



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

POINTS OF GEOPOLITICS AND GEO-CULTURE

UKRAINE

There is a slight possibility that we are at the end of the road; peace might be dawning, might be not.

Not all the forces coming out in force declaring support for President Zelensky, are really caring about the well-being of Ukraine and the people there, nor are necessarily championing European values and principles. On the other side of the hill, it is STRAVON s perception that Russia is nowadays more amenable to cessation of hostilities, than the case was three months ago in Anchorage, Alaska.

It is of utmost importance to persevere on this sustained effort to arrive at a viable settlement in and around Ukraine.

The 28-point plan of US, as became public on Friday November 21, is hard to swallow for the authorities in Kiev. Nevertheless, it represents a certain point of departure on which to build, more so if one considers that no real alternative draft plan has been aired by the permanently ruminating Europeans, continental and insular. The American plan is credited for linking the settlement of the Ukrainian Question with broader issues of strategic stability (point n.17), in other words nuclear arms control and related delivery systems. It is of special importance that it does address aspects pertaining to civic peace and human rights, aka ecclesiastical freedom and language liberties. In the same vein the plan addresses head on one of the fundamental causes of this war: internationally sanctioned permanent neutrality/ no NATO membership of Ukraine. It is tragic that wisdom prevails only after hecatombs perished in the trenches. STRAVON thinks that an herculean work must be done in the realm of synchronizing and implementing the peace process. Neither EU, nor OSCE and UN can be left out.

The reparations and reconstruction issue

While the Belgian opposition to usurping frozen Russian assets is very well documented, it is clear that upon conclusion of a long term armistice, a part of the said assets in one way or the other will be funnelled to the reconstruction endeavour. The issue of sovereignty transfer is of special importance. No de iure transfer of Ukrainian lands to the Russian Federation is acceptable. Autonomous Crimea and Sevastopol are special cases.

CAUCASUS

Precarious is the position of the Republic of Armenia ensconced as it lies between the main part of Azerbaijan plus its exclave Nachichevan and Turkey on one hand, Georgia and Iran on the other, with Russia waiting eagerly to reassert its status as the power maintaining order (Ordnungsfunktion) in northern Caucasus as well as in its “near abroad” in the Southern Caucasus. Yerevan while fully complying with spirit and letter of Washington accords of August 8, 2025, instituting the TRIPP (Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity), energetically pursues the north-south route linking Iran to the Black Sea ports of Georgia and to Russia further afield. The whole will be crystallized in the desirable “Crossroads of Peace”. This ambitious project is questioned not only by Azerbaijan still occupying parts of Armenian state territory but even by the disaffected Armenian Apostolic Church, energetically opposing policies of PM Nikol Pashinyan which they deem harmful to the nation.

THE POPE IN THE EAST

Pope s Leo XIV fraternal journey 27-30 November 2025 to Constantinople and Nikaia (Iznik, Turkey) to commemorate the 1700th anniversary since the First Ecumenical Council held 325 a.D. in Nikaia, chief town of Bithynia, along with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomaios I is an event of global importance. The major Christian Churches, Catholic and Orthodox, walk along the path opened 60 years ago by Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras with the lifting of (medieval) reciprocal anathemas.

With the opening to the East, Vatican reinforces its message, its position within the secularizing societies in Europe, while the Ecumenical Patriarchate radiates its mission statement worldwide and alleviates pressure from the morass of the ecclesiastical intra-Orthodox rift in Ukraine. Besides, the Catholic clergy, with decreasing number of faithful in Europe, is given a fresh opportunity to draw from the Orthodox spirituality.

***STRAVON of Amaseia,
Athens, 30 November 2025***