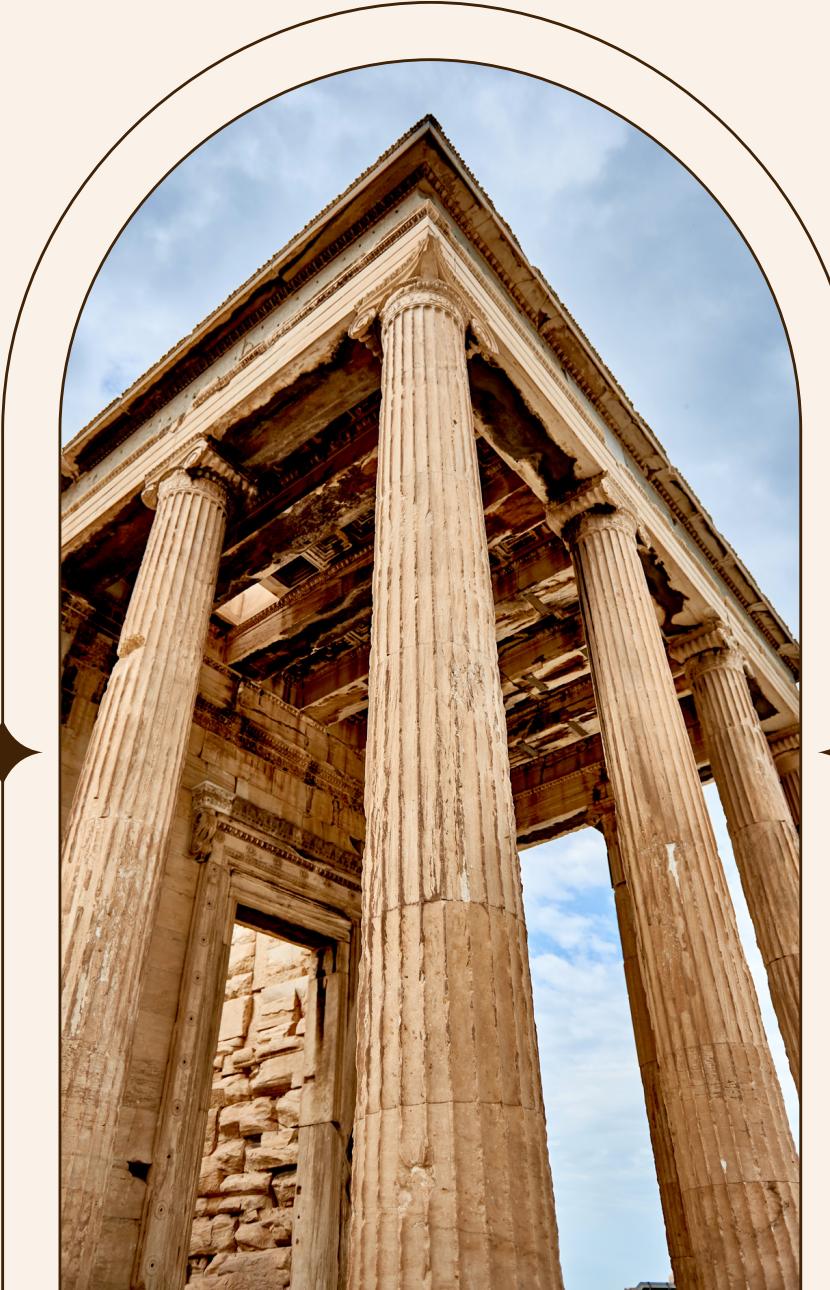


# Religion, Social Policy and Political Trends in Greece

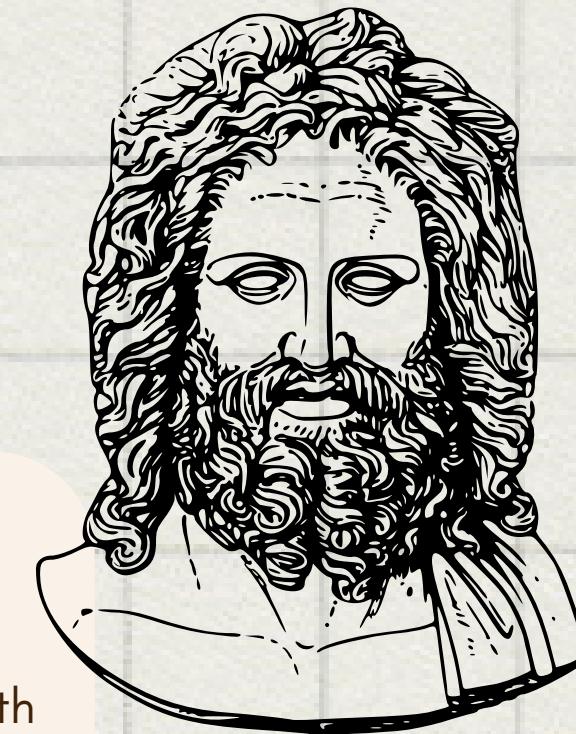
Samuel Quarshie  
Gabriel Odigbo Iji  
Viktoria Mikheeva





