

The downturn of Albania after the rise of Capitalism in the 90s

"The enemies call us conservatives because they want us to be liberal, because they want socialist Albania not to be socialist, but to depend on them. They want the lands to be returned to the kulaks, beys, and peasants to return to their previous form. They want the factories to become the property of the new bourgeoisie and the workers to return to the service of the bourgeoisie, to wage labor, they want the Albanian woman to be corrupted spiritually and physically, they want the youth to degenerate, to take narcotics; to close schools, to make vagrancy, crime, unemployment and emigration flourish, they want religion to be imposed upon the souls of people and help in this degeneration that they call "modernization" and "liberalism".

- Material taken from professor Jorgo Mandili, 1973.

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It is known that Albania was the last fort of Socialism in Europe when it fell in 1992. But in this little piece you will read about the downturn Albania took with the rise of Capitalism.

The first protest begins in Shkoder in the 14th of January 1990, other protests will follow in Kavaje,Durres and Tirana. Around the 2nd of June 1990 Albanian citizens will seek political asylum in the Western Embassies.

Demonstrations take place all over Albania in Tirana, Durres,Kavaje, Shkoder ,Elbasan and Korce. At the 8th of December 1990 the Democratic Party of Albania in formed with the main leader being Sali Berisha, Azem Hajdari, Genc Pollo, Aleksandër Meksi, Eduart Selami and Gramoz Pashko. Previously the Leader of Albania Ramiz Alia had signaled that the end of the Socialist era for Albania was close, he addressed the UN, he opened Albania for trade and met promised a change to the system. Later in late December a draft constitution was published.

With the beginning of the new year the newspaper of PD began publishing "Rilindja Demokratike". The mass exodus of Albanians begins with thousands going to Italy and Greece. Albania and the US re-establish diplomatic relations, the same happens around that time with Western countries like Italy, UK ,France etc.



Anti-Communist Demonstrations.



Albanians demanding asylum in the German Embassy

Multiparty elections were held, with a huge turnout of 99% the PPSH won with a landslide of 67%, the people Assembly named Ramiz Alia President of Albania and it appointed a commission to draft a new Constitution. But even this huge

victory was not enough Fatos Nano the PM of the country resigned in the face of demonstrations that were still happening and a coalition government took office led by Ylli Buffi, the 10th Congress of the PPSH established the new PSSH the Socialist Party of Albania.



Ylli Buçi and Ramiz Alia

Albania was accepted into OSCE and US Secretary of State James Baker visited Albania. In July "Sigurimi" was abolished. Despite formally still being a Socialist State in August 1991 the People's Assembly passed a law on economic activity that authorized private ownership of property, privatizing of state property, investment by foreigners, and private employment of workers, and that was really the end of the Socialist Era of Albania.

And of course the US re-opened its embassy in Albania and Albania entered UN, the coalition government failed and Vislon Ahmeti was placed PM with elections set for March 1992. On March 29th of 1992 elections take place and Pd wins with

62% Alia resigns and the new President of the country is Sali Berisha, who was the personal doctor of Hoxha.



James Baker in Tirana

And with that the purge begins. In the 10th Congress of PPSH not only the PS was established but it was also established the Communist party of Albania with Hysni Milloshi as its leader. After the elections this party was outlawed and Hysni Milloshi is arrested with the pretence that he illegally carried a weapon.

Ramiz Alia along with 18 other Communist officials is detained and the widow of Hoxha Nexhmije Hoxha is arrested and sentenced to 9 years in prison, the sentences later is increased by 2 years. Vilson Ahmeti is also placed under housed arrest, later the leader of the Socialist party.

Fatos Nano is arrested and Alia and Ahmeti are sentenced to two years imprisonment. The purge continues with Nano sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in April 1994 and Alia is tried on a number of charges, including

forced deportation of political prisoners, summary executions, and the upholding of the 1967 ban on religious activity.

The charges are later changed to abuse of power and violation of citizens' rights. Alia pleads "not guilty" and protests that the allegations made against him are unclear; he is convicted, however, and sentenced to 9 years imprisonment.

Despite the purge, the Socialist Party (which still contains a threat for the "plans" the West had for Albania) makes impressive gains in the 1992 local elections it gains 41.3% of the vote opposed to the Democratic that won 43%.

Furthermore when a draft constitution was presented to Berisha he called for a national referendum to vote, and in November 6th the people go against Berisha and 53.9% vote "no". The expulsion continues, the "Democrats" even dare to put a relative of Hoxha, Ilir, into this and convicted him for denouncing leaders of the Democratic Party in a newspaper interview.

