

The Geopolitics of Energy & Terrorism

Part 6

Iakovos Alhadeff

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Introduction

The following chapters are independent essays that were written between July 2015 and February 2016. They appear in random order, and therefore they do not have to be read in the order they appear.

The issue in all the essays is the connection between the energy policies of various countries, their foreign policies, and the wars that break out at various parts of the globe, since all three are closely related. I describe many economic interests and many alliances in my essays. But alliances change and so do economic interest. Therefore what is more important for the reader is to have an idea of the global resources i.e. oil and natural gas in my essays, because global resources change at a much lower pace than economic interests and economic alliances.

The alliances and conflicts I describe in my essays might not exist in the near future, but if you have an idea of the global resources you will be able to see the alliances and the economic interests that will exist in the future.

I.A.

18.2.2016

Turkey and Israel (March 2016)

According to Stratfor, Turkey and Israel are close to reach an agreement, in order to normalize their relations. See “In the Middle East, a Long Dormant Alliance Re-Emerges”, March 2016.

I have also read various Turkish articles making the same claim, but these claims are in practice refuted by the Israeli diplomatic moves. All the Israeli diplomatic make clear that the Israelis consider Russia as more important than Turkey for their national security. Remember that at the end of January 2016 the Israeli Minister of Defense accused Turkey of funding ISIS by buying its oil. See the Russian state-owned news agency RT (Russia Today) “Israeli defense minister says ISIS funded with Turkish money”, January 2016.

The Israeli Minister of Defense repeated what Vladimir Putin had said about Turkey a few days earlier. I guess because he wanted to prove to Putin that it is Russia and not Turkey that is Israel’s number one priority. A few days later, while attending the Munich security council, the Israeli defense minister said that the Israeli and Saudi officials secretly meet and shake hands, because they both worry with the rise of Iran. This statement infuriated the chief of the Saudi intelligence, Prince Turki al Faisal al Saud, who replied that shaking Israeli hands never did any good to the Palestinians. See Haaretz Haaretz “Ya’alon: Israelis Secretly Meeting With Officials From Gulf States”, February 2016.

It is true that the Israelis and the Saudis have a common enemy, i.e. Iran, and they have to cooperate against it, but the Saudis have never recognized Israel, and they are not at all happy for having to cooperate with it. It is impossible that these two rude moves against Turkey and Saudi Arabia were mistakes made by the Israeli Defense Minister. We have to assume that they were very well calculated diplomatic moves, in order for the Israelis to prove to Russia that Russia is for Israel more important than Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Actually there is no question that Russia is more important than Turkey and Saudi Arabia for Israel's national security. See the following map.

Map 1 Israel



<https://lax2tlvbus404.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/map-of-israel.jpg>

At the above map you can see the threats faced by Israel. At the south there is Hamas in Gaza, supported by Turkey, Iran and Qatar. The naval blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel and Egypt does not allow Turkey and Iran to adequately arm Hamas.

At the north there is the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Shiite organization supported by Iran and Russia. Russia and Iran can very easily arm Hezbollah through Syria.

At the north-east (Golan Heights), there is Iran. But at the Golan Heights Iran is not as well armed as Hezbollah, because the Israelis, with Russia's tolerance, target in Syria the Iranian arms shipments to the Golan Heights. Actually the Israelis could end up facing ISIS at the Golan Heights, if ISIS prevails. Nobody knows what will happen in the future. What is important for Israel is that at the Golan Heights there is not a fire power similar to the one of Hezbollah at Southern Lebanon. Over the years the Iranians have sent thousands of rockets to South Lebanon and Hezbollah. A war between Israel and Hezbollah would make the wars between Hamas and Israel in Gaza look like kids stuff.

At the east the danger for Israel is coming from Jordan and the West Bank. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered Jordan, and ISIS has increased its influence in Jordan and the West Bank, and that gives Turkey leverage over Jordan. The West Bank is controlled by Fatah, the socialist Palestinian organization founded by Yasser Arafat, which is presently led by Mahmud Abbas. It was Saudi Arabia that had influence over Fatah, but recently Iran and ISIS are also increasing their presence in the West Bank. See Jerusalem Post "Iran Infiltrates the West Bank", February 2016, and Reuters "Iran to pay families of killed Palestinians - ambassador in Beirut", February 2016, and also Wall Street Journal "Islamic State Lured a Son of Jordan's Elite", December 2015.

How will things turn out at the West Bank, Jordan and the Golan Heights remain to be seen, but what is clear for now is that Hezbollah, at Southern Lebanon, is presently the deadliest danger for Israel. That means that indirectly Russia is for Russia the deadliest threat.

Because the problem with Hezbollah becomes much more important for Israel in case the Russians decide to cooperate with Hezbollah and Iran against Israel. The Russians have brought to Syria their most modern aircrafts, radars, and anti-aircraft missiles. Even without Russian involvement, there would be a bloodshed during an Israel-Hezbollah war. But if the Russians actively support Hezbollah during an Israel-Hezbollah war things would be very different for Israel. It is one thing for Hezbollah to fight with Russian arms, and another to have Russia's active support. It is one thing for Hezbollah to be supported by Iran, and another to be supported by Russia.

Also note that the United States have reduced their presence in the Middle East, and they have improved their relations with Iran. Moreover Barack Obama, the American President, is a politician from the center-left, and also of Muslim origin, and therefore he sees Muslim people in a very positive way. Remember that Barack Obama recently visited a radicalized mosque in the United States. A mosque that in the past has been associated with terrorism. That does not mean that Obama supports terrorism. It simply means that he is of Muslim origin and he sees Muslim people in a more favorite way than American presidents normally do. See Fox News "Baltimore mosque set for Obama visit has controversial ties", February 2016.

From all the above it is clear that Russia is more important than Turkey for Israel. That's the reason the Israelis do not hesitate to insult the Turks and the Saudis in order to please the Russians. A few days ago the President of Israel, encouraged by Netanyahu, cancelled his visit to Australia, in order to visit Russia instead. See Jerusalem Post "Rivlin cancels Australia trip, to meet Putin in Russia instead", February 2016.

The Australians were very angry. I do not think that the Israelis insulted the Australians by mistake. Remember that the Australians are big producer of natural gas, and they wanted to play a role in the Israeli natural gas fields. See Times of Israel "Top Australian company buys into Israeli natural gas", December 2012.

It is also a well known fact that the Israelis have given the Russians stakes in their gas fields. See Reuters "Why Russia may be a smart business partner for Israel", February 2016.

Again the Israelis prove to Russia they value more their national security rather than their natural gas, and Russia is very important for the Israeli national security. Since Russia is so important for Israel, why Stratfor, which is a good site, says that the Turks and the Israelis are near an agreement to normalize their relations? I think there are two possibilities. The first one is that the Turks and the Israelis have a common enemy, i.e. Iran, and they want to establish a limited partnership against Iran. The Israelis are already cooperating with the Saudis against Iran, and maybe they could cooperate with Turkey too against Iran. The Israelis are also cooperating against Iran

with the Shiite Muslims of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is a Turkish ally. See Jerusalem Post “Azerbaijan: Israel’s secret Muslim friend”, February 2015.

However that’s the good scenario for Israel. The bad scenario for Israel would be if Russia and Iran were to reach a complete agreement over their energy policies. Because even though it is clear that Russia is more important than Turkey for Israel’s national security, it is not clear that Israel is more important than Iran for Russia’s economic interests. Actually the contrary is true. If the Iranians promise the Russians they will not send natural gas to Europe, or that at least they will not send it through Turkey if they do send, but rather through Syria, and an Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline, which would be constructed by Gazprom, then Iran will be a lot more important than Israel for Russia.

Map 2



Actually the Iranians could promise the Russians they will only sell natural gas to Asia. An anti-aircraft coverage against the Israelis in Syria and Lebanon could be among the Russian gifts to return Iran the favor. The Russians and the Iranians already announced in February 2016 that they will upgrade their military cooperation, but I do not know what they agreed about Israel. See the French state-owned France 24. See “Russia, Iran ready to 'reinforce' military cooperation”, February 2016.

If the Russians and the Iranians agree to cooperate against Israel, the Israelis will have to cooperate with Turkey and Saudi Arabia against Russia and Iran. The problem is that it will be difficult for the Israelis to cooperate with Turkey, because Turkey supports many Sunni Islamist groups i.e. ISIS. In Iraq the Sunni Islamists of ISIS are the ex-people of Saddam Hussein. See “Saddam Hussein : The Father of ISIS in Iraq”?

The people of Saddam Hussein were Israel’s lethal enemies, with many terrorist attacks against Israel. How can the Israelis cooperate with the Turks, when the Turks support all these Jihadist groups that hate Israel so much? Moreover how can the Israelis cooperate with the Turkish Islamists, while the Turkish Islamists are enemies with the Egyptian socialists, and the Egyptian socialists cooperate with Israel against Hamas?

What I am trying to say is that it would be a very bad scenario for the Israelis if the Russians and the Iranians agreed to cooperate against Israel, but it would be even worse if they decided to cooperate against Israel, while at the same time the Israelis and the Turks could not cooperate against Russia, due to their own differences.

According to Stratfor Turkey and Israeli have reached a formula. But what exactly does Stratfor means by that? Does it refer only to a cooperation against Iran, or a cooperation against Russia too? And does this agreement between Turkey and Israel includes Egypt too or not?

The good thing for the Israelis is that the Russians would like to have them as a hidden ace in their sleeve against Iran, in case the Russo-Iranian cooperation turns sour. The Iranians might promise Russian various things, but can the Russians be sure about the Iranians? Not only the Iranians are very rich in oil and gas, but they have also improved their relations with the United States. Are the Russians so sure about the Iranians in order to be willing to help wipe out Israel? I don't know.

