

## **Statement on current issues**

Amaseia, birthplace of Stravon, once capital of the kingdom of Pontus, lies only a few hundred kilometres from the Armenian highlands. Our geographic society would be remiss of its mission statement, if stayed silent in light of the dramatic outcome of the 45 days war in southern Caucasus.

Lessons to be learned: a) To remember both, Stravon and Napoleon Bonaparte, “each nation conducts policies congruent to its geographic location”. Armenia under PM Pashinyan, ignored this iron rule, kept a slight but critical distance from RF and pays a heavy price. It was left without hardcore allies. b) Infantry (including special forces) seizes territory, but the contribution of UAVs of all sorts to victory on the ground proves overwhelming, even when air defences are deemed effective. Battlefield changes drastically. c) Heroism and tactical skills of the Armenian infantry units, in absence of modern weaponry and updated military doctrine, whereas the hostilities lasted, unable to cope with numerical and technological superiority of the Azeris, assisted by Turkish might and Israeli hard- and software. d) Russia imposed once more its position as the power broker and guarantor in the Caucasus; it will strive to neutralize any jihadists entrenched there, ferried or not by Turkey. e) What the parties failed to agree for 26 consecutive years under the aegis of the Minsk group which by the way looks marginalized (France, USA and OSCE, beyond RF), was achieved *manu militari* through painstaking perseverance and planning by Azerbaijan. f) The outcome of the war, provided hostilities will not be rekindled, is not one beneficial to Iran, - nor to Georgia, in the long run.

**Stravo of Amaseia**

**Athens, 11 November 2020**