

## **Do We Need a Change of Foreign Policy in Greece?**

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We live in interesting, albeit dangerous times. Some countries are condemned by geography to play a pivotal role in the history of their region and of the world. One such country is Greece which is the entry country into the Continent of Europe.

Although not the oldest civilisation, Greek civilisation, because of the make up of the country and its very extensive exposure to the sea, became the first civilisation to spread to the known world. The Greeks have formed colonies all over the Mediterranean where they grafted their language and customs which endured until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and not only in Europe where, one may legitimately say that shares the same civilisation, but also in Egypt (Alexandria), Syria and Turkey whose coast was originally inhabited by Greeks.

Apart from geography, however, other factors such as the size and the homogeneity (*ομοιογένεια*) of the population play a pivotal role in maintaining a country's importance, especially to-day. With the climatic cosmogonic changes and the unprecedented movement of populations from climate or war vulnerable countries, states of the European Union, North America and Australia are in danger of being swamped by alien civilisations, culturally highly incompatible with the natives. The numbers are so high and the protection afforded to multiculturalism by international conventions so very much, that assimilation is no longer possible.

In recent years with the increase of Mohametanism in its more belligerent form financed by Saudi Arabia, the whole of Europe is under threat. I

personally suspect that this is the aim of Turkey, whose ambition and not so secret policy is to become the leader of the Muslim world and revive the Caliphate. Since 2016 Turkey is controlling an area of 3.500 km<sup>2</sup> in northern Syria, which includes Afrin, Jarabulus and Hierapolis. Turkey supports the creation of "a safe zone of 30-40 km. in North Syria where it proposes to transfer a great number of the 4.0 mil. Syrians who Turkey claims that they are now refugees in Turkey. Ankara will undertake to build new, modern townships. In reality Erdoğan's proposal aims to clear the area on the North of Syria along its borders, to separate forcibly the Kurdish area between Turkey and Syria and the local population to abandon their land and become refugees. Turkey plans to send these refugees to Europe, although Turkey gets paid by the EU in order to keep them in place but, despite payment, Turkey facilitates them to cross to Europe by sea or by land, using the money from Europe to populate the safe zone in north Syria with fanatical Sunni Arabs and Turks which are enemies of the local Kurds, Yazidi and Alevites living there for centuries. Thus Turkey acquires a huge strip of Syria populated by friendly population, and confines its own Kurdish population within the Turkish borders with no escape when Turkey is ready to exterminate them by sending in the Army.

Greece being the gate to Europe is the first European country that is in danger of being overwhelmed by immigrants from the East and also from Africa. The flow has already started. This combined with the steady reduction of its indigenous population exacerbated by immigration due to the dire economic situation suffered by Greece and made worse by the very hard economic measures imposed by its European allies, transforms Greece into the Trojan Horse of Europe.

The situation becomes worse when we take a look into developments within Greece. Turks have managed to become the dominant Muslim minority within Greece through the systematic policy of Turkey, incorporating the Pomacs and the Romany and recently forming a Turkish Party (D.E.B. – Friendship, Equality and Peace Party, the old party of Ahmet Sadic) which at some future elections will field its own candidates for the Greek Parliament nationwide, perhaps jointly with the Rainbow party, composed of believers in a Slavic Macedonia. The worst case scenario in this case is for the D.E.B. to become the balancer of the Greek Parliament as happened with the Turkish Party in Bulgaria.

Add to this the firm and diachronic policy of Turkey to control the Aegean and its wish “to penalise” Greece for being the first country to win its independence from the Turkish Empire, its plans which are no secret to become the major power of the region, its expenditure of huge amounts on armaments and nuclear energy stations which at some stage soon will allow Turkey to produce a nuclear device, and its openly expressed policy, supported by its superior military prowess, to become the main beneficiary of the underwater exploration of hydro carbonates and natural gas in Eastern Mediterranean, it is abundantly clear that Greece has no alternative but to effect changes to its strategic dogma and military policies which may have served her well in the past, but now require updating.