14 prominent communist politicians get arrested including Haxhi Lleshi, former Chairman of the Presidium, and the former chief of Sugurimi, the appeals court uphold prison sentences of up to 20 years on nine high-ranking officials of the Socialist era.

While all this happens Sali Berisha urges the people to destroy anything that was built during the Socialism, the madness was indescribable : civilians destroyed traffic lights because "they were communist ones"!!!

Furthermore he was saying that all the factories and industries destroyed would be rebuilt with American money claiming that the US gave him a "blank check", as you understand no such thing happened.



Sali Berisha



Berisha-Bush

The Crisis of 1997

From the beginning of the Capitalistic era various Ponzi Schemes companies spread like wildfire, Albanians not understanding how the market economy works heavily invested in them and the government backed those companies up, when by January 1997 they could not pay back their clients, 1.3 billion dollars were lost and the people demanded reimbursement by the government and immediate change of government.

When no solutions were presented the people opened the army's storage units and took every kind of weapons, artillery, military vehicles imaginable and Albania was in chaos, the revolution had began.

The main revolution center was the South with Vlora having a big socialist history and still backing the old system became the center of the revolution. The President Sali Berisha barricaded himself and waited, but that gave him nothing.

The revolutionaries took city after city, village after village and they would be soon knocking Sali Barisha's door and they would have tanks and bullets waiting for him.

So Berisha tried to take action and set up volunteers to monitor the situation, that failed, a few people signed up and they had a few guns and vehicles.

Then he ordered 2 planes to bomb Vlora, thanks to the courage of 2 Albanians pilots that flew under the radar and landed in Italy without bombing the city Vlora was saved.

The Socialist opposition appoints Bashkim Fino as the Prime Minister of the country, Nano is pardoned by Berisha and foreigners leave the now engulfed in anarchy Albania.

During the chaos the self-styled king of Albania and son of Zogu, Leka I arrives in Albania and tries to establish monarchy, he miserably fails. In Albania 7.000 troops from various European countries arrive for the "peace keeping" operation "Alba".

Berisha announces elections on 29th of June. In those elections the Socialist party wins by landslide 100 of the 155 seats plus 17 seats that their allies won. Berisha resigns and Socialist claim that Albania will be a parliamentary republic not a presidential one and as PM is appointed Fatos Nano. The unrest resulted in 4.500 dead people.



Albania 1997



Albania 1997



Albania 1997



King Leka I in Tirana



American citizens being evacuated

End of 1997 Crisis

After allegations of government inefficiency and corruption in his administration, Nano reshuffles his cabinet and this is where we meet for the first time Edi Rama which back then may have made an impression with his style and way of talking but still was not relevant (we will see him in the future in part II and III).



Edi Rama in 1998

On September the 12th 1998 Azem Hajdari popular and founding member of the PD is shot and killed, the killer was not found. It is widely known in Albania though that the assassination was ordered by Berisha who was worried by Azem's rising popularity.

With the pretence of his assassination Berisha called for unrest and his supporters took weapons and tanks and staged a coup. The coup failed the government forces responded quickly and effectively.

On September 15th Berisha surrenders two tanks posted outside his headquarters after the government threatened to use force if his followers did not give up their weapons. A few days later PM Nano resigns after he failed to get the backing of his coalition. Pandeli Majko, member of PS is elected PM at age 30. A new constitution is drafted and the referendum with 50% participation supported it with 93%, the Constitution was signed during Albania's independence day 28th of November.



gettyimages

25 YEARS

David Brauchli

541793580

Berisha supports in a tank with Azem Hajdari's picture on it

After the bombing of Yugoslavia from NATO forces in 1999

Albania receives hundreds of thousands of Kosovars, the NATO seizes the moments and urges Albania to try and join NATO by giving them loans and "aid" Albania accepts and enters the course to enter NATO.

Albanian Army and Serbian army had a brief fighting incident in the Albania-Yugoslav border in the town of Krume, Tropoje, resulting in 3 houses being destroyed. Both the PD and PS have internal battles, Berisha fights various members of his party and Majko fights Nano.



Ruins near Morinë in the White Drin valley, at the Albanian border

Majko loses to Nano but President Mejdani asks Ilir Meta (another PS member) to form government, this is where Meta gets relevant for the first time (he will participate a lot from now and in part II and III). In 2000 loans from the EU continue, not only for Albania but for all Eastern European countries. By that time countless of Albanian state owned factories and industries are given to Italians or Germans.

