

URBAN VIOLENCE

## THE GREEK EXPERIENCE

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## SHORT OVERVIEW OF URBAN VIOLENCE IN GREECE



- Occasions that may trigger Urban Violence.
- \* Results of Urban Violence.
- Groups Involved in Urban Violence.
- \* The "causes" of violence.
- \* The weapons of urban violence.
- Internet Perceptions of Urban Violence.
- Case study: The exploitation of the Internet by individuals.

# OCCASIONS THAT MAY TRIGGER URBAN VIOLENCE

- Anniversary of the uprising against dictatorship (17 Nov 1973).
- Memory day of the shooting of a teenager by a policeman (06 Dec 2008).
- Party at a hangout of antiauthoritarians.
- Social or professional protests (anti-fa protests by ethnic groups, locals protesting against a construction in their area, fired ship yard workers, farmers for delayed allowances, cleaning-women for the reduction of their wages, etc).

### RESULTS OF URBAN VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

- Disruption of Traffic
- No access to a city area (usually the city center)
- \* Damages or destruction of public or private
  - property
- \* Human Injuries and deaths



#### GROUPS INVOLVED IN URBAN VIOLENCE

- Protesting citizens
- Cultural or political minority groups
- Residents and passers-by
- \* The Police

(The violence might occur between any of them.)



## THE INSTIGATORS

Is it the protestors?







## THE INSTIGATORS



#### THE "CAUSES" OF VIOLENCE.

- × Various and complex.
- Reaction to authority, to rules and measures that are not beneficial for a group.
- Ideological reasons. Standing up for what is right. (for whom?)
- Stress and tension (training and discipline of riot police cannot always over win the human nature).
- Mimicry of people seeking for an identity and acceptance by their peers.
- Despair (economic and social crisis)?

#### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTIGATORS





#### THE WEAPONS OF URBAN VIOLENCE.

- Used by the police:
- Physical violence (batons, shields, kicks)
- Teargas
- - Water
- Used against the police:
  - Physical violence (wooden and metallic rods, punches, kicks)



- Anything that can be thrown (rocks, marbles, chairs, oranges)
  - Fireworks
  - Paint
  - Molotov bombs



#### INTERNET PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN VIOLENCE



#### INTERNET PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN VIOLENCE





# PERCEPTION OF URBAN VIOLENCE FROM THE INTERNET



### A "MILD" CASE.

- The exploitation of the Internet by individuals.
- Video titled "A citizen vindicates his right to watch the parade." published on 24 Mar 2013
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=D4F0rtpYAf0&app=desktop



### A "MILD" CASE.

- On the same day there were articles on different websites and blogspots about the movement protesting about the security measures and the police warding them off with their shields
- \* e.x. <a href="http://stoxasmos-politikh.blogspot.gr/2013/03/blog-post\_1349.html">http://stoxasmos-politikh.blogspot.gr/2013/03/blog-post\_1349.html</a>
- \* http://www.axortagos.gr/entasi-sto-sintagma-prosixthi-grammateas-tou-kinimatos-tis-spithas-gav.html

Κυριακή, 24 Μαρτίου 2013

Ενταση στο Σύνταγμα – Προσήχθη ο γραμματέας του κινήματος της «Σπίθας», Γαβριήλ Πελεκίδης

Δείτε το video: "<u>Παρέλαση τραγέλαφος! Έκαναν τη μπάντα του δήμου «τείχος» για να μη</u> βλέπουν οι δημοσιογράφοι!"

Ένταση σημειώθηκε νωρίτερα στο Σύνταγμα, όταν περίπου τριάντα μέλη του κινήματος «Σπίθα» προσπάθησαν να προσεγγίσουν τα κιγκλιδώματα που στήθηκαν ενόψει της μαθητικής παρέλασης.

Το αποτέλεσμα ήταν οι άνδρες των ΜΑΤ να επέμβουν και να απωθήσουν με τις ασπίδες τους τα μέλη του κινήματος, ενώ λίγο αργότερα προσήχθη ο γραμματέας της «Σπίθας», Γαβριήλ Πελεκίδης, καθώς διαμαρτυρόταν για τα δρακόντεια μέτρα ασφαλείας.



προσήχθη ο γραμματέας της Σπίθ.

## A "MILD" CASE.

- \* The same movement appeared the next day on March 25<sup>th</sup>, during the military parade, sharing real time photos on the internet and by this way inviting people to join.
- http://press-gr.blogspot.nl/2013/03/blog-post\_633.html



## A "MILD" CASE

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the same person that had published the video the previous day, published new ones called

"Wrangle between citizens and the police" and

"Fray between Spitha members and the Hellenic Police"

on Youtube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zq00-RcRzIQ
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1ZDX-fzv2o
)

#### CONCLUSIONS

- The internet is used not only to spread the word about protest rallies and marches but also to create impressions to the citizens and attract them to such demonstrations.
- Sometimes conflict is not only the purpose of anonymous youth wanting to confront the police, but it can also be used by people seeking publicity, and the disorder might be staged in order to be filmed and published on social media, thus serving other purposes.

Thank you for your attention!



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