

The Newspaper “2000 Το Όραμα του Νέου Αιώνα” (“2000 New Century Vision”) (1996-2012)

Dr. Olieta Polo

“Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastrer, Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, Department of Greek Language
Literature and Greek Civilization, Gjirokastrer, Albania; polioulga@yahoo.gr

Dr. Manjola Sulaj

“Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastrer, Faculty of Education and Social Sciences
Department of Foreign Languages, Gjirokastrer, Albania; sulaj_manjola@yahoo.it

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Abstract

The newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” (“2000 New century vision”) was an independent newspaper of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. It was published monthly in Gjirokastra during 1996-2012. “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” was the first trilingual newspaper in the Greek Minority in Albania with such dimensions that made over thousands of readers, Greek speakers, Albanian speakers and English speakers around the world offering broad and qualitative information. The main scope of the newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” was broadcasting to its readers messages of friendship, of scientific news and European culture, in a world without visas, without borders and without colors. Although written especially for the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania, in this manner this newspaper overcame its community. “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” aimed the worldwide exposure of all aspects of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania and particularly the assessment of its identity. The newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” contributed as well to the emancipation of democracy in Albania. It was released from the remnants of the communist mentality, to which the newspaper opposed regarding it a bearer of backward values that were in continuing contrast with the progressive ideas of this press. In this article we aim to make a detailed description of the characteristics of the newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα”, to present some of the literary sections where could be found rich literary material, and its permanent sections.

Keywords: historical background, characteristics, literary sections, permanent sections, trilingual, European dimension.

1. Introduction

Through the historical-philological method we could outline the historical, political, economic and social context of the newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” (“2000 New century vision”). Following we have tried to reveal the journalistic profile of the newspaper embodied over the years, as well as the climate it has created for both quotidian and intellectual life of the Ethnic Greek Minority.

The material research study was conducted in two phases which are not distinguished by a strict separating line. Applying the analytical method we harmonized the newspaper texts with the recent publicistic requirements revealing its real “look”, whereas by means of the synthetic methodology and through the publications alignment we approached the general remarks, statements, comparisons and conclusions.

The newspaper “2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα” (“2000 New century vision”) was an independent newspaper of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. It was published monthly in Gjirokastra during 1996-2012.

This independent tri-lingual newspaper was colored and addressed to the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. It was launched on 1st May, 1996. The newspaper was greatly supported from the readers of the Ethnic Greek Minority, as well as from the Albanian and Greek readers because it reflected the life and the concerns of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania.

The newspaper was the first of this category for the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania, containing a significant symbolic title: “2000 New century Vision”. The title of the newspaper was referring to the year “2000”, which would not only mark the beginning of a new millennium, but would also lay the foundations of a new vision for the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. The message transmitted from the title of the newspaper turned into a kind of motto for the newspaper’s staff and its readers.



The editorial of the first newspaper "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" ("2000 New century vision), Year A, May 1996, page no. 1.

Furthermore "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" was the first trilingual newspaper in the Greek Minority in Albania with such dimensions that made over thousands of readers, Greek speakers, Albanian speakers and English speakers around the world offering broad and qualitative information.

The main scope of the newspaper "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" was: "broadcasting to its readers messages of friendship, of scientific news and European culture (especially of Western Europe), in a world without visas, without borders and without colors."¹ Although written especially for the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania, in this manner this newspaper overcame its community. "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" aimed the worldwide exposure of all aspects of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania and particularly the assessment of its identity.

The newspaper "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" contributed as well to the emancipation of democracy in Albania, particularly with one of its sections "Opinions on election results"², which was published on the occasion of the parliamentary and local elections. The way of reflecting the events was objective and released from the remnants of the communist mentality, to which the newspaper opposed regarding it a bearer of backward values that were in continuing contrast with the progressive ideas of this press.

