

# The Unpaid German Debts to Greece

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# German Invasion of Greece

- October 28, 1940 – Italians attempt to invade Greece and are repulsed, resulting in a humiliating defeat, the 1<sup>st</sup> Allied Victory against Axis Powers in WWII
- April 6, 1941 – Germans attempt to invade Greece from Bulgaria but fail as Greek forces at the Metaxa Line prevent them from breaking through
- April 9, 1941 – Germans invade Yugoslavia instead and reach Thessaloniki through the undefended Greek-Yugoslav border
- April 20, 1941 – Lt. General Tsolakoglou of the Greek Army surrenders to the Germans (out of spite to the Italians)
- credit me (Eric Gaba – [Wikimedia Commons user: Sting](#))



# German Invasion of Greece

- April 27, 1941 – German troops reach Athens and raise the Swastika on the Acropolis
- May 20 – June 1, 1941 – following the Battle of Crete, 55 days following the invasion, German forces secure control of Greece by early June
- Germans encountered the first real resistance in WWII
- Total German casualties reach 10,000 (4,000 in Metaxa Line; 6,000 in Battle of Crete)
- Operation Barbarossa against USSR delayed by 2 crucial months



# Triple + Occupation of Greece

- Greek government went into exile in Alexandria, Egypt
- Germans appoint General Giorgos Tsolakoglou as Prime Minister of Greece to rule behind the façade of a civilian collaborationist quisling government
- Greece is divided into three occupation zones: Italian (yellow), German (red) and Bulgarian (green).
- Ethnic cleansing in Thrace & East Macedonia by Bulgarian and Epirus by Albanian extreme nationalists



# From Military to Economic Occupation

- The first task of the occupying forces was to take control and requisition by force of arms all the available industrial and agricultural resources and stocks of supplies including food
- Rivalry among the three occupying forces as to who would secure the most of a dwindling supply of resources turned into a stampede with the Germans being the most successful due to their ruthlessness and lack of compassion
- Even the Italians couldn't compete with the Germans
- They imported industry specialists, accountants and managers from **IG Farben, Krupp** to assume control of all major industrial companies,
- Any industrial equipment they couldn't use in Greece they shipped back to Germany to boost German production
- The launch of **Germany's North African Campaign** under Gen. Rommel put further pressure on limited supplies as the Germans requisitioned any food they could find to send and feed the German soldiers in North Africa

# Economic Occupation led to Plunder and Looting

- Greece's economy had already been severely weakened due to the interruption of trade and commerce from the start of the war in 1939, the Italian invasion and war mobilization from October 1940, and the bombing of Greek roads and infrastructure including the ports of Volos, Patras and Pireas starting April 6, 1941
- As early as June 1941, the Germans printed fake money known as "Reichskreditkassenscheine" (R.K.K.S.), better known as "occupation marks," along with Italian "Mediterranean drachmas.", handed them to their soldiers and sent them out to stores to buy whatever they could find and send it back to Germany to their families



# Food Shortages, Rising Prices and Black Markets

- The increased demand on resources to feed the occupation armies along with support for Germany's North African forces,
- The decreased supply of resources due to the requisitioning of equipment, livestock and food supplies,
- led immediately to shortages, rising prices, black markets, fear, speculation, embezzlement and collapse of social cohesion pitting man against man
- Despite the collapse in government revenues that followed, the German and Italian forces imposed on Greece occupation costs to be paid entirely by the Greek people
- Unable to find the money, they compelled the Bank of Greece to print money to cover the costs of the occupation forces as well as part of the costs of the North African campaign, leaving little for the normal needs of the Greek State
- This triggered an outbreak of hyper inflation

# Resulting in the Great Famine or **Μεγάλος Λιμός**

- By the Autumn of 1941 the signs of an impending famine among the urban population in large cities as Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki, Patras, Iraklion and others became obvious.
- The situation was made worse by the naval blockade that the British had imposed on Greece which suspended the importation of wheat and food to Greece
- Early in the Winter of 1941-42 the situation reached crisis proportions, resulting in the Great Famine or **Μεγάλος Λιμός**



Χιλιάδες Αθηναίοι πέθαιναν στα σπίτια τους ή στους δρόμους από τις κακουχίες και την πείνα. Τους μετέφεραν στα νεκροταφεία με αυτοσχέδια μέσα και τους έθαβαν σε ομαδικούς τάφους, αφού τις περισσότερες φορές ήταν άγνωστης ταυτότητας.



# Greece Became an Open Concentration Camp

- Food shortages reached a climax and famine was unavoidable
- During that winter the mortality rate peaked and according to historian, Mark Mazower, this was the worst famine the Greeks had experienced since ancient times.
- Dead bodies were secretly abandoned in cemeteries or on the streets (possibly so their ration cards could continue to be used by surviving relatives).
- In other cases, bodies were found days after death. The sight of emaciated dead bodies was commonplace in the streets of Athens

