

Will Syriza's Capitulation Provide Support to the Greek Neo-Nazi Movement Golden Dawn?

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Dr Nick Apoifis, lecturer in International Relations at University of New South Wales (UNSW), fears the Syriza's capitulation to the Troika will strengthen the neo-Nazi movement Golden Dawn, "that is casting its gangs of thugs as saviours of the poor."

"As supporters of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party set up 'Greeks only' food banks to help feed the unemployed," Apoifis writes, "the leftist coalition government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is facing an uphill battle to sell yet another version of austerity to an already traumatised nation."

Apoifis reminds us that while the leaders of Golden Dawn are serving jail time, the party managed to win 6 per cent of the primary vote and is supported by many members of the Greek security forces. "About half the Greek police voted for Golden Dawn in 2012. The chief of the Hellenic Police, Nikos Papagiannopoulos, has since been reported as telling his officers to make the lives of immigrants 'unbearable' and members of the Greek coastguard unit have been accused of beating migrants and dumping them at sea in Turkish territorial waters and of carrying out 'mock' waterboardings."

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