The newspaper "2000 To óραμα του νέου αιώνα" distinguished from the other newspapers in several aspects. Evidently, this was the reason why on March 7th, 2005, it won the first medal at the ceremony held for the Mass Media Means of the Greek Diaspora citizens worldwide, in Zapeio Athens, awarded by the President of the Republic Constantinos Stephanopoulos. Apparently, the fact of its publication in three languages led in this estimation, there influenced also the publication of several articles that contained in-depth analysis, in both Greek and Albanian languages, such as: "Democracy in Albania and the Ethnic Greek Minority" of Dhimitër Stefo; "The strengthening of Greek-Albanian relations, an important factor in the region" of Panajot Vasili; "Gjirokastra - the miracle of harmony and education"³ and "Lunxhëria folk group at the Balkan meeting of Ioannina"⁴ of Dhosi Margariti; "The organization of 'Llazarë' generation ceremony in Lunxhëria region"⁵ of Dhosi Margariti, etc. Some of the articles that distinguished in the English language were: "The historical importance of Omonia's foundation and later developments"⁶, "Our cultural heritage"⁷, "Minorities

¹ Newspaper "2000 New century vision", Year A, page no. 1, May 1996, p. 1.

² Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 3, November 1996, p. 5.

³ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 3, November 1996, p. 6.

⁴ Newspaper quoted, 9th Year, page no. 86, May 2004, p. 12.

⁵ Newspaper quoted, 12th Year, page no. 123, April 2007, p. 12.

⁶ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 1, May 1996, p. 1.

⁷ See *ibid*.

and Democracy"⁸, "Hellenism and Helladism"⁹ (Formerly and today), "Historical journey of Epirus"¹⁰, etc. In the newspaper there were some articles that were published in two languages simultaneously, for example there was published in Greek and English languages the article of Niko Liti "We never abandoned our Orthodox faith"¹¹; in Albanian and Greek languages was published the article titled "Great activity in the village of Zhapa"¹² of the "2000" newspaper's correspondent, translated into the Greek language titled "Μεγάλη εκδήλωση στο χωριό του Ζάππα"¹³ ανταποκρίτης της εφημερίδας "2000".

The publication of the articles in the Albanian language expressed the purpose of the newspaper on strengthening the closeness and fraternity that existed between Greeks and Albanians, while the English language gave it the connotation of a European media, or at least the intention to communicate with the readers beyond the narrow space of the Minority.

Unfortunately, the economic factors caused the publication's cessation of this newspaper, which conveyed so much on various field in almost 16 years.

2. Title and Subtitle of the Newspaper "2000 Το Όραμα του Νέου Αιώνα"

The newspaper held the title "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" since its publication day until February 2003, when it was given the new title "Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα - 2000", ("New century vision - 2000"), which appeared around November 2003. While its subtitle, since the second edition (July 1996), was written in the three languages (Greek-Albanian-English): "An independent trilingual newspaper".

The editorial office of the newspaper to "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" was composed of the publisher Thodhori Bezhani, the chief editor Vangjel Papakristo and the director Grigor Karathano. The editors were: Vasil Fotiu, Kristo Ndrico, Kristo Goçi, Dhimitër Qiqi, Niko Kacalidha, Ioanna Papadhoppullu, Jorgo Panajoti, Niko Liti, Sokrat Papadhoppullu, Viktor Davasaj, Kosta I. Bella (New York), Andrea Caka and Ilia Ifandi. Chairman of the Governing Council was K. Makariadhi. Apart from the editorial staff, the newspaper had also many collaborators. On its way, this newspaper besides the publisher Thodhori Bezhani, had as collaborator K. Qirko¹⁴ and later on, together with the publisher Thodhori Bezhani even P. Sillisi¹⁵.

The newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" initially contained eight pages, then became with twelve pages. The newspaper's headquarters was in Gjirokastra-Albania¹⁶ and the newspaper was distributed in Greece, in Albania, in Europe, in America, in Australia, etc. Yet, this newspaper could be found on the Internet under the title "2000" at: toorama.blogspot.com

3. Literary Sections and Permanent Sections of the Newspaper "2000 Το Όραμα του Νέου Αιώνα"

The newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" was characterized mainly for its broad information, the diversified subject, and the correct classification of articles, as well as for the multilingualism and the real reflection of the facts. Another peculiarity of the newspaper was the aim to cultivate the cultural values of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania through its literary section entitled "Literary page". This section displayed the literary work of the Ethnic Greek Minority in all its time and contemporary dimensions, the style and the trends, the forms and the diversity of older and younger poets and writers' generations. In the first edition of the newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" this section was presented with a selection of poetries by the best authors titled "Our poets"¹⁷, where were published worth poetries: of Foto Qirjazati, "If I wouldn't hope"¹⁸, extracted by the poetic collection "Britmë në natë" ("Yell at night"); of Vasil Gjizeli:

⁸ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 3, November 1996, p. 7.

⁹ Newspaper quoted, Year D, page no. 22, March 1999, p. 10.

¹⁰ Newspaper quoted, Year E', page no. 44, November 2000, p. 11.

¹¹ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 3, November 1996, p. 7.

¹² Newspaper quoted, Year C, page no. 12, May 1998, p. 9.

¹³ See *ibid*.

¹⁴ Newspaper quoted, 6th Year, page no. 54, September 2001, p. 1.

¹⁵ Newspaper quoted, 15th Year, page no. 163, September 2010, p. 1.

¹⁶ Newspaper quoted, Year B, page no. 4, January 1997, p. 8.

¹⁷ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 1, May 1996, p. 3.

¹⁸ See *ibid*.

"Exist"¹⁹, extracted by the poetic collection "Ekzistoj" ("Exist"); of Pano Çuka: "Folk song"²⁰, extracted by the poetic collection "Poezitë" ("The poetries"); of Niko Kacalidha: "The ascetic"²¹, "The cataclysm"²², "Gold paints the sun"²³, "We are three hundred"²⁴, "Mourning of the worried mountain"²⁵; of Niko Zaho: "Fields"²⁶; of Andrea Zarballa: "Here we are"²⁷; of Vasil Barjaba: "The brilliance of native language"²⁸; of Panajot Marto: "Your wandering and shadow songs"²⁹, that was dedicated to his father, "To the heroes of December"³⁰; of Spiro J. Kucobina: "My homeland"³¹; of Foti Papathanasi: "The eleventh is coming"³²; of Persefoni Gjini: "My sun, do not hasten to go to the West, let our Pogoni celebrate today"³³ (June 2000), "The unknown graves"³⁴, "Under the throne's pressure"³⁵; of Pandeli Mello: "To the emigrants of Sotira"³⁶; of A. Karajani: "Our beautiful Dropoli"³⁷, "The mother"³⁸, "The braves of 40's..."³⁹; of Mina Leka: "Beautiful tomb"⁴⁰, "The bell"⁴¹, "Lament of the Ethnic Greek Minority"⁴², "Pearls of Mina"⁴³; of Petro Çerkezi: "The crucified"⁴⁴, "Ithaca simply a dream"⁴⁵; of Aristidhi Iasonidhi: "The fellow emigrants of Pogoni"⁴⁶, "Mourning of the grandmother"⁴⁷, "The leader"⁴⁸, "To Aristoteli Guma, the hero of the Greek language"⁴⁹; of Vasil Pirali: "The well"⁵⁰; of Niko Liti: "The handkerchief of Dropoli girls"⁵¹; of Vasil Koça: "The grape's cauldrons of Koshovica"⁵²; of Sopiçoti D. P. Jermanut (from Chicago): "The braves of Sopiku"⁵³; of Niko Ajdhoni (from America): "The courageous mothers in centuries"⁵⁴; of Dhimitër Papa: "The migration"⁵⁵, "Desire and sorrow"⁵⁶, "Born from the brave Epirote mother"⁵⁷, dedicated to the youth of the Ethnic Greek Minority etc.

In the Albanian language there were published various poetries from Greek authors, like the passage of Jani

¹⁹ See *ibid.*

²⁰ See *ibid.*

²¹ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 7.

²² Newspaper quoted, Year E, page no. 36, April 2000, p. 5.

