

PROCRUSTEAN “UNION”

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Procrustes is one of the many abominable creatures of Greek mythology. His favorite hobby was stretching people on an iron bed and cutting off their legs to make them fit the size of the iron frame. Eventually, Theseus, the legendary slayer of the Cretan Minotaur, dealt Procrustes a good dose of his own medicine: he stretched Procrustes on his iron bed and chopped off both his legs and his head with an axe from Procrustes’s own ironsmith’s collection.

Since 2010, Greece has been tied to the European-IMF Procrustean bed without a Theseus in sight. According to the whim of the moment, and the pleasures of Berlin and various other luminaries of the European dis-Union swarm, Greece suffers gradual chopping in silence. While the game has now assumed a deadly regularity which apparently amuses Europe’s Procrusteses, Greece has the additional bad luck of running fast out of limps to lose.

The latest vile [spat](#) between the Germans and the IMF, however, won’t take into account such insignificant details like having a diminishing number of body parts that can be chopped off without the subject dying.

Yet, “Greece’s creditors [the Wall Street Journal reports] are considering seeking extra austerity measures that would be triggered if Athens misses its fiscal targets, in a bid to bridge differences between Europe and the International Monetary Fund and break a deadlock threatening to unravel the Greek bailout.”

Briefly, “extra austerity measures” may (and will most likely) include some, or all, of the following:

1. Further pension cuts that will swing the vast majority of pensioners into abject penury denying them even the bare essentials.
2. Raising the infamous VAT across a spectrum of goods and services; electricity, water, food, medicine, and every other essential for life and limb, already expensive enough to be inaccessible to large majorities of the population, should become luxury items available *only* to those with deep pockets.

3. Demands to toy yet again with the notorious “surplus” ceiling; figures tossed around range from 1.5 to 3.5 percent. The open secret, of course, is that the Greek economy, lying in tatters, *simply cannot produce “surpluses” without production and consumption* (here, the fools running Greece incredibly claim that the higher figure is achievable.)
4. Allowing the banks to “package” non-performing loans and sell them for pennies on the dollar to foreign vulture funds. Given that the banks swim in a sea of red ink and looking for salvation at any cost, such a maneuver could expose hundreds of thousands of people to summary repossession of property and homelessness (see a sanitized news story on this life-and-death issue [here](#).)

The horror “bailout” movie continues to hinge on the fundamental political differences separating Greece’s “rescuers.” While the IMF demands (correctly) a radical cut in Greece’s sovereign debt, the Germans refuse to grant relief because any such arrangement is “illegal,” they claim with a typical German straight face, inside the Eurozone.

That Berlin is a very poor stage actor is now a routine admission among those who point at the *real cause* of German *angst*: letting the Greeks bomb out of the euro would automatically demonstrate the utter failure of the German-engineered “common currency” project and, most probably, wipe out the current German political elite, beginning with Angela Merkel and her confederates.

Furthermore, almost the whole of Greece’s sovereign debt is now in the hands of EU governments, thanks to the repeated “rescues” of what cannot be rescued, with German taxpayers lining up first to suffer some serious walloping because of the evaporation of Greek debt.

This whole game of Procrustean manipulations can guarantee only one thing, viz. that Greece will continue to flail in deadly decline, economic stagnation, and the impoverishment of the majority of her people.

To add to the Greek woes, Greece is already a cesspit holding illegal immigrants universally rejected by Europe, a condition that transforms the prospects of the hopeless formerly-leftist-and-now-“Europeanist” administration of Mr. Tsipras from pitiful to impossible.

Playing for time has come to an end and July, when Greece will face again a mountain of debt to be paid in full, is right around the corner. With an equally miserable Greek parliamentary opposition now calling for elections, which cannot and will not solve anything, Greece rides the waves rudderless and without any hopes whatsoever.

Perhaps the only near certain condition in this Procrustean reality show is that the “bailout” phase for Greece is about to come to an end. Even the master procrastinators and kick-the-can-down-the-road warriors in Brussels appear to have internalized the bitter lessons of this lunacy.

That leaves all “Europeanists,” both in Greece and elsewhere, with the question: what could be next?

