

## **Interview with Anna and Alexandros, short version.**

A = Interviewer (Jan Roček)

B = Anna

C = Alexandros

### **Part 1A.**

A: Your age, where have you lived, where you currently live.

B: I'm 58 years old, I used to live downtown Athens during the junta period.

A: Where do you live now?

B: I live north of Attica now, in Marrousi.

A: Would you consider yourself and your family during junta to be lower class, middle class or higher class?

B: Middle class, yes.

A: Okay, and generally, what is your opinion on junta?

B: Well, it was a period that all the ability of speaking, and expressing opinions was forbidden, and people didn't have rights that in these days are obviously given to people, to human kind. And such as expressing their opinion, gathering with people, you were not allowed to be, to walk in the street or meet more than three people. Just two. And there were many, many, undercover policemen, that were watching what people was doing, what was telling, where was participating, in meetings and things. And all those information were filled to everybody's name, in some kind of files in the police departments.

A: Would you say your family suffered during junta?

B: Well, I think that everybody was suffered, because there were many many restrictions. By simple things like certain kind of merchandises were forbidden to import in Greece. Just by the excuse of protecting local products. And also travelling, exchange, ehm, foreign exchange carrying during travelling was forbidden. Many things from employment and personal freedom, let's say.

A: From what you remember, would you say your family lacked something, during junta? Except for political freedom, obviously. Mentioning those merchandise. Because this thesis also concentrates on family memory. This thesis also concentrates on cultural memory.

B: I think that, uhm, it was everything, all the arts; theatre, cinema, even lyrics from songs, they were criticised, they had to be checked, and if they were approved, they could be out in the open. I mean you could not sing a song that was not approved by the committee of the junta. So many, many, very nice songs that we have now, or we had after that, after junta, they were cut, let's say, by the approval of the committee. Because they were supposed to be politically, ehm, guilty. Something like that. And also this happening to the theatre, to movies, you couldn't see international movies in Greece, because they were forbidden.

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A: If we return to your family, what were your parents' occupation, and their names, if you don't mind sharing them.

B: No, I don't mind. My family was run by my mom, it was a single parent family. So my mom had to work too many hours, so she was, she had a team of labours (labourers) sewing dresses. That was her occupation. And, well, too many hours of work, not just my mom, everybody.

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A: Do you remember anything from that? Where did you go to school?

B: Well, the first three grades, I was going to private school. And, it was let's say, close to my house, it was a private school, because the bus was coming to pick me up and take me there. And, well, I don't have something to mention about that, it was just okay.

A: Do you, when talking about your family, in this case meaning your mom. Would you say, she was a happy woman, especially during that time?

B: I think that my mom and maybe the most of the people around our family and our circle, social circle, they were just trying to survive, to, to, to, you know...

### **Part 1D.**

B: You couldn't be different than the other boys and girls, you should wear uniform, of course, all the primary schools had to, all the boys and girls had to be in uniforms, definitely. There was not, ehm, you didn't have the ability to wear your own clothes. It was the law.

A: So there were uniforms?

B: Not uniforms really, we, the girls, we wore, ehm dark, not dark, blue, let's say dress, above our clothes. So we had to be like, like, like an onion. You know, wearing too many clothes.

A: Even though it was hot?

B: In any case, yes. And the boys had to wear also, like a shirt, and, ehm, pants.

A: Black?

B: No, it was not black. At primary school it was blue marine, and at high school was dark blue. But like purple blue. And white color. In both cases.

A: When talking about these festive occasions, is there anything that everybody was supposed to do? For example, 21<sup>st</sup> of April, Papadopoulos said, okay, either there was no school...

B: It was, it was like a holiday. We had to celebrate the day, and have something like poems for, you know, for that day, and we had to hear from the TV, which was also run by the government. You know, speeches about liberty, about liberty, which was not, about revolution as they called it. They called it revolution, not junta. It was a revolution, and there were hanged in all the places, the government places, like police stations, ehm, all the, the, the, public officers had to have a picture of an eagle,...

A: Phoenix.

B: Exactly, in fire. It was the, the, the sign, the symbol, of the revolution.

A: The rising phoenix out of the ash.

B: Yes, yes, exactly. It was the, yeah, the symbol, of the, let's say, "revolution".

A: Like the phoenix rises from the ash.

B: Exactly! Exactly! And the picture of Papadopoulos. The portrait of Papadopoulos. And also up to a point, and the king and the queen, also.

A: Even though they..?

B: Yes, ehm, at a point after that, the king and the queen, they were aside and it was only Papadopoulos.

A: So, in your classroom, for example, was there something...?

B: The phoenix was of course. It was. Everywhere! Everywhere!

A: Not only on that day?

B: Nooo, no, all the time. Everywhere! All the time! There were people that have it in their living room, in their, ehm, house. And also in all the public buildings. Also first page in all the books.

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### **Part 1E.**

B: And fake news.

C: Fake news..Propaganda. The movies are all under control of the government. Ehm, nothing different. If someone tried to say the truth, he couldn't, ehm, ...

A: Would you say, from when junta happened, because I realize you were very young before it started, to even compare it with, so junta and after junta. Was there any major difference? For you and your family. Not for general people. Just for you and your family.

