



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

GEOPOLITICAL PERISCOPE

In the midst of slowly and in an uphill mode advancing agenda of US foreign policy, the signing of the minerals deal with Ukraine last Wednesday in Washington, is a major success for President Trump; it confirms American lead in Ukraine vis a vis the Europeans, it cements its support for Ukraine's fate, it conveys to President Putin (and to unspecified European allies) a stark signal that now is the time to make or break.

For all meandering moves, ultimate objective of the President remains the containment of China, an ambitious and intricate target to be pursued primarily in the commercial arena. In doing so, he needs Russia, India and the consent of the EU countries, presently in concert with an astute and energetic U.K. No doubt, there is a grand strategy concept within the Trumpian White House. Many, friends and foes alike, are by ruse or by error on the way to derail the pursuits of Donald Trump:

- in the Ukrainian front by supporting diehard nationalists.
- in Middle East, new, impending Israeli operation in Gaza, renders the openings to Tehran, more difficult. Trump wants to iron out relations with Tehran, as a catalyst of tranquility in the Gulf and as a contributing factor to engaging Russia. Washington aims at extricating state of security in the Persian Gulf from the shadow of China's diplomacy.
- The Kashmir imbroglio erupts, by sheer coincidence, at a time when America strives hard to win over reluctant India from its cherished political neutrality. America needs both; Pakistan and India. It cannot afford losing influence over the one or the other. Tensions along the Indus River, do not facilitate Washington's endeavor to build a perimeter around China.
- The failure of Friedrich Merz at the first Bundestag ballot to be voted Federal Chancellor of Germany, makes think twice about developments in this central country of Europe; Germany is split, internally and externally: they cannot overplay the Russian menace and at the same time threaten to ostracize the ascending Alternative fuer Deutschland. Neither is a viable option. Merz's unexpected blocking thinly conceals skepticism among seasoned parliamentarians that German re-armament purportedly to fend off Russia cannot be the only factor to generate

security. To the extent that re-armament takes hold, balance of power in Europe will shift away from Ukraine's fate.

- Romania; possible election of ultra nationalist George Simion to the office of President will disturb the direction of Bucharest and will upset the country's political and economic progress of the last 10 years. Republica Moldova - the larger part of the historic Bessarabia region - is an issue for Romanian voters; the intelligent West should make their policies with regard to Moldova more intelligible; there is no pragmatic and prudent policy vis a vis Chisinau, other than preserving the self-declared neutrality of this landlocked Republic, enshrined in its constitution. Pressure upon Moldovan President Maia Sandu to relinquish neutrality should be dropped.

- Closer home: Greece got to reconnect persuasively with her unique, far-reaching, archetypical geo-cultural deposit, as a means both to further confirm the sense of herself and radiate to her historical and cultural kins in the Mediterranean, Europe and the Globe at large. That said, there should be no illusion that "soft power", valuable as it is, it is thoroughly insufficient in times of upheaval to safeguard the interests of the state without underlying hard power.

- STRAVON notes the passing of Professor Joseph Nye, the inventor of the term "soft power", and pays tribute to the memory of the deceased former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, a wise man and a pillar of Greek diplomacy, Ambassador Petros Molyviatis (1928-2025).

***Stravon of Amaseia,
from the Kassiterides Islands,
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