To continue with the dangers to Greece -

Albania, encouraged by the separation of Kosovo from Serbia, imposed by the West and its recognition by major powers, is now in the process of expansion, dreaming of becoming a greater Albania, making life difficult to its Greek minority, refusing to honour agreements with Greece and is in the process of raising claims against Greece in international fora on behalf of Chams (Τσάμηδες) claiming the whole of Thesprotia.

Another factor that has to be taken seriously into consideration is the effectiveness of NATO to-day, which in view of the evolving strategic global situation is becoming out-dated. We are now seeing its slow demise. After the end of the Cold War NATO has become irrelevant. And no matter how the American deep state wish to revive the confrontation between the West and Russia, NATO is now a dead horse.

Did the West go to war when Russia recognised Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia or when it deprived Ukraine of Crimea?

Which NATO country, except Turkey for its own reasons, is prepared to go to war to-day for a third country? I think none. Yugoslavia cannot be repeated and neither can the Arab Spring. Both experiments have proved disastrous and their effects can be seen to-day – Syria, Libya, etc.

What was achieved by the Arab Spring is to strengthen in most Arab countries the hold of the Muslim Brotherhood which has its headquarters in Turkey, controls the recognised government of Libya and has a huge following in Egypt and in most Sunni Arab countries, except perhaps Saudi Arabia. Turkey is supporting the government of Libya with money and armaments and in exchange is demanding agreement on the EEZ. If this materialises, Greece's EEZ in the South of Crete is almost halved.

This new situation, requires new commitments, new thinking and a new approach.

How can a small country such as Greece and in this respect we should put into the picture Cyprus because together with Greece they acquire depth and their effectiveness is multiplied geometrically, maintain or even enhance their importance, increase their power, earn the respect

of their allies and, at the same time, maintain peace on their terms, avoiding Finlandisation which is the least aim and plan of Turkey for Greece and subjugation which is the declared policy of Turkey for Cyprus.

In my view Greece should take the following steps.

First, it should have a strategic plan based on the realities of to-day which should be firmly adhered to.

Secondly, Greece should extend its territorial waters to ten miles so that they be compatible with the national air space. Too much energy and money is spend "defending" our air space. Despite the fact that Turkey has said that extending the territorial waters is a "cause for war" (casus Belli) we must extend the territorial waters without any further delay. It is very doubtful whether Turkey will declare war or even proceed with the capture of an island or two. This will be a clear violation of an international right and will be squarely condemned by the EU and indeed the U.N. In any case our military experts maintain that at present Greece has the capacity to repel or strike back successfully if Turkey attempts to attack the mainland or even invade an island. Further, if Turkey makes an attempt, even if successful, and we strike back, Erdoğan will no doubt be toppled. His enemies await such a move, and, he knows it. He is too clever to risk a war. But even if he does, Turkey, and Erdoğan, will suffer a devastating blow to their prestige.

If such a situation develops the EU cannot remain indifferent, will side with Greece and will be obliged to impose sanctions on Turkey. Also the United States.

To-day, Congress and the Senate in the United States realise that Turkey is no longer a reliable ally. However, the deep state finds it convenient to have Turkey in NATO because it believes, wrongly, that Turkey will fight NATO's (and America's) wars. This is wishful thinking. Turkey will always act according to its own interests. After all, we all know Turkey as the "Evasive Neutral" (επιτήδειος ουδέτερος).

Eventually, and I personally believe that it will be sooner rather than later, the United States will be forced to abandon Turkey. With modern warfare developing as it does it is no longer necessary to rely on unreliable allies.

Greece has always been a loyal ally of the United States. This is recognized by the great majority of the Greek people. The relationship goes back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when substantial numbers of Greeks emigrated to the States for a better future. A long term agreement with the United States covering Souda Bay, the foremost Base in the Mediterranean together with other bases and facilities in Greece coupled with a base in Cyprus, is a full substitute for Turkey and for the facilities which Turkey offers. Apparently such a policy is being followed and both parties are proceeding with its formulation and implementation.