²³ See *ibid.*

²⁴ Newspaper quoted, 9th Year, page no. 86, May 2004, p. 8.

²⁵ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 6.

²⁶ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 1, July 1996, p. 7.

²⁷ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 7.

²⁸ See *ibid.*

²⁹ See *ibid.*

³⁰ Newspaper quoted, Year B, page no. 4, January 1997, p. 11.

³¹ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 7.

³² See *ibid.*

³³ Newspaper quoted, Year E', page no. 44, November 2000, p. 7.

³⁴ Newspaper quoted, 10th Year, page no. 97, March B' 2005, p. 10.

³⁵ See *ibid.*

³⁶ Newspaper quoted, 9th Year, page no. 86, May 2004, p. 8.

³⁷ Newspaper quoted, 9th Year, page no. 91, October 2004, p. 10.

³⁸ See *ibid.*

³⁹ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 6.

⁴⁰ Newspaper quoted, 10th Year, page no. 97, March B' 2005, p. 10.

⁴¹ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 6.

⁴² Newspaper quoted, 16th Year, page no. 174, November 2011, p. 7.

⁴³ Newspaper quoted, 17th Year, page no. 181, July 2012, p. 7.

⁴⁴ Newspaper quoted, 10th Year, page no. 97, March B' 2005, p. 10.

⁴⁵ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 7.

⁴⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 6.

⁴⁷ See *ibid.*, p. 6.

⁴⁸ Newspaper quoted, 14th Year, page no. 154, November 2009, p. 7.

⁴⁹ Newspaper quoted, 16th Year, page no. 175, December 2011, p. 10.

⁵⁰ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 7.

⁵¹ See *ibid.*

⁵² Newspaper quoted, 14th Year, page no. 154, November 2009, p. 6.

⁵³ Newspaper quoted, 15th Year, page no. 159, April 2010, p. 6.

⁵⁴ Newspaper quoted, 16th Year, page no. 170, April 2011, p. 8.

⁵⁵ Newspaper quoted, 13th Year, page no. 142, November 2008, p. 8.

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*

⁵⁷ Newspaper quoted, 15th Year, page no. 159, April 2010, p. 7.

Ritsos poetry entitled "Peace"⁵⁸, translated by Vasil Mantho etc.

In this literary section there were included even interviews of various poets and writers of the Ethnic Greek Minority, like: the interview of the novelist Telemak Koça entitled "Interview of the writer Telemak Koça", given to the newspaper's publisher Thodhori Bezhani in the house of the writer in Vrisera, regarding his life and works, and the rich literary creations etc.

Another literary section of the newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" was "Book introduction", which included articles on various new books' publications such as: the book of Harallamb Kiço titled "Dhivri region of the Ethnic Greek Minority in centuries", introduced in the newspaper by Eleftheriu Melos; the book of Kosta Loli "Lamentation and pasture by night"⁵⁹, introduced in the newspaper by an anonymous author; the book of Jorgo Shukura "The sad fairy"⁶⁰, referring to eight vivid and true stories, introduced in the newspaper by an anonymous author; the book of Kosta Gaxhoni "Greek schools in Gjirokastra"⁶¹, introduced in the newspaper by an anonymous author; the book of Mina Leka titled "Pearls"⁶², filled with despair from the communist past in Albania, introduced in the newspaper by an anonymous author etc.

The newspaper showed special interest on different commemorations such as: on the 50th birth anniversary of the poet Niko Kacalidha was published the article titled "Happy anniversary Niko", written by Vangeli Papakristo; on the 15th anniversary of "Omonia" was published the article titled "15 years Omonia"⁶³; on the occasion of the 184th anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 25th March, was published the article titled "Freedom or death"⁶⁴ written by Kosta Gaxhoni etc.

In addition, there were also written dedications to various literary personalities of the Ethnic Greek Minority, for example the dedication to Niko Kacalidha titled "The great poet Niko Kacalidha, another personality in the field of papers of Hellenism of the Ethnic Greek Minority"⁶⁵ etc.

