

An Appeal to the Peoples of Europe

Mikis Theodorakis and Manolis Glezos issued this joint call from Athens, on Oct. 22, 2011. It has been excerpted for publication here, with minimal editing.

65 years after the defeat of Nazism and Fascism, the European people are today confronting a dramatic threat, this time not military, but a financial, social, and political one.

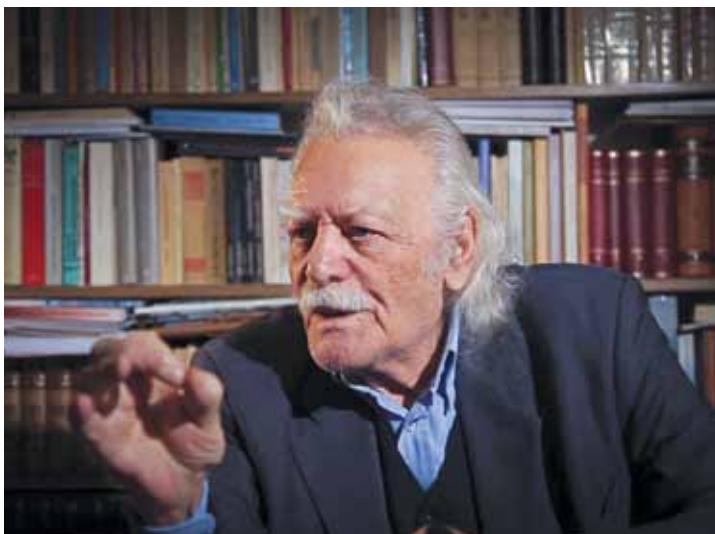
A new “Empire of Money” has been systematically attacking one European country after another in the last 18 months, without facing any substantial resistance.

European governments not only fail to organize a collective defense of European people against the markets, but, instead, try to “calm” the markets by imposing policies that remind us of the way governments tried to confront Nazism in the ’30s.

They organize “debt wars” between the peoples of Europe, just like when they were driven from the *belle époque* to World War I. The offensive of the markets initiated a war against Greece, an EU member-state, whose people played a decisive role in the resistance against barbarity and the liberation of Europe during World War II. In the beginning, this war was a communications war, which reminded us of the campaigns against hostile, outcast countries, like Iraq or Yugoslavia. This campaign presented Greece as a country of lazy and corrupted citizens, while attempting to blame the “PIIGS”¹ of Europe and not the international banks for the debt crisis.

Soon, this offensive evolved into a financial one, which caused the submission of Greece under a status of limited sovereignty and the intervention of the IMF into the internal affairs of the Eurozone.

When they got what they wanted from Greece, the markets targeted the other, smaller or larger countries of the European periphery. The aim is one and the same in all cases: the full guarantee of the



Creative Commons/DebtOcracy

“Europe can survive only if we promote a united response against the markets, a challenge bigger than theirs, a new European ‘New Deal,’” proposed Manolis Glezos, in his joint statement with Theodorakis.

interests of the banks against the states, the demolition of the European welfare state, which has been a cornerstone of European democracy and culture, the demolition of European states, and the submission of the remaining state structures to the new “International of Money.”

The EU, which was presented to its peoples as a means for collective progress and democracy, is tending to become the means for terminating prosperity and democracy. It was introduced as a means of resistance to globalization, but the markets wish it to be an instrument of this globalization. . . .

The “Empire of Money” now requires a fast, violent, brutal transformation of a Eurozone country, Greece, into a country of the third world, with a so-called program of “rescue,” in fact, the “rescue” of banks who lent to the country. In Greece, the alliance of banks and the political leaderships imposed—through the EU, the ECB, and the IMF—a program that equals to “economic and social murder” of the country and its democracy, and organizes the looting of the country before the bankruptcy to which it leads, wishing to make it the scapegoat of the global financial crisis and use it as a “paradigm” to terrorize all European peoples.

The policy that is currently conducted in Greece and attempts to spread, is the same applied in Pinochet’s Chile, Yeltsin’s Russia, or Argentina, and will have the same results, if not discontinued immedi-

1. A slur by the Euro-tyrants against Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain (PIIGS)—ed.

ately. As a result of a program that is supposedly intended to help the country, Greece is now on the verge of economic and social disaster; it is used as a guinea pig to study people's reactions to social Darwinism and terrify the entire European Union, with what can happen to one of its members.

The markets may also be pushing and using the leadership of Germany in actions of destruction of the European Union. But it constitutes an act of extreme political and historical blindness for the dominant forces of the EU and first of all, for Germany, to think that there can be any project of European integration or even simple cooperation, on the ruins of one or more members of the Eurozone.

The planned demolition of major, globally significant political and social achievements of the European peoples, cannot establish any kind of European Union. It will lead to chaos and disintegration and it will promote the emergence of fascist solutions in our continent. . . .

In ancient times, the abolition, by Solon, of the debts which forced the poor to be slaves of the rich, the so-called *Seisachtheia* reform, laid the foundations for the birth, in ancient Greece, of the ideas of democracy, citizenship, politics, and Europe, the foundations of European and world culture. . . .

A handful of international banks, rating agencies, investment funds, a global concentration of financial capital without historical precedent, claims power in Europe and the world and prepares to abolish the states and our democracy, using the weapon of debt to enslave the peoples of Europe, putting in place of the incomplete democracy we have, the dictatorship of Money and Banks; the power of a totalitarian empire of globalization, the political center of which is outside continental Europe, despite the presence of powerful European banks at the heart of the empire.

They started from Greece, using it as a guinea pig, to move then to the other countries of the European periphery, and gradually to the center. The hope of some European countries to eventually escape, just proves that today's European leaders face the threat of a new "financial fascism," not better than the way they faced the threat of Hitler during the inter-war period. . . .

There is an urgent need for an immediate, cross-border coordination of action by intellectuals, people of the arts and literature, spontaneous move-

ments, social forces and personalities who comprehend the importance of the stakes; we need to create a powerful front of resistance against the advancing "totalitarian empire of globalization," before it is too late.

Europe can survive only if we promote a united response against the markets, a challenge bigger than theirs, a new European "New Deal."

- We must immediately stop the attack against Greece and other countries of the EU periphery; we must stop the irresponsible and criminal policy of austerity and privatization, which leads directly to a crisis deeper than the one of 1929.

- Public debts must be radically restructured across the Eurozone, particularly at the expense of the private banking giants. Banks must be re-controlled and the financing of the European economy must be under national and European social control. It is not possible to leave the financial keys of Europe in the hands of banks like Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, UBS, Deutsche Bank, etc. We must ban the uncontrolled financial derivatives, which are the spearhead of destructive financial capitalism, and create real economic development, instead of speculative profits.

- The present architecture, based on the Maasticht Treaty and the WTO rules, has established a debt production machine in Europe. We need a radical change of all Treaties, the submission of the ECB to political control by the European peoples, a "golden rule" for minimum social, fiscal, environmental standards in Europe. We urgently need a change of paradigm; a return to the stimulation of growth through the stimulation of demand, via new European investment programs, a new regulation, taxation and control of international capital and commodities flows; a new form of smart and reasonable protectionism in an independent Europe, which will be the protagonist in the fight for a multipolar, democratic, ecological, social planet.

We appeal to the forces and individuals who share these ideas, to converge into a broad, European front of action as soon as possible; to produce a European transitional program, to coordinate our international action, so as to mobilize the forces of the popular movement, to reverse the current balance of power and overthrow the current historically irresponsible leaderships of our countries, in order to save our people and our societies before it is too late for Europe.