



WE MUST FIND TIME TO STOP AND THANK THE PEOPLE **WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES.** JOHN F. KENNEDY

Is rupture in Russia-Greece ti



NIKOS KONSTANDARAS

or centuries, even when Athens was a bastion of the West as natural allies. Both are Christian on the agreement is held. Orthodox nations; even as a NATO for the Western Balkans.

This month, Athens informed sequences." Moscow that it was expelling two 27-year dispute over the latter's name.

Ratification by both countries Republic of North Macedonia to join NATO and the European Union. to their neighbors' use of "Macedosame name; Macedonian nationaltheir country's name.

It is easy to see how Russia, which sion.

is opposed to Macedonia joining NATO, could be tempted to exploit been full of praise for Greece. In this volatile mix to encourage 2015, Foreign Minister Sergey V hard-liners on both sides. Macedo- Lavrov noted Greece's opposition nia's prime minister, Zoran Zaev, to sanctions against Russia. "We claimed in an interview with Buzz- appreciate the stance of the Greek Feed News that Greek businessmen government, which understands "sympathetic to the Russian cause" the complete counterproductivity of paid large sums of money to foes of attempts to speak this language with during the Cold War, Greece the deal in his country to commit Russia," he said after a meeting in and Russia have seen themselves acts of violence before a referendum Moscow with his Greek counterpart,

member, Greece tried to maintain sued a stern protest to the Greek Maslov, tweeted: "The past years channels of communication with the ambassador over the expulsions and were a time of an unprecedented Soviet Union. Yet a sudden dispute has threatened to respond further. boom in Russian-Greek relations." over alleged Russian meddling in On July 18, a ministry spokeswom- But, he added, "The actions of the Greek affairs has escalated rapidly. an, Maria Zakharova, declared that Greek side ... have become a disap-This could have long-term conse- Greece was acting under pressure pointment for us." quences for Greek-Russian ties and from its allies and warned that "such actions do not remain without con- Not only has Athens has always been

Russian diplomats and refusing en- angrily. The Foreign Ministry in cuted by what is considered to be try to two others. Among the accu- Athens declared these statements the most pro-Russian government sations: the four were trying stoke "a characteristic example of disre- Greece has had - a government that opposition to a recent agreement spect for a third country and a lack in March refused to join its Western signed by Greece and a northern of understanding of today's world, in allies in expelling Russian diplomats neighbour, the Former Yugoslav which states, regardless of their size, in retaliation for Moscow's alleged Republic of Macedonia, ending a are independent and can exercise an involvement in the poisoning of a independent, multidimensional and former Russian double agent and his democratic foreign policy." It added, daughter in Britain. "In any case, the Russian authorities would open the way for a renamed themselves are very well aware of inated by the radical-left Syriza what their people do."

Greek opponents of the deal object ment spokeswoman, Heather Nau- its invasion of Ukraine. Its leader, ert, tweeted: "We support Greece Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, visnia" in any form, saying this implies defending its sovereignty. Russia ited Moscow for support in 2015, claims on the Greek province of the must end its destabilizing behavior." while threatening the European Tsipras and Putin once enjoyed a one-to-one working relationship. In Moscow's view, this alignment Union, the International Moneists object to adding a qualifier to between Athens and Washington tary Fund and other creditors that bailout commitments. confirmed its suspicions of collu- Greece would walk away from its

Until now, Russian officials had Nikos Kotzias. On July 20, the Rus-The Russian Foreign Ministry is- sian Ambassador in Athens, Andrey

The Greek move was unexpected. careful in its dealings with Moscow, The Greek government reacted but this sudden rupture was exe-

The coalition government is domparty, which opposed international A few days earlier, a State Depart- sanctions imposed on Russia after



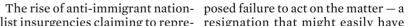
dependent Gree The junior coalition partner, In- nationalist party.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

On a growth path

Gaining the whole w

Just look around Europe: It's clear that a



have long seen themselves as natural allies. That changed this month

Greeks and

Russians



With the addition of 12 new routes, no doubt Bahrain In-ternational Airport will emerge one of the best airports in the region. Established as early as in 1927, in fact the first airport in the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain International Airport (BIA) has been a significant aviation hub. However, due to various reasons it could not rise to the levels of Dubai or Istanbul airports.

What makes it special is the airport's strategic location in the heart of the Gulf. Until now, BIA has served as an ideal gateway linking East and West.

Apart from the increase in the passenger numbers, the growth in cargo traffic also hints at the future economic potentials.

Abdulla Hameed



TIM BALE

rime Minister Theresa May's The big reason May's party is in so the challenge it's facing. much trouble over Brexit is that it is

set on that course, despite the fact that access to that market is vital to ternative for Germany took a re- right National Front made it into the 2011, namely guar the prosperity of the country they markable 13 per cent of the vote in runoff in the 2017 French presiden- vival of a minority govern? Because promising to "take last year's federal election. The par- tial election. The equally extreme by the center-right back control" of their country's bor- ty's rising popularity has so spooked Dutch Party for Freedom hasn't gone ders gradually became the party's Chancellor Angela Merkel's junior away. The Danish People's Party ty's decision to try default response to a challenge that partner, Bavaria's Christian Social became Denmark's second-biggest the right the UK In so many of Europe's center-right Union, that its leader, Horst See- party when it took 21% of the vote ty, the populist ra parties have been trying to deal with hofer, recently came perilously close in the 2015 general election - at that under Nigel Fa for a decade or more.

sent "the people" against a corrupt brought down her government. and uncaring political establishment

Christian democratic parties can be election. Many predict they will do Conservative government in boiled down to four fairly shallow, even better this year, even in the Britain is in turmoil. But the and equally ineffective, approaches. wake of attempts by the Swedish resignations that have rocked it in re- Only if the center-right fully faces cent days – even that of Boris John- up to the fact that they are all dead son, who was until recently her ob- ends can it begin to come up with sessively ambitious foreign secretary better, more creative and probably center-right is to toughen its stance - risk blinding us to a simple truth: more combative ways to deal with

The first approach is to try to igdetermined at all costs to end "the nore the populist radical right – and the country and for those who've free movement of people" that, even even treat it as some kind of pariah. already made it. Countries where for those European countries outside That's essentially what the Christian the center-right has tried this inthe European Union, is a condition of Democratic Union of Germany and belonging to the bloc's single market. the Moderates in Sweden did for Denmark – and Britain. Why are Britain's Conservatives so years. In the end, it hasn't worked. The far-right, anti-immigrant Al-

Meanwhile, the fact that the Swehas deep economic, political, so- den Democrats originated in that cial and cultural roots. Yet the reac- country's white supremacist undertion of the Continent's mainstream ground didn't prevent them from conservative, market-liberal and gaining 13pc in the 2014 general government to strengthen border controls.

> The second approach taken by the on migration and multiculturalism, promising to make life more difficult both for those who want to come to clude the France, the Netherlands,

Again, though, the results haven't exactly been impressive: The far- already played be to resigning in protest of her sup- which point it resumed a role it had Donald Trump) he



May at a local school in

In Britain, the C

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