



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

THE LONG TERM

- I see that in the mayhem being caused by President Trump's initiatives, China, composed and attentive, for all its soft spots, pursues her policies unabated; the success of AI software company vis a vis Nvidia is only the tip of the iceberg.

- China is not what imperial, sintoist Japan was on the eve of Pearl Harbor. It will not fall to the trap to attack Formosa. The noose is somehow tightening, with Australia, New Zealand taking distances, but without Indonesia and India espousing the American scenario, not a lot can be done. After all, EU countries though lukewarm since at the latest the year 2017 (admonitions by Jean Claude Juncker in the European Parliament, September 2017), are not eager to sever trade relations with China, while Russia for its part will not disengage from a relationship which has attained imperative strategic significance.

- The above said, Washington is bound to revisit its trumpist approach with the European Union if it is to avoid a Boston Tea Party a l inverse. A trade war would be the worst thing to happen between Washington and the Europeans. Wishfully, European NATO members will be able for their own sake to accommodate American demands to increase defence expenditure >3% of their respective GDP. This would greatly alleviate concerns of Washington, no matter other pending issues on tariffs and taxation of US technology giants by the EU.

- **Ukraine**

Zelenskiy s Kiev will not be able to reclaim territories already under Russian occupation and control in the Donbas, the land corridor along northern shore of Azov Sea (lake Maeotis) and Crimea, nor Russia has chances to gain Dnipro or Odessa, more so as Ukrainian forces for six months now have successfully been digging in the Russian Kursk region. No armistice/peace plan will hold, unless it provides for, a) permanent neutrality of rest Ukraine, enshrined in a treaty of guarantee by the UNSC, b) freedom of conscience and religion in the entire territory of pre-2014 Ukraine, c) adoption of constitutional reform as it was called for by the Minsk documents, d) recognition of Russia s sovereignty over the autonomous Crimea and Simferopol , deployment of interposition forces under the joint banner of UN and OSCE along the frontline of Ukrainian and Russian armed forces, the latter accepted to control the oblasts of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhya, Kherson, e) no NATO country to provide soldiers and staff in the interposition forces, f) a donors

conference will be convened to address the issue of Ukraine's reconstruction. The issue of Russia's frozen assets will be cleared in the framework of the conference. Stravon does not like history lessons, yet feels vindicated for his long held positions on Ukraine.

- Gaza

The Riviera plan on Gaza, in its current presentation, tantamount to ethnic cleansing, is unrealistic and morally unacceptable. The world waits to see the plan behind. The plan, if accepted and put in practice, would destabilize a suffocating Egypt, cornerstone in Near East, destroy the Khasemite Kingdom of Jordan, alienate Saudi Arabia and put the Abraham accords in the dustbin of history. In a nutshell, havoc and destruction in the Middle East.

- Syria and the Kurdish factor

The new rulers in Damascus are under constant scrutiny, the international community rightly not being in a hurry to lift economic sanctions. Ahmet Sharaa has to convince on both domestic and foreign conduct fronts.

We are quite afar from proclaiming Syria a turkish-israeli condominium of sorts.

As for the future of Kurdish de facto autonomy in N.E. Syria, it is up to the Turkey inspired Damascus regime to allow Syrian Kurds and allies to join -without merging- the all Syria edifice. The survival of the Kurdish "Rojava" entity, the most credible formation to combat ISIS, is for America a matter of honour and trustworthiness.

***Stravon of Amaseia,
ahead of Munich Strategy Conference,
Athens, mid February 2025***