Greece with Cyprus is slowly but steadily developing a close relationship with Israel, Egypt and the other countries of the region and this relationship, based on the common interest for the wealth of the Mediterranean in natural gas and hydro carbonates should develop into an alliance which will counter balance the power of Turkey. Turkey does not recognise the Montego Bay Agreement on the Law of the Sea and wants to extend its EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone – AOZ) to our, and our neighbours detriment. Greece should avoid substantial discussions on the

issue with Turkey, even if pressed, before it has taken the steps outlined above. There should only be contacts between officials when there are accidents or misunderstandings in order to smooth things over. It was a dangerous initiative for the Prime Minister to meet Erdoğan in New York. The previous meeting in Athens between Erdoğan and Tsipras was a disaster and it opened the bag of Aeolus. This was made worse when Minister of Foreign Affairs Katrougalos met Çavuşoğlu in Turkey in early July of this year, and felt obliged to offer to Turkey "συνδιαχείριση". Thank God the meeting between Erdoğan and Mitsotakis did not advance beyond formalities. Talks beyond the obvious between neighbours are not required at this stage. We don't claim anything from Turkey – they claim everything from us. And given the latest statements of Çavuşoğlu in the Greek Press and in the U.N. and of Erdoğan when addressing the U.N., Turkey interprets a win-win situation as "what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine".

We should meet Erdoğan only when we implement the strategy outlined, declare our EEZ and if Turkey does not agree with the demarcations then we should apply to the International Court or to international arbitration in order to solve the only dispute we have with Turkey in a civilised and neighbourly way. If Turkey refuses, will it declare war? Will anyone support Turkey? International law creates obligations and responsible states are not, in my opinion, ready to ignore it.

A few words about the Cyprus problem and the proposed new talks.

Let me say at the start that Cyprus was very lucky when the talks at Crans-Montana broke down. I believe that President Anastasiades with the assistance of Kotzias realised at the last moment the trap and drew back.

Çavuşoğlu was ready to accept that the Turkish army withdraws completely from Cyprus within a number of years.

Be that as it may, the new talks that are being now promoted by the Secretary - General and his staff, are completely unacceptable.

Turkey has since the last round of talks hardened its negotiating position and demands (a) specific timetable and if no agreement is reached then it implies that the North part will declare independence, (b) equality in everything, i.e. the rights of the 18% Turks to equal the rights of the 80% of Greeks, (c) the continued guarantee of Turkey for the protection of the Turkish Cypriots, (d) equal rights of the two federal states to the hydro carbonates and natural gas of the Cypriot EEZ, (e) both parties to have equal say and decide together on the extractions from the EEZ.

Further, I suspect, with good reason, that if an agreement is reached, Turkey will demand from the central government of Cyprus the money that it has spent all these years supporting the North. Turkey even charges for the water it supplies the North. Also Turkey will demand that we limit our EEZ in favour of Turkey. In this case the EEZ of Cyprus cannot be joined with the EEZ of Greece and Egypt and Castellorizo will be lost for Greece – it will go to Turkey.

Finally, and most important, Turkey does not recognize the (Greek) Government of Cyprus and has a funny theory about a possible agreement. According to Turkey the two communities will come together and form a new state (Parthenogenesis). This clears Turkey of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus, the murder of thousands of Greeks, the ethnic cleansing and the forceful deportation of over 200,000 Greeks from their homes. Further, it legitimises the hundreds of thousands

of illegal immigrants sent on purpose to Cyprus so that the ratio of the population be altered to the advantage of the Turks. It is a well known fact that the illegal Turkish immigrants are now more than the Turkish Cypriots and together with the Turkish army control the illegal state.

This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. So long as Turkey does not recognise the Cyprus Republic there should not be any talks.

My proposal for Cyprus is that the Cyprus government should amend the present constitution in order to become a modern functional Constitution. The minority rights are to be protected with specific provisions but no more.

Otherwise in a few years Cyprus will be unable to resist first Finlandisation and secondly complete subjugation to Turkey. Greek Cypriots will eventually be forced to emigrate as Greeks were forced to leave Turkey in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