Articles

“In the Middle East, a Long Dormant Alliance Re-Emerges”, March 2016

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/middle-east-long-dormant-alliance-re-emerges?id=be1ddd5371&uuid=ea85694e-d2cd-4053-8e17-39152a390b28>

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<https://www.rt.com/news/330204-israel-turkey-isis-oil/>

“Ya'alon: Israelis Secretly Meeting With Officials From Gulf States”, February 2016

<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/.premium-1.703206>

“Islamic State Lured a Son of Jordan’s Elite”, December 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/islamic-state-lured-a-son-of-jordans-elite-1449015451>

“Iran to pay families of killed Palestinians - ambassador in Beirut”, February 2016

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“Top Australian company buys into Israeli natural gas”, December 2012

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/top-australian-company-buys-into-israeli-natural-gas/>

“Key factor in sharply-improved Putin-Netanyahu strategic ties? The Obama White House”, December 2015

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“Azerbaijan: Israel’s secret Muslim friend”, February 2015

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“Russia’s new Middle East energy game”

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“Why Russia may be a smart business partner for Israel”, February 2016

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“Iran Infiltrates the West Bank”, February 2016

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“Baltimore mosque set for Obama visit has controversial ties”, February 2016

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/02/01/baltimore-mosque-set-for-obama-visit-has-controversial-ties.html>

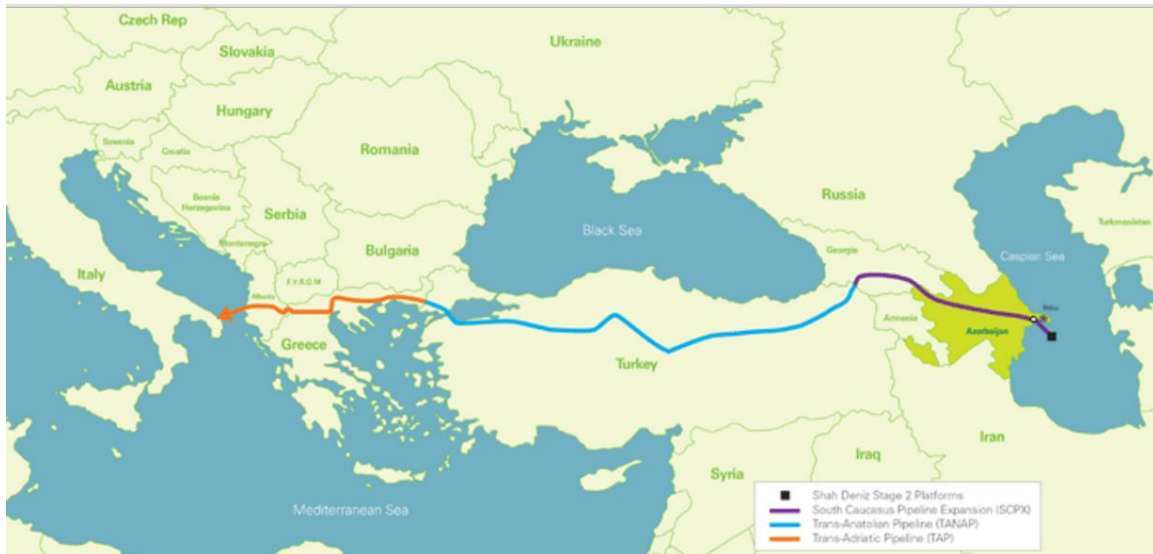
“Saddam Hussein : The Father of ISIS in Iraq”?

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/01/08/saddam-hussein-the-father-of-isis-in-iraq/>

Can the E.U. Really Approve the TAP Pipeline?

The European Union (Commission) approved the agreement between the Greek Government and the consortium that will develop the TAP Pipeline i.e. the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline. The TAP Pipeline will be the European leg of the Southern Energy Corridor, with the Asiatic legs of the project being the South Caucasus and the TANAP (Trans-Anatolian) Pipelines. The TAP Pipeline is the red pipeline, the TANAP is the blue and the South Caucasus is the purple pipeline.

Map 1 Southern Energy Corridor



https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/shah_deniz_regional_map_700x335.gif

The Southern Energy Corridor will reduce the dependency of the European Union on Russian natural gas, and it is one of the main geopolitical objectives of both Turkey and the European Union, and it is supported by the United States. The Southern Energy Corridor is threatened by the German-Russian networks, Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2, and that's

why the Turkish Islamists and the Greek Communists are sending to Germany hundreds of thousands of migrants. See “Germany’s Defeat by the Turkish Islamists and the Greek Communists”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2015/12/08/germanys-defeat-by-the-turkish-islamists-and-the-greek-communists/>

The problem is that even the Russians are angry with Merkel, because Merkel has approved the sanctions against Russia, after the Russian army entered Ukraine. Moreover the Russians are angry with the European Union, because the European Union promotes the Southern Energy Corridor, and also the European Energy Union, which will reduce Russian influence on European countries. This situation is very messy and very dangerous and threatens the existence of the European Union.

Anyway, the TAP consortium will invest 5.6 billion euros on the pipeline, with 2.3 billion euros being invested in Greece. In its first phase the TAP will transfer to Italy 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas, which is 1/6 of the current Italian gas imports, and its capacity will gradually reach 20 billion cubic meters per year.

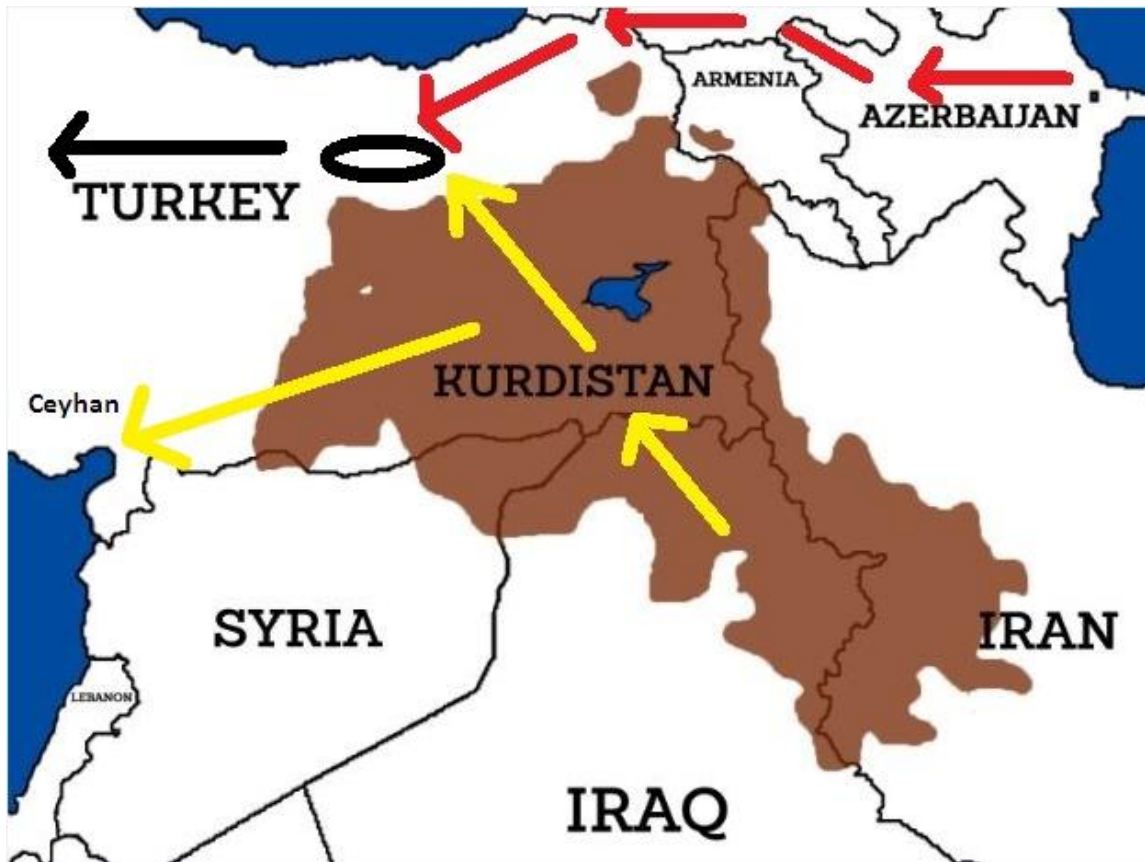
That is of course if the natural gas can pass through the Kurds of Turkey (PKK). All these pipeline plans are just plans and ambitions. Which pipelines will actually be constructed, and which gas will be sold in the end, will be determined by the current wars, and the negotiations that are taking place. For example the negotiations for the ceasefire in Syria etc.

Map 2 Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP)



http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-541_en.htm

Map 3 Kurdistan



I believe that it is a good thing for Europe to reduce its dependency on Russia. To compensate Russia for its reduced revenues in Europe, the Europeans and the Americans could help the Russians sell natural gas to Japan and South Korea, which are the largest and second largest importers of LNG. Obviously in practice it is much harder to reach such agreements.

