

Polity IV Country Report 2007: Greece

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2007</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polity:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democ:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autoc:</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durable:</td> <td></td> <td>32</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tentative:</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change	Polity:	10	10	0	Democ:	10	10	0	Autoc:	0	0	0	Durable:		32		Tentative:		No		
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SCODE	GRC	CCODE	350	Date of Report	1 November 2008																				
Polity IV Component Variables																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)																									
End Date	21 April 1967		Begin Date	22 April 1967																					
Polity Fragmentation: No																									
Constitution	1975																								
Executive(s)	Prime Minister Kostantinos [Kostas] Karamanlis (ND); selected by the dominant party (or coalition) in the Parliament; elected 7 March 2004																								
Legislature	Unicameral: Parliament (300 seats; proportionally elected; most recent elections, 16 September 2007) New Democracy (ND): 152 Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK): 102 Other parties: 46																								
Judiciary	Special Supreme Tribunal																								

Narrative Description:¹

Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)

The prime minister of Greece is recruited through a competitive multiparty electoral system. The majority party (or majority coalition) in the National Assembly selects the chief executive. Members of the National Assembly are popularly elected. In March 2004, Kostas Karamanlis, president of the New Democracy party, was elected as prime minister, thus marking his party's first electoral victory in nearly 11 years. Karamanlis took over Government from Kostas Simitis, leader of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, who had been in office since January 1996. After surviving a vote of no confidence in February 2007, Prime Minister Karamanlis scheduled new elections for September. The ruling New Democracy party retained its hold on power winning 152 seats in parliament.

¹ The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.

Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)

The constitution adopted in June 1975 provided for a parliamentary system with a strong presidency. Under the 1975 basic law (branded as "Gaulist" by opponents), the president had the power to name and dismiss the prime minister and other cabinet members, dissolve parliament, veto legislation, call for referenda, and proclaim a state of emergency. These powers were lost by a constitutional amendment that secured parliamentary approval in 1986. The amendment restored full executive power to the prime minister. The parliamentary structure of governance found in Greece places significant constraints on the autonomy of the chief executive. The prime minister is directly responsible to the legislature and the judiciary is independent from executive influence.

Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)

Greece is a competitive multiparty democracy that has been dominated in recent years by the left-wing Panhellenic Socialist Movement and the right-wing New Democracy party. Freedom of speech and assembly are constitutionally protected and the civil rights of citizens are generally respected.