C: No, I don't remember something different for the next ten years. It need more time, to change this situation. When the junta stopped, government change, Karamanlis came, but it was very difficult to change, for the change. We need more time. Ehm, I think, I remember that they, they (speaking in Greek), soccer, ...

B: Everybody was getting involved with football. In any case, it was a direction that everybody was into.

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A: Okay. When you went to school, do you remember any of your classmates or their friends or family suffering cause of junta?

C: I remember one thing. In our books, when junta start, put an picture with a bird, with a soldier. Phoenix. And when junta ended, teachers tell us to cut the paper with this picture.

B: To tear off the page.

C: In all the books.

A: Did you have this emblem at home?

C: No. No. No. No. Only at book in school.

B: There are, there were some people that they believed in junta. And they had that picture in their homes.

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A: Do you know anyone that suffered from junta?

C: I know some guys. A friend of me, he is 85 years old, and at this period, he has some problem with, ehm, his company. He was a building mechanic, and his father, and his grandfather, were communist. And he tried to avoid policemen, and people of this government. Big problems.

B: So, I remember, my cousin, I think I've told you before, that she was suffering by junta, because her father, who was left-party voter, he was a communist. There was no left party at those days, anyway he was a communist. And he was sent to Giaros, which was an island, a prison island, that people, communists were kept there. Just they were kept there until they were dead. And my cousin, his daughter, tried to study medicine, she was rejected three times by the university, even though she was a great student. And afterall she decided to study something else, like being a teacher, because she couldn't be a doctor as her dream was. And they suffered by junta because they were, they had the

stamp of the communists. So these people could not become something more important by junta. They were not allowed to be something more.

C: I remember that everyone afraid communists.

A: They were afraid?

C: Eh, he's communist. My mother said to me: Eh, he's communist. Hahaha

B: Don't talk to him, don't go close, because maybe you are having a, you know, characterized as communist also. So you wouldn't be able to find a job, to do whatever you want.

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B: It was not only fear, it was a punishment. To be communist, if you were characterized as a communist, you were punished. As my cousin was punished.

A: Was there something you lacked during junta? Your family?

C: I don't remember. We were a poor family.

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A: Did you ever go to the movies?

C: I don't remember? I saw some theatres. There is a theatre...

B: They went with his family.

C: I was there.

B + C: I went with my family to the theatre, and there was a play which is called "The Big Circus" and on another day, but at that play, the police came in and arrested all the actors.

A: Why?

C: Because they said something against junta.

B: About liberal things.

B + C: Not directly. Allegorically. And they didn't understand. They thought that these meanings of theatrical play, they were dangerous for that period, so they stopped the play, while people was in the theatre, and they arrested all the actors.

### **Part 1F.**

B: Exactly. So I didn't know what to do. And my uncle said, okay, now we have to go. And we took off the bus and we start running. Because the bus stopped in the middle of the road and everybody was running to avoid the gas. And I remember, I was, my eyes were in pain and red and crying. And I didn't know what it was happening. I was, ehm, eight years, seven, eight years old. Okay. Primary school.

C: Before movies, in cinema, they always show us some people of the government who make some actions, buildings, segments, and other. And we thought that these were heroes. Patakos, Papadopoulos. Again and again, Papadopoulos.

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B: And I remember at this period, just before the 17th of November, which was really a very big, let's say historical night, and all this thing was explode, exploded, finally. I remember that I was at school and suddenly a group of students of the university came and they said to the teachers, can you please hide us because we are being...

A: Chased by police officers? I don't know.

B: And they came in, so we said, where are these people? We were children. Okay, we were seven, eight years old. And they said, don't worry, we're not going to hurt you. We're just fighting for freedom for Greece. And after that, the teachers called at my house and all the other students homes. And they asked from the parents to come and take us. So my mom came and took me and a friend of my mom took my brother. So they had each one a kid. And we were running back home from the school, it was about 10 to 15 minutes walking from the school. And I remember that we passed through Ermou street, which now it's only for pedestrians. But at those days, the cars were going up and down. No, just up, not down, it was one way. And I remember going in a street to cross Ermou, my mom pushed me into a window of a store and she, she hid me behind her back because the tanks were going up the street. The tanks were going up Ermou to Constitution Square to go to...

A: Polytexneio.

C: Polytexneio.

B: And all the road was shaking. And it was, you could see the signs in the cement.

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B: In the head. Everywhere that you couldn't see it. So the other part of this section of police was to follow people. Write down what they did. Where did they go. To whom they speak with if they meet somebody. And all those, ehm, information were filed in their files. So they were considered as dangerous people.

A: When did you learn about this? Do you remember? How did you learn about it?

B: I remember that older people than me. Because I was a kid. They... I heard saying, uh-uh... Don't speak. Don't speak. What you're talking about. Don't meet with somebody else. Because if you were meeting uh-uh... two people, maximum three. It was forbidden because it was supposed to be a meeting for uh-uh-uh... something dangerous.

A: Like a small demonstration.

B: And also I do remember when I was, ehm about, ehm, seventeen, sixteen years old. When, ehm, the political party, ehm, Pasok on the government. We start to learn about it. I remember that they said that they decided to burn all the files of the people that they were filed many years ago.

A: Okay.

C: After 1981.

B: I didn't know, I didn't know that there were files.

