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“Democracy and Crisis, Democracy as Crisis: Will Carl Schmitt meet modern Greece?”

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Abstract and keywords

This essay focuses on the current crisis of the political system and democracy in Greece, following the breakout of the global financial crisis in 2008, using the Schmittian theory about democracy, liberalism and parliamentarism. We will borrow fundamental

concepts and arguments from Carl Schmitt in order to investigate if the central political choices of the last six years are consistent with fundamental democratic principles or lean towards conservatism. We will use abstracts of parliamentary speeches from various occasions and interviews and we will make a brief case study on the referendum of 2015. In conclusion, it is suggested that in the case of modern Greece, political liberalism is closer to Schmittian conservatism, leading the whole political system towards an authoritarian direction, and that the danger for democracy actually comes from this turn.

Keywords: Carl Schmitt, Greece, crisis, democracy, conservatism.