



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
THE PRIME MINISTER

A Brief Biography of George A. Papandreou

Raised with Greek politics in his blood, yet very much a product of his multicultural upbringing, George Papandreou has followed in the footsteps of both his grandfather and father to become the current Prime Minister of Greece.

Born on June 26, 1952, in the US state of Minnesota, Papandreou spent his childhood in the US and Canada, until his family returned to Greece in 1961.

In 1967, his father, Andreas Papandreou, was arrested and imprisoned by the military dictatorship ruling Greece at the time. The pressure brought to bear by thousands of internationally prominent figures forced the junta to release him eight months later. The family fled to Sweden, where they were given political asylum. A few years later, the Papandreou family moved to Canada, where George finished high school.

After completing his university studies at Amherst College in Massachusetts and graduate studies at the London School of Economics, Papandreou won an MP seat for the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) in 1981. He has served in the Greek parliament ever since. He has held the posts of Under-Secretary for Cultural Affairs, Minister for Education, and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

As Foreign Minister from 1999–2004, he was widely praised for his diplomatic bridge-building. He successfully negotiated better relations with old rival Turkey. He played a key role in the negotiations that led to Turkey's EU candidacy in 1999 and Cyprus's entry into the European Union in May 2004.

In 2004, Papandreou was elected leader of PASOK in the party and country's first open primary - a move highly symbolic of his commitment to participatory governance.

As Prime Minister since October 2009, George Papandreou retains the portfolio of Foreign Minister and continues to strengthen relationships within Southeastern Europe, promoting a 'zero problem' neighbourhood policy. The Greek initiative 'Agenda 2014' seeks to integrate the Western Balkan states into Europe by 2014 - a significant milestone one hundred years after the outbreak of World War I.

Around the world, Papandreou has deployed 'Green Diplomacy,' calling for the protection of the environment. He has pledged to rebuild the Greek economy using green technology as an engine for sustainable development and job creation - transforming Greece into the "Denmark of the South."

Above all, George Papandreou is a firm believer in all-inclusive democracy. He has championed human rights at home and abroad, and has actively sought to maximize citizen participation in governance through information technologies. His leadership of PASOK has ushered in a new era of accountability and transparency in government. Public participation has played a major role in Papandreou's first term as Prime Minister, including the Greek public as he seeks to radically change the course of the Greek economy amidst a European financial crisis.

George Papandreou is married to Ada Papandreou and has two children.

George A. Papandreou

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Hellenic Republic

President of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK)

President of the Socialist International

EDUCATION

1970–1975 BA in Sociology, Amherst College, USA

1972–1973 Undergraduate studies in Sociology, Stockholm University, Sweden

1976–1977 M. Sc. in Sociology and Development, London School of Economics, UK

1992–1993 Fellow at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, USA

2002 Honorary Doctorate in Law, Amherst College, USA

IN GOVERNMENT

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Feb 1999 – Feb 2004)

Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sept 1996 – Feb 1999)

Minister of Education and Religious Affairs (July 1994 – Oct 1996)

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Oct 1993 – July 1994)

Minister of Education and Religious Affairs (1988 – 1989)

Under Secretary for Cultural Affairs (July 1985 – Feb 1987)

IN PARLIAMENT

Leader of the Opposition (2004 – 2009)

Member of Parliament, First District of Thessaloniki (2004 – present)

Member of Parliament, First District of Athens (1996 – 2004)

Member of Parliament, District of Achaia (Patras) (1981 – 1996)

Head of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Education (1989-93)

Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Free Radio (1987)

Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Education (1982 – 1985)

IN PASOK

President of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) (2004 – present).

Elected Member of the Executive Office and Political Bureau of PASOK (1996 – present)

Elected Member of the Central Committee of PASOK (1984 – present)

Elected Member of the Executive Office of PASOK (1987 – 1988)

Elected Secretary of the Committee for the Greek Diaspora (1990 – 1993)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

President of the Socialist International (2006 – present)

Vice President of the Olympic Truce Center

President of the Andreas Papandreou Foundation

State Coordinator for the Bid for the 2004 Olympic Games (1997)

Founding Member of the Lagonisi Initiative on Cooperation in the Balkans (1994)

Founding Member of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly (1990)

Member of the Board of the Foundation of Mediterranean Studies

Member of the Board of the Foundation for Research and Self-Education

Member of Research Teams at the Foundation of Mediterranean Studies

Member of the Advisory Board of the Cambridge Foundation for Peace

LANGUAGES: Greek, English, Swedish, French, Spanish