A: Papandreou?

C: Papandreou!

B: Yes, exactly. But I'm not sure they did. But anyway, they said they will burn all the files.

----Family friend speaking about the following government ignoring/pardoning the main creators of the junta regime----

Family Friend: So, they remain, five-six people: Papagopoulos, Patakos, Makarejo and Markezines. And Ioannidis.

### **Part 1H.**

B: We had around our families, we had relatives, or maybe people we know, that they were there. I mean, when we say they were there, their children grow up without their father. They were there for 20 years. For 25 years.

A: Even though junta lasted...?

B: It was not only from junta. It was before. This thing with the islands started before. And it was continuing to...to send people away. Of course they did it during the dictatorship. Of course they did it. And some people came back with rotten health from there. Because it was really very... Very difficult.

-----Family friend speaking-----

B: It is what I told you... Everybody was living a simple life. They didn't have the right to do something more. Or something... You know, an option of something. They didn't. Going to another country to study. No. It was not an option. Because you couldn't have money.

A: Not even to France?

B: No. Only politicians, that they were not wanted in Greece, they get out to go to France. So they could live there. Many communists went to France, to, to get over...To skip the arresting.

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B: Even after some things didn't change. They were kept the same... Some things. But slowly... There was a change. And people were feeling relieved by... You know, by the fall.

A: More relaxed?

B: Yes. Of course, the big change happened after 1981, when Andreas Papandreou came. Excuse me. There were many changes made. And many people felt as if they were free at last. This is the period I was telling you that the files were burned. So everything was erased. It was not really erased in the mind of the people.

## **Part 1I.**

B: I have heard lots of stories about the junta period from my cousin (NAME/Antonis as pseudonym), who, even though he was born in our hometown Aegio, studied Naval Mechanical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens and his studies lasted from 1969 to 1974. So in order to be closer to his university, he lived downtown Athens during the whole period of junta and he remembers, by being an eye-witness sometimes, lots of incidents, and have told me lots of stories in details. Of course, my cousin, as an educated young person, well-raised by his family, he was not supporting the regime, for those, of those years, as almost all of the Greece didn't.

## **Interview with Nicky and Nikos, short version.**

A = Interviewer (Jan Roček)

B = Nicky

C = Nikos

### **Part 2A.**

A: Sorry, you wanted to say something about your mom. This is just for the recording.

B: Yes! My mom used to be in a resistant groups in the second war, so she was going with the army, you know, hiding them in the house, she was going going with this in the arm (editor's note: waivers), with the paper they were spreading, she was a fighter. Very fighter.

A: For ELAS, right?

B: For ELAS. And she was very deep in this. And I know what left side means from her stories, you know? And even she was in jail for three months, when she was pregnant. She was 17 years old, she was not exactly married because she lost her mom very young. she passed away in age 42, so my

mom was alone and my grandma didn't want her to be alone and she married her with a guy in ELAS, much much older than my mom. But she was very deep with this. Very well organised and she was with a group, helping the communism and everything. And she was in jail. Because, she was... They, they... Ah, I don't remember their names.

A: You can say it in Greek.

B: The police arrested her so she was in jail for three months with the baby.

A: Until? Until the war ended?

B: Yes. Between. It was the between period.

A: So did she have for example problems after that? Because she was a communist and she was associated with communist?

B: Yes, but then she was not really open with this. You know, she stopped it. Because she separated with the man. She divorced.

A: I'm sorry

## **Part 2B.**

B: You have a way of life and you are a child, you can't separate if the situation, you take it as a normal. Okay, so what I would remember, it's the big, maybe you have seen it, the soldier with the wings. Okay, it was a symbol.

A: Phoenix, Phoenix as Phoenix rises from the ash.

B: From the ash. Okay, that was a symbol. So we had it everywhere. We had it on the books. Inside when you were open in the first page, it was the Phoenix and with the soldier.

A: Interestingly enough, yesterday everybody mentioned this. (NAME) started laughing at us.

B: It was a symbol.

A: And when junta ended?

B: Tear off the pages, yeah. Every in the matchy box, matchy, matchy's boxes.

A: Matches, yes.

B: All to the public services offices, everywhere it was the army.

A: Soldier with the spear and the phoenix rising behind it.

B: But it was a symbol that us children we couldn't understand what was that or what was meaning. Okay, it was natural for us. We were open the book and we see the soldier. Go on, first page. So it was not something bad or weird to us. Okay, that was the one part. But or I remember like they couldn't go out all the hours in the night time. Okay, because they could arrest them every any time or to ask them or to ask them for papers. "Who are they", and if they were in a group for communists, they could arrest them without evidence, without witnesses, without nothing. And put them in the jail or to Giarros, you know the island.

A: Send them to... exile them.

B: Yeah. So things like that as a child, I couldn't have a complete

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B: Before this bad day of November 17th, my dad was ill. So he was in the hospital in the beginning that thought it was from his heart but finally, they found out it was his artery, blocked, completely. So he had an operation. But on the first 24 hours, he has complications.

A: Okay.

B: And they cut the leg.

A: Oh. Amputated.

