



TITLE INFORMATION

GO FAR, GIVE BACK, LIVE GREEK

George E. Danis
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BOOK REVIEW

Danis, an immigrant and entrepreneur, shares his story and vision for America's future in this debut memoir.

Born into an impoverished family in rural Greece, the author recalls that the objective of his childhood education was to "read, write, and understand why Greece was the cradle of Western civilization." And while the idyllic natural beauty of Greece, with its olive trees and clear ocean waters, is noted in the book, of greater import is the author's recollections of the impacts of the country's early-20th-century military conflicts on his family—from his father's service in the 1912 uprising against the Ottoman Empire through the two world wars. The author, a recipient the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, initially immigrated to the United States illegally ("There was only one place I wanted to go," Danis reflects on his early years; "America"), and would go on to become the CEO of Plastic Molding Manufacturing. Blended into the book's inspirational rags-to-riches personal story is the author's political commentary on contemporary America. Danis' political takes are not only informed by his experiences as an immigrant and entrepreneur but also by decades spent as a political fundraiser and advisor to politicians. His relationship with fellow Greek-American Michael Dukakis plays a prominent role in the book, with an entire chapter devoted to his position on the finance committee of the Democratic presidential candidate's campaign. A key facet of Danis' political vision is the concept of "Living Greek," which emphasizes community, effecting local change, and "offering your support to people who need it." Allowing that some readers may label his proposals "socialism" considering his emphasis on issues including climate change and closing tax loopholes for the wealthy, Danis carefully avoids the incendiary, partisan rhetoric commonplace in today's political commentary. Instead, the book's optimistic approach emphasizes the author's belief that "America's strength has always come from her willingness to take in those in need of refuge." Written in a conversational style that offers candid assessments of his early struggles, this is a gripping story that highlights the best aspects of the American Dream.

Both a motivational memoir and probing commentary on American politics.

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