Map 4 A Possible Russo-Japanese Pipeline



For the talks between Russia, Japan and South Korea, about a possible gas pipeline see “Russia VS North Korea”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/01/28/russia-vs-north-korea/>

The TAP Pipeline, and NOT the natural gas that will be transferred by it, it is owned by the state owned firm of Azerbaijan (20%) i.e. SOCAR, by the Italian firm Snam (20%), in which the Italian ENI has shares, by the Anglo-Dutch giant BP (20%), by the Belgian firm Fluxys (19%), in which the French government has a stake, by Enagas (16%), in which the Spanish government has stakes, and by the Swiss state-owned Axpo (5%). All these details are taken on March 2016. See “Commission approves agreement between Greece and TAP allowing new gas pipeline to enter Europe”, March 2016

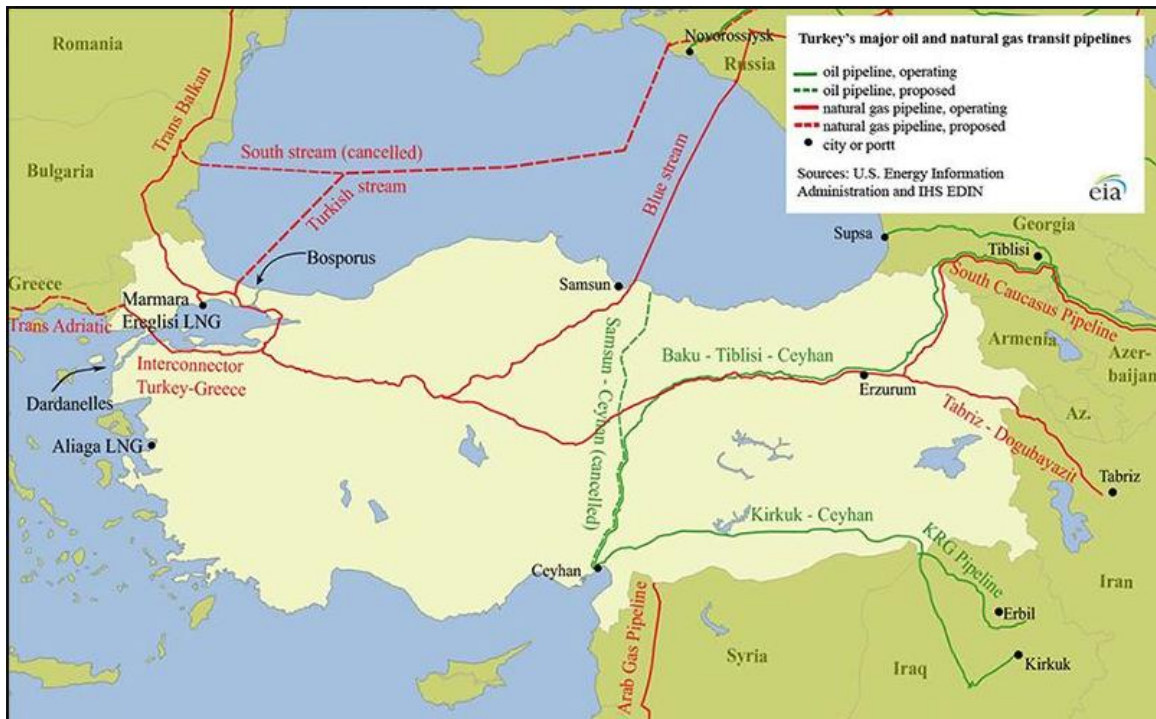
14th Paragraph

Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG is a joint venture company registered in Switzerland. Its shareholders are BP (20%), SOCAR (20%), Snam (20%), Fluxys (19%), Enagás (16%) and Axpo (5%).

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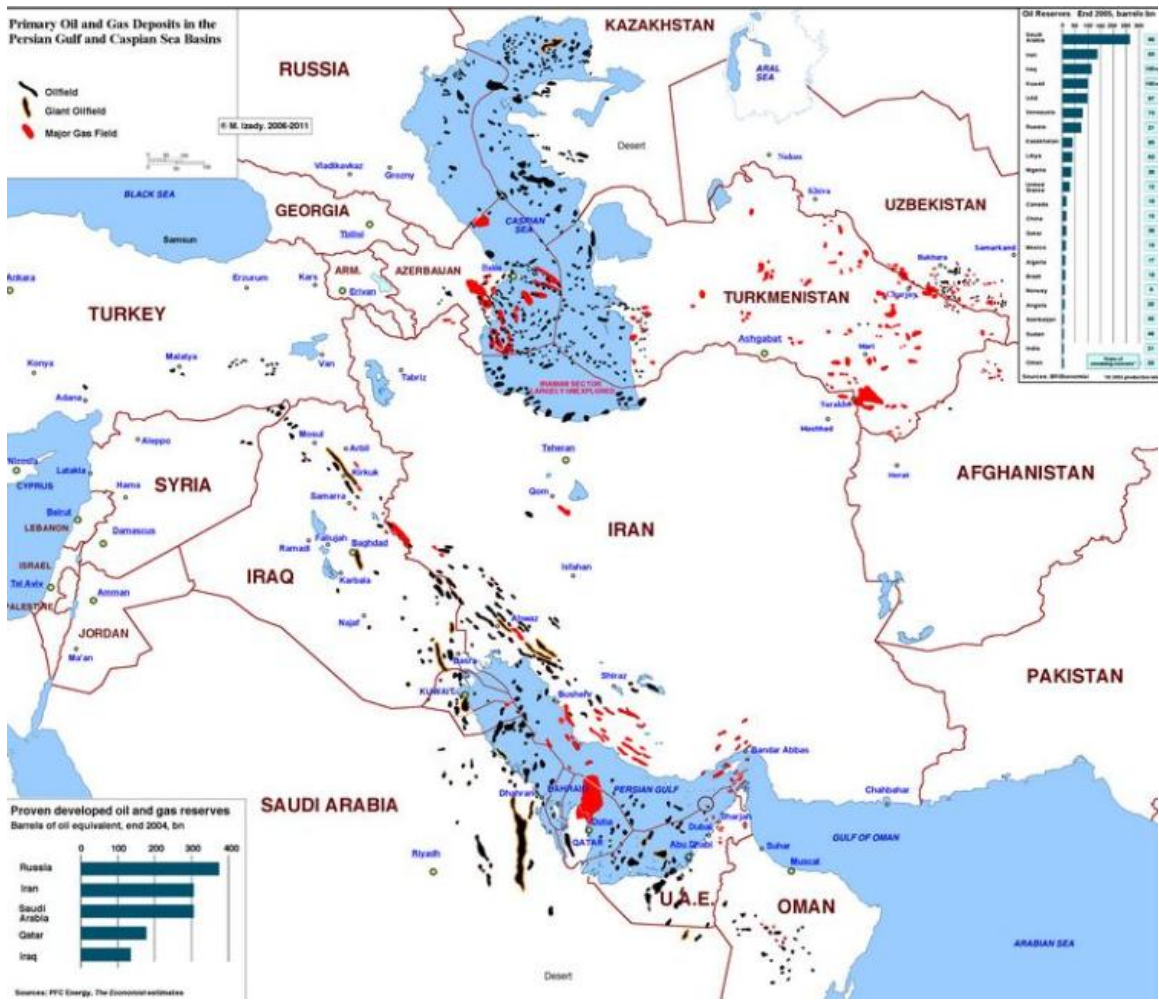
I must say that TAP, TANAP, South Caucasus Pipelines are owned by different companies, and different companies produce the natural gas of Azerbaijan.

Map 5 Pipeline Networks (Energy Information Administration)



<https://www.eia.gov/beta/international/analysis.cfm?iso=TUR>

Map 6 Oil (black) and Gas (red) Fields of the Middle East



Article

“Commission approves agreement between Greece and TAP allowing new gas pipeline to enter Europe”, March 2016

4th Paragraph

The Trans Adriatic Pipeline is the European leg of the Southern Gas Corridor, which aims to connect the EU market to new gas sources. With an initial capacity of 10 billion cubic metres of gas per year, the pipeline will transport gas from the Shah Deniz II field in Azerbaijan to the EU market as of 2020. The Trans Adriatic Pipeline will run from the Greek border via Albania to Italy, under the Adriatic Sea. The builder and operator of

