



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

SUMMER TEMPEST

- Praise belongs to President Trump for effectively intervening in the hostilities Israel - Iran, imposing a cease fire (albeit shaky) face saving for both belligerents.
- In Ukraine things look different; Moscow aspires to a lasting peace settlement while Kiev, bolstered by the European quadrangle, France-Germany-Poland-UK, insists on a temporary cessation of hostilities. Donald Trump, growing impatient, demands from Pres. Putin to move on to wrapping up within 50 days an unspecified peace deal which so far is not palatable by Russia. Omens are not good, as exemplified in the understandings reached 3 days ago by FM Lavrov in North Korea. Russia for the moment seems to be unperturbed in the face of deadline set by Washington. There is a soft spot for Russian interests in the southern Caucasus, as Baku seems to be distancing from Moscow. No doubt that on the level of grand strategy Russian leadership feels beleaguered.
- In Syria, Israel's joy for departure of Assad's Baath regime, produces no placidity; In Jerusalem they do work for a fragmented Syria from the Jazira in the north east to the Golan Heights and the Suweyda in the south. This is another open wound for Israel, to act as overlord of the Druze community in the face of Turkey's proxies currently in power in Damascus.
- India, not an easy partner of USA, in the woolly QUAD, is not impressed by Washington's fresh round of courting Pakistan. India, engages instead in a new round of political consultations with China, a country heavily investing in Pakistan. Under these circumstances the IMEEC transport project from India to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula - bypassing the Suez Canal - appears to be a long shot.
- Enduring hiccup in the transatlantic relations: while the consent of the NATO members to raise by 2035 the defense expenditure to 5% of the respective GDP is a time bomb for the social and agricultural policies of the EU with possibility of severe tensions among the population, President Trump proceeds to exorbitantly raise import tariffs, starting August 2025. Upon straining social cohesion and even social peace in Europe, Washington strains anew the bonds between both sides of north Atlantic. There is no other way for the US than to mellow, otherwise a reverse Tea Party becomes anew a probability. The pragmatic POTUS shall see this.

- Gaza: the carnage does go nowhere. The Filistinians there are at the verge of extinction. It is not only immoral but also for many reasons unrealistic to pursue a massive expulsion, an ethnic cleansing of the local inhabitants. Revival and extension of the Abrahamic Accords will not fly at the expense of the Gazans. Prolongation of the military operations comes at a price for the IDF too. It is a pity that the Arab League countries are reluctant in assuming responsibilities in the wake of termination of Hamas preponderance.

***Stravon of Amaseia,
Attica coast, July, 2025***