B: His left leg. So those days, my mum was at the hospital next to him for many days. And the day of the, the, the, the story was on, my mum had very, very bad problems with her gynecological health issues. And she was in a clinic very near to the Polytechnical University on a street down there. So she could see and hear what exactly was happening. Because the tanks they were there. It was very noisy, very. The guns or the protesting people from the university with the groups that were on the streets, the tanks, the police, the army. Everything was down there like a film on her own eyes. She was on a side road, but she could see it. So this day, my brother had to be there to bring her some clothes and some pyjamas and underwear. And he had to go there. But he didn't know, you know, from a distance where we were living. He didn't know how serious it could be on the real time to be there. I was in a family home to some relatives, because I was 10 years, those days. So he decided to go to my mum.

A: Through the?

B: Through Athens, but Athens, it was like a fighting area, a war area. Because some stations, train station was blocked with wooden, the trees. They had stopped the trains to go. Some other streets they were closed from the army, some others from the police. He couldn't find a way to go to the clinic. It was very difficult to go around the area that everything was happening. So he could have, he should go through the real area. And that was very bad for him, because nobody could know that he was not involved with everything. He was going to my mum for a needing thing. So we didn't know what was happening, because those days we didn't have mobile phones and to contact with him. Only we knew that he was going to my mum. So afterwards, he came back home after midnight, maybe two o'clock. I remember that, because I was ten years old, shy, but I couldn't sleep. So my brother was 14 years old, four years older than me, those days. So he came back, and what I remember, he was like crying from the...

A: Tear gas?

B: Yes, he was crying. Very, very swollen eyes and red, and he couldn't face the light. He said, please switch off the light. I was inside everything. I could hear and see everything was happening. And I tried to escape from the corners and street by street to reach out the clinic, to go to mum. And that was a very, very sad for me, because it sounds to me like, "oh my god, what the war is happening here". You know, it was like in my childish ears, it was like a war in the city. War in the city. What's going on? And I remember the next two days, we didn't open the shutters because he couldn't face the daylight and the light. And then he was saying what he could see from a distance, of course, because he didn't go to the tank or to the gate, but he was on the very sides near around the area. And he could hear and see everything was happening. So it was a true story. It was not the fairy tale or a myth. It was a true story. And I have a very, very witness eyes to say.

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B: No, no, very serious. But then, on the second, that was happening on the 1973, on the 17th of November. But the year after, it was 1974 with Cyprus. So I had another experience with my eldest brother that he was in the army, 11 years older than me. So that means that he was 22, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22. And that August 1974, he got called to go to Cyprus to fight. And we were in a shock in the family, because my brother was going to Cyprus. But very soon, he had a problem with his knee. Very serious problem with his knee. And then he couldn't go and the last minute...



A: They called it off.

B: Yeah, he didn't go, but during these days, you know, that we had agony and stress that he was going to the island to fight with Turkish. And finally, they took the half of the island. That was the family things that I remember. And then, yes, it was not a good time of history for Greece.

A: Period?

B: Of course. Because this army, persons came and they changed the life for seven years for the people. And it's supposed to, that they were going the good for the people, giving them, you know, it was the economic boom. Or they were promising serious jobs in the public.

A: In the public sphere.

B: But you know, they were using people like approaching the taxi drivers, the bus drivers, the people they have a cafes and meet people, a group of people, to tell them who was belonging to the communism, or groups, to tell gossip about them so they have a...

A: So it was dangerous for them?

B: Yes. You didn't know that? Yes. No. And I remember that my dad was saying sometimes, but I didn't remember why. But afterwards, I was reading this history about them. Yes, they were approaching the people to get some information but promising them like benefits.

A: Mm-hmm. If they tell on the others.

B: In their works. You know, like taxi drivers, they were this benefit or this or this or the other. And they were promising benefits to get some information for the people they were on the left side.

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**Part 2C.**

A: Would you say that your family lived in fear at that time during junta? Were you scared or did you know if your mom was scared or your father?

B: You know, because also they were not free, you know, the television, it was only one channel. And again...

A: Two I think.

B: Maybe, I think in the beginning it was one. And then very short, then it came the second. But still we could see the soldier with the wings in the beginning, in the opening. And even in the radio, you know, it was forbidden, not the very professional channels, let's say. The other ones, the people.

A: State Channel.

B: Yes, it was forbidden.

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A: Would you say, in general, that apart from the health issues that your family suffered during junta?

B: No. I don't remember anything that they suffered.

A: So, not. Okay. They weren't any politically involved apart from your mom during the civil war.

B: But from this, from this what happened was I don't remember something bad. Like some police come to home and arrest my dad or my mom or having arguing with neighbors for political issues. No, I don't remember anything bad or actually I don't know.

A: How did you know back then that junta was bad?

B: Yes, everybody. Because you know we started to tear off the pages from the books.

A: So, you realized it after?

B: Sorry?

A: So, you realized it afterwards?

B: That it was something bad and they had in some way we were not free to express our thoughts, our minds, our beliefs. So, I learned it afterwards coming you know 13 years old, 15, 17 when I was growing up. I had more and more ideas from the friends and from family what was happening and from my brothers of course. Because they were telling their side that it was not because I remember my brothers that couldn't go out, free. It was only this I remember. But not does a bad thing like a rule, like a rule.

**Part 2E.**

B: Another thing I remember is they watching and control the lines of telecommunications, you know?