# Introduction

This article examines the impact of the constitutional recognition of the Christian faith on educational policies in Greece. It specifically addresses the right to education and the dissemination of information that contradicts the religious beliefs of parents. The Greek Constitution recognizes the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the prevailing religion in Greece. However, the term "prevailing religion" can be interpreted in various ways, either as the official religion or as the religion followed by the majority of Greeks. The constitutional recognition of the prevailing religion in Greece allows for the preference of catechism in religious education, which aligns with the teachings of the prevailing religion and enables parents to raise their children based on their beliefs. This reinforces the fundamental right to education as established by the European Court of Human Rights. The constitution does not mandate compulsory religious classes, allowing for the inclusion or exclusion of denominational classes in the curriculum, in accordance with Greece's constitution.



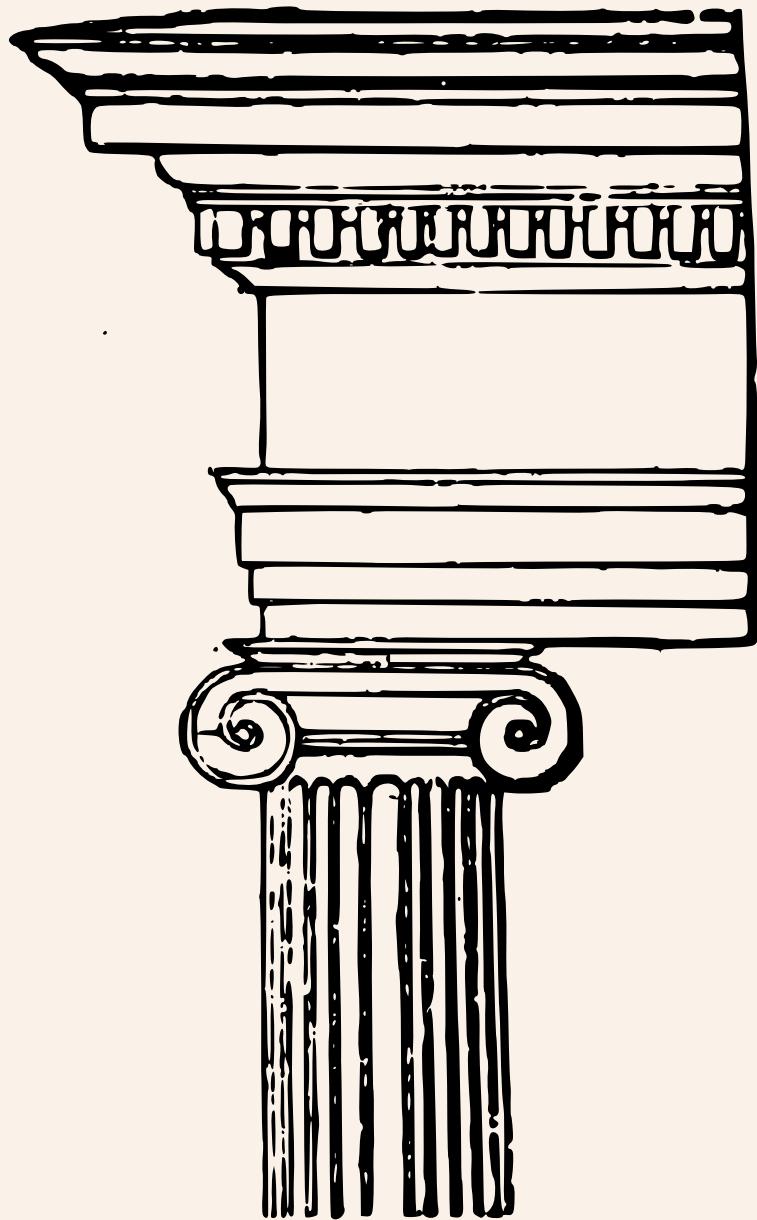
# The Constitutional Scope of the Right

Article 3 (1) of the official translation of the Hellenic Constitution states: "The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ". The term "prevailing religion" accurately conveys the meaning of the original text. It is not taken to signify the religion that prevails over other religions but rather that the religion is espoused by the majority of Greeks. The provision on the prevailing religion has been interpreted as having limited regulatory content. This interpretation is based on the view that the only field over which it has any regulatory scope is the organization and functions of the state, in particular the organization and practice of the Orthodox Faith. It is abundantly clear that the scope of this provision does not extend to issues of individual rights.