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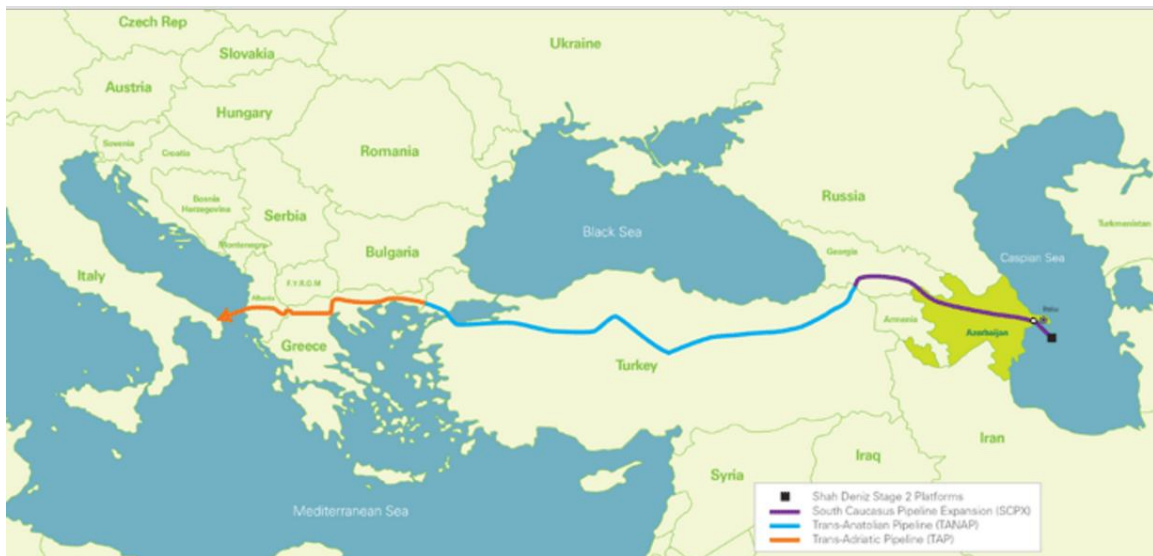
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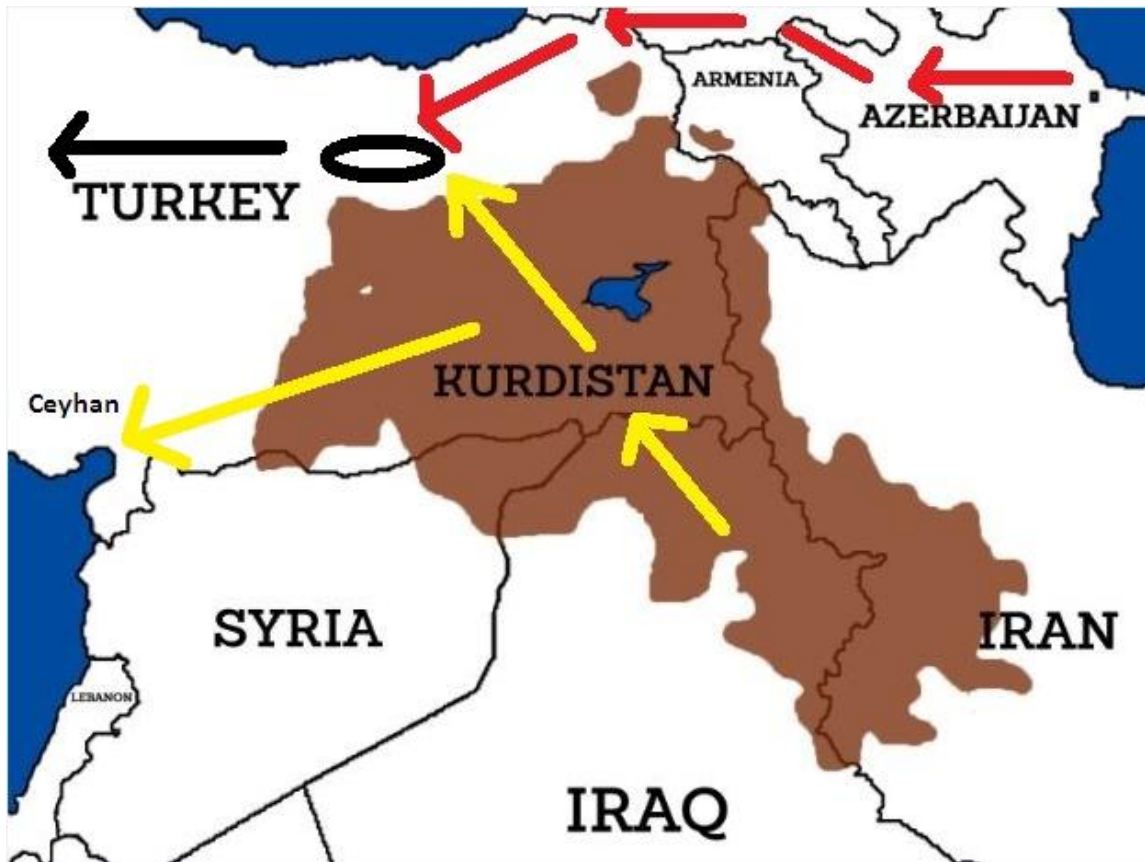
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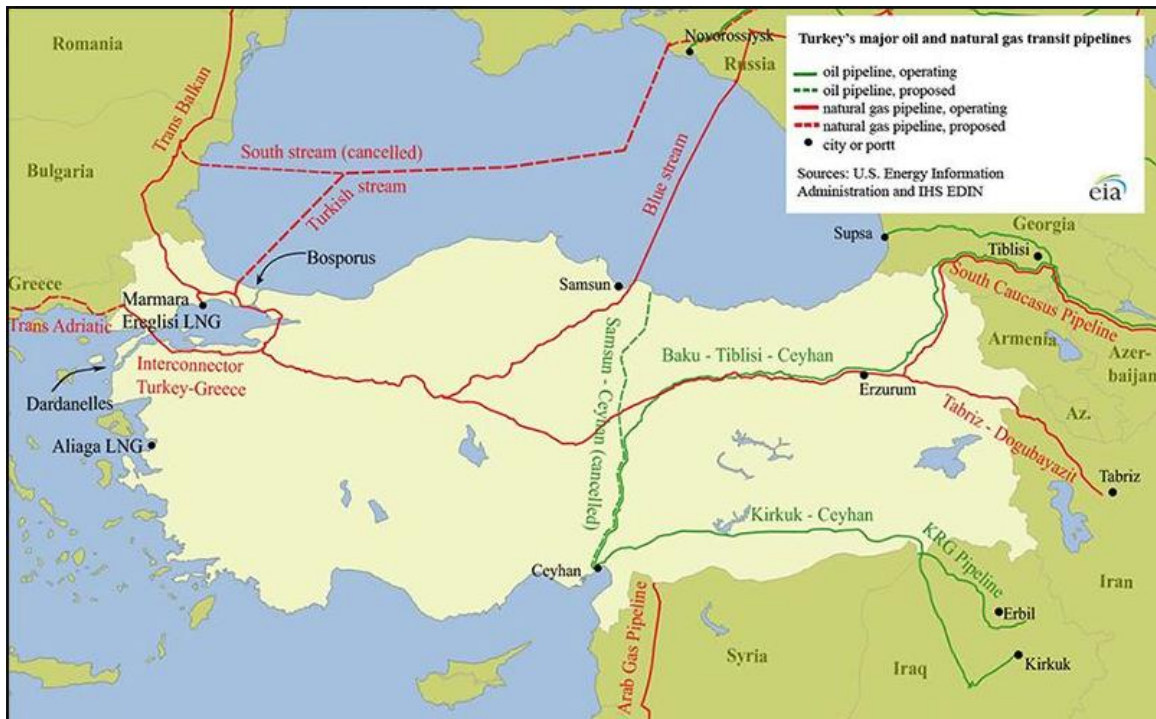
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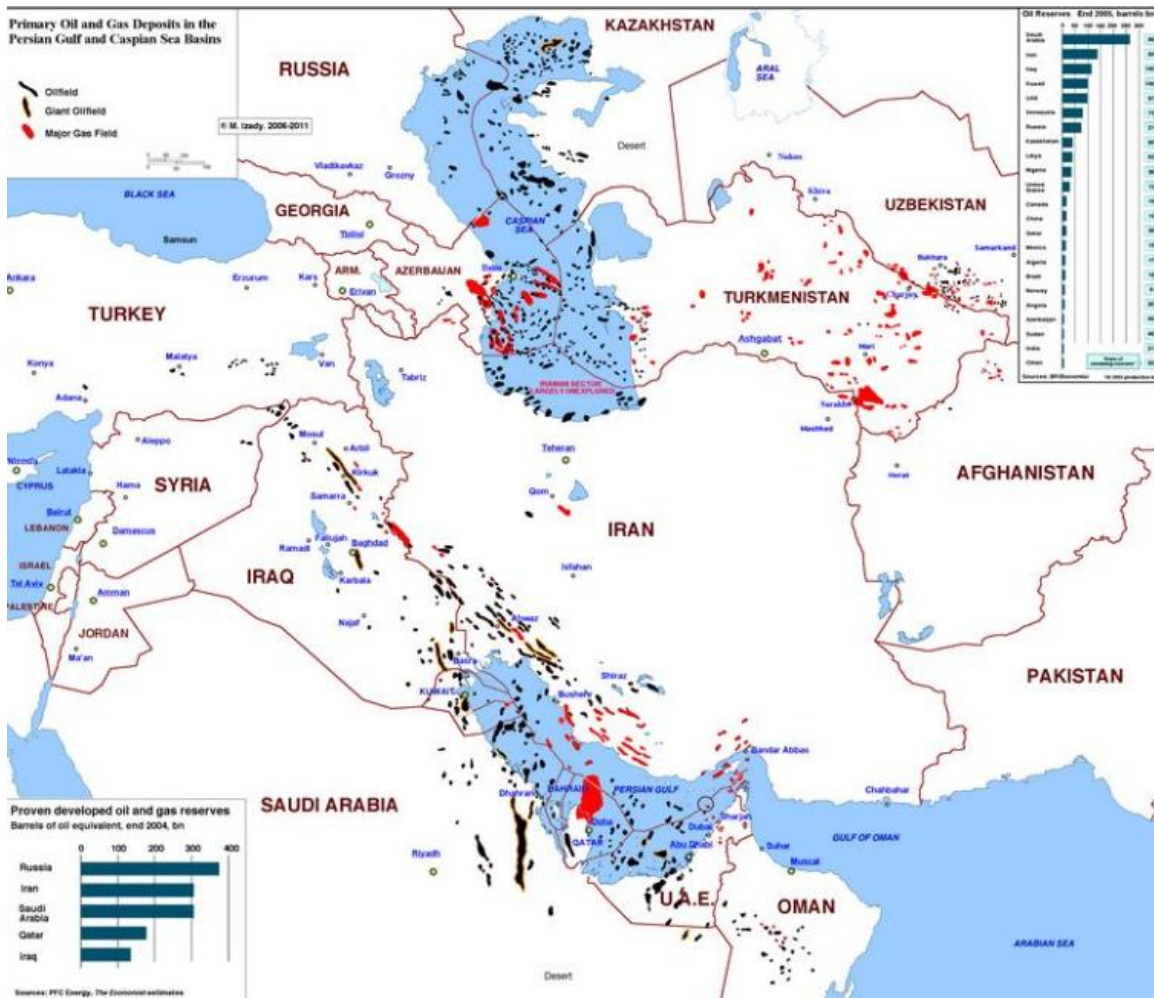
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Egypt VS Turkey – From the Ottoman Empire to the Zohr Field

A very good article from Washington Institute, the American think, about the hatred between the Egyptians and the Turks over the centuries. The article begins from the Ottoman Empire, when Egypt was an Ottoman colony fighting for her independence, then it goes to the Cold War, when Egypt was a Soviet ally and Turkey a NATO member, and then to the US-Egypt alliance in the mid 70s, which did not bring Egypt and Turkey closer. On the contrary, Egypt was supporting Cyprus in the Cypriot-Turkish rivalry, and Turkey was supporting Israel in the Egyptian-Israeli rivalry.