Following the election of Vojislav Koštunica as president of Yugoslavia Albania makes the resumption of regular bilateral relations with Serbia. The ruling "Socialist" party is the clear winner from the local elections.

In 2001 human trafficking becomes a serious problem for Albania. Albanian men and women are being abducted by gangs and not only Albanian ones, the problem wasn't in the extent that ex-Soviet countries had but it was worrying. The government announces that legislative elections will take place on June 24.

The elections take place and the winner is PS with a turnout of 54% PS takes 73 seats and PD 46. PD doesn't accept the results and it boycotts the People assembly by leaving the parliament.

As you can guess from what you have read so far the level of political debate in Albania is a extremely low, the politicians served more as clowns.

"Socialist" PM Meta pledges to upgrade power supplies, proceed with privatization fight corruption and organized crime, improve ties with Western Europe and neighbors in the Balkan region, and promote free trade. Nano accuses the government of high-level corruption and 5 member resign. In 2002 Albania has hit a new low .

Unemployment creeps up during the year. A United Nations Development Project report estimates that one-third of the population lives in poverty, earning less than \$1 per capita per day. Large segments of the population live from subsistence agriculture and do not receive unemployment benefits. Also the country is in a political crisis

Ilir Meta resigns in anger over a continuing row with the leader of his Socialist Party, Fatos Nano. Defense Minister Pandeli Majko receives the backing of the various warring factions within the ruling Socialist Party to be the country's next prime minister. Nominated by outgoing premier Meta, Majko agrees to accommodate supporters of party leader Nano in a new cabinet. On July 25 Prime Minister Majko resigns.

On July 31 Parliament approves (81–48) a new government with Socialist Party Chairman Fatos Nano as prime minister, Majko as defense minister, Ilir Meta as foreign minister.

The political crisis is resolved but the people had suffered because during that time the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank froze aid payments until the situation was resolved. By the end of 2002 around 1 million Albanians had moved out of the country.



Fatos Nano at the time



Sali Berisha at the time



Pandeli Majko at the time



Ilir Meta at the time

This is the end of part I. As you read Albanians were promised a free and fair state and economic success that "the market economy guaranteed". Instead they got poverty, rebellion, unrest, misery, political instability, corruption and crime. In part II we will see the situation from 2002-2013 and in part III from 2013-now 2020.



As we saw in part I the situation for Albania got worst when the country sank into poverty, political unrest ,corruption, crime and even a civil war!

One would normal think that this terrible sitution stops. Unfortunately it does not, sure the country doesn't get into another civil war but the

corruption, crime, poverty and penury continued. Below we will see how Albania was ridiculed and how Berisha got his nickname: "Bisha Berisha=Beast Berisha"



NATO council visits Albania 2003

In February 2003 Albania opens negotiations with the European Commission on a Stabilization and Association Agreement, the first step towards membership of the European Union. Later on May U.S. Secretary Colin Powell signs a partnership agreement with Albania (and North Macedonia, Croatia) to help achieve NATO membership.

On July Meta resigns from his Foreign Ministers post over Nano's comments during a cabinet meeting he is replaced by Luan Hajdagara after the nomination of Marko Bello was rejected by the Parliament. Local elections followed and PS won narrowly with 50% participation. Later on October Interior Minister proved what kind of thugs run Albania when he was accused of punching the editor-in-chief of Vizion Plus television, Ilir Babaramo, in a Tirana restaurant on October 14 because of criticism broadcast by the TV station two months ago.

Meanwhile Albanians were fleeing their country for a better future and one of those attempts led to 20 deaths after a ship wreckage during an illegal attempt to cross the Adriatic sea and reach Italy.



Nano at the time

In the elections of 2005 Sali Berisha wins the elections. And then he showed once again his true face, 2006 is remembered by liberals as the year that Albania signed Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU, for Albanians it was the year that they realized how serious the situation in the country was with the following event.

Alleged assassination of Gramoz Pashko

Gramoz Pashko while a notorious liberal, he gained the name "the first liberal of Albania, and one of the founders of the PD, he often fought with Berisha over the leadership of the party leading to his expulsion 2 times the last time Pashko had gained the momentum to destroy PD due to his popularity amongst his members, Berisha could not let this happen so rumors have it that he assassinated him. But lets look at the facts how did Gramoz Pashko die?

