

THE GREEK ALPHABET

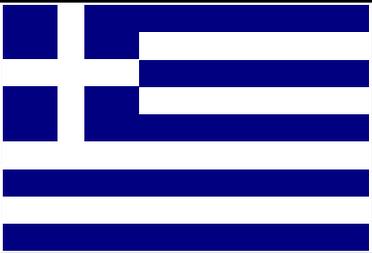


Αποκάλυψη 1:8: Ἐγώ εἰμι τὸ Α καὶ τὸ Ω ἀρχὴ καὶ τέλος, λέγει ὁ κύριος ὁ ὢν καὶ ὁ ἦν καὶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος ὁ παντοκράτωρ - Ἰησοῦς

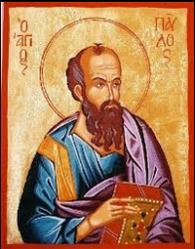
Greek or Hellenic comes from the branch of the Indo-European family of languages. In its classification, it is mostly singular with several dialects. Among linguistics, there is a debate about the possibility of there being a Hellenic group to include Macedonian as it was not considered a mere dialect of Greek. It is argued that out of all the Indo-European branches, Greek is the closest to the ancient languages of Armenian and Aryan.

The history of Greece starts around the 2nd millennium BC Paleolithic Period. The original peoples were called Pelasgians. The Greek culture reached its Golden Age wherein it contributed to much of philosophy, democracy and religion in Western Civilization. The Greeks have contributed much in the mythological constructs of the ancient 'god's and Demi-gods. This gave way to the modern Olympic movement based on the legends of the Biblical 'Men of Renown', half human and Angelic hybrids such as the Titans and the Olympians and their offspring. The Greeks through Plato for example preserved the record of Atlantis that was said to be a continent beyond the Pillars of Hercules, etc.

Hellenic: Greek (ΕΛΛΑΣ)
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Anatolia, Black Sea
LINGUISTIC CLASSIFICATION: Indo-European Greco-Phrygian Hellenic
Proto-language: Proto-Greek Subdivisions: Greek / Macedonian



GREEK DIALECTS
Cretan
Maniot
Pontic
Sarakatsanika
Tsakonian
OTHER LANGUAGES
Macedonian Slavic
Bulgarian
Turkish
Aromanian
Megleno-Romanian
Romani
Arvanitika



APOSTLE PAUL
One of the greatest contributions of Greece has been the Christian New Testament. Perhaps the most influential Apostle to Greece was the Apostle Paul, a Jew that converted that formally persecuted Jews who believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Paul had several evangelical missionary trips to Greece in the 1st Century. He planted the 1st known Christian churches and the framework for church government. He helped spread Christianity into Europe. St. Paul was beheaded in Rome by Nero.

As a secular state, the only religion that Greece recognizes is the Greek Orthodox Christian Church. It has its capital in Constantinople, present day Istanbul. During the Ottoman occupation, the Church served to preserve the Greek language, culture and Identity. The modern Republic was set up just before World War 1. There is a small Muslim community in Thrace and a Jewish one in Thessaloniki from Spain due to the expulsion of 1492. Recently there has been a political resurgence in nationalism and a movement to reconstruct the ancient Greek religion.

COUNTRY DEMOGRAPHICS

Greece is divided into 9 geographic regions. The Greek population shows a rapid increase of the percentage of the elderly people. Nearly 20% above 65 years. Greece has received a large number of immigrants since the early 1990s. The majority of them come from the neighboring countries. The official language of Greece is Greek, spoken by 93% of the total population as their primary language and by almost all as a second language at least. There are 5 major Greek dialects.

Capital: Athens
Population: ~12 million
Median age: 42.5 years
male: 41.4 years
female: 43.6 years
Growth rate: -1.01
Life expectancy at birth
Total population: 80.05 years
male: 77.48 years
female: 82.79 years (2012 est.)

CAPITAL	LOWERCASE	GREEK	SOUND	ENGLISH
Α	α	αλφα	alpha	a
Β	β	βητα	beta	b
Γ	γ	γαμμα	gamma	g
Δ	δ	δελτα	delta	d
Ε	ε	εψιλον	epsilon	e
Ζ	ζ	ζητα	zeta	z
Η	η	ητα	eta	h
Θ	θ	θητα	theta	th
Ι	ι	ιωτα	iota	i
Κ	κ	καππα	kappa	k
Λ	λ	λαμδα	lambda	l
Μ	μ	μυ	mu	m
Ν	ν	νυ	nu	n
Ξ	ξ	ξι	xi	x
Ο	ο	ομικρον	omicron	o
Π	π	πι	pi	p
Ρ	ρ	ρω	rho	r
Σ	σ	σιγμα	sigma	s
Τ	τ	ταυ	tau	t
Υ	υ	υφιλον	upsilon	u
Φ	φ	φι	phi	ph
Χ	χ	χι	chi	ch
Ψ	ψ	ψι	psi	ps
Ω	ω	ωμεγα	omega	o