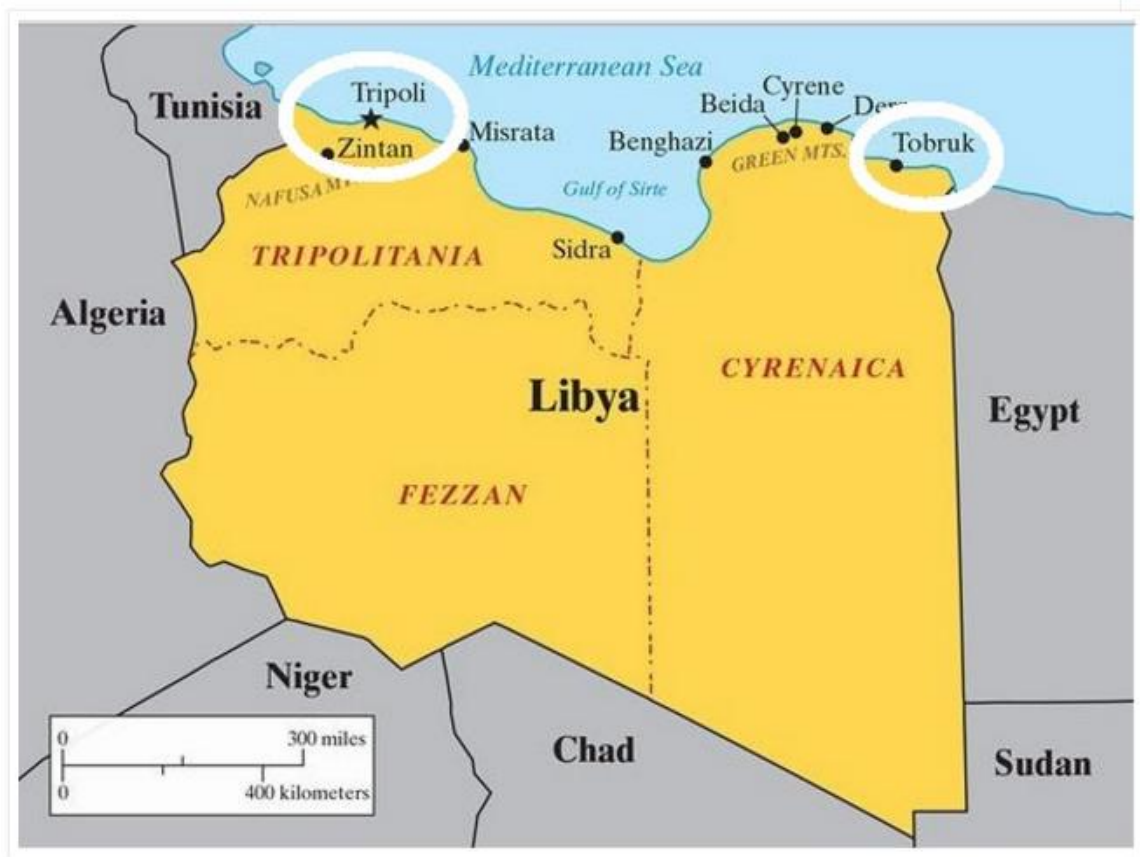
Map 1



The article also refers to the Arab Spring and the present times, and the hatred between the Turkish Islamist leader Tayip Erdogan and the socialist Egyptian leader Abdel Sisi. The Turkish President supported the Egyptian Islamists, who were overturn by the Egyptian socialists led by Sisi.

Then there is the civil war in Libya, with Egypt supporting the internationally recognized government of Tobruk at the East, and Turkey unofficially recognizing the Islamist government of Tripoli at the West, by not recognizing the Torbuk government. The Egyptians bomb ISIS in Libya, infuriating the Turks, and the Turks supply with arms the Islamist government of Tripoli, and maybe ISIS too.

Map 2



http://www.nybooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Pelham-Libya_Map-020515.jpg

I must also say that Turkey and Egypt are competitors by geography, since these two countries have controlled from the ancient times the two most important Silk Roads, i.e. the trade routes that connect Asia and Europe.

Map 3



I must also say that the discovery of the Zohr field in the Egyptian waters, in August 2015, might improve or deteriorate the relations between the two countries. If Egypt wants to export her gas, it is only Turkey and Europe that can absorb large quantities. If Egypt and Turkey reach an agreement, and Turkey imports Egyptian natural gas, the relations between the two countries will improve. If Egypt decides to export its gas to Europe, bypassing Turkey

and the neo-Ottoman doctrine promoted by Erdogan and Davutoglu, the relations between the two countries will further deteriorate.

For the article see:

“Turkey and Egypt's Great Game in the Middle East”, February 2016

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/turkey-and-egypts-great-game-in-the-middle-east>

The Kurds VS Iran

The Kurds of Iran (KDPI) say they are ready to face the Iranian army. The Kurds of Iran are fighting for their independence since 1918, and I guess if at some point they are given the chance, they will try it once more during the current turmoil. The only Kurds who are very rich in oil and gas are the Kurds of Iraqi Kurdistan (North Iraq).

Map 1 Kurdistan



The United States have common interests with the Kurds of Syria and Iraq, the Russians have common interests with the Kurds of Turkey, Iran, and maybe the Kurds of Syria, as long as the Kurds of Syria stay away from the Mediterranean Sea, the Turks have common interests with the Kurds of Iraq, the Iranians have common interests with the Kurds of Syria, maybe with the Kurds of Turkey too, as long as Kurds of Turkey do not mess with their pipelines to Turkey, the Israelis have common interests with all the Kurds,

and the Arabs of the Persian Gulf have common interests with the Kurds of Iran and Turkey.

The United States would like to see an independent Kurdistan in Syria and Iraq, the Russians would like to see an independent Kurdistan in Turkey and Iran, the Israelis would like the whole Kurdistan to be independent, while the Arabs, the Turks and the Iranians do not want an independent Kurdistan at all.

Even the Kurds themselves are not sure about the independent Kurdistan they want. The Kurds of Iraq, who are very rich in oil and gas, would like to have some form of autonomy, in order to control their oil and gas. The Kurds of Turkey, Syria and Iran, who are very poor in oil and gas, would like a very strong central authority, in order to control the oil and gas themselves.

There are approximately 11.5 million Kurds in Turkey, 2.5 millions in Syria, 4-5 millions in Iran, and 6.5 millions in Iraq. Therefore, with a very strong central authority the Kurds of Turkey, who have a strong influence over the Kurds of Syria, would control the oil and gas of the Iraqi Kurdistan. But the Kurds of Iraq would not like that.

Articles

“Kurdish groups say they are ready to repulse Iranian army”, February 2016

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“Kurdish separatism in Iran”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdish_separatism_in_Iran#PJAK_insurrecti
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The Oxfam Misleading Report about Inequality

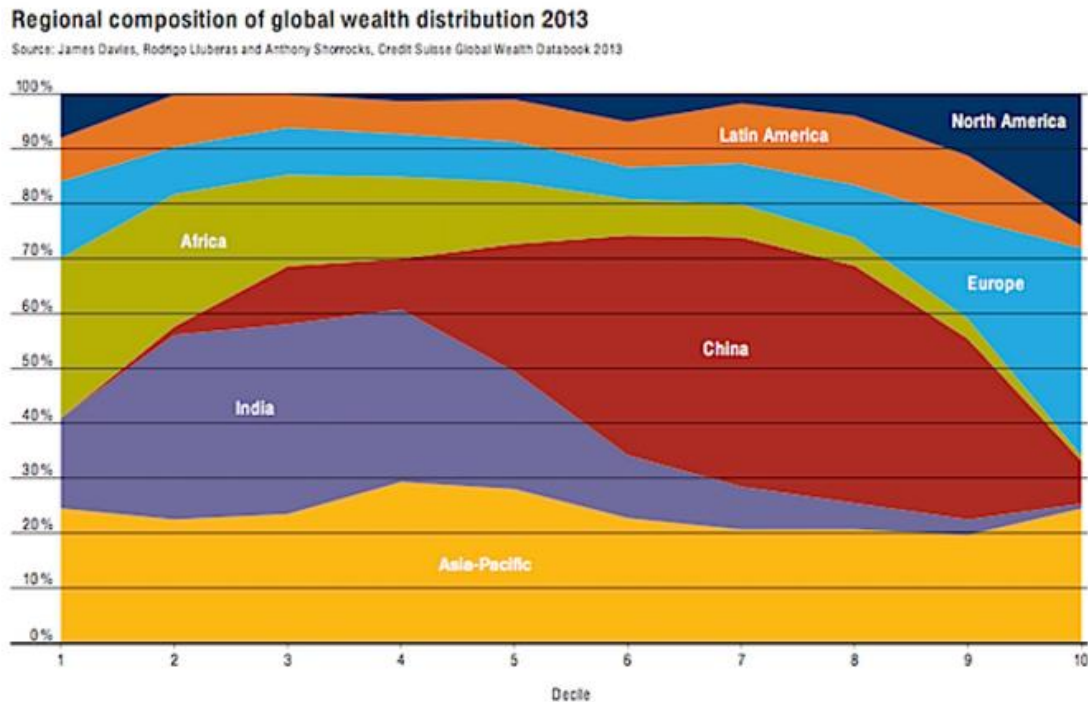
Oxfam is a leftist organization and people who read its reports should know that her aim is to attack capitalism, and claim that capitalism leads to increasing inequality. Oxfam recently published a report claiming that the 62 richest people in the world possess as much wealth as half the global population. Main stream newspapers of the left, like the Guardian, the New York Times etc, rushed to publish the report without bothering to check its logic.

