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## GREECE

### Elliniki Dimokratia

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*Area:* 131,986 sq. km  
*Population:* 9,580,000  
*Capital:* Athens [Athine]

*Head of State:* Christos Sartzetakis (President)  
*Minister of the Interior:* Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas

The main regions of Greece, apart from Greater Athens are as follows:

Aegean Islands [Nisoi Aiyaiou]  
 Central Greece and Euboea [Sterea Hellas]  
 Crete [Kriti]  
 Epirus [Ipiros]  
 Ionian Islands [Ionioi Nisoi]  
 Macedonia [Makedonia]  
 Peloponnese [Peloponnessos]  
 Southern Sporades [Notioi Sporades]  
 Thessaly [Thessalia]  
 Thrace [Thraki]

Central Greece includes the island of Euboea [Evvoia]. The Southern Sporades, ceded to Greece by Italy in 1947, are better known as the Dodecanese. These regions are divided into prefectures (Nomoi).

#### INTRODUCTION

When Turkish domination was ended in 1821–9, Greece organized interim police forces at municipal level. Police chiefs in the larger cities were appointed by the crown, but elsewhere their duties were taken over by the town mayors.

A Gendarmerie (Khorofylaki) was organized in 1833, as an auxiliary army unit, for the policing of the rural areas where law and order were sometimes ignored and banditry was still present.

In 1849 police departments separate from the municipal authorities were created in Athens and nearby Piraeus, each city having a Director of Police subordinated to the Minister of the Interior. Rural areas were policed by Field Guards.

In 1893 the Athens and Piraeus forces were militarized, and the whole country was placed under a Military Police; City Guards were formed in key towns. In 1906 the policing of all Greece was entrusted to the Gendarmerie. Athens, Corfu, Patras and Piraeus were allowed to reintroduce the City Police system, which they did gradually, Corfu being the first (in 1921) and Athens the last (in 1925). In 1929 the City Police forces were given authority over regional security matters.

#### ORGANIZATION

A dual police system exists in present-day Greece. There is a City Police (Astynomia) in the main cities, and the Gendarmerie (Khorofylaki) elsewhere. The Gendarmerie is also in charge of the security of government personnel and property, maintenance of order at court sessions, the organization of the civil defence network, acting as Military Police, and the enforcement of public health regulations. The Gendarmerie has a personnel strength of 25,000.

The City Police is divided into the usual departments: General Duties; Criminal Investigation; Administration; Logistics; Traffic; Security; and Technical Services. A Directorate of Criminal Services oversees criminal investigation duties and liaises with Interpol.

Other police forces include the Customs Guards, the Forest Police (Dasofylaki), and the Tourist Police, which is a joint City Police and Gendarmerie unit.

Dieythynsis Astynomias, Athine (35 7401)