A: Phone-tapping?

B: So you couldn't speak free from your telephone because they were in control. They could hear what you were saying.

A: Did you, so what did your family do, if you remember?

B: I remember to say that, "eh, be careful what you say".

A: On the phone?

B: And even when my sister was sending, because she had a good life, when she moved to Alaska. And they, they made money with the business. And she wanted to send to my dad some money. And I remember because they control also the post. So she couldn't send money or anything. Only photographs. And they were sure they were opening the posts. They were sure. That they control them. And I remember after 74', my sister started to send some money to my family. Yes, I remember that. And also they control all the writings. The writers, the poets, the songs, everything was written.

A: So there was a big censorship?

B: Yes, they controlled everything. And if they had suspicious for someone. They could arrest him.

A: Lambrakides?

B: All, yeah, everything. This I remember also. For the control of the post and calls.

#### **Part 2F.**

A: Perfect. Do you, are there any memories? Direct memories, you have of junta? Polytexneio?

C: No, no, no. I don't know.

C: Only, only, only the television every day we see the, how is it?

B: After?

C: Not after. Papadopoulos. Every day in the television we see this face from Papadopoulos, and... Only him, only him. Nothing else. He speak in the parliament.

A: Perfect.

B: So they could hear only him, to announce.

C: And he speak like Hitler, exactly. The same voice exactly. That I remember.

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A: Now, towards the last parts. What have you learned about... Have you learned about junta from books from school? When did you learn about it? When did you found out junta? About junta?

C: After, after.

B: What did you hear?

C: From the books, from the school.

B: That was something.

C: We go every year in Polytexneio to put flowers with...

B: Remembrance Day, right?

C: Yes, to remember this day. And after that, for the television... Documentary?

B: What did you hear?

C: Freedom. After? After that

C: Like a bird. Like a bird. Very free, freedom.

B: You felt the people you mean?

C: We cut all the signs from the books.

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C: And it's like a... It's like a party the day. This day. I remember...I remember in school. Celebration this day.

A: Now... What do you believe has influenced your opinion about junta? What... What cause... What causes your opinion about junta to be that junta is bad?

B + C: There was no progress. It was like stop life for everybody. A big gap. Everybody was talking about

A: I still have to ask...

B + C: Everybody was talking about another, about democracy, not junta, they put them in the prison in island. You know?

A: Giarros?

B + C: Giarros, yeah. And Makronisos. So he remember that.

A: Now, uh... the last question. How do you view junta, still? Is it still bad? Still, do you think it's bad? Was there anything good about junta? From what you have learned?

C: Good? Yeah, one good thing I remember: they built new roads in Greece.

B + C: No. They were building the roads. New roads. Through these years. They build up a new road. So, he remembered it as a... a good thing of that part. No matter how they did it. Because they did it maybe in a sneaky way. But we didn't know that. So, we didn't know if it's... It's a true that it's a good part. But anyway. It's a kind of progress of those days. Like... Because, you know, there were only ground roads very old, and difficult to approach long distances and to connecting the towns and things like that. That's why he tells it's a good thing for the people.

### **Interview with Sofia and Sotiris, short version.**

A = Interviewer (Jan Roček)

B = Nicky

C = Nikos

#### **Part 3A.**

B: Okay. So, my opinion is that it was a very tragic and very bad moment in our history that left a lot of, let's say, trauma in Greek people. Still, there are families, there are people that refer to that period and have a difficult situation in their lives.

C: From what we know from history, it was a period, that is we know that it was not even done to solve some political issues. And we were left with what was the world at that time. Your freedoms were limited, some were imprisoned, some were persecuted, some fled Greece, some could not come to Greece. To us, personally, we don't know personally, we didn't live through it, we were too young to live, most of our memories are from the end 1973. You know, these we witnessed, because we were at school, we had pictures from the family, and that.

A: So, may I also, because I forgot...

B: Okay, here you go, follow the author.

A: General opinion, yes. Now, are there any particular memories that you have of junta?

B: My most vivid memories are at the end of junta. When there was a celebration in Athens, in all country, when really junta ended. I have very vivid memories of this period. Before that I have, let's say, occasional memories from people saying, please don't speak about it. I remember some special moments that this happened. I remember my godfather who suffered from this junta period. Because his father was exiled in an island. He felt very stressed because he was afraid for himself, for his brothers, for his little son and girl. And when some people talk about it, but very...

A: Quietly?

B: Yes, yes. He turned on the radio and decided to choose some songs that were patriotic, that was very popular that period in junta. Because they saw the idea that we are all patriots and we have to sing and dance only traditional Greek dances and songs and things like that. And he turned on the radio, picking this type of music so it was covered, the conversation between my godfather and my father, that he was asking: "what about your father? What the news do you have any news about your father?" He didn't want to talk about it. But there was nobody around. But there was an interior, let's say, a fear, that anybody can listen what they were saying. And the news was, I have no news, I know nothing about my father. But even that information was no information in real. It has to be covered because of the fear. I remember it. And I was asking my mother, why do we have this music? And she said, "you don't know how outside the play". She decided not to give me proper explanation. But I remembered this type of thing. But it was very okay. I don't really remember anything else. And also I remember that another incident is my father had an uncle who was in the army. But he was a very democratic person. And he was not cooperative with junta. That's why he was in, I don't remember the proper word. He was put aside because of this. But he was not in front of any party or any particular, let's say...

