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ABSTRACT

Since 1970, Greece has been undergoing a dramatic, and often painful, political, economic, social and cultural metamorphosis, which has been spurred on by globalisation. However, this process had begun much earlier, when Greece was admitted to the NATO alliance in 1952 and had signed an association agreement with the European Economic Community in 1961. Greece’s accession to the European Union in 1981, the first Balkan and Eastern European country to do so, has created tension between traditional values and modernity, which has resulted in new challenges for traditional institutions such as the state and church. As calls for greater social equity, gender equality, economic progress and democracy have increased, from within and outside the country itself, the state and church have had to reflect on their own need to change policy to cater for that demand. Moreover, the increasingly multicultural nature of Greek society, caused by the dramatic and sudden influx of economic migrants in the past 10 years, has challenged the nature of Greek identity itself.

This research aims to examine how these changes, tensions and anxieties are reflected in the representations and continuities of national identity in senior primary school history textbooks, with specific reference as to how Greek governments have defined or re-defined national identity therein in light of globalisation. It will examine two significant periods, 1970-1974 and 1997-2005 wherein globalisation had its most dramatic impact on socio-political change in Greece and on revisions to school textbooks themselves.