  
<http://www.news247.gr/afieromata/otan-archise-i-krisi-i-katarreysi-tis-lehman-brothers.6227071.html>  
(in greek)

Note 4. Central government debt amounted to € 343,740 billion on 31 March 2018 against € 328,703 billion at 31 December 2017 under the met on Public Debt Management Agency.  
<http://www.fortunegreece.com/article/kollimeno-pano-apo-ta-340-dis-evro-to-chreos-tis-elladas/>. GDP rose to 177.7 billion euros in 2017, according to Greek Statists. (in greek)

Note 5. Thousands of Mexicans march to scrap NAFTA, as government fights to save it.  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta-mexico-protests-idUSKCN1AX07N>

Note 6. Tausende gegen AfD-Demonstration in Berlin. Die Zeit.  
<https://www.zeit.de/news/2018-05/27/tausende-gegen-afd-demonstration-in-berlin-180526-99-462804>

Note 7. Dendias (Minister of Interior Affairs): Against more than 20,210 demonstrations no chemicals were used by the police. Hemeresia (Newspaper). Thursday, April 24, 2014. (in greek)

Note 8. TO VIMA, January 29, 2016. In the “Banning Concentrations in Athens Internet” section, appear on 9-7-2018 247,000 entries! (in greek)

Note 9. Bloody May 36. <https://www.sansimera.com/articles/771> (in greek)

Note 10. In Greece, every 100,000 inhabitants account for 452 police officers in the United Kingdom have 307 police officers per 100,000 inhabitants, 296 in Germany, 222 in Norway, and 143 in Finland! Source: Interpol: Greece is one of the most policed countries in the world I efimerida.gr  
<http://www.iefimerida.gr/news/173429/interpol-η-Ελλάδα-είναι-μια-από-τις-πιο-αστυνομοκρατούμενες-χώρες-του-κόσμου-χάρτης> (in greek)

Note 11. Today, the Rubikonian team invades every Greek service or foreign embassy and the state behaves as a simple spectator. The leader of the terrorist group, 17 November, Alexandros Giotopoulos, who was acting for thirty years after the post-conflict, was a public figure and was co-operating with the detainees. Antonis Karakousis, “Michelle” Giotopoulos of the salons of Athens.

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/126589/article/epikairothta/ellada/o-misel-giwtopoylos-twn-saloniwn-ths-a8>  
hnas Daily 11.8. 2002. In Greek universities the phenomena of violence against universities in general and teachers in particular are many. Apostolos Lakasas., Lawlessness has settled in the Universities, Kathimerini (newspaper) 11.5.2018 (in greek)

Note 12. The imperium in imperio or status in statu, or even a state in a state, is a set of unlawful hidden mechanisms that stand next to political power, or part of it, and do by following its mandates, or even independently, in order to manipulate politics life of a place. The most notorious case of action in Greece was the murder of ECG MP Grigoris Lambrakis in 1963 in Thessaloniki. (in greek)

Note 13. Each Minister of Education and other Immigrant Examination System at AEI-TEI (Tertiary education). New plans of the new Minister.

<https://db8.gr/kathe-ypourgou-paideias-kai-allo-systhma-eisagwgikwn-eksetasewn-se-aei-tei-nea-sxedia-tou-neou-ypourgou/> (in greek)

Note 14. On April 28, the “Europe” entry on the internet showed 16,100,000 entries, while in the “rest of Europe only” 815,000.