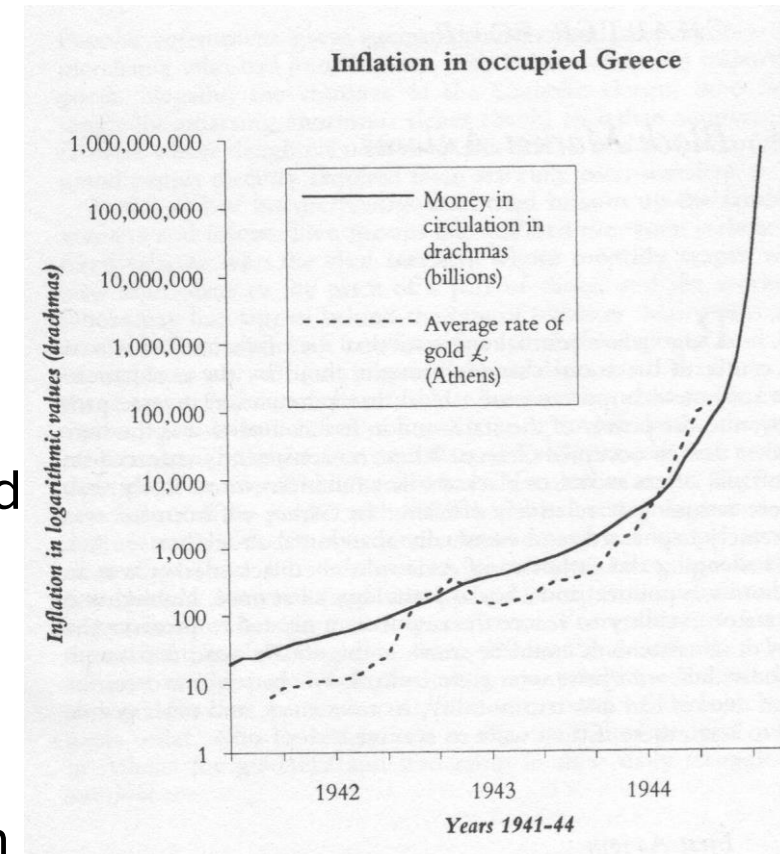


# Total Deaths from Famine Surpassed 300,000

- The situation in the port of Piraeus and the wider Athens area was out of control
- Hyperinflation was in full swing and the price of bread multiplied by nearly 90 times from April 1941 to June 1942.
- According to the records of the German army, the mortality rate in Athens alone reached 300 deaths per day during December 1941, while the estimates of the Red Cross were much higher, at 400 deaths, while on some days the death toll reached 1,000.
- Apart from the urban areas, the population of the islands was also affected by the famine, especially those living in Mykonos, Syros and Chios
- There are no completely accurate numbers of famine deaths because civil registration records did not function during the occupation.
- In general, it is estimated that Greece suffered at least 300,000 deaths in 1941-1942 as a result of famine, malnutrition and exhaustion

# Between 1941-46 Greece Experiences One of the Four Worst Hyperinflation Episodes in History

- Spring of 1941 inflation was running high due to the war against the Italians but once Greece succumbed to foreign occupation, the inflation rate kept rising until it got completely out of control
- By the end of 1943, the quantity of drachma notes had increased 72-fold, while prices in terms of gold sovereigns 155-fold and Greeks turned gradually towards gold instead of drachma notes
- It reached **534 % per month in August 1944**, and by October as high as **7,459 % per month**,
- Or prices doubling every 4.23 days. **At the absolute peak of hyperinflation prices doubled every 28 hours** — comparable to Zimbabwe in the late 2000s.
- This was at the time the second-highest inflation rate for a month on record and even today it is the fourth-worst on record.  
[HUNG/YUGO/GER/GR]

