

# Syriza in Power

Reflections of an Accidental Politician

polity

Costas Douzinas

What happens when a government of the Left, committed to social justice and the reversal of austerity, is blackmailed into following policies it has fought against and strongly opposes? What can the experience of the Syriza government tell us about the prospects for the Left in the 21st century?

Amidst the turmoil of economic crisis, Greece has become the first European experiment of Left rule in a sea of neoliberalism.

In this engaging and provocative book, Costas Douzinas uses his position as an 'accidental politician', unexpectedly propelled from academia into the world of Greek politics as a Syriza MP, to answer these urgent questions. Weaving together theoretical insights as a leading radical thinker with his inside knowledge of events and personalities, he examines the challenges facing Syriza since its ascent to power in 2015 and draws out the theoretical and political lessons from one of the boldest and most difficult experiments in governing from the Left in an age of austerity.

Examining issues ranging from the coup against the Syriza government to the impact of the refugee crisis, from Grexit to Brexit and the future of Europe, this timely book will be of immense importance to anyone seeking to understand the Greek struggle and its implications for resistance, politics and culture in the contemporary world.

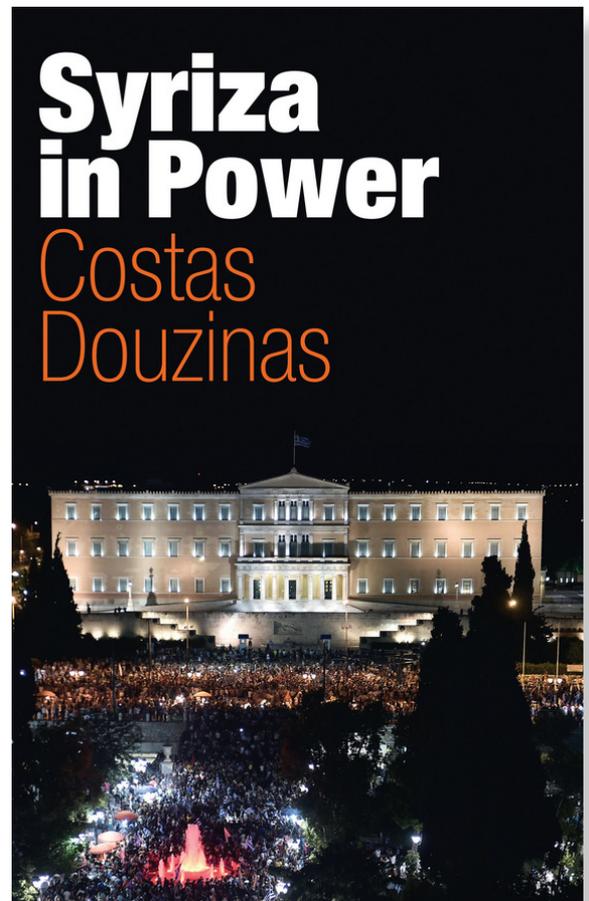
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*"What a rare and wonderful book! By turns ironic, tragic, caustic and moving, Syriza in Power is essential reading for serious leftists everywhere."*

Wendy Brown, University of California, Berkeley

*"While the Syriza government elected in 2015 in Greece was teaching the world a lesson of courage and fidelity, Costas Douzinas, its 'professor elect', is teaching a lesson of lucidity, intelligence, and imagination. Above all, he makes it plain that, in the darkest hour, history is not finished because the resistance is rooted in the life and ideals of the people itself."*

Étienne Balibar, Kingston University



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