

Project Report

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The focus of my research project is to evaluate the the strategic incentives of the 1989 electoral reform, and its success in relation to the pronounced goals of the party that initiated the refrom, PASOK.

In order to achieve this goal I travelled to Greece and collected series of data that were necessary. The fellowship was instrumental in assisting in this, by making access to libraries feasible as well as allowing for the creation of photocopies and purchase of necessary materials (books, periodicals, newspapers etc.). It was also used for covering the travel and living expenses for the duration of the summer.

I collected aggregate electoral results, both at the district and national level, for the elections prior to the reform, as well the results of 1989. These were acquired by various sources, mainly though through the Department of Elections, under the Ministry of the Interior. I also did archival research, both at the Parliament's library (Koinoboulio), as well as the Bennakeion library.

The archival research had two aspects; firstly, collecting the draft of the reform law in 1989 (Eishghtikh Ekthesh), the debates involving the law in the Parliament between all the parties (Praktika ths Boulhs), as well as the official law itself, published in the Governments Gazette (Efhmerida ths Kybernhsews).

Moreover, the archival research involved looking into the newspapers (Kathimerinh, Ta Nea, Eleftherotypia, To Bima, Eleftheros Typos) of that period (March-April 1989), trying to record the coverage the electoral reform received in the press, as well as the political analyses involving both the expected results of the law and the strategic incentives behind it.

Apart from the collection of data, I also attempted to conduct personal interviews with people that were involved in the electoral reform at that period. I tried to locate high ranked civil servants that were working in the Ministry of the Interior in that period but the effort proved fruitless. After numerous attempts to get in touch with personnel that would be able to direct me to the relevant people, I was finally unable to access any information that could be useful. I was able though to get some insight on the process of electoral reform by talking to a person deeply involved in the 1985 electoral reform, and I believe I have gained some understanding of the subject.

With the collection of the data having been completed, and despite the fact that the necessary interviews were not carried out, I will still move on to the data analysis, as originally planned. I expect to have some preliminary results by the end of this winter which will provide an initial assesment of the projects success and the possibility of further and more extensive research.

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