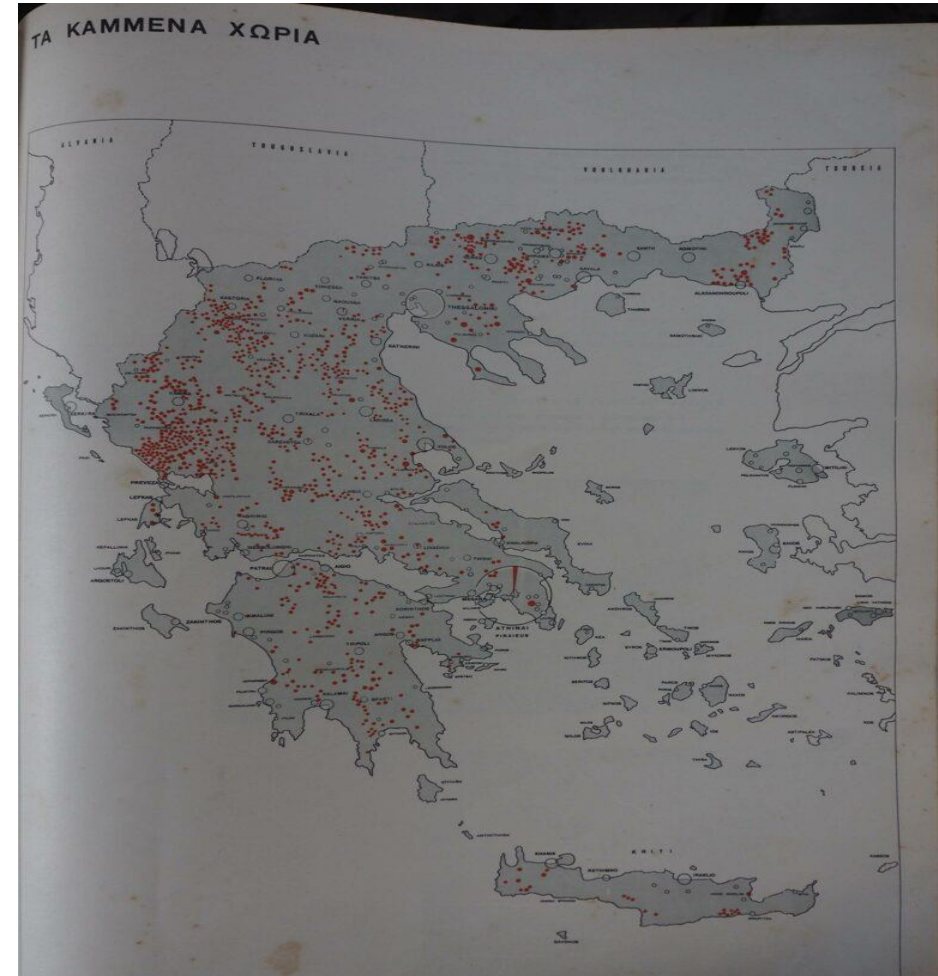


# The Greek Holocaust Across Greece

- Two executive orders set the tone of the German occupation in Greece
- 1<sup>st</sup> by Hitler was the torching directive: any house suspected of aiding the resistance should be burned down regardless of the possibility the majority of the inhabitants were non-combatants
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshal W. Keitel on 16/09/1941 specified that for every 1 German killed, a minimum of 100 hostages should be executed, and for every German wounded, a minimum of 50 should die.
- **The Germans set the price of a Greek at 1 German = 100 Greeks,**
- **That a 1 Greek life is only 0.01 of the life of a German**
- German attitude toward Greeks can be described as highly vengeful, due to the losses they suffered in Metaxa Line and the Battle of Crete
- The barbarism and destruction unleashed on Greece was unparalleled in human history and exceeded anything that the other European countries with the exception of Poland, Russia and the Jews.

# German War Crimes Against Civilians

- 1770 villages were raised to the ground
- In total, the Germans executed some 21,000 Greeks, the Bulgarians executed some 40,000 and the Italians executed some 9,000.
- By June 1944, between them the Axis powers had "raided 1,339 towns, boroughs and villages, of which 879, or two-thirds, were completely wiped out, leaving more than a million people homeless" (P. Voglis), mostly in Central Greece, Western Macedonia and the Bulgarian occupation zone



# List of Massacres perpetrated by Axis Forces

Massacre of Kleisoura (Macedonia, 270 women and children)

- **Massacre of Kondomari (Crete, 60 men, mainly elder, June 1941)**
- Massacre of Pikermi (Pikermi, 54, including women and children)
- Pyrgoi (former Katranitsa) massacre (Pyrgoi, 346, including women and children)
- **Razing of Kandanos (Crete, 180, including women and children)**
- **Holocaust of Viannos (Crete, 500+, including women and children)**
- **Distomo massacre (Central Greece, 218, including women and children)**

• Drakeia massacre (Thessaly, 118 men)

• Holocaust of Kedros (Crete, 164, including women and children)

• **Massacre of Kommeno (Epirus, 317, including women and children)**

• **Massacre of Kalavryta (Peloponnese, 1,200+, including women and children)**

• Burnings of Kali Sykia (Crete, 13, women)

• Lyngiades massacre (Epirus), 92, mostly infants, children, women and elderly

• Massacre of the Acqui Division (Kefalonia, 5,000, Italian anti-fascist troops)

# List of Massacres perpetrated by Axis Forces

- [Mesovouno massacre](#) ([Macedonia](#), 268, including women and children)
- [Paramythia executions](#) ([Epirus](#), 201, including women and children)
- [The Massacre of Chortiatis](#) ([Macedonia](#), 146, including women and children)
- [Executions of Kaisariani](#) ([Athens](#), 200+, all civilians)
- [Massacre of Mousiotitsa](#) ([Epirus](#), 153, including women and children)
- [Malathyros executions](#) ([Malathyros](#), 61, including women and children)
- [Executions of Kokkinia](#) ([Athens](#), 300+, all civilians, assisted by [Security Battalions](#))
- [Kallikratis executions](#) ([Crete](#), 30, including women and children)
- [Alikianos executions](#) ([Crete](#), 118, all civilians)
- [Razing of Anogeia](#) ([Crete](#), unknown, including women and children)
- [Skourvoula](#) ([Crete](#), at least 36, all civilians)
- In addition, more than 90 villages and towns are recorded from the Hellenic network of martyr cities.<sup>[33]</sup> During the triple German, Italian and Bulgarian, occupation about 800,000 people lost their lives in [Greece](#) (see [World War II casualties](#)).



LIFE

Vol. 17, No. 22
November, 27 1944

MARIA PASIRKA STILL WEEPS, FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE GERMANS KILLED HER MOTHER IN MASSACRE AT THE GREEK TOWN OF DISTOMO

## WHAT THE GERMANS DID TO GREECE

**I**n British troops completed the occupation of Greece. In the cold, unimpassioned evidence of German cruelty and Greek suffering began to reach the world. It was evidence in terms of living and dead people and people who were somewhere in between. It was too much to tell in words, so the most precise testimony was in pictures. The photos on these pages, taken by LIFE's War Photographer Dmitri Kessel, show in detail what the Germans did to Greece.

The most damaging German crime in Greece was murder. The New Order had no place for the Greeks, and at first the German seemed bent on their extermination. In the winter of 1941-42 they let 400,000 Greeks starve to death. Later, when it became apparent that the New Order was a less pressing job than

the war, the Germans seemed to abandon their starvation plan. But the wanton, unplanned killing of Greeks went on as before.

Other human damage in Greece will never be measured accurately. Nearly all Greeks are suffering from some form of malnutrition. Hardship has made many Greek women barren. In some places the tuberculosis rate among Greek children is as high as 80%. Material damage has also been heavy. More than 3,000 Greek villages have been destroyed. The machines have been looted from the textile and chemical industries of Athens, Salonika and Eleusis. Added to all this, the Greek currency was hopelessly inflated.