On 16th of July, while on family vacation in Dhermi Pashko, fell off cliff and into the sea. He was later accidentally found by a boy around 12:02 he. The medic Kosta Cipa that treated him there concluded that " His pulse was 3 and 7, his body was completely black that leads to the conclusion that his was more drowned than hit" Pashko was alive but in grave danger, he was therefore transported with a Helicopter to the Mother Teresa hospital in Tirana, there the doctors did NOT perform any kind of surgery they just removed the water from his lungs.

Berisha came to visit him with other senior members of the government he stayed 2 hours and when he left he ordered that they would transport Pashko to Italy so they can save him. The pilots of the Ministry of Health denied to transport him due to the bad weather conditions, so the Government helicopter of PM Berisha was used. The helicopter itself, a Bell 222U, was in perfect

condition and the pilots were very experienced, the main pilot had 15 years of Service.

While the flight was going perfectly well the pilot reported the last coordinates, around 45 klm from Durres and 1.000 meters above the sea. Immediately after this report the helicopter suddenly disappeared from the radar. After extensive search from the Albanian and Italian authorities a metal object was found 1 km away from the helicopters last coordinates and 1.024 meters deep.

The Albanian government hired a French company to retrieve the relics and the bodies but on the 9th of August after the mission only some relics were found and not the bodies of the 6 people on board: Gramoz Pashko, his son Ruben Pashko, the doctor Aleksander Baloi, the flight engineer Qemal Koni and the 2 pilots Vangjel Condi and Demush Heba. So we have an sudden fall in the cliffs, drowning of a man who was not actually that hit but rather drowned, according to doctors who did not perform any surgery on the patients and a sudden disappearance of a Government helicopter in perfect condition that was caused "most likely from human error" .. A human error from 1 pilot with 15 years of Service and a co-pilot. Even if he was not assassinated but it was simply many coincidences together the Albanian public felt the fear to its bone, Berisha the man who caused a civil war, ordered the assassination of an entire rival family (Haklaj family) and of a member of its own party Azem Hajdari just because he was gaining popularity, was back in all of his prime.



Gramoz Pashko

But let's turn the time a little bit back, in 2000, when Rama was elected mayor of Tirana (a detail i forgot to mention in the previous post). Rama started to gain popularity, because he simply delivered the basics that the people were lacking. When he was elected only 76 lights were working in all of Tirana and the city was a huge irregular construction site where illegal buildings jumped out of nowhere in parks and playgrounds. Rama did the one thing he knew that would give him popularity, except delivering the basics like at least 20 hours electricity and 10 hours of running water, he intervened with the power he had to destroy some of the illegal buildings and painted some other Socialist buildings.

So in the eyes of the people after 10 years of no statesman they found one and they made sure he was re-elected in 2003. And that's when he also gained momentum and showed his true face, that's when he became the number two of the now social-democrat Socialist Party and began to prepare himself for the position of the leader of the party and then the PM of the country. On 2005 after the loss of PS Nano resigned while Rama became the leader of the party.



Edi Rama as mayor of Tirana

Now let's continue with happenings. On 2007 the Albanian economy grew by 5% and according to Westerns and the Government this was a "Capitalistic miracle". A miracle were people were exposed more and more into poverty, were Albania didn't have 24 hours of electricity and running water, where crime (compared to the Socialist era stats) spread, were 1.000.000 had already left. Albanians did the only thing that they knew very well at this point, they worked hard believing that they would achieve happiness, while in reality they made the rich of Albania and Europe richer.

