

Points of Geopolitical Actuality

- No matter the current war in and about Ukraine, Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania, with an eye to the post-bellum period, shall join forces to establish road, railway, energy corridors from Alexandroupolis to Burgas, Varna, Constanza and vice versa, diverting a sizeable traffic volume from the congested Straits Bosphorus-Dardanelles.

- German initial reluctance to deliver main battle tanks Leopard -2 to Ukraine was understandable; their aversion to confront the Russians is historically grown and worries that this war might become an end in itself reasonable and warranted. After all, 80 years is a brief period in historical memory; the battle of Kursk-Orel occurred in the summer 1943. Germans remain sceptic, realizing that the planned escalation, will rather prolong the war instead of fostering negotiated settlement in the near future. It is not *raison d'état* but rather "*raison d'Alliance*" that carried the day in Berlin.

- This page tries to be straightforward in our geopolitical approach. Needless to say, that in our thinking we have encapsulated Greek interests, as we perceive them. The basic Greek interest, broadly speaking, coincides with the all-European one. The war in Ukraine has to be brought to an end, with full respect of Ukrainian statehood and territorial integrity, unless the volition of the people, freely expressed, is different.

- Amaseia (Amasya), the birthplace of our Stravon, is close to Armenia, definitely much closer than to Istanbul, not to speak of Athens or Alexandria. Not only because of this, the Society places particular interest in the fate of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenians of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabag). We deplore the starvation practices of Azerbaijan by blocking the Lachin corridor, leading to Yerevan. We urge the UN, OSCE, the CSTO, and the Russian Federation to work for the opening of the corridor and the EU to readily examine the establishment of an air bridge, till the status quo ante is restored.

- Nicholas Meyer Landrut, the chief European officer in Turkey, a bit hastily, announced the convocation of a summit meeting in Istanbul on Ukraine, to be held on February 22, 2023. Turkey has managed to keep an equidistance of sorts in this atrocious war, and takes full advantage of its balancing act (albeit precarious), and her control over the Straits. President Erdogan will thoroughly capitalize from this in the run up to May 14 presidential (1st round) and parliamentary elections. In the same vein, the Turkish ruler will try to gain ground from the meeting he is going to have next month in Tehran with the Iranian leadership. He enters the electoral campaign with an advantage, even as foreign policy issues are not a priority for the struggling Turkish citizens. As time passes by, a direct flare up between Israel and Iran looks increasingly remote.

- Greece will duly and dutifully continue to boost her military capabilities and methodically upgrade her regional partnerships in the Mediterranean and the Balkans, while looking for any window of opportunity to renew dialogue with a revisionist and bellicose Turkey.

- As Greece braces for parliamentary elections, probably in April, demonstration of adventurism by Turkey in the Aegean and beyond cannot be ruled out; yet, it does not represent the prevailing scenario. Greeks are forced to take all appropriate measures that will allow for an unhindered electoral period and smooth transition of power, if any, without prejudice to the effective functioning of the state apparatus, in all its manifestations.

Stravo of Amaseia
Athens, January 2023