In the newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" there were published even portraits of various personalities, such as: the portrait of Niko Ifandis written by Vangjel Papakristo titled "My mind and my heart were in my special country"⁶⁶.

The newspaper published also diverse studies, for example the study titled "Our language, our spiritual Parthenon" of K. Vrahnia etc.

Special attention was paid to the permanent sections of the newspaper. Such was the one titled "On the education", where were published different articles, referring to the Ethnic Greek Minority education in Albania, like: "The education: two points of view"⁶⁷ of Dh. Qiqi, "Our linguistic heritage"⁶⁸ of Stavro Kremidha, "Aleks Rexho on the education issue"⁶⁹, "Dhuvjan: Papers leader"⁷⁰ etc. In the section titled "Personalities of our country", were presented personalities of the Ethnic Greek Minority such as: the iconographer Theodhosios Jushis, in the article "Native overnight?"; the figure of Periklis Vizuqidhis in the article titled "One of the greatest personalities of the Ethnic Greek Minority culture"⁷¹; the figure of Placika, in the article titled "Placika, the famous warrior from Goranxi - Dropoli"⁷² etc. In the section "The tradition" were published diverse articles and studies about the culture of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania, for example "Our traditional culture"⁷³ of Jorgo Panajoti, "Knowing the history of our country"⁷⁴ of Vasil Banga, "The theatre of Sofratika"⁷⁵

⁵⁸ Newspaper quoted, Year B, page no. 4, January 1997, p. 10.

⁵⁹ Newspaper quoted, 9th Year, page no. 83, March 2004, p. 8.

⁶⁰ Newspaper quoted, 10th Year, page no. 107, December 2005, p. 8.

⁶¹ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 108, January 2006, p. 10.

⁶² Newspaper quoted, 17th Year, page no. 181, July 2012, p. 7.

⁶³ Newspaper quoted, 11th Year, page no. 109, February 2006, p. 1.

⁶⁴ Newspaper quoted, 10th Year, page no. 97, March B' 2005, p. 4.

⁶⁵ Newspaper quoted, Year E, page no. 36, April 2000, p. 1.

⁶⁶ Newspaper quoted, Year D, page no. 22, March 1999, p. 7.

⁶⁷ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 1, May 1996, p. 3.

⁶⁸ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 3.

⁶⁹ Newspaper quoted, 6th Year, page no. 54, September 2001, p. 2.

⁷⁰ Newspaper quoted, 7th Year, page no. 66, September 2002, p. 5.

⁷¹ Newspaper quoted, Year B, page no. 4, January 1997, p. 7.

⁷² See *ibid.*, p. 8.

⁷³ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 4.

⁷⁴ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 4.

⁷⁵ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 4.

of Jorgo Shukura, "Traveling through the villages of Dropoli"⁷⁶ of Dhimitër Papa etc.

Further permanent sections of the newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" were: "Brief news"⁷⁷, "Various news"⁷⁸, "The correspondence"⁷⁹, "The statement", "You ask – We reply"⁸⁰, "The paintbrush"⁸¹ under the attendance of J. Mitili, "With Socrates pen"⁸² under the attendance and the supervision of Sokrat Papadhopullo etc.

4. Conclusions

The newspaper "2000 Το όραμα του νέου αιώνα" raised the readers' awareness about social injustices done towards the citizens and violations of the rights sanctioned by internationally recognized agreements. It appeared like this in the polyphony of free and independent voices in the democratic press, in order to contribute to the enhancement of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. The newspaper's vision was progressive and symbolized the transmission in centuries of the attempts for a united Europe, which constituted even the emblem of the newspaper. The edition of the newspaper was an important moment in the cultural and problematic life of the Ethnic Greek Minority, and was passing with dignity in the way of journalism.

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Newspaper "2000 New century vision", 17th Year, page no. 181, July 2012.

⁷⁶ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 2, July 1996, p. 4.

⁷⁷ Newspaper quoted, Year A, page no. 1, May 1996, p. 4.

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⁷⁹ Newspaper quoted, Year B, page no. 4, January 1997, p. 8.

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