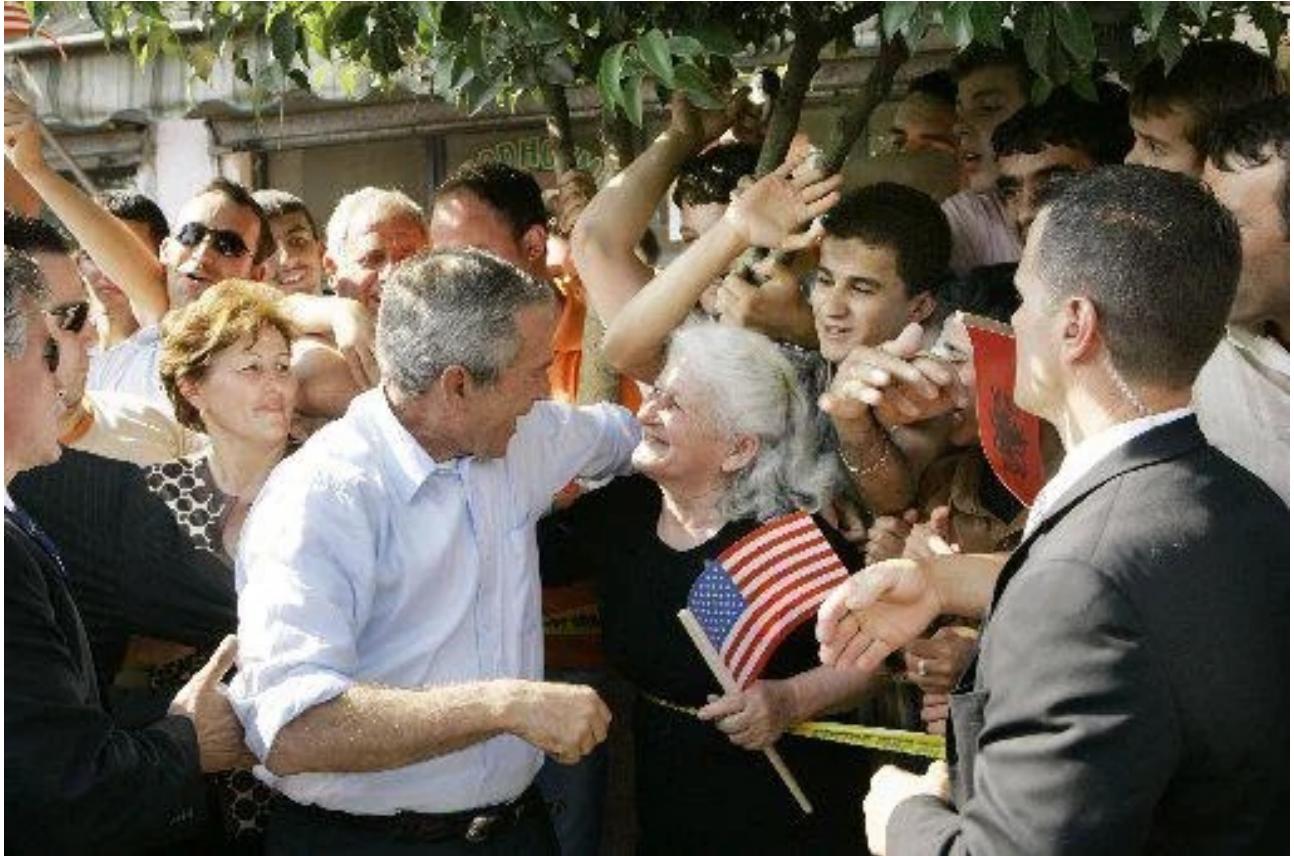
Later in June U.S. President visited Albania to see the "miracle" himself and strengthen the relationships between the 2 countries.

It was the first visit of a sitting U.S. President in the history of the country and Albanians as welcoming people, welcomed him with open arms. But the craziness of the Albanian government had no limit. Before his arrival they renamed the street in front of the Parliament from "Puntorët e Rilendjes" (the workers of the renaissance) to "George W. Bush" Street, and they did not stop

there, they erected a statue of him in Fushe Kruje (a small village in Albania and thank God not in Tirana or any other major city).



Bush-Berisha



George Bush with Albanian people



George Bush street



Statue of George bush

On July of the same year Bamir Topi was elected president after three failed round highlighted the risk of snap elections.

In March 15th of 2008 one of the biggest tragedies to have hit Albania happens the "Gerdec explosions" At approximately noon local time on Saturday, 15 March 2008, at an ex-military ammunition depot in the village of Gërdec in the Vorë Municipality, Albania (14 kilometers from Tirana, the nation's capital), U.S and Albanian munitions experts were preparing to destroy stockpiles of obsolete ammunition.

The methodical destruction of the old ammo was supposed to occur with a series of small, controlled explosions, but a chain of events led to the entire stockpile

going up at once. The main explosion, involving more than 400 tons of propellant in containers, destroyed hundreds of houses within a few kilometers from the depot and broke windows in cars on the Tirana-Durrës highway. A large fire caused a series of smaller but powerful explosions that continued until 2 a.m. on Sunday. The explosions could be heard as far away as the Macedonian capital of Skopje, 170 km (110 mi) away.

