

The Programme, Purpose and the Objectives of “Llaiko Vima” Newspaper (1945-2012)

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Abstract

The publication of the newspaper at the southern region of Albania and in the suburbs of the political life, social and cultural, according to the basic declarations of the publishers, comes to fulfill a “gap” and it has to do with the spiritual waking and the cultivation of the Ethnic Greek Minority. According to initial opinions the newspaper was the work of its publishers, who always in difficult unsuitable positions, took the responsibility of the historical efforts for a local publication, but even the co-operators and the correspondents that were willing and motivated to express their thoughts giving in this way their intellectual civilised contribution. As a result the newspaper comes as a reaction and expression of an interior revolution for an intellectual and spiritual information of the communist southern province.

Keywords: educational paper; literary texts; articles; spiritual emancipation; linguistic studies; folk and historical studies;

1. Introduction

The programme, the purpose and the objectives of “Llaiko Vima” newspaper are shown in the first page of the newspaper, in the article with the title: “Still for the protection of a cause” in which it is mentioned that: *“With the newspaper’s publication in Greek language we are sure that we complete a gap in the spiritual and political life of our district, that we complete the need that has felt for a long time the Ethnic Greek Minority and to create better conditions for a better development. Practically the new newspaper will give even a special need for the people of Ethnic Greek Minority, because it is a newspaper printed in his native language, which they can read and understand better.”*¹



This is the first page of the newspaper with which was presented to the Ethnic Greek Minority press in 25 May 1945. The main purpose of its publication was for the Ethnic Greek Minority to have a local newspaper in Greek language.

According to this article the newspaper represents “a press that shouldn’t be a demagogical tool and spiritual confusion, but a press that enters in the core of peoples lives of the Ethnic Greek Minority, to be a real force in their hands and to represent their special, social, economical, cultural and ethnocultural needs”.²

Later, through years with the passing of time, there are different articles in anniversaries, through which are made again known the purposes of “Llaiko Vima” newspaper. For example according to the article with title “ The newspaper “Llaiko Vima” it said that: *“it is a product of the anti-fascist War of the Ethnic Greek Minority and one of the achievements of the new democratic regime. After the victory of the War for the Ethnic Greek Minority it was necessary an educational and iluminist organ, that would give an end to the past in which the Ethnic Greek Minority lived in the dark of illiteracy and*

¹ “Llaiko Vima”: 25.05.1945, pg.1.

² “Llaiko Vima”: 25.05.1945, pg.1.

in the absence of political orientation".³

According to the article with title the Day of the Press and "Llaiko Vima", on 28 August 1949 "the newspaper will be occupied with the problems that interest the Ethnic Greek Minority, it will spread to the Ethnic Greek Minority the marxist-leninist science, will be a great help for the development of traditions and cultures of the Ethnic Greek Minority, with an ethnic national shape and socialist content. The newspaper "Llaiko Vima" will be the tribune of the Ethnic Greek Minority and with the help of the Party and the leader Enver Hoxha, and as well with the help and experience of the Soviet Union press, will execute the duties that the Labour Party commits".⁴

According to the article with title the Newspaper "Llaiko Vima" is the combative tribune of mass workers of the Ethnic Greek Minority on 24 May 1970: "The Party following the marxist-leninist track in all the fields, chose with success the problems of the rights of the Ethnic Greek Minority in Albania. With the attention of the Party, were ensured all the democratic rights of the Ethnic Greek Minority as: the right of native language, the right of work, education and the culture in the Ethnic language, and for the Albanian people too. In this point of view, with the order of the Central Committee of the Party started the publication of "Llaiko Vima" newspaper as the organ of the Democratic Front of the district of Gjirokastra for the Ethnic Greek Minority.

According to the article with title "In connection with the publication of the newspaper "Llaiko Vima" of Menela Dajlani "the newspaper "Llaiko Vima" was made a porter of the Ethnic Greek Minority, it kept unextinguished the light of Greek spirit, it protested the ethnic Greek identity, cultivated the native language and popularised the popular traditions of the Ethnic Greek Minority."⁵

Therefore the newspaper is presented as an open invitation of co-operation for all the members of EGM, so to help in this effort, which intends in the material development and spiritual emancipation of the country and the creation of a better future. In this direction the newspaper works for the awakening and mobilisation of all the spiritual local forces to bring in light the spiritual treasure of the Ethnic Greek Minority. After the year 1990 the newspaper "Llaiko Vima" was made much more free and more fighting, it took a full ethnic view and began to treat basic matters as: the protection of the Ethnic Greek Minority rights, the protection of culture, customs and their distinguishing features, the development of education and culture, the study of history, so in this way this newspaper to aim the collection of the historic folk and literary material also the extension and search about folk and traditional culture.