The Greeks fought back with courage and brains. Their most effective fighting organization was the

ELAS, military arm of EAM, majority Greek political front. During the occupation ELAS had about 30,000 armed men. The EDES, a much smaller, right-wing group, also fought the Germans. Between them the ELAS and EDES kept six German divisions busy.

One thing the Greeks may have won in the last three years is democracy. When the war began they were governed by the dictatorship of Premier John Metaxas, who had abolished the Greek party system and parliament in 1936. The present middle-of-the-road Greek government, headed by Premier George Papandreu, has promised that a plebiscite will soon be held on the question of King George II's return. After that the government promises a general election, the first the Greeks will have had in 10 years.

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# The Doxiadis Report and War Damages

- **The Doxiadis Report**, commissioned by the Greek government and authored by Greek architect and urban planner Konstantinos Doxiadis, provides a comprehensive assessment of the extensive destruction and damages inflicted on Greece during the German occupation from 1941 to 1944.
- Commissioned by the Greek government after World War II, the report details the catastrophic impact on the nation's infrastructure, economy, and population.



# Key Findings of the Doxiadis Report

## Infrastructure and Industrial Devastation:

- **Approximately 80% of Greece's industrial capacity was destroyed.**
- **Significant portions of the transportation network were obliterated, including:**
  - **Destruction of all railway bridges and 80% of rolling stock.**
  - **Demolition of 90% of bridges and 30% of tunnels.**
  - **Damage to 80% of engine rooms and 60% of water supply facilities.**
  - **Destruction of 90% of port facilities.**

**The Corinth Canal was rendered inoperative due to deliberate sabotage by retreating German forces.**

## Maritime and Agricultural Losses:

- **Approximately 70% of the merchant fleet's tonnage was lost.**
- **Destruction of 45% of fishing vessels and 94.5% of passenger ships.**
- **Agricultural production declined by 75%, and livestock numbers fell by 80%.**

**Forests suffered a 25% reduction due to exploitation and warfare.**

# Key Findings of the Doxiadis Report

## Humanitarian Crisis and Population Impact:

- An estimated 300,000 Greeks died from starvation during the occupation, with the Great Famine of 1941–42 being particularly devastating.
- The Jewish population faced near annihilation, with approximately 60,000 Greek Jews deported to concentration camps and murdered.

**Overall, the occupation resulted in the deaths of an estimated 7–11% of Greece's civilian population.**

## Cultural and Archaeological Plunder:

- The German forces looted over 8,500 movable ancient artifacts, many of which have not been returned and are believed to be in museums, auctions, or private collections.
- Economic Exploitation and Hyperinflation:
- The occupation led to severe economic exploitation, including the forced "occupation loan" extracted from the Bank of Greece.

Hyperinflation ensued due to the uncontrolled printing of occupation currency, leading to the collapse of the Greek economy.

# Population Losses Due to the Occupation

- In 1940 Greece's population was: 7,335,000
- In 1944 Greece's population fell to : 6,805,000
- A net decrease of **530,000** persons or **7.22%** of Greece's pre-war population
- Had the occupation not occurred, Greece's population in 1944 would have been:**7,745,000**
- A net increase of 410,000 over its pre-war population
- If we include the lost births, Greece's net loss is estimated at: **940,000**, or **12.8%** of Greece's pre-war population
- On a per capita basis, Greece suffered one of the worst losses of any country in the world, along with Russia, Poland and Yugoslavia
- The destabilization caused by the war and the brutal occupation caused the Greek Civil War of 1946-1949 led to additional deaths estimated at **158,000 to 165,000 deaths**, both combatants and civilians, or **2.3%** of its 1944 population
- Between 1949 – 1976, Greece lost **1,200,000** people who emigrated to Germany (603K), Australia (171K), United States (125K) and Canada (80K). **A devastating loss for a small nation**

# Experienced Significant Drop in Per Capita GDP

YEAR	ITALY	SPAIN	PORTUGAL	GREECE	SOUTH EUROPE
1913	2.507	2.255	1.354	1.621	1.934
1929	3.026	2.947	1.536	2.386	2.474
1938	3.244	2.022	1.707	2.727	2.425
1950	3.425	2.397	2.132	1.951	2.476

# Four Categories of German War Debts to Greece

- **1. War Reparations:** Payments to compensate for the damage and losses inflicted during the conflict, which can include financial, economic, and physical losses.
- **2. Compensation for Victims of War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity:** Measures to address the harm caused by violations of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts. This can include financial reparations, non-monetary redress like apologies or memorials, and the establishment of mechanisms for victims' rights.
- **3. Repayment of Occupation Loans:** Repayment of money borrowed from occupied countries that have not been honored
- **4. Return of Stolen Treasures:** Such as archeological, cultural or other treasures stolen during war conditions

# War Reparations at the 1946 and 1947 Paris Conference

- **Final Act of the Paris Conference on Reparation (December 1945):** This agreement set up the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency to manage and distribute reparations from Germany. It clarified how Allied nations would claim reparations, including those arising from German occupation and other wartime actions
- **Paris Peace Treaties (February 1947):** These treaties, signed with Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland, included specific provisions for reparations, territorial adjustments, and other aspects of the peace settlement.
- **Greece was awarded the sum of 7.181 billion USD at 1938 prices**, in today's prices this is equal to **\$125.1 bil USD** or **111.7 bil EUR** from **Germany**; 105.0 mil USD or **\$1.8 bil USD** from **Italy** plus the ***Dodecanese Islands*** and USD 45 mil or **\$784 mil USD** from **Bulgaria**
- **Only Italy paid reparations. Germany and Bulgaria never did!**