Thousands of artillery shells, most of them un-exploded, littered the area. The blast shattered all the windows of the terminal building at the country's only international airport, and all flights were suspended for some 40 minutes. Some 4,000 inhabitants of the zone were evacuated and offered shelter in state-owned resorts. The Government declared the zone a disaster area. According to subsequent investigations, a privately managed ammo dismantling process was ongoing in the area.

Possible causes include: human error during the work such as lighting a cigarette or damaging a fuse, improper storage of the ammunition, employment of untrained workers without the proper technical knowledge, violation of the technical security rules in the area where the destruction of ammunition took place, and sabotage.

The repacking/dismantling of ammunition at the dump was being carried out by an Albanian company that had been subcontracted by Southern Ammunition Company Inc. (SAC) of Loris, South Carolina, a U.S. company. SAC won the contract to destroy ammunition in Albania through industrial dismantling SAC was contracted in 2006 by the Albanian Ministry of Defense for the deactivation of 100 million 7.62 mm bullets, 20 million 12.7 mm bullets, and 20 million 14.5 mm bullets. A second contract involved ammunition from 40 mm up to 152 mm.

After signing the contract with the MoD, SAC subcontracted the work to Alb-Demil, an Albanian subcontractor.

Officially, Albanian authorities confirmed 26 deaths in the explosions. Officials report the number of injured people at over 300. According to figures published by the Prime Minister's Office, 2,306 buildings were damaged or destroyed in the explosions. Of these, 318 houses were destroyed completely, 200 buildings were seriously damaged, and 188 buildings were less seriously damaged.

There were 26 victims: Qemal Deliu, Kore Deliu, Liljana Deliu, Jetmir Deliu, Flavio Deliu (3 years old), Hysen Cani, Muhamet Hoxha, Besim Çanga, Roland Alla, Reshit Kruja, Mehmet Hazizi, Bukurie Cani, Arben Hasa, Zilie Kaca, Endri

Dvorani, Shefki Cani, Zelije Leti, Ilirjan Malci, Shqipe Hasa, Azem Hamolli, Nafije Laçi, Zylfije Ahmeti, Erison Durda (10 years old), Rajmonda Durda, Jetmir Ballazhi, and Resmie Kranja.

On 17 March 2008, Mr. Fatmir Mediu, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania, resigned from his governmental position.

As part of an investigation by the Albanian General Prosecution Office, authorities issued arrest orders for Mihail Delijorgji (president of the Alb-Demil Company), Ylli Pinari (director of MEICO, a state-controlled enterprise managed by the Ministry of Defense and authorized under Albanian laws to deal with the export and import of military goods), and Dritan Minxholi (an executive director with Alb-Demil).

A special group of prosecutors and investigators from Tirana, along with experts from the Albanian Ministry of Interior, the Tirana State Police, EOD specialists, military engineers and military police were said to be studying the facts of the case and collecting witnesses declarations.

The investigation group was expected to publish the names of the officials involved in the tragedy by the beginning of April 2008. The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) accepted a request from the Albanian General Prosecutors Office (GPO) to assist the investigation.

On September 12, 2008, Kosta Trebicka, a whistleblower of the case who directly accused the son of then Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha of involvement in this case, died under mysterious circumstances on a rural road in southern Albania.



Destroyed buildings in Gerdec



Albanian army in Gerdec site



Gerdec explosion

Picture of the explosion

Later that year Opposition Socialist Party leaves the Parliament, accusing the ruling Democratic Party of postponing voting on five new members of the Supreme Court awaiting appointment by President Bamir Topi.

And like that we arrive in 2009 the year that Albania got accepted into NATO. On April Albania officially joins NATO and submits application for membership in the European Union.

On July of that year Sali Berisha's centre-right Democratic Party wins 2009 parliamentary elections by a narrow margin. Prior to the election, the electoral law was changed to a regional proportionally system.

Berisha's alliance won enough seats to form a government, though it fell one seat short of a majority during the elections of Jun 28, 2009, having to join forces with a splinter socialist party, the Socialist Movement for Integration of Ilir Meta, whom Berisha appointed to the post of Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, and later Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy. It is the first time since

the start of multi-party democracy in 1991 that a ruling party has been forced into a coalition through not winning enough seats on its own.

On November Protests begin in Tirana, led by opposition Socialist Party leader Edi Rama, against allegedly rigged vote counting in the 2009 elections. Berisha has refused any recount of the votes, on the ground that the Albanian Constitution do not foresee such procedure. The political crisis between government and opposition has worsened over time, with the Socialists abandoning parliamentary debates for months and staging hunger strikes to ask for internal and international support.

