

Kevin Ovenden in Greece: Europe's 'leaders' have learnt nothing

By John Passant

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On Wednesday of last week, the geniuses of the EU thought they could force a confrontation which would fatally weaken the Syriza government. Instead they got a full-scale revolt and a resurgence of the left. [John Passant](#) reposts [Kevin Ovenden](#) reporting from Greece.

THE SPLENDID fellows who run the eurozone and the EU have learnt nothing from the Greek referendum. I include [Hollande](#), [Renzi](#) and others who are reportedly for a less confrontational line.

All the coverage is about contagion, hard and soft negotiating positions, squeezing the poor in Greece a bit longer to see if Tsipras cracks or the mood may be turned against him and so on. These are important considerations. Some of the coverage is useful.

But missing is something fundamental.

On Wednesday of last week, they estimated they could force a confrontation which would fatally weaken the Syriza government.

Instead, they triggered – for it palpably grew from Wednesday night onwards – a social movement of revolt not seen for two years since the ERT occupation and solidarity movement forced the governing coalition to split. And bigger than that movement. They did so in a Greek political system experiencing its worst breakdown since 1965

Last week's revolt was with this government, rallied by the prime minister, and against the Troika and memorandums.

The result of the little game by the geniuses who run the EU was to further shatter [New Democracy](#), the party of big business.

The left has hegemony in Greek society for the first time since 1944.

New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras resigns. Many had called for him to go in Jan. Didn't help his party or "Yes" campaign [#Greece #euro](#)

— Nick Malkoutzis (@NickMalkoutzis) [July 5, 2015](#)

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Greece to undermine the government.
They just hobbled it.

And un~~just~~ ~~\$5.~~e circumstances, they
make a second push as if they were
playing

I think th
dangerc

Not one
major c
big one.

As for M
welfare
came in
unificati
wing ba
established on terms which favoured
German exports. All she had to do was
appear matronly and not muck it up.



Now she's called upon to do
something. And paralysis.

This German-led EU is not turning out
to be as powerful as it was projected
to be.

***You can follow John on Twitter
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Why does news keep referring
to Greek PM as
"controversial"? Why is it
controversial to be left wing,
consult th ppl, to reject
'austerity'?

— Dr Finn Mackay
(@Finn_Mackay) [July 5, 2015](#)