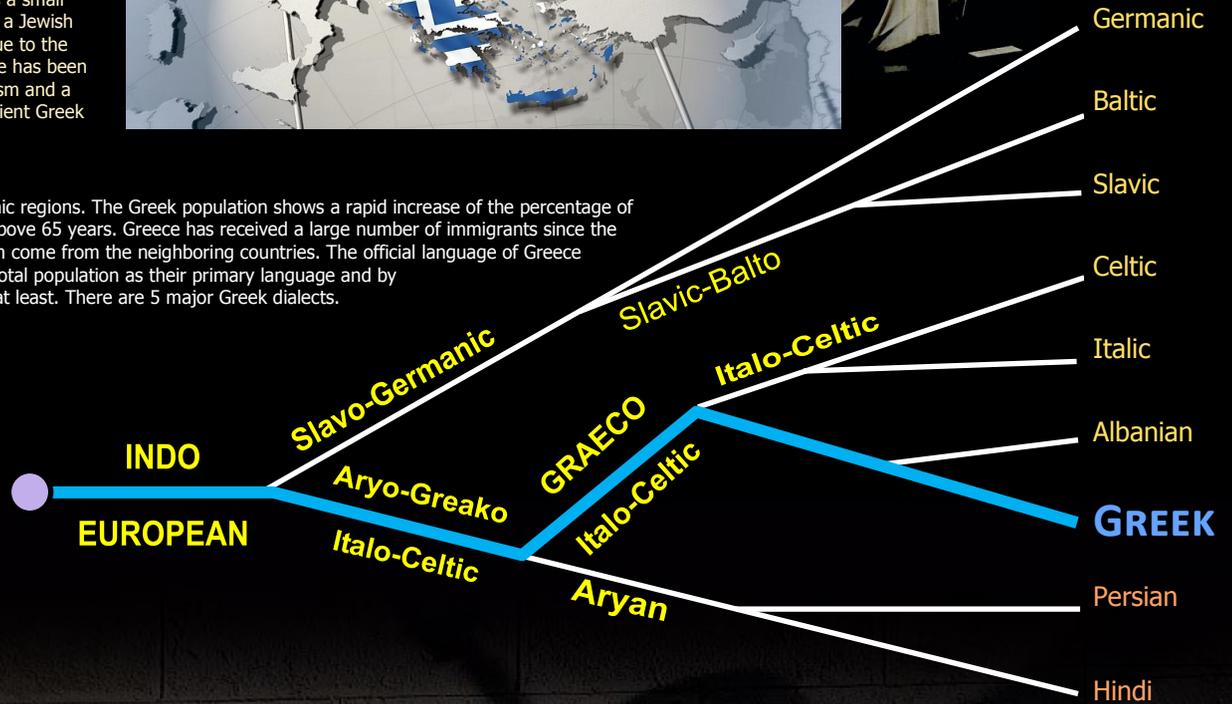


LINGUA FRANCA

The peninsula and the various islands of Greece were united under Alexander the Great. At a young age, he conquered the then known world. The various ancient dialects, Ionic, Doric, with Corinthian and Macedonian were unified into a Koine Greek. With this framework, the Greek language became the first worldwide 'Linguae Franca'. The Romans overtook Greece that later morphed into the Byzantine Empire. It fell to the Muslims in the 15th century.

THE GATES OF HELL

Another very important contribution of Greece was the contention against the invasion attempts from the East to include the Persian and Ottoman Empires primarily. The legends of the King Leonidas' 300 Spartans that staved off the Persians at the Gates of Hell *Thermopylae* exemplifies the constant struggle against the hordes of Muslim bent on retracting Western Civilization back to the Middle Ages. Currently this wave is again knocking on the doors of Greeks as many are seeking asylum due to the wars of the Middle East. Greek has been a 'gate' against 'hell' much like Spain in the west. Greece like Spain, the Balkans, Armenia and Russia have known well the genocide of the Muslims that have invaded and/or occupied the lands since the Middle Ages. The resurgence of Muslim extremism which is in actuality 'normal' Islam is once again decimated the Christian communities of the Ancient lands of the Middle East and is even attacking at the heart of Europe.



#	CITY	REGION	POPULATION
1	Athens	Attica	3,090,508
2	Thessaloniki	Macedonia	790,824
3	Patras	West Greece	214,58