On 2010 Albanian again enter into a political crisis that began in the "holy" 2009 that Albania joined NATO. The Socialist Party starts a civil disobedience campaign against the government, asking for a new count of votes, and including hunger strike of opposition leader.

Economy minister Dritan Prifti resigns after being involved in a corruption scandal and the opposition Socialist Party again walks out of the Parliament. The EU rejects Albania's request for EU candidate status, but visa are liberalized. The ongoing political crisis was one of the reason of the refusal of granting Albania official candidacy status.



Berisha in the ceremony of Albania's entrance to NATO



Albania and NATO flag

21 January 2011 violent protests

2011 is remembered as one of the worst years in the history of Albania. On January a video of the vice-Prime Minister Ilir Meta arranging a corrupt deal with the former Minister of Economy surfaced. In the video Meta is showed asking Prifti, the former economy minister, to intervene in a hydropower plant concession tender. Meta also appeared to mention a bribe by a businessman of €700,000. Meta also appeared to ask Prifti to hire activists of his own party, the Socialist Movement for Integration, LSI.

This video combined with the political crisis, the allegations for elections fraud, the burning of the ballot boxes from the June 2009 election that made an investigation legally impossible and the situation in Albania ,who although in papers was getting better day by day in reality nothing changed, resulted in the leader of the opposition asking for demonstrations. Albanian's having no one other to lead the protests decided that they would join the protests. The number of the people is contested to this day the government at the time said the people were around 20.000 while the opposition around 200.000. The truth possibly lies in the middle and it is estimated that around 100.000 people took part in the protests (regarding that Albania's populations at the time was 2.900.000 you can

understand it was a huge protest). On 21 January, a protest in Tirana led to the killings of three demonstrators by the Republican Guard during a rally in front of Prime Minister Sali Berisha's office. A fourth person died several days later in a hospital in Ankara, Turkey.

And that's when the protests went out of control. Tirana was burning and the people were demanding revenge. Berisha dismissed the accusations that he was a killer (accusations that had been made to him many times in the past) by saying that Rama and the protesters were Communists that wanted to start a coup d'etat, and at first he announced that the protesters killed each other to make the tension bigger, he later acknowledged that the guards shot the protesters but he continued to present this as a coup d'etat. Later other peaceful protests were organized by PS, after all this again the anger of the Albanian people had no effect because no party was there to turn that anger, that potential into a real change.



21 of January protests



Communist fist in 21 January demonstrations

The 4 dead men from the Demonstrations



Old man brutally beaten up by the police

On 8th of May local elections take place, PS wins at every main city except Tirana and Shkodra. In Tirana another crisis presented itself ,the match was between Edi Rama, incumbent mayor for 3 terms and PS leader and Lulzim Basha, DP minister of the interior. After a long process of votes counting, Rama was first declared winner for a tight margin of 10 votes. Then, the DP-led Central Electoral Commission decided to add to the count some of the votes misplaced in the wrong boxes, a move on doubtful legal grounds that was contested by the opposition, as well as by the OSCE.

O, 2012 after the hard 2011 and the 100 years of Albania's Independence, no major crisis arose and Albanians decided to set the political beliefs and feeling aside for 1 year. But even on the celebrations of the 100 years from Independence an incident happened which showed that some Albanian people have serious problems. Berisha thought that making an enormous cake for the people would be a great idea, and as it turns out the homeless and poor of Albania thought the same. In an image of National shame that still hunts Albanians today, hundreds of homeless and poor people ran to rake pieces of the cake so they could feed themselves.

The truth is that the Albanians population was in the same state as any other ex-Socialist country, like showed by the major incident of that year.

And with all that we made into 20 years of Capitalism in Albania.



Albanians Celebrate 100 years of independence

On 2013 Rama made a coalition with Meta (yes that Meta, so you can understand how low would this people go just for a chair) and other "left" parties in Albania. On 23 of June Parliamentary elections took place and Edi Rama and PS alone won with 713,407, 41.36% and 65 seats with the other parties they won 993,904 votes, 57.63% and 83 seats. The turnout was 53.52 percent with 1.748.898 people voting in total. We will see how Edi Rama governed in Part III: 2013-2020.

And near the end of the year another incident happened.