A: Organization?

B: Yes. He was not. But because of his... not be familiar with organization, he was put aside. And that was his wife was afraid that he was going to have consequences of this. And sometimes he was very, very sad. I also remember my aunt that she was very dark, person. And I was asking my father why uncle Barbara is so unhappy. And I remember having an answer: "It's difficult to explain why. Let's say that he's afraid that his husband is going to be away." That's the only answer. But later I understand what they were meaning. At this time I thought that he was a sad person. And I couldn't understand why. Later on I understand that because she was afraid that he is going to be in exile also. These are the memories that I can recall from, as a child, during junta.

A: Perfect.

B: Okay. The same question to (NAME)? Or do you have any clarification?

A: Generally I will not... I will put this radio. For example, I imagine. But I will more focus on the... I also have to add other. Sorry sorry.

B: Okay, okay. You are thinking... He is asking whether you have any direct memories of junta?

B + C: The first memory was when the whole family was in Preveza, so we were was characteristic left-wing. And everyone was frozen, as to what consequences would happen. I remember one day, my father was upset because the police seized all the weapons from the hunters (such as us). And they had to turn in all their guns. My father loved hunting but he had to turn in the guns to the police. I was born in 1964, and in 1970 I was six years old, we came to Athens, we didn't know anyone here. We didn't have any relatives anyone here. The climate was very strange, as if we were foreigners. And my

brother, who was the oldest, while attending a tutoring school or so, a medical student, his tutor, gave him various books of poems. When he brought it home, our father told him to hide them somewhere, so we had them hidden. Because the material was against junta. So that's what I remember. Also when my brother used to come home, he was excited because he heard about what was happening at the universities, and he also wanted to go to various gatherings in downtown Athens. I also remember him saying that my father was happy that his son was like that but he was also afraid and tried to keep it calm/relaxed.

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B: Older, and they were waiting for the... because there was rumors about junta's ending. So they were waiting for the moment and there was some information that what happened in Polytexneio and in law school previous days. They knew about it and they believed that something could come. So I remember my brother and his friends that were excited. And I couldn't at that time understand the vision. Because I was not old enough to understand the whole context but when I was meeting them I found it very exciting also. That's the only thing I remember at the end. There were not really my classmates but there were friends living in the same neighbourhood in the same neighbourhood. So I have memories of their excitement. And when really there was information that something happens in Polytexneio and my brother decided to go there to see what happens. And my father was very anxious and he followed him not to be alone at this moment. And very soon they came back because they understood that they couldn't do anything because they were young. They were not in whole team or party or something like that. They go some, let's say one kilometre before Polytexneio and they came back. And I remember my mother anxious about this, what will be going to happen, they are going to be back. But we don't really have information about what was happening at the time. Later on we learned incidents and all the things that happened. Not really all the truth but some information about the fact. That's my memory, not really with other classmates. We didn't discuss about it with my friends, let's say the same age.

A: For example your teacher's reactions?

B: After junta ended? They didn't really speak about it. The fear stayed longer. Some people decided, in schools, there are many, how do we call at the upper level of administration school. Not really teachers or others. But administration staff about schools. They were usually people that were, were close to the junta. And people felt that it was not so easy to come to another situation. They hold it, their reactions until they felt safe to speak about it. For a long period they were not speaking about what happened. I don't remember incidents of school saying that junta ended. We were celebrating outside school but inside school was silence. I don't remember. I don't know. We didn't discuss it.

B + C: The same happened to (NAME).

C: Because in the primary school, there were mostly small children who were not bothered by junta. When we returned back home, however, it was different. When junta ended, the day of Polytexneio, my older brother who was downtown in Athens, and my other brother who worked next to Polytexneio. They came back home and told us all the information about what happened. That's what I remember from these days. It was Thursday, the last class, we went back home, there were some sayings (rumours) about Papadopoulos and junta. And one man approached us, when we were small kids outside, in our neighbourhood, we were saying "Papadopoulos is down" and he went and found my father and told him to be careful for us, kids. And I remember we had a radio at home with special news broadcast from the students about Polytexneio. And the climate outside, when people were talking about the fall of junta, changed the atmosphere at our home. One more I remember, is about my two brothers during the last days of junta. They went out and created a spray from AJAX, they filled it with color, and sprayed some slogans on the wall. When they returned back home, our parents saw they, they immediately threw away those painted clothes so that no one would see the stains on the clothes. This is what I remember from this period. There were gatherings after that, that we went to.

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B + C: And also, before Polytechnio, there was when there was a huge parade in Athens. There was, ehm, what we're doing in, when people die?

A: Funeral?

B: There was a funeral but 40 days after, there is a memorial. This was memorial of the death four years after.

A: Yes.

B: Yes, there was a memorial parade, not parade. There was memorial moment, but not 40 days after the death of the politician, that was the prime-minister.

A: Papandreou?

B: Papandreou. The older one.

A: The father of Andreas!

B + C: And during this memorial, the first cemetery of Athens, crowd gathered, we came inside, it was Sunday, my dad brought the three of us, and there were many people. It was a symbolic gathering because he was a democrat. And this moment happened during junta. When he died.