# 1953 London Debt Agreement on German Debts

- The **London Agreement on German External Debts**, also known as the **London Debt Agreement**: was a debt relief treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and creditor nations. The Agreement came into force on 16 September 1953.
- It cut W. Germany's private and public, before WWII and post-War external debt of 32.3 bil Deutsche Marks (DM) by 50%.
- In today's (2024) prices, W. Germany's debt amounted to **\$443.5 bil USD, (396.0 bil EUR)** the largest debt of any country in history!
- It provided W. Germany with **extremely favourable** payment conditions
- **The 50% cut in Germany's debt (\$221.75) along with the extremely favourable terms (paid only out of trade surpluses, both public & private debt, 30-year term, among others) is what enabled the post-war German Economic Miracle!**

# Greece Sold Justice for Money

- Greece was a signatory of the London Agreement on German External Debts in 1953. The signatories agreed to postpone additional German debts until a final peace treaty with Germany would be made
- **Deferred W. Germany's reparations payments until the re-unification of West and East Germany**
- In 1960, Germany concluded a treaty with the Greek government *“to compensate Greek victims of Nazi German terror which amounted to **115 Million German Marks**. These payments were explicitly marked as payments to the victims and were not supposed to be a general reparation treaty. Later Greek governments insist that this was only a down payment, and further payments need to be made”*
- This sum, the equivalent of \$27.38 million USD in 1960 (1 USD = 4.2 DM) represent **\$221.3 million USD** in 2024 prices
- This payment was most likely a **hidden deal for Germany to buy the lives of 800 German war criminals held in Greece** including **Maximilian Merten**, the **“Slaughterer of the Jews of Thessaloniki”** who were never tried but compensated for their services in Germany.

# What Happened Since German Re-Unification?

- In 1990, W & E Germany signed the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, the '**2 +4 Agreement**' with the former Allied countries, the USA, UK, France, and the USSR.
- This treaty was supposed to close all open questions regarding Germany and the aftermath of WWII and paved the way for German reunification.
- Germany considers this treaty as the final regulation which concludes the question of open reparations which had been made in previous treaties such as the London Debt Agreement.
- **Greece has not resigned from its claims on Reparations** and since it was not a signatory to the Treaty is not bound by its terms.
- Greece rejects this notion and over the years has made numerous attempts to bring the subject up. Germany has used its economic and political influence over Greece and has skirted the issue. on 8 February 2015, former Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras demanded that Germany pay the "complete" reparations to Greece.
- In April 2015, Greece evaluated the war reparations to be the equivalent of 278.7 billion euros (equivalent to 389 billion euros in 2022). While more German politicians and members of the Bundestag are calling on the government to compensate Greece financially for the effects of the occupation,
- The German government claims that with **2+4 Agreement** of 1990 all reparations claims have been permanently resolved –which is clearly not the case.

# Outcome of War Reparation Claims on Germany

Country	Estimated Claim / Loss (1945 USD)	Adjusted to 2023 USD (approx.)	Amount Paid by Germany	Notes
<b>US USA</b>	\$10 billion (Lend-Lease losses etc.)	~\$160 billion	Waived/Indirect	No formal reparations demanded
<b>GB UK</b>	\$6.8 billion	~\$110 billion	Waived/Indirect	Received small reparations in kind
<b>FR France</b>	\$20 billion	~\$325 billion	Some reparations	Received equipment and industrial assets
<b>RU USSR</b>	\$100 billion (agreed in Potsdam)	~\$1.6 trillion	Partial (East Germany)	Extracted through dismantling, forced labor
<b>PL Poland</b>	\$50 billion	~\$800 billion	Waived (1953)	Revived claim in 2022 for €1.3 trillion
<b>GR Greece</b>	<b>\$7.2 billion</b>	<b>~\$120 billion</b>	<b>No full payment</b>	<b>Claims ongoing</b>
<b>NL Netherlands</b>	\$25 billion	~\$400 billion	Waived	Waived claims in 1951
<b>BE Belgium</b>	\$5 billion	~\$80 billion	Symbolic	Minimal reparations received
<b>IT Italy</b>	\$5 billion	~\$80 billion	N/A (was Axis member)	Not eligible for reparations
<b>CZ Czechoslovakia</b>	\$10 billion	~\$160 billion	Partial (East Germany)	Received limited restitution
<b>IL Israel (Holocaust-related)</b>	DM 3 billion (~\$714 million)	~\$8.1 billion	Paid (1952–1965)	Under the Luxembourg Agreement
<b>Various Jewish individuals</b>	N/A (individual claims)	N/A	>\$80 billion (to date)	Ongoing compensation via Germany's restitution programs

# Compensation for War Crimes?

- Part of the reparations bill Greece submitted at the Paris Conference, \$1.5 billion USD (out of the 7.181) was earmarked as claims for the compensation of victims of war crimes.
- Since the \$7.181 reparations were postponed, **Greece never received any compensation for war crimes**. In 2024 prices, this sum represents a compensation of **\$20.6 billion USD** to the innocent men, women and children that were slaughtered during the German occupation
- In June 1944, a Waffen-SS unit murdered 218 civilians in the Greek village of Distomo.
- The Greek Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that Germany should pay **€28 million (\$25.8 million USD)** in reparations to the families of the victims.
- The ruling allowed for the seizure of German-owned property in Greece to cover the compensation.
- Germany has applied huge pressure and side threats that **no Greek Justice Minister has dared sign the order of the Greek Supreme Court**