Oxfam took some data from Credit Suisse and Forbes, and used them in a convenient way in order to reach the desired conclusions. First of all Oxfam used the net wealth, which means that she subtracted debts from assets. For example if I have a house and a car worth 200.000 euros, and I owe the bank 300.000 euros, Oxfam counted my wealth at -100.000 euros.

That means that in Oxfam's tables some businessmen that went bust, and owe millions of euros, or Harvard graduates who owe the banks hundreds of thousands for their tuition fees, appear to be poorer than the Chinese workers who do not have any debts but find it very difficult to survive. The problem is that the poor Chinese workers can not borrow any money even if they want to.

Below you can see the Oxfam table. At the left edge you can see the poorest 1% of the global population, and at the right edge you can see the richest 1% of the population.

Oxfam's Table



<http://fusion.net/story/39185/oxfams-misleading-wealth-statistics/>

You can see that according to Oxfam in the 1% of the poorest people approximately 8% are Americans and approximately 15% are Europeans, and amazingly there are no Chinese. As I said before according to Oxfam's table a Chinese worker who does not have any debts, and who can barely sustain himself, is richer than a Harvard graduate who has accumulated a debt of 200.000 euros for his studies. To summarize, according to Oxfam, approximately a quarter of the poorest 1% of the poorest people of the globe are Americans and European, but there are no Chinese in this 1% (see left edge of the above table).

Moreover Oxfam's report mentions that income inequality, which is actually what really matters, has decreased.

In addition, a survey that examines inequality based on wealth and not on income, must always take into account that people who have debts in excess of their assets (negative wealth), can always choose to abandon their debts and assets and move to the zero asset zero debt point i.e. zero wealth point. For example if I take a loan of 300.000 euros and buy a house, and at some point I believe that the prospects of the housing markets are not good, I can decide to go bankrupt, and abandon my house to the bank. I would be therefore be moving myself to the zero asset zero debt point. Therefore Oxfam has no right to include me with a negative wealth in her survey. I must be included at a wealth of zero, because I have the option to move at this point any time I want.

Similarly, the person with the deposits of 300.000, from whom I borrowed to buy the house, should not be included with assets of 300.000 because there is a risk that I might decide to abandon the house, which means the house would lose some of its value, and that person would not get back his full 300.000 euros. Either because there would be a "haircut" on deposits or because the government would impose new taxes, in order to save the banks.

As we witnessed after the house bubble burst, the amounts that can be lost by depositors one way (haircut) or the other (taxes) are very big, and therefore it is very unrealistic to include me, i.e. the borrower, with a negative wealth, and the lender, i.e. the depositor, whose money I used, with the full amount of my loan. I should be included in the data with zero instead

of negative wealth. And the depositor should be included at a discounted wealth, i.e. lower than the 300.000 euros that he lent me to buy the house, in order to take into account the possibility that I will abandon the house in order to move myself at the zero asset zero debt point, which would in turn cause a reduction in the value of the house. If the price of the house went up I would not have a motive to abandon it. Even if I did not want it anymore I would prefer to sell it, and pay my debt, keeping the rest for myself as a profit.

Moreover, as you can see at the Oxfam table, a very large part of the richest and poorest people are from socialist countries i.e. China, Iran, Cuba, and other socialist countries of Africa, Latin American or Asia. Like that wasn't enough monarchies are also included i.e. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates etc. But what's the point for a leftist organization to use data from socialist countries and monarchies in order to claim that capitalism leads to inequality? Only data from rich and poor people from capitalist countries should be used.

Actually the greatest inequalities are always found in socialist countries. The thing is that in these countries most people are very poor, and there is a sense of equality in the sense that everybody is poor. But that's an illusion, and the only reason it exists is because the very rich political elite is very small to be noticed.

Actually my definition of capitalism does not include countries where the energy sector, the banking sector, the construction sector and the media are mainly controlled by the state, as it is the case with Southern Europe, or

countries where these sectors are heavily regulated by the government as it is the case with most countries of the so called capitalist world. Capitalism does not refer to an economy where the supermarkets, the gas stations and clothing stores are private. Capitalism refers to an economy where the important sectors of the economy are private and not heavily regulated i.e. the energy sector, the banking sector, the construction sector and the media. The problem is that if we take my definition of capitalism there will not be any capitalist countries left.

Anyway, socialist surveys attacking capitalism for creating inequality should at least have the dignity of not taking into account pure socialist countries like China, Iran, Cuba etc, or monarchies like Saudi Arabia and Qatar. I understand that socialist countries which wear a coating of capitalism, like the Southern European ones, must be included in the data.

For a critique to the Oxfam report also see:

“Oxfam’s misleading wealth statistics”, January 2016

<http://fusion.net/story/39185/oxfams-misleading-wealth-statistics/>

“Oxfam's Misleading Inequality Numbers”, January 2016

<http://fee.org/anythingpeaceful/6-points-about-oxfams-misleading-inequality-numbers/>

“The Myth of Economic Monopoly”

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2014/03/12/the-socialist-myth-of-economic-monopoly/>

“The Socialist Myth of Economic Bubbles”

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2014/06/21/the-socialist-myth-of-economic-bubbles/>

How the New York Times Used the Misleading Oxfam Report

I often accuse the main Western media of the left and the center-left for bias on economic issues i.e. The Guardian (England), The New York Times and The Washington Post (United States), Le Monde and Liberation (France), El Pais (Spain) etc. I also praise the liberal (center-right) newspapers i.e. The Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal. Yesterday I uploaded a critique for the Oxfam inequality report and the 62 richest people in the world. See “Oxfam’s Misleading Report about Inequality and the 62 Richest People in the World”.

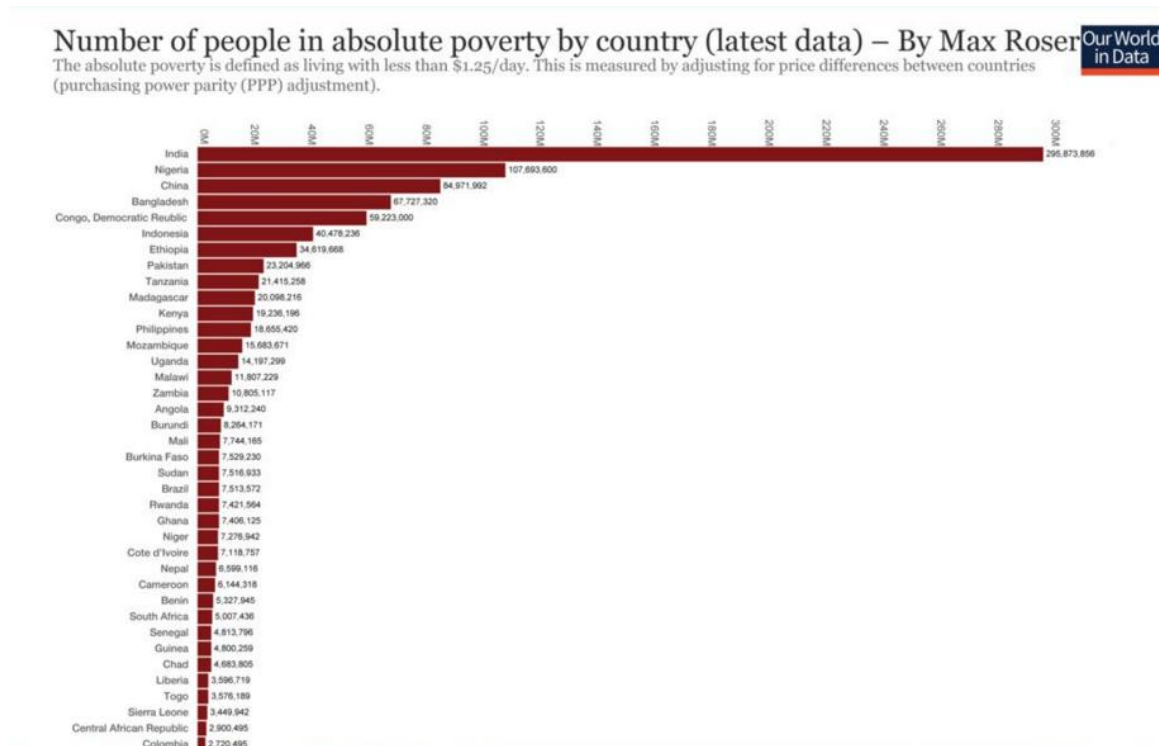
<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/01/19/oxfams-misleading-report-about-inequality-and-the-62-richest-people/>

Except of attacking Oxfam, which is a leftist organization, the Oxfam Report is very useful to also demonstrate the propaganda of the leftist western media, and that’s why I am writing this post.