A: What year was it?

C: 1972.

B + C: Before junta fell. We sang the national anthem, and then the police came started arresting. So we had to quickly escape. My father was afraid. This was one of the first direct memories I have of junta. When we got back home, our mom understood where we were, and she was yelling at our dad, she was screaming, why did he take the boys there. And yeah, after that was the uprising at the law school. It was the first attempt of student to overthrow the regime. It is still confusing because we were very small. But these are my first memories of junta.

A: You couldn't understand it that much because you were small.

C: Yes, then, when I read about it, after junta, it got a whole new meaning.

### **Part 3C.**

B: Not the same, because my father and my mother were not so openly communists, like his father and his mother. They were democrats, they were close to communists, but they were not communists. And even later, even late. They didn't, I don't believe that my father ever voted KKE. I know that his father was, he was always voted KKE. Yes, it was very clear. In my family was not the case. They were late, they were voted PASOK, they were democrats, they never voted right wing parties.

A: New Democracy?

B: Yes, never, never. But somehow, they were close to communism, but not really openly communists.

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B: Yes, he was exiled, the father of my godfather was exiled. Yes, yes, but I don't know details about it. I don't even know what a specific island was it. Because they were, they were silent about it. He didn't even want people to know about it because he had, he was selling shoes, my godfather. And he was afraid that even clients wouldn't come to his shop because his father was in an island. So, he preferred not to discuss about it, in case it might affect his business. So, I know about it because of these moments. I don't really know everything, anything more about it. Other people in my family or my surrounding context, there were not really any special consequences because of junta. My family and my friends, etc. were all people that were not in the front of resistance.

A: So, you wouldn't say that your family suffered?

B: No, they didn't.

A: Your family was doing fine?

B: Nobody of my close circle, they were not suffering because they had the jobs. But they kept silent resistance, not exactly when the word resistance is not okay.

A: Opposition?

B: Opposition. They tried not to be in the front. So, they were not suffering with this. Sometimes they were surprised when they think that people might have so serious consequences because of their beliefs and their actions. But they didn't have the real examples of the close people that were in the front of it. The same, I think, happened to (NAME). Did you have someone like that?

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B: I don't think there was a... I don't even recall that we had a very great discussion about it. But all of... all the members of my close family were against junta. If we agree that this uniform stance, I could say yes in that way. But not really... I know people that because they had the incidents that people of their family suffered from this, they were very affected. In our case, there was a very general... let's say, a scent of this was of what people suffered. And they were... surely against it, because they...afterwards learned what happened exactly. Even my parents and all the people of my family, they... even... they didn't know exactly what happened in jails and in exiles. Later on, they found out that was really hell, in these places.

A: What? Affected, what made your opinion about junta like this, in that case.

B: Because later on, I read about it. I saw documentaries. I saw films. I spoke with people. I know. And now I have communicated with people that suffered from junta. And there, I know a very famous writer that he can even stand to his body because of the...beatings. So, later on, we understood that what we believed that some people are in jails that was... there was not just in jail. But they were a beaten very cruelly.

A: When did you start understanding, that junta was bad?

C: A little before Polytexneio, when the family became more open.

B: I was informed later on.

C: At the moment, my brother's tutor from university informed him of some people, real people, that were in jail. So we had information that people we knew, were in jail.

B: But, in our case, never happened this information. Never had this information that (NAME) is in jail. Later on, we found out for various people around that, where they had problems. (NAME) earlier than me, at the occasions, because of his brother, that the friends were in jail. And they knew about what happened there. Not only that they were in jail. That was, bad conditions.

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B + C: Not only older student had their organisations against junta. Even students at high school. Or even at the first classes of high school. They were organized and had certain actions, and gatherings, and group, how do we say, activities?

### **Part 3D.**

B: We went to cinema a lot, mostly with my father, because my mother always had to do job at home. But my father, whenever he had spare time, in the afternoon, or Sundays, Saturdays, we went to the movies. And it was very usual at the period. Many cinemas around our home. We can just walking, to



go to cinema. And I remember that we were laughing a lot, and we preferred to choose comedies because of the general climate. The comedies was, were very familiar at the time.

A: So there were comedies?

B: Greek comedies. And I remember laughing a lot with these comedies at the cinema. And also theatre. But the theatre was not, I remember my father saying, what to see during this period. Because there was, the political term...

A: Propaganda? Censorship?

B: Censorship, that's the word. And so the plays were in the theatre, that was not a real place to see, so we decided not to go to theatre very often.

### **Part 3E.**

B +C: We came from Preveza initially. And we came there for leisure, to meet people of the general family. And on Sundays, we'd go to walk in the mountains, no hunting. Just walking and... And we'd play with our neighbours kids. We spent lot of time in the neighbourhood, because there was not a lot of traffic. In Metaxurgeio, where I grew up, and in Ambelokipi, where (NAME) was, we played at the road. But there was no traffic. So we played with balls. With other children in the roads, and it was free for all of us. But we didn't have an affection because of junta. We played outside and we enjoyed our time as children. If you didn't have any incident in your house, as a child, you felt free. To enjoy time, and have friends, and do things.

A: Would you say there was no difference as you said that roads were free, like empty?

