



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών  
«Ο Στράβων»

## SLEEPWALKERS

Beyond Ten years ago the book of Christopher Clark “The Sleepwalkers”, how Europe drifted into the First World War made a sensation for its insights, readability, sense of history.

Nowadays, the West at the initiative of a part of American and British establishment risks sleepwalking on Ukraine with possibly devastating repercussions for all. History teaches that seldom there is a lesson from History. The decision of President Biden to give the green light to Zelensky government in Kiev to launch US made missiles to hit deep into the Russian soil, is severely escalatory. At the same time, inadvertently or not, it narrows the room for manoeuvring of incoming President Donald Trump, in his pursuit to bring back to the negotiating table Moscow and Kiev and achieve cessation of hostilities in Ukraine. The spectre of nuclear conflagration has visibly come closer. Strategic stability is put in doubt. It is a pity that United Kingdom, master of brinkmanship by the way, followed suit. We'll see the reaction in Paris, while reticence of Berlin, not to allow use of Taurus missiles, is an act of reason and prudence, whatever the motivation of the tattered Ampel coalition government under Chancellor Scholz.

It is time for peace (and civic peace for that matter) to prevail in Ukraine, be it in the form of durable armistice to take effect along the frontline in Donbas and north of Azov Sea till the estuary of *Dniepr* river. It is hoped that Russia, bracing for the worse, will not cross the nuclear threshold this time. The counterstroke yesterday with a new hypersonic missile on the urban centre of Dnipro (former Dnipropetrovsk, former Ekaterinoslav) in central-east Ukraine, is both a demonstration of resolve and self-restraint.

Peace - not dissolution of the state of Ukraine, nor humiliation of Russia - must be done.

People in Europe are longing for peace. Otherwise, social unrest and the radical right and left will keep rising.

Greece, for our part, has got to reconcile with a return of Russia to the European security architecture, to which she is a natural part. The current government in Athens should overcome their timidity and make, in the framework of our NATO membership and Balkan neighbourhood relations,

the restoration of freedom of thought and the internal pacification of Ukraine, a chapter of their policy.

The advent of the Trump Administration is a call of urgency for Athens to adjust and revive hereditary role as an agent of peace, which it has over the last few years put in the freeze.

***Stravon of Amaseia,  
Athens, November 22, 2024***