# German Occupation Loan From Greece

- As soon as the Germans occupied Greece, they imposed occupation costs.
- The quisling Greek government was not only responsible for providing for the needs of its own people, but for the German occupation forces as well.
- Since the 1907 Hague Convention, it had become a standard practice, but it was limited to the operating needs of the occupation forces
- The Germans did not respect any such limits, but they demanded that the Greek government finance also their operations in other fronts in the Balkans, in Russia and the African Corps, the German Expeditionary force in North Africa, despite the Hague Convention forbidding such practice
- As Greek resistance started to mount, Germany increased the size of its occupation force which further added to the financial burdens of the quisling government
- In the meantime, the Greek economy had collapsed, production, income and tax receipts had collapsed and normal peace time markets where taxes could be collected had disappeared and turned to black markets

# The Story of the “Forced Loans”

- Initially, the Germans demanded 25 million Reichsmarks per month (1.5 billion Drachmas GRD or \$12.5 million USD)
- Since the government could not generate enough tax revenue to meet the demands, the Bank of Greece was forced to start printing Drachmas in the form of an interest-free open line of credit
- Between August and December of 1941 payments to the German army reached 12 billion Drachmas, considerably larger than 7 billion GRD.
- The sum of forced loans kept rising and reached 10 times the amount of the normal occupation loans prescribed by the Hague Convention
- During the first half of 1942 they totaled 43.4 billion GRD, whereas only 4.5 billion for the provision of troops was necessary
- The **uncontrolled printing of money** gave rise to **hyperinflation** and **black markets**. Ordinary middle- and working-class Greeks especially in urban centers such as Athens, Piraeus, and other cities had no way to procure their basic needs and this led to the **Great Famine of the Winter of 1941-42** where over **300,000 died**.

# Forced Loans -> Hyperinflation -> Great Famine

- **In effect, the Germans were financing their military operations outside Greece with the blood and souls of the Greek people!**
- It must be said that the situation was compounded by the **naval embargo** that the British had imposed on all importation of food into Greece. Following pressure by the Red Cross and US government the British embargo was lifted the following year and the food supply situation improved, but only little the following years
- Despite the protestations of the Greek government officials to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich, the Germans did not yield in their demands
- The situation got so much out of hand that the Germans started looking for a way to legitimize their actions
- On **March 14, 1942**, at a conference in Rome, the Germans and the Italians decided to **cut in half** their occupation costs from 1.5 bil GRD to 750 million GRD per month that they were each collecting, with **any excess to be booked as a loan from the Greek government.**

# Present Value of the Forced Loan \$17.9 Bil USD

- By October 1944, the Germans had paid about two dozen installments on the loan
- The last payment is shown on this note found in the German archives showing the unpaid balance at **476 million Reichsmarks (RM)**
- At the prevailing exchange rate 2 RM = 1 USD equivalent to \$238 million USD in 1944, or **\$3.353 billion USD in 2024** prices without interest
- Since it fell in arrears, interest applies and when the 10-year US Treasury average bond rate of **5.55%** over the 1945-2024 period is applied, the present value of this loan amounts to **\$17.916 billion USD at 2024 prices**

Goldpfundpreises betragen. Berichtigt man die Schlussumstellung dementsprechend, kommt man zu folgendem Ergebnis:

Gesamtsumme der der Deutschen Wehrmacht zur Verfügung gestellten Beträge	786,5	Mio. RM
Griechische Abschlagszahlungen auf Besatzungskosten	218,5	" "
Deutsche Anlastungen	568,0	Mio. RM
Deutsche Rückzahlungen	92,0	" "
Deutsche Restschuld	476,0	Mio. RM

Diese Zahlen dürften dem tatsächlichen Wert der griechischen Leistungen und der deutschen Erstattungen nahe kommen. Demzufolge würde sich die Restschuld, die das Reich gegenüber Griechenland hat, noch auf 476 Mio. RM belaufen.

# Return of Stolen Treasures

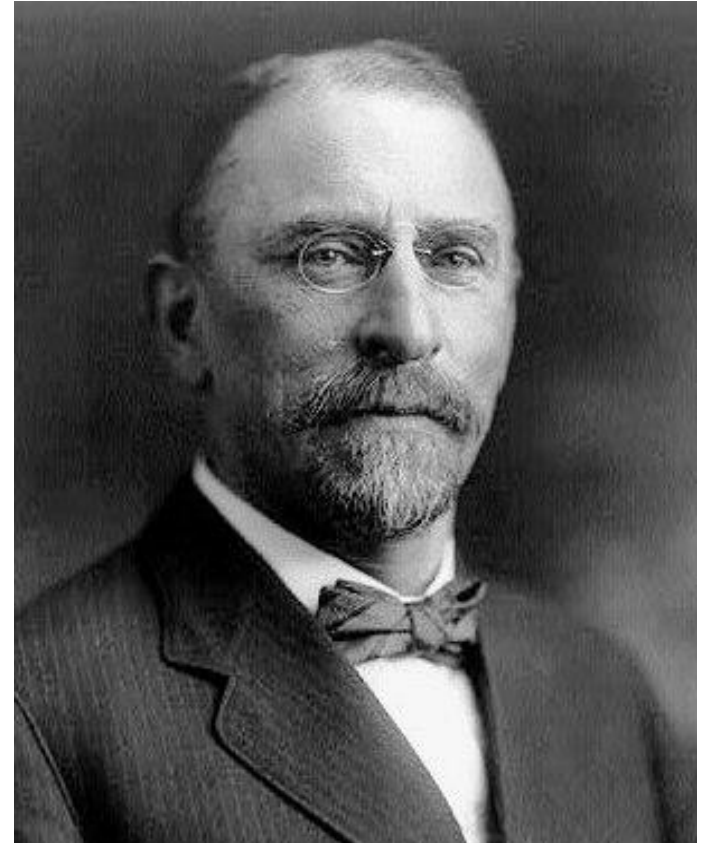
- The Germans looted museums, monuments and archaeological treasures.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich was an army of antiquity thieves
- The official catalogue of thefts and looting perpetrated by Germans during WWII was published by the Greek government in 1946 and includes **8,500 archaeological treasures and 460 paintings**
- The Germans pillaged 87 archeological sites
- **What monetary market value can one attach to all these stolen treasures?**