B: Yes, they were empty because there was no traffic, not because of junta.

A: Yes, but after junta?

B: After junta because many people came in Athens and new cars were bought by my majority of people. This time, year by year, changed, and we had to go only to places like around churches or open places and have space to play. Otherwise you didn't know when I was 15 let's say we didn't play at the road.

A: Do you believe that you were ever slightly nostalgic of junta, or do you view it as a purely negative period?

B: In a way, because I was a child, I have also very good memories. Because of my family, relatives, friends, etc. So I have connected that period with negative things, because I was a child. Only if I think as an elder people, I can match this period with negative things. Otherwise, I believe it's part of my childhood. Like others, like earlier or even a bit later from that. In a way we were affected in the ideological... Because at the very first ages when you were grown up, we started learning things that were affected our conception of the world. So in a way it was an affection of that, but not a negative one. I think it's okay to have to be problematized about what the government means, what the junta means, etc. And we started liking very much, singers, composers, actors that at this time they were exiled. They had consequences because of their beliefs, of their actions, of their habits. And it was a very good educational memory because of this. And when they continue studying and going to university, we had memories of that period that was a very... How do you say? Excitement, because of this. I think that later on, gone. But at this time it was great. We were all... We were thinking that we can change the world. Let's say it's a utopia, but at that time we believed that we can. That's why when we were students at the school of librarianship, and (NAME) was in the party in the KKE. At that time. He was very active. I was not, but I was close to that. I took part in an activity that we do all the other students. Okay. For (NAME)?

A: Yes, please.

B + C: No. Because I was very small, and didn't see it that way. Those were my childhood years.

A: Would you then say that those were your happy years when you were a kid?

B + C: I can not tell. We came from our home in Preveza. We were not happy. We didn't have friends. I can not tell, I was very happy. I was sad because of leaving Preveza, not because of junta.

A: And I believe this is the last part or the last question. What was your or your family's reaction? I think we also covered it in the beginning. But what was your reaction when junta ended?

B: It was a celebration. Because again, at that time, I couldn't really have the sense what we were celebrating exactly. But the feeling was very liberating for all people. They felt that they were now they can free to choose whatever they like to do. And that sense affected our emotions, our feelings about what is happening. I remember, that people gather together, they open the music that they like to listen to. Dancing, drinking and having fun because of the new reality. But that exactly was a moment in all climates. Because very soon we realized that nothing really changed for us. But the feeling was still good. And people are starting making plans, bringing them about the future. And that affected also us, as a student.

A: You said that you realized that nothing really changed for you?

B: Yes. For our family, nothing really changed. Because our job, our father's reality, their life was the same. Nothing really happened. For us, it was the same. But gradually there were liberties that we didn't have in the past. In the way we behaved at school, we had to wear very strict, very long dresses, etc. To wear certain clothes as white colors. Something that gradually gone away. So if junta stayed for longer, there might be something like Argentina. I was watching a documentary film about Argentina that says that there is the highest percentage of psychiatrists, per person, around the world, in Argentina. And the person who's doing the research tried to find why that happens. And they believe that it's a common trauma for all people in Argentina because of the long periods of junta. Very long ones. How many years in Argentina?

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B + C: At home, we were happy, there was music. Compared to the previous years, at that time, they all started and they were starting, narrating things from the past. After that period, because, they felt free to discuss what was really happening. There were new discussions comparing things and saying what really happened during junta. And what's the situation after junta? And what's the role of Karmanlis? They started in their family, in the discussions in their family, to communicate and discuss deeper about these things. Something that didn't happen in the past, people tried to be silent during junta. After that, they started to discuss openly with their father. The father was open then to discuss. And he said openly about Karmanlis, it's not so good, because many of his...under him, are stil... Yes, they started to talk about Karmali. After Huda, there was a vote about, yes or no, to kingship.

A: Monarchy?

B + C: Monarchy, an open one, just who's in favour of monarchy or not. And there was a very strange decision at the time, because people felt that monarchy is the only solution, in general, that was the propaganda. Against the monarchy the voting ended.

B: That's the same sense that I discussed earlier, that we start thinking more politically. What monarchy means? Why do my father and my mother have to vote in favor or against monarchy? And what's the the consequences of this decision?

A: The consequences, yes.

B: And we started learning things about how the government is working. How we can have the power as people through voting, of course, to change things. Something that that period was not in our thinking. We believed as children that something outside decides who's governing a country. But at that time we started realizing that we have the power to change things through voting. And in cases where no voting exists, exists, we can have the power to rebel and change it.

A: Okay. Referendum, I want to say.

B: Yeah. Ah, yes, he tries to find the percentage of the voting against the monarchy. I remember, I remember my mother asking why we are what's the difference for us if we have or not having a a king. We don't feel it. There is a king but how affects our lives. I remember people that were not deep thinkers about what the monarchy is.

C: 70% against.

A: Against.

B: I remember that it was a great discussion of the period. I remember having lunch that Sunday when the voting was ending. And people saying cheers. Away, King! Celebrating. That the monarchy was down because of voting.

A: And this was 74, 75?

C: 1974.

B: Just after the Polytechnio.

C: It was the first time people went out of the houses and gather in the streets and gather in Syntagma.

A: I believe this is it, for now. Thank you for the interview.