The main Greek political parties

New Democracy, also known by its initials ND, is the main conservative party. It was founded after the fall of the military dictatorship by the former and in 1974 acting Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis. It governed the country 1974–81 (Prime Ministers Konstantinos Karamanlis and George Rallis), 1990–93 (Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis) and 2004–09 (Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, nephew of the founder).

The **Panhellenic Socialist Movement**, known by its initials PASOK, was founded after the fall of the military dictatorship by Andreas Papandreou in September 1974. In 1981 it became the first social democratic party to win a majority in Parliament. It governed the country 1981–89 (Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou), 1993–96 (Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou), 1996–2004 (Prime Minister Costas Simitis) and 2009–11 (Prime Minister George Papandreou, son of the founder).

The **Coalition of the Radical Left Unified Social Front**, known by its acronym SYRIZA, is a left-wing party representing various groups with different left ideologies, critical of or hostile to Greece's membership of the European Union. In parliamentary elections up to 2012 the party won around 5% of the vote. In the June 2012 elections it increased its share to just under 22% of votes polled and became the main opposition party.

Democratic Left, known by its initials DIMAR, was founded on 27 June 2010 by a group that disagreed with the anti-European policy of SYRIZA. Its political position is thus socialist and pro-European. In the June 2012 elections it won 17 seats out of 300, with 6.3% of the vote.

The **Popular Orthodox Rally**, LAOS, was a radical right-wing nationalist and populist party represented in Parliament in 2007 and 2009. In the 2012 elections it was out-distanced by two other radical right-wing parties, the Golden Dawn and the Independent Greeks, which were far more aggressive. It failed to secure any seats in Parliament and was largely abandoned.