

Part V

Lessons from Greece

It is important to ask, nonetheless, what are the chances of survival of polarized politics. Surely, this variety of multipartism is an unhealthy state of affairs for a body politic. A political system characterized by centrifugal drives, irresponsible opposition, and unfair competition is hardly a viable system. Immoderate and ideological politics is conducive either to sheer paralysis or to a disorderly sequence of ill-calculated reforms that end in failure. This does not necessarily imply that the polarized polities are doomed to impotence and, ultimately, to self-destruction. They are, however, hardly in a position to cope with explosive or exogeneous crises.

Giovanni Sartori, *Parties and Party Systems*