However, before attacking the Western media, I would like to add one more point, one point that I failed to mention in the critique I uploaded yesterday. The point is that approximately thirty six percent (36%) of the poor and relatively poor people included in the Oxfam Report are Chinese and Indians, since the two countries have a total population of 2.7 billion, and that is approximately 36% of the global population. The global population was approximately 7.4 billion in December 2015.

Note that China is a communist country, and India was almost a communist country, closely related to the Soviet Union, until the Soviet collapse in 1991. Therefore most of the poor people in Oxfam's report come from communist or very socialist countries. You can also see the following data from Oxford University, which depicts extremely poor people by country. You can see that most of the extremely poor people are located in communist, ex communist or very socialist countries i.e. India, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh,, Congo, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Pakistan etc.

Table 1 Absolute Poverty by Country



<http://ourworldindata.org/data/growth-and-distribution-of-prosperity/world-poverty/>

You can verify yourself what I say about the Chinese and Indian economies. I suggest that you start with Wikipedia. The following two Wikipedia links describe the India economy before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union i.e. “Economy of India: Pre-Liberalization Period 1947-1992”, and “Economy of India : “Post-Liberalization Period Since 1991”. See:

“Economy of India: Pre-Liberalization Period 1947-1992”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_India#Pre-liberalisation_period_.281947.E2.80.931992.29

“Economy of India : “Post-Liberalization Period Since 1991”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_India#Post-liberalisation_period_.28since_1991.29

India was an extremely poor country until 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union. After 1991 India decide to liberalize her economy a bit, she welcomed the Western companies, and she was significantly rewarded. China was also extremely poor until 1980, when she came to an agreement with the West, and Western companies entered and invested in China. China was also significantly rewarded.

Anyway, the point is that most of the poor people in Oxfam’s inequality report are Indians and Chinese i.e. people from communist or very socialist countries. Add to the poor Indians and Chinese the poor of other communist or socialist countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Moreover the rich in Oxfam's inequality report include the rich state-sponsored businessmen of the socialist countries, who are closely related to the political elite. Oxfam's rich also include the members of the royal families of countries with monarchic regimes. Monarchies have nothing to do with capitalism and free markets i.e. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates etc.

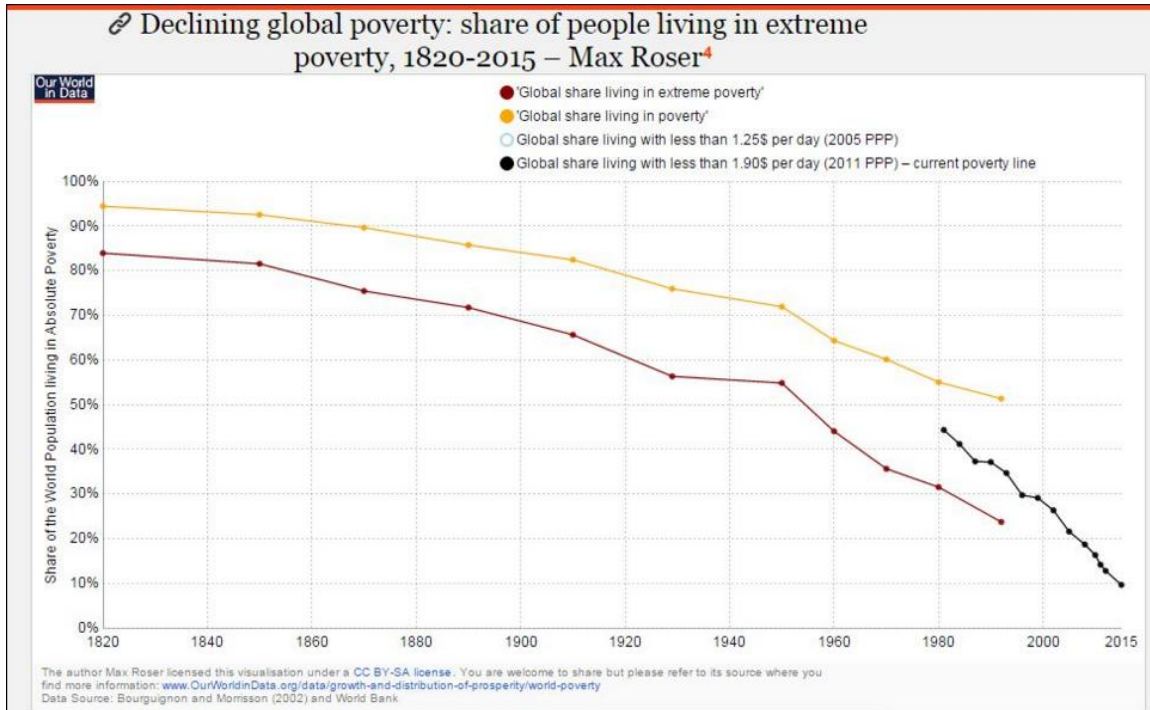
Before you examine how the big Western media of the left and center-left used the Oxfam report in order to promote socialism, you need to truly realize how unreasonable it is to use the poor people of communist and socialist countries, and also the rich political elites of these countries, plus the rich monarchs of the world, in order to prove that more socialist is the solution, and that capitalism leads to increasing inequality.

In the articles of the New York Times and the Guardian that I provide below, you will read that the cause of inequality are the tax havens, the banking sector etc. They do not use the word capitalism and socialism explicitly, but they do not mention at all that most of the poor people come from socialist and communist countries, and therefore socialism might actually be the main cause of poverty and inequality. I think it is worth your time to read my critique, and then the NYT and Guardian articles. Not for the Oxfam inequality report, but to realize how state of the art propaganda is used against you.

I would also like to provide the following diagram from Oxford University. The diagram shows the dramatic decline of extreme poverty from 1820 to

2015. The cause of this dramatic decline in extreme poverty was the invention of capitalism in the 17th century.

Diagram 1



<http://ourworldindata.org/data/growth-and-distribution-of-prosperity/world-poverty/>

Read the articles, and then try to forget my critique about the Oxfam Report, and imagine how these articles would have affected the way you think if you hadn't read any critique about the Oxfam Report. And note that critiques about the Oxfam Report are not widely available, while articles like the ones from the NYT and the Guardian are literally everywhere.

Articles

“Wealth Inequality Rising Fast, Oxfam Says, Faulting Tax Havens”, January 2016

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/19/business/economy/wealth-inequality-rising-fast-oxfam-says-faulting-tax-havens.html?_r=0

“Richest 62 people as wealthy as half of world's population, says Oxfam”, January 2016

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/18/richest-62-billionaires-wealthy-half-world-population-combined>

World Poverty

<http://ourworldindata.org/data/growth-and-distribution-of-prosperity/world-poverty/>

USA-Pakistan : Allies or Foes?

A very interesting article by Foreign Affairs, titled “An Unworthy Ally: Time for Washington to Cut Pakistan Loose”, August 2015, about the relationship between the US and Pakistan. In the 20th Century Pakistan was fighting the Soviets together with the Arabs of the Persian Gulf and the Americans. Pakistan was also fighting India together with China. During the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the Americans, the Chinese, the Arabs of the Gulf and the Pakistanis were supporting the islamists of Afghanistan against the communists of Afghanistan, who were supported by India and the Soviets.

During the 20th Century the American and the Pakistani interests were almost perfectly aligned. But things have changed. China is promoting the 45 billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in order to receive raw materials from Africa, and in order to export her products avoiding the South China Sea. China is facing many enemies at the South China Sea due to her desire to completely dominate this sea, by militarizing the small uninhabited islands which are located in the other countries' exclusive economic zones. China is also developing the Kenyan port of Lamu, in order to ship to China the raw materials of Africa, and in order to ship to Africa the Chinese products.

Map 1



You can see on the map that by using the China Pakistan Economic Corridors, China can save billions of dollars in transport costs, and at the same time increase the security of her exports and imports by avoiding the dangerous straits of the South China Sea, and also encircle India by creating a naval base at the Pakistani port of Gwadar, which is also developed by China. Gwadar will also give China a naval base near the Persian Gulf. Moreover Iran and China will use the China Pakistan Economic Corridor in order to send to China the oil and natural gas of Iran, which means transit fees and investments for Pakistan, and an enhanced energy security for the country. Therefore it seems that Pakistan has more to expect from China than from the US.

It is true that the US is counting on Pakistan to use its great influence in order to promote stability in Afghanistan, so that the oil and natural gas of Kazakhstan and Turkemenistan can reach India and the Indian Ocean. This

is a project very desirable by Pakistan too, because the oil and natural gas of the Middle East and of Central Asia will pass from Pakistan, making Pakistan an energy hub. The problem is that Pakistan is India's number one enemy, together with China of course, and the Americans have to distance themselves from Pakistan if they want to compete with Russia for India's friendship.

Trying to maintain a balance between Pakistan and India can be very tough for the Americans, and it can hurt the new American-Indian friendship. India cannot count on Russia for help when she is facing China, because Russia and China are allies, but India can count on USA. The problem is Pakistan. The important factor that determines the US strategy is that India is for China a natural competitor, while Pakistan is for China a natural ally. India has an annual GDP of 2 trillion dollars, and she wants to be an independent power, while Pakistan has a GDP of only 250 billion dollar, and it desperately needs China.

Everything seems to imply that the USA should move away from Pakistan and closer to India. India is accusing Pakistan of plotting terrorist attacks in India. As you can read at the following Guardian article, titled "Suspected mastermind of Mumbai terror attack released from Pakistan jail", April 2015, the man suspected of masterminding the terrorist attack of Mumbai in 2008 was released from the Pakistan prison that he was held, something that greatly upset India.

