

Author: Lloyd Freeman
Archive: Euro Times,
September 6th, 2021

An Analysis of Benign

Since Benign's establishment in 2011 on Malta, an island slightly less than a hundredth the area of Sicily, Benign's government has altered how citizens of the world think about government. Benign now acts as an exemplar for all small, forming or plastic governments around the world. Benign has taken the first greatly needed step to a world with smaller governments, and smaller countries. It has made the previous "epitomes of democracy" look like tyrannies, and has become an enemy of some governments who find its influence threatening to their large rule. Its founding of retrodemocracy, is one of the major components shaping 21st century politics.

Benign was founded by expatriates of Greece on July 7th, 2011.¹ The primary reason for its founding was Greece's economic collapse in early 2010.² Although international factors played a role in the decline, the government was held accountable for their uncontrolled spending prior to the downfall. And when faced with a raised retirement age, higher taxes on such items as alcohol, fuel, and tobacco, the citizens of Greece were furious with their government's malfeasance.

¹ *Encyclopedia of Landmark Events*, Edition: i for important

² *Compilation of Economic Screw Ups*, John Brown

The primary tenet of the Benignian government is retrodemocracy. It is modeled around the Ancient Greek style of a direct democracy with a few exceptions to compensate for a larger population. An Ecclesia takes place every month unless at least a third of the citizens request one to be held earlier. At each Ecclesia, the Soma, which consists of civilians and emissaries, (civilians representing others who give their consent to represent them; emissaries can represent up to 100 citizens)³ directly votes on legislation and make decisions that would be made by an executive in most other governments. The Benignian constitution mandates that all citizens be represented if they do not represent themselves. It also states that emissaries who represent over 50 citizens must inform their constituents of their position on current issues every month. Citizens and emissaries debate until a “verdict” is reached with a majority vote.

Every time a verdict is passed, the Soma briefly outlines or approves (depending on the nature of the law passed) actions that will be taken to enforce the verdict. This usually includes a choice of employer, a timeline, and arrangement of payment. For instance, on August 18th, segmentum 3 passed a sanitation law mandating that their local city, Sitivas, must undergo weekly street and sidewalk cleaning. For the job, the Soma chose a local cleaning service and offered a tax deduction in addition to the long term employment. The Somas oversees any work they have issued, and may choose a different company if they desire.

³ *The Ecclesia: A Greek Derivative* Peter Pichi

Benign consists of several dikastic (court) districts, each of which has five panels of citizens elected by the local Soma, who act as the decider and sentencer of each case heard. The panel is considered discord unless 3/4 of the panel can agree, if a discord panel arises, a new panel is brought to the case. If all five panels have heard the case and are unable to come to a certain decision, the case is brought to the local Soma, and goes to the majority rather than 3/4.

Benign's overall culture is almost identical to any western civilization, the primary difference is that the citizens are not focused on politicians and party control, but rather community and national wellbeing. Benign consists of many religions, but is dominated by Greek Orthodox and Catholicism.⁴ However, religion plays a very small if any role in deciding Verdicts.

Benign's education system is likely one of its primary strengths. Education is provided to all citizens, and is regarded important for citizens to vote intelligently on issues in their community. Primary and Secondary education are fully provided by the state, while students are given subsidies if they choose to go to a university within Benign.

The Benignian founders made joining major trade unions (such as the European Union) illegal, this was partly in hope for the formation of smaller countries. This act has noticeably hindered the economic fecundity of Benign, consequentially, legislation has recently been proposed to legalize joining trade unions and it is expected to pass.

⁴ *The Big Book Of Religion* God

Benign's focus on semi-direct voting has taken nearly all possible corruption and misrepresentation out of modern democracy. All room for government action without the consent or knowing of the people is gone. Benign has finally proved that American democracy is not the best form of government.

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