The alleged assassination of Sokol Ollashi

After the loss of PD in the 2013 elections Sokol Ollashi e member of PD an ex Minister of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications that had gained a lot of popular support from party members an independent deputies accuse Berisha for the loss and threatened with an internal investigation about the causes of the loss. Berisha made Luzlim Basha leader of the party (ex

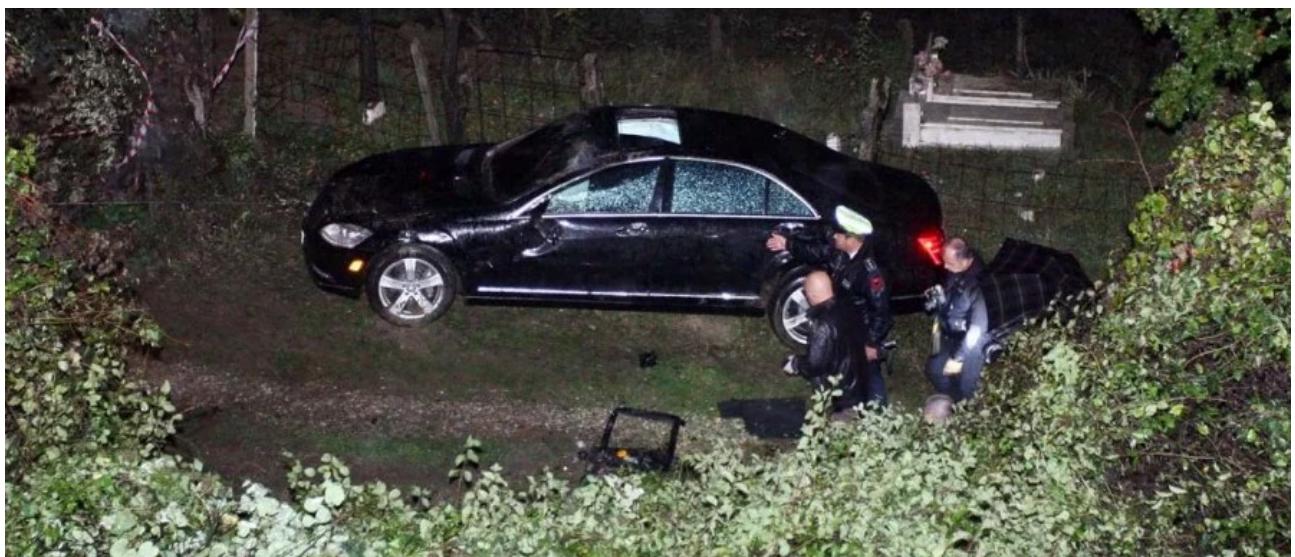
Minister of foreign affairs, ex Minister of Internal affairs during the 21st of January 2011 protests). But that made Olldashi more furious and he made plans for a new political party that would make PD bleed heavily.

Berisha as we have seen in the past could not let this happen and allegedly assassinated Olldashi. But are those rumors true? It seems that yes. On 20th of November 2013 Olldashi was driving in a road near Krrabe when due to the rain and the high speed he was driving into a turn he lost control and fell into a 20 meter deep precipice, costing him his life. Th problem with this theory is that according to an investigation done by engineer Arben Meçaj concluded that in order for Olldashi to be in danger he would have to be driving with at least a speed of 53 km while he was driving with 45 km when he entered the turn (according to the official report) but according to the independent he was actually going with 12 km, and other irregularities were found in the independent report that I have linked (its in Albanian) but even if this report is a lie and we take into account the official one, the story still has gaps : (1) the report was withheld from the prosecution for 10 months. (2) in the report says that the doors were open and the windows shattered (3) according to the report the car's conditions were good (and regarding that the car is a Mercedes Benz S550 ,Matik known for its safety and abs breaks make this even more suspicious).(4) the depth is not that deep to cause death.(5) the police altered evidence by removing the car quickly. (6) other people are reported in the scene before the police. (7) the media were kept away from the zone for 2 hours.(8) the prosecution claims that the video footage from the tunnels was found but they did not present it. (9) the prosecution also said that they had wiretaps from the calls of Olldashi by they also never presented them,(10) the expertise for the car were delayed

So we have a delayed flawed and contradictive official report and an independent report that even though it doesn't come to a conclusion it points out the irregularities of the official one.



Sokol Oldashi



Oldashi's car after the \"accident\"

And this is how we conclude Part II: 2002-2013. The end of Socialism in Albania can be essentially summarized by the following terms : Poverty, misery, death, assassinations, political crisis, economic crisis and submission to the Empire.

-Platon Stafa



If a MAC line is expressed, then it will be clarified. If not, the reader should consider the work expressing the views of the writer