



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών  
«Ο Στράβων»

## DEUTSCHLAND

Germany is geographically, economically and from a political point of view potentially, the linchpin of Europe, west of Volynia. European unity endeavours are unthinkable without this Germany and in absence of Germany cooperation of (politically) western Europe with Russia in its various historical incarnations is impossible. Geopolitical bifurcation of Germany is exemplified by the two headed eagle in its coat of arms. Territorial Drang nach Osten of the Germans foundered twice; in the 13th century when the Teutonic Order was defeated in the northern lakes by Aleksander Nevskyi and of course when Hitler s armies where repelled. Anglo-Saxon cabinets have been haunted by the spectre of Rapallo (1922, Weimar Germany- Bolshevik Russia). The father of German Geopolitik Karl Haushofer failed to persuade the ascending Nazis of the absolute necessity to stay in working terms with the Soviets.

Statesmen of the post war Bundesrepublik painfully realized the absolute necessity, next to re conciliation with France, to engage with the Soviet Union. This Ostpolitik, which Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt and Hans Dietrich Genscher are mainly associated with, has over the years well served German and overall European interests, starting with the Entspannungspolitik (detente), culminating in the Paris 1990 treaties.

Nowadays, the government in Berlin seems to be unwilling or unable to clearly look at their geopolitical fundamentals. The economic powerhouse of Europe, seriously affected by the interdiction of cheap Russian gas and oil, is at loss about the course it should charter and follow. Germany along with France championed the Minsk Protocol of February 2015, but they were unable to press its implementation by the recalcitrant Porosenko government and the Ukrainian Rada. They failed to extract support to this effect from Allies in London and the DC, in particular under the Biden Administration. Instead, they fell in line with the US, in spite of foreseeable adverse consequences. Myopia or impotence? And then, deus Janus, on the wake of Russian invasion, changed vision. Germany, with the Ostpolitik and its implications blocked, embarked on an ambitious re armament program, discovering the menace of the East. German economy receded and industrial production decreased. Unemployment rose. Exit from the impasse was thought to be a drastic remold of industrial capacity shifting from automobiles to panzers, AIFVs and howitzers, not to mention renewed discussion of delivery of Taurus missile systems to Ukraine. Flexibility in changing the industrial direction has limits; the drive of President Trump to engineer a peace settlement in Ukraine as a basis for a new normalcy on the strategic stability level with Russia, has caught off guard Berlin, now under Chancellor Merz. Russia s advance

in the Donbas is slow and yet Germany finds opportune to declare Russia a chief enemy of fatherland and free Europe.

This is the definition of a deadlock. Do not ask Germany and the entire EU to shift overnight from peace to war mode and again back to peace. The German economy must rebound. If it is not with transforming automobile plants into military factories, then how? President Trump's peace initiative hangs in the balance. It is necessary and urgent to win German establishment. This cannot be done without opening anew the spigot and allowing Russian gas to flow west.

There is a dim hope that the Berlin consultations on Ukraine yesterday might lead to such an outcome.

It will take years before Russia is rehabilitated as a fully-fledged economic partner of western Europe. Trust has broken. Yet, Moscow could gradually be readmitted in Europe's security architecture. The hoped for Ukrainian peace treaty will be a beginning.

Germany needs cheap oil and gas and the Continent needs Ruhe.

***STRAVON of Amaseia,  
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