The US has been traditionally providing Pakistan with military aid, and given the relations between Pakistan and India this can be a great problem

for the Indo-American relations. It seems that if the US wants to “steal” India from Russia, it will have to let Pakistan loose. And that’s what the Foreign Affairs article is about. In the first paragraph the article says that the US has provided Pakistan with more than 30 billion dollars assistance since 2002, in order to help Pakistan enforce peace in Afghanistan. The article means that the US is helping Pakistan in order to promote peace in Afghanistan, so that the TAPI pipeline can be constructed (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India). A very difficult task given that the Arabs and the Iranians are united in blocking the pipeline at Afghanistan.

Map 2



In the 10th paragraph the article says that it is very unfair to accuse the United States for the Islamic jihad in Pakistan, given that the Pakistani officials were using islamist militants a long time before their cooperation with the US against the Soviets in 1979. In the 18th paragraph the article says that the geopolitical landscape today is very different from the one of the

Cold War, when the US was pretending that it was not seeing the Pakistani misdeeds, because the US needed Pakistan in order to confront the Soviets. In the 19th paragraph the article says that it is not very realistic to expect Pakistan to change methods, and it is now feasible for the US to achieve its geopolitical goals without having to tolerate Pakistan. The article means that the Pakistanis will not stop their terrorist attacks against India, which will be a problem between the US and India as long as the US provides military assistance to Pakistan.

In the 20th paragraph the article says that it is better for the US to start treating Pakistan as an enemy rather than as an ally, but at the same time the US should try to maintain diplomatic relations with Pakistan. The article also says that the US should keep providing assistance to Pakistan, but not military assistance. In the 21st paragraph the article says that the US should stop providing Pakistan with arms which can be used by Pakistan against India.

Given that the Foreign Affairs is one of the oldest and most respected geopolitical magazines of the US, the above opinion should not be taken lightly. Moreover it should not be forgotten that in 2011 two NATO helicopters which operated in Afghanistan attacked the Pakistani borders and killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, as you can read at the following BBC article, titled "Pakistan outrage after 'Nato attack kills soldiers'", November 2011. As a result Pakistan closed the Pakistani routes used by NATO to provide supplies to its Afghanistan soldiers. This could not be an accident.

Finally I want to mention an LSE article, titled “India’s quiet acceptance of the annexation of Crimea reflects its vision for a multi-polar world order”, January 2015, which says about India’s discrete support to Russia over the Ukrainian crisis. The article mentions that Russia and India are traditional allies and that India buys most of its armaments from Russia, while at the same time Russia is helping India with her nuclear reactors. Therefore one can assume that there is a lot competition for the US when it comes to India. But if the US distances itself from Pakistan, India and the US might have more in common than India and Russia have. And basically that’s what the Foreign Affairs article is about.

For the Foreign Affairs article see

“An Unworthy Ally: Time for Washington to Cut Pakistan Loose”, August 2015

1st Paragraph

Ever since 9/11, the United States has provided Pakistan with a steady supply of security and nonsecurity assistance. U.S. officials have justified these generous transfers—worth more than \$30 billion since 2002—on the grounds that they secure Pakistan’s ongoing cooperation in Afghanistan, bolster Pakistan’s ability to fight terrorism, and give the U.S. government influence over the country’s ever-expanding nuclear weapons program. Failing to deliver this support, the argument runs, could dramatically weaken the will and capacity of Pakistan’s security forces and possibly even lead to the collapse of the Pakistani state. In that event, Pakistan’s nuclear know-how, material, or weapons could well fall into the hands of nefarious actors.

10th Paragraph

As for the claim that Islamabad was drawn into Washington’s Afghan jihad, the chronology suggests otherwise. Seeking leverage against the government in Kabul, Pakistan had been supporting Islamist militants in Afghanistan at its own expense since

1974—five years before Soviet troops crossed into the country. In other words, Pakistan brought the United States, and its wallet, into a campaign it had been pursuing on its own for years.

18th, 19th, 20th and 21st Paragraph

The strategic demands of today's South Asia are distinct from those of the Cold War era, but the central dynamic of U.S.-Pakistani relations remains constant. The United States turns a blind eye to Pakistan's misdeeds because it depends on the country's leaders to counter U.S. enemies in the region—first the Soviets, now the mélange of militant groups active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As a result, the United States has subsidized both the expansion of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and its stable of Islamist terrorists through programs ostensibly created to manage those same concerns.

Past attempts to induce Pakistan to change its behavior have largely failed, and there is little reason to believe that a change in course is imminent. Indeed, what little convergence of interests existed between Washington and Islamabad during the Cold War has long since disappeared. After six decades of policy predicated on Pakistani blackmail, it should be possible to achieve U.S. interests with a different approach.

A strategy of containment is the United States' best option. Above all, U.S. relations with Pakistan should be premised on the understanding that Pakistan is a hostile state, rather than an ally or a partner. To be sure, accepting that reality does not mean abandoning Pakistan altogether. The United States should maintain its diplomatic relations with Pakistan, and it should address a long-standing Pakistani complaint by providing Pakistani products greater access to American markets, signaling that Washington takes Islamabad's legitimate concerns seriously enough to risk the ire of domestic business interests. It should also continue training Pakistanis in critical capacities such as peacekeeping, disaster relief, and civil-military relations through the U.S. government's International Military Education and Training program. And it should continue to provide Pakistan with modest assistance in such areas as basic health care, gender equality, and primary and occupational education. Yet it must delink that help from the failed counterterrorism programs with which many such human development programs are currently bundled. And above all, Washington must end its support for the country's

turgid military establishment, which sustains a perverse strategic culture that has ill served Pakistani and U.S. interests for decades.

To that end, the United States should stop supplying Pakistan with strategic weapons systems, and it should prevent Pakistan from replacing and repairing those pieces of equipment that it has already received. The provision of U.S. weapons cannot reshape Pakistan's will to maintain its militant proxies, but those weapons do equip Pakistan to challenge India. Indeed, the vast majority of the weapons systems provided to Pakistan since 2001 are better suited for a conventional conflict with its neighbor than for internal security operations. These transfers undermine U.S. efforts to cultivate a relationship with India, an important democratic partner on a range of crucial issues, from securing regional sea-lanes to managing China's rise.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/pakistan/2015-08-18/unworthy-ally>

For the BBC article see

“Pakistan outrage after 'Nato attack kills soldiers’”, November 2011

1st Paragraph

Pakistani officials have responded with fury to an apparent attack by Nato helicopters on a border checkpoint they say killed at least 24 soldiers.

9th Paragraph

Within hours of the alleged attack it was reported Pakistan had closed the border crossing for supplies bound for Nato forces in Afghanistan - a move which has been used in the past as a protest.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15901363>

For the LSE article see

“India's quiet acceptance of the annexation of Crimea reflects its vision for a multi-polar world order”, January 2015

2nd Paragraph

India's unwillingness to openly criticise Russian actions in the Ukraine has been associated with lingering socialist sentiments from stronger relations during the Cold War or else with India's increasingly pragmatic foreign policy based on economic linkages. However, under closer scrutiny India's response to the Ukraine Crisis illuminates a nascent Indian vision of the world order with a specific end goal in mind – to restore India's destined greatness. India's perception of how the international system ought to be structured is expressed first through India's scepticism towards democracy promotion abroad, and secondly through India's desire for a multi-polar world, in which Russia is one of the key actors.

4th, 5th and 6th Paragraph

Aside from Indian foreign policy values, part of the unwillingness to promote democracy internationally could be that it would open up the black box of past Indian interventions on the subcontinent, such as in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. In addition, actively supporting democracy and enhanced democratisation processes on the international stage could lead to a too critical reflection and a consequential debate of the value of democracy at home: India still suffers from high levels of political corruption, lack of genuine and effective poverty relief programmes, and a persistent caste system that can inhibit social mobility. Therefore, the dearth of democracy promotion efforts and rhetoric could be seen as a tool to protect India's own perceptions of inherent greatness and maintain external views that India is an emerging power.

India does not seek to completely alienate or isolate Russia in the same way as many Western states. For India, international stage should not be constructed around an American hegemonic order; but rather the coordination and existence of multiple great powers ought to be realised. Russia not only has a vital role in India's view of the multi-polar international stage, but Russia offers direct benefits to the further development of India as an emerged power. Under the Modi government relations with Vladimir Putin's Russia seem to be improving. In July during a BRICS meeting Modi, in a private comment, reportedly told Putin that "Even a child in India, if asked to say who is India's best friend, will reply it is Russia because Russia has been with India in times of crisis." Russia is a top supplier of defence materials to India, and since India is currently the

world's leading weapons importer, this relationship is crucial to bolstering India's domestic defence apparatus with future potential for enhanced R&D and manufacturing capabilities. In terms of engagement within international institutions, Russia is willing to use its United Nations Security Council veto power to support India, for instance from deterring votes on the Kashmir issue.

On 11th December 2014, Putin arrived in New Delhi. As a result of this brief summit, India will build ten new nuclear reactors with the help of Russia and the two states will work on jointly-manufacturing a fifth generation fighter aircraft. However, Putin did not come alone. Also on Putin's flight was Sergey Aksyonov, the leader of Crimea, who proceeded to his own meeting to sign a memorandum with the Indian-Crimean Partnership in an effort to increase Indian trade with the Black Sea Region. This annual summit and the presence of Aksyonov highlights the importance of Russia as one of the pieces of India's ideal international relations that is based on a multi-polar reality rather than utopian visions of democracy promotion.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2015/01/19/indias-quiet-acceptance-of-the-annexation-of-crimea-reflects-its-vision-for-a-multi-polar-world-order/>

