

## Greek Civilisation

With the world's attention focused via the Olympic Games on Greek civilisation, the **Simon Wiesental Center** has taken the opportunity to do its job as the ghost at the feast.

When renowned "Zorba" composer Mikis Theodorakis described **Jews as "the root of evil,"** Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos and Education Minister Petros Efthymiou stood beside him, smiling, at a book signing ceremony heavily covered by the Greek media. Not too long ago, Giorgos Karatzafer, leader of the extreme right Popular Orthodox Party, used the party-owned Piraeus television station to denounce Greek politicians with "Jewish origins" and to claim, "**Jews were behind the 9/11 attacks.**"

[...]

**Earlier dialogue between senior Greek diplomats and Wiesenthal Center officials from New York to Berlin has been met with largely empty promises.**

And so the Center invites us all to sign a protest addressed to Karamanlis, urging him to "take prompt and vigorous steps to denounce and contain antisemitism and other expressions of hate".

Well, what are you waiting for?

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## What I'm Waiting For

A reason to think this petition is more worth my time than all the rest of them. Being true doesn't mean it's worth the bother. Will it do anything? And more to the point, will me signing or not effect whether it does anything?

-- Elliot Temple  
<http://www.curi.us/>

by **Elliot Temple** on Fri, 08/13/2004 - 23:11 | [reply](#)

## Why sign?

Let's ask an earlier Greek leader, from the civilisation whose

reputation Karamanlis is attempting to borrow:

There is no exclusiveness in our public life, and in our private business we are not suspicious of one another, nor angry with our neighbor if he does what he likes; we do not put on sour looks at him which, though harmless, are not pleasant. While we are thus unconstrained in our private business, a spirit of reverence pervades our public acts; we are prevented from doing wrong by respect for the authorities and for the laws, having a particular regard to those which are ordained for the protection of the injured as well as those unwritten laws which bring upon the transgressor of them the reprobation of the general sentiment.

So, let us bring upon the transgressor ... the reprobation of the general sentiment.

by [Editor](#) on Fri, 08/13/2004 - 23:35 | [reply](#)