As a result, the enshrinement of the Orthodox faith as the prevailing religion does not provide a legal basis for discrimination against individuals who follow other religions or nonreligious individuals within the context of respect for religious freedom.

Greece is a sovereign nation state where religious education is organized at the national level. The religious neutrality of the state has been well established and convincingly documented in case law.

The necessity of safeguarding the prevailing religion is directly connected with the motives of the revisionary legislator.



# The Particularities of Greek Tradition

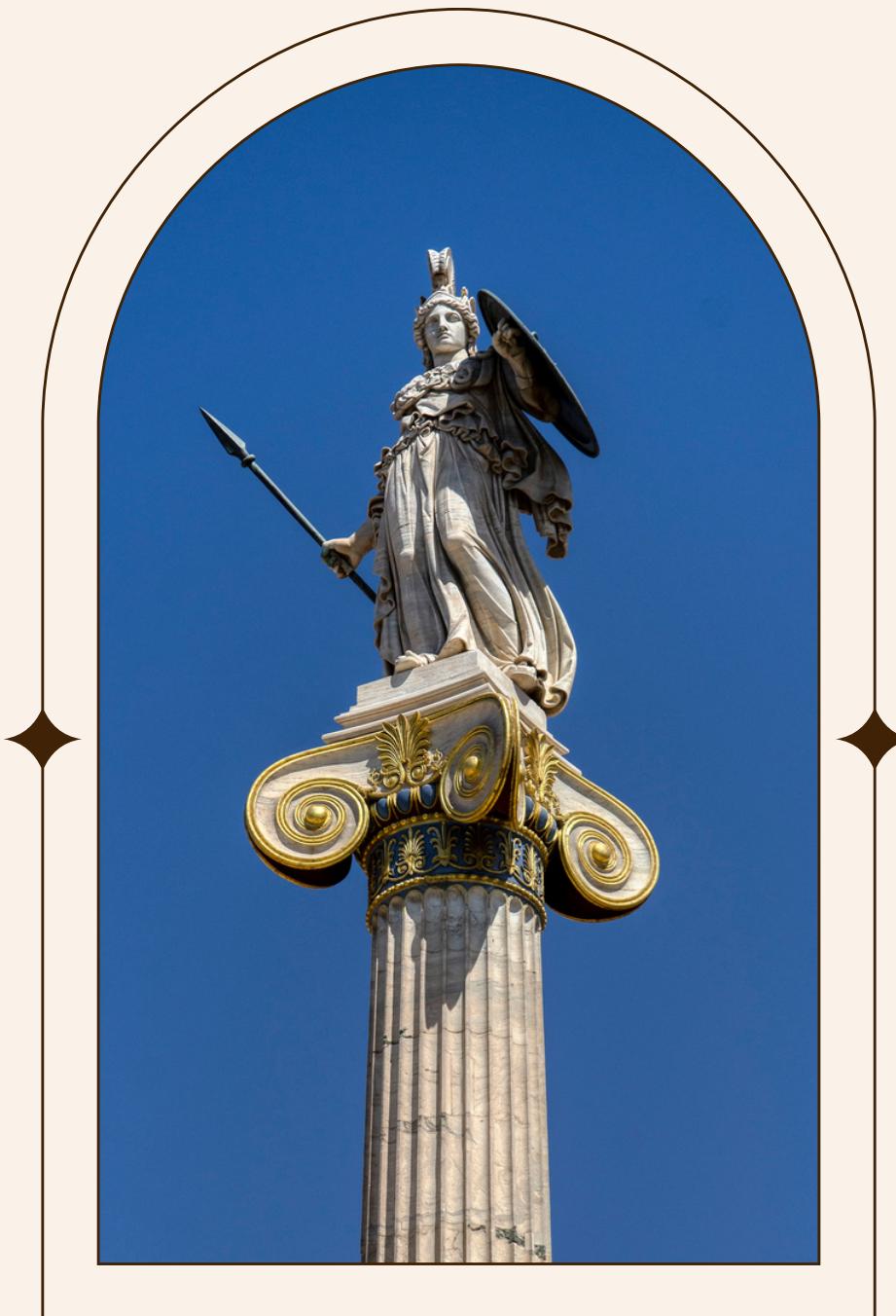
The reasons of enshrining the Orthodox Faith:

- Greek history and tradition
- Collective memories and traditions about lost homelands
- Resistance against Islamization
- The Orthodox faith's contribution to the preservation of Greek literature, language, culture, and identity



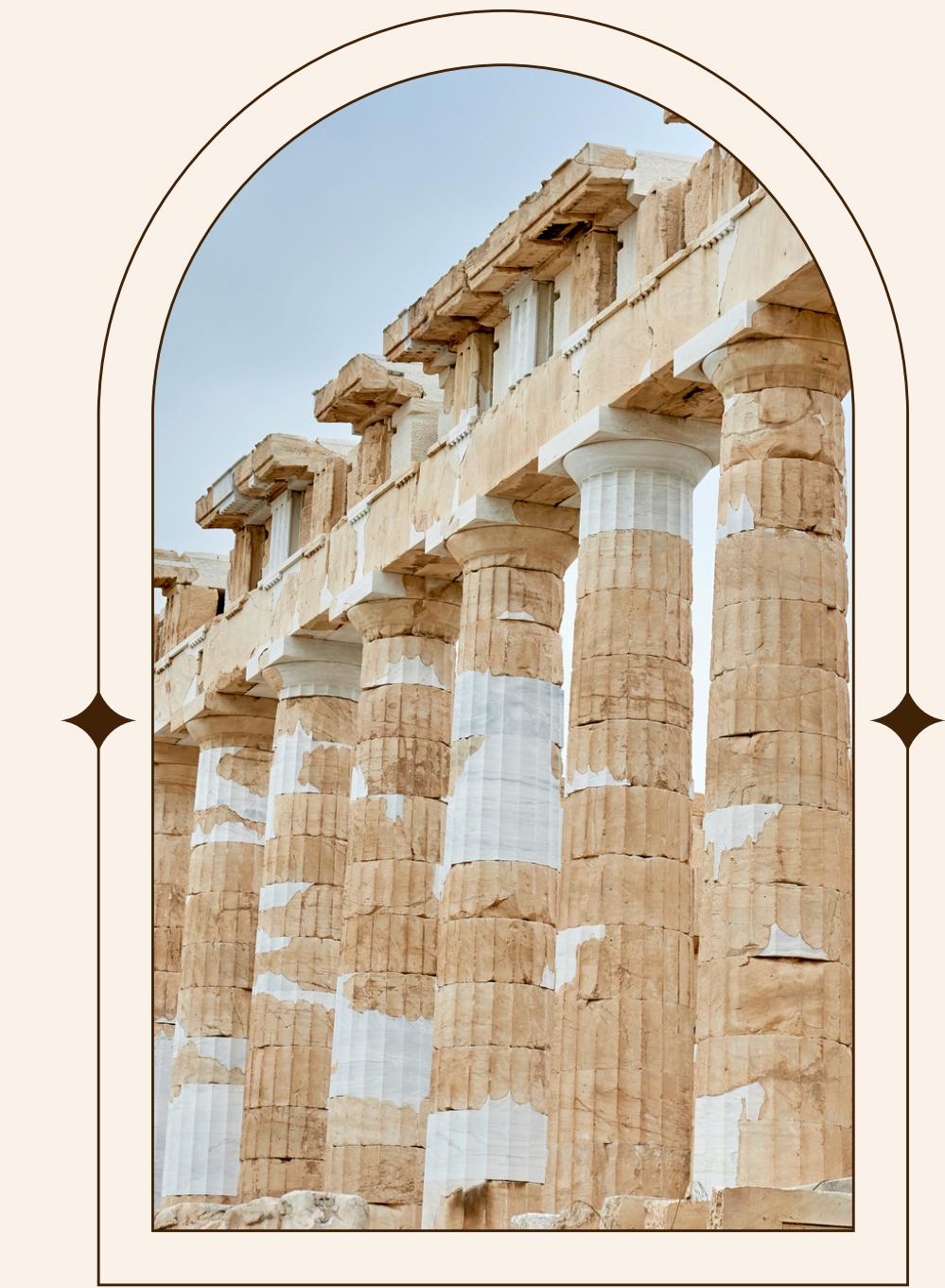
# **The Preservation of “Established” Religious Convictions as a Fundamental Right**

- Influence of Christianity on Education.
- Influence of Christianity on constitution.
- Influence of Christianity on society values.



# Conclusions

- Educational Policies
- Inclusive approach
- Revising the constitution
- Tolerance Environment



Description