According to the article with the title "63 years "Llaiko Vima" of Vangjel Papakristo the newspaper "Llaiko Vima" independent from its content, in the difficult years of dictature, was written in Greek language, presenting the customs, traditions, literature and its folk. "In the meantime, together with the democratisation of the country was democratised even the press. With the democratisation of the Albanian society was democratised even the newspaper. It came out of the particular routine, controlled and praised for the Party and comrade Enver. It was given more importance to the ethnic problems of the Ethnic Greek Minority, was focused in the political interior problems of the Ethnic Greek Minority, in connection with "Omonia" organisate and even the relations of the Ethnic Greek Minority with Greece."⁶

The newspaper was made the centre or a precious place for the collection, registration and protection of the historical, folk and literary material. The publishers, editors and terrain journalists of this newspaper have elaborated lots of materials, a part of which has not been published and as an unknown consequence. Interest and great importance takes the newspaper as an original source for linguistic studies, source which in other conditions would have been lost and would not have come like this in our hands.

The newspaper did not aim to give only the view of the Ethnic Greek Minority in new social conditions, political and economic, but even the new intellectual ground of the thought and socialist revolutionary action, so the philosophy of its publishers and especially the local and central ideological revolutionary leaders parallel put in action, urged and strengthened the image of local life, turning the newspaper to an educational organ, informative and inspirational.

In the newspaper have found place selected creations from the writers of minority who were writing about the new socialist life, the new human relations, solidarity, equality and social harmony. Together with the known writers the newspaper pretended to urge the young writers to publish a part of their creations. Lots of them would become later poets, prose writers, known artists of the Ethnic Greek Minority and would expand their intellectual values in the fields of literature and science. This newspaper that has been written by people with great intellectual skills, old and young that represented contributions that came from the Ethnic Greek Minority, and without a doubt created its cultural physiognomy, esthetic and spiritual, in some decades, through work and a deep and full devotion. In its pages were

³ "Llaiko Vima": 20.12.1946.

⁴ "Llaiko Vima": 28.08.1949, pg.1.

⁵ "Llaiko Vima": 05.06.2003.

⁶ "Llaiko Vima": 17.05.2007.

published writings that the authors, for different reasons, mainly political and biographical, could not publish them themselves. But for more the newspaper was the place, where were published the first manuscripts of the novels and short stories that later the authors published them as full works. Meanwhile, some of these writers developed an activity with value in the publishing field, which hardly can be found in other newspapers of the region or district. They brought into contact the writers with the wide public of readers, with the intention of becoming known gradually, so the readers to love and search them through a more qualitative communication through finished works. Moreover the newspaper had as objective to urge the scientific-research activity in some fields, giving different decorations or stimulus for the writing of historical and folk mongraphies.

It was special the interest of the newspaper to take part and be part of the wide developments of the region, part of events or political, social, economical and cultural activities, always aiming the equality between the members of the Ethnic Greek Minority. The newspaper caught and took out in particular problems that had to do with the protection of the cultural and spiritual traditions of the Ethnic Greek Minority region and the creation of the elements of socialist culture as: building libraries, building cultural centres, museums in villages, the brightness of spiritual life presenting and organising talks, the building of the monuments and memorials that honoured his outstanding sons, the organisation of festivals, cultural shows, sport and artistic activities which put in action, sometimes with a fighting spirit, topics that had to do with the touristic, economical and social development of the region.

The newspaper witnessed full continuous readiness and commitment in the presence of the proposals and the search of solutions for different problems that were connected with well-being and economical development of the villages and families, sometimes even with tribune tones or continuous fighting spirit, in full synchrony with other local newspapers.

"Llaiko Vima" stands out for the strong local spirit which can be read clearly through the cartography of the subject, the written articles in moments of "local inspiration", that are subdued to the "spirit of the day" and political and ideological problems. Also it stands out the indirect attention for the precious fatherland and for his culture as well the estimation of all vital elements hidden in the spirit that gives the opportunity for the activation of the Greek national awareness.

The newspaper does not transmit in clear the public thought, but one of his reflections, because the public thought does not exist.⁷ Even the newspaper "Llaiko Vima", like all its sister newspapers photographs and keeps the image of a very small particular society, placed in a particular place and time, in social relations minority-majority.

2. Conclusion

It would be impossible to show in the few pages of a study 66 years of the history of a newspaper like "Llaiko Vima" that was printed in Greek language, was published at the Albanian Republic and had in its pages voluminous materials, difficult social-political process, important historical events and delicate human sensibilities. The aim of this work is not the presence of all the material of the newspaper and the whole judgement for it, but it is to illuminate even a little, through the concrete analysis, the reader's interest, scholars interest, but even that of the simple citizens, in connection with the typology of literary texts in the newspaper "Llaiko Vima".

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⁷ P, Bourdieu, 1990, "The common sense does not exist", *The inspection of social search.* pg. 77, 3-14, (translation: N. Panaiotopoulos, B. Taburakis).