

Geopolitical Developments (China Accelerates Pace)

- The Chinese coup de force creates new realities; the Iranian-Saudi deal (March 10, 2023) brokered by high flying diplomacy of Beijing opens new vistas for the three stakeholders, the Gulf region, the Arab peninsula, the Arab Israeli relations, the South Caucasus, Eurasia as a whole, the Globe at large.

(Stravonas has already commented on the determinant visit of President Xi Jinping to Riyadh, early December 2022).

Let's try to fathom looming and probable repercussions of this possibly historic agreement:

- In Yemen we will see a lull, based on *uti possidetis*.
- Israel will have to reassess both, a) the scope of Abrahamic accords, and b) the pros and cons of a strike on Iranian installations.
- The West as a whole will be inclined to look from a fresh angle at the Chinese peace ideas on the war in Ukraine.
- Provided that the Iranian - Saudi restoration of diplomatic ties holds, Turkey might see it plausible to get closer to the bloc of the Heartland and in turn to be more coolheaded to American gestures, no matter the results of the May 14 presidential elections.
- In the Ukrainian battlefield, European countries will see bolstered the appetite of the respective societies for a farewell to the arms.
- In Southeastern Europe, nothing will change in the short term. The quasi-unconditional support for embattled Ukraine has been delivered a blow. No further news from Kosovo, while in Moldova president Sandu is left with one option: to religiously abide by the self-imposed legal and political status of neutrality.
- Greece is bound to ponder the manifold relations with Turkey from a broader angle, integrating in her calculus the repercussions of momentous developments in southern Asia upon Eastern Mediterranean countries, the Black Sea, Europe and the Atlantic nexus.
- The BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation gain new clout in the world arena.
- In India they missed a chance to be themselves the peace makers. They will have to rebalance.
- Last but not least, the world gets more poly centric than ever, the double containment policy, ill devised from the outset, patently fails. Any further thought that wheels of history can turn back is illusory. Grand Strategy for the West, if there can be one, should be urgently reconsidered.

**Stravon of Amaseia,
Patras, March 12, 2023**