# The List is Not Complete: There is More!

- The present value assessment of German debts to Greece mentioned in this presentation represent conservative estimates and are the minimum range
- There were additional loan drafts that the Germans had taken that are not included in this analysis
- Through the clearing arrangements via the German Import-Export Trading Company DEGRIGES, the Germans overvalued imports from Germany and undervalued exports from Greece
- The above do not include compensation for the forced labour of Greeks during the occupation
- The above do not include the gold that the Germans stole from Greece and that of the Greek Jewry who were sent to concentration camps
- The true size of the Unpaid German obligations to Greece are much higher

# The Morgenthau Plan for Germany

- The **Morgenthau Plan** was a proposal to weaken Germany following World War II by eliminating its arms industry and removing or destroying other key industries basic to military strength. This included the removal or destruction of all industrial plants and equipment in the Ruhr. It was first proposed by US Secretary of the Treasury **Henry Morgenthau Jr.** in a 1944 memorandum.
- He was the son of **Henry Morgenthau**, US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during WWI. Morgenthau was one of the most prominent Americans who spoke about the **Greek and Armenian Genocides** of which he stated, "I am firmly convinced that this is the greatest crime of the ages."



# The Marshall Plan: The American Contribution

- **The Marshall Plan**, officially the **European Recovery Program**, was a US-led initiative to aid Western European nations rebuild after World War II. This plan, named for Secretary of State **George Marshall**, aimed to provide economic assistance, prevent the spread of communism, and stabilize democratic institutions in Europe. **Over four years, the US channeled \$13.3 billion in aid to 16 Western and Southern European countries**, including West Germany, to rebuild war-torn economies and infrastructure
- **Greece received \$706.7 million USD or \$7.25 billion USD** at today's prices, **5.3%** of the total amount.



# The Marshall Plan Country Breakdown

Economic aid from 3 April 1948 to 30 June 1952 (in millions of dollars of the time)			
Countries	Total (m\$.)	Grants (m\$.)	Loans (m\$.)
Austria	677.8	677.8 /	
Belgium-Luxembourg	559.3	491.3 <a href="#">68.0[a]</a>	
Denmark	273	239.7	33.3
France	2,713.60	2,488.00	255.6
Germany (FRG)	1,390.60	1,173.70 <a href="#">216.9[b]</a>	
Greece	706.7	706.7 /	
Iceland	29.3	24	5.3
Ireland	147.5	19.3	128.2
Italy (incl. Trieste)	1,208.80	1,113.20	95.6
<a href="#">Netherlands (*Indonesia)[c]</a>	1,083.50	916.8	166.7
Norway	255.3	216.1	39.2
Portugal	51.2	15.1	36.1
Sweden	107.3	86.9	20.4
Turkey	225.1	140.1	85
United Kingdom	3,189.80	2,895.00	384.8
Regional	<a href="#">407.0[d]</a>	407 /	
Total for all countries	13,325.80	11,820.70	1,505.10

# Why is it Important to Talk About this Story

- It is important to know our History.
  - It helps us know ourselves, who we are, where we come from, our ethnic identity
  - It helps us understand why things are the way they are in the present
  - It helps us foresee what can happen in the future
  - It helps us to learn from our past mistakes and not to repeat them in the future
  - It helps us learn from our and other's mistakes and become better, kinder and wiser people
- The acts of violence committed by the Germans exceeded by a huge scale typical acts seen in other times and places in history, both in terms of the severity of the actions & the scale at which they occurred
- It is important to pay homage and respect to the men, women and children who suffered and lost their lives
- Their story must not be forgotten, it must always be remembered

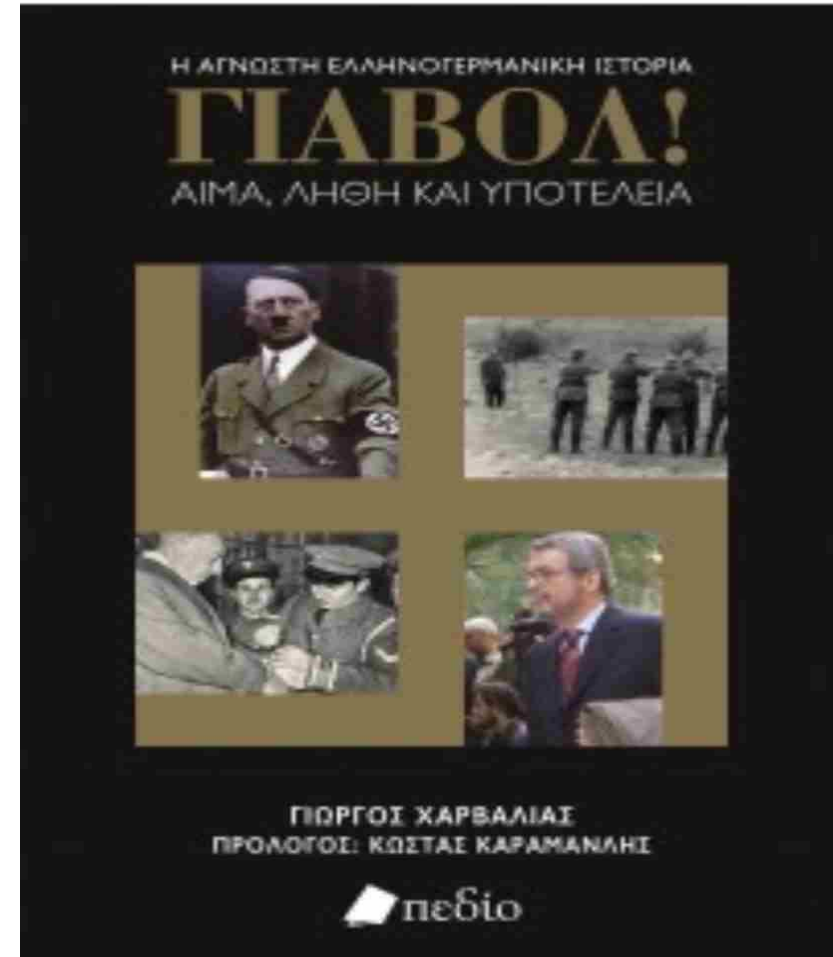
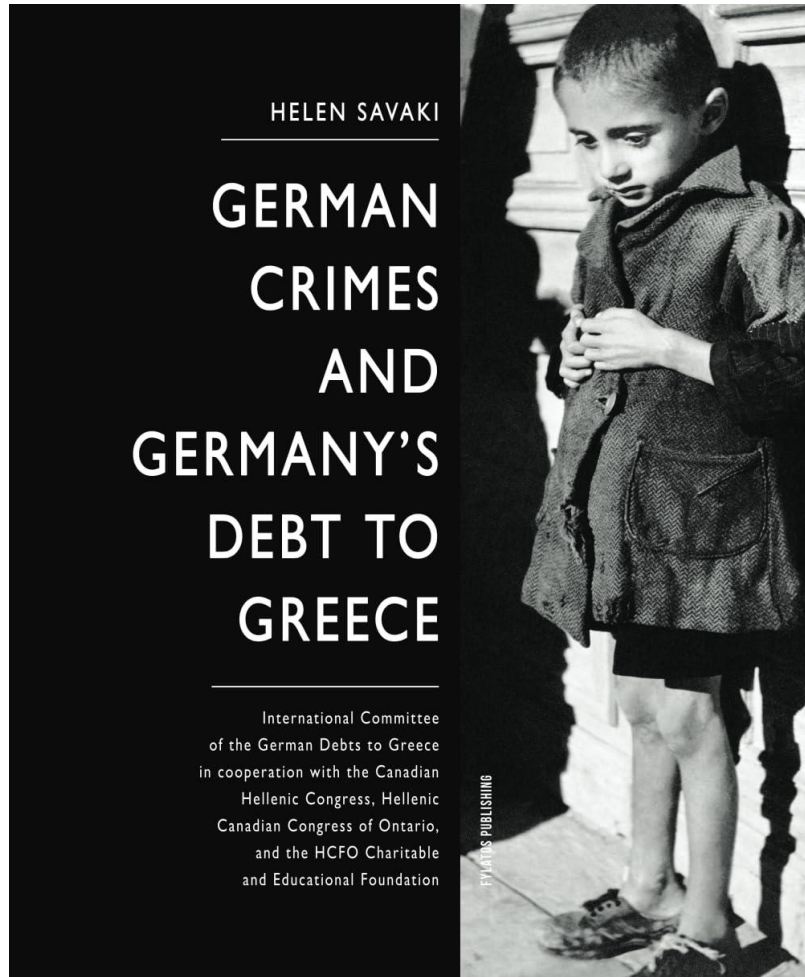
# Why is it Important to Talk About this Story

- It is important to know who are our friends and who are our enemies
- The Germans, have never been friends of Greeks and we must never trust them
- Why? In the span of one century (1915-2015) they have been directly or indirectly the cause of three catastrophes of the Greek nation:
  - 1. **The Greek and Armenian Genocide** –they coaxed and showed the Turks to ethnically cleanse all Christians from the Ottoman Empire causing the death of up to 600,000 Greeks and 1,500,000 Armenians
  - 2. **The Invasion and Occupation of Greece during WWII** which led to the deaths of 600,000 Greeks
  - 3. **The outright refusal to assist Greece during the 2009-2019 economic crisis** which led to a 25% drop in Greek GDP and the migration of 600,000 Greeks out of Greece. While Germany was given a chance by reducing its debts which were the biggest in history, Germany could not show any appreciation and gratitude in return

# Why is it Important to Talk About this Story

- If other countries have stopped claiming any reparation payments from Germany it is indeed very hard for us to get any
- The Forced Loan is a contractual loan that is payable and has never been conceded
- A German Parliamentary Committee has confirmed the validity of this debt
- It can be treated as a routine business loan in arrears that needs to be settled
- Presents Greece with the highest likelihood of a favorable settlement
- If we don't try, one thing is certain, we will never get anything
- We all have a role to play and there is something we can all do to make it happen
- Some action is necessary

# The International Committee of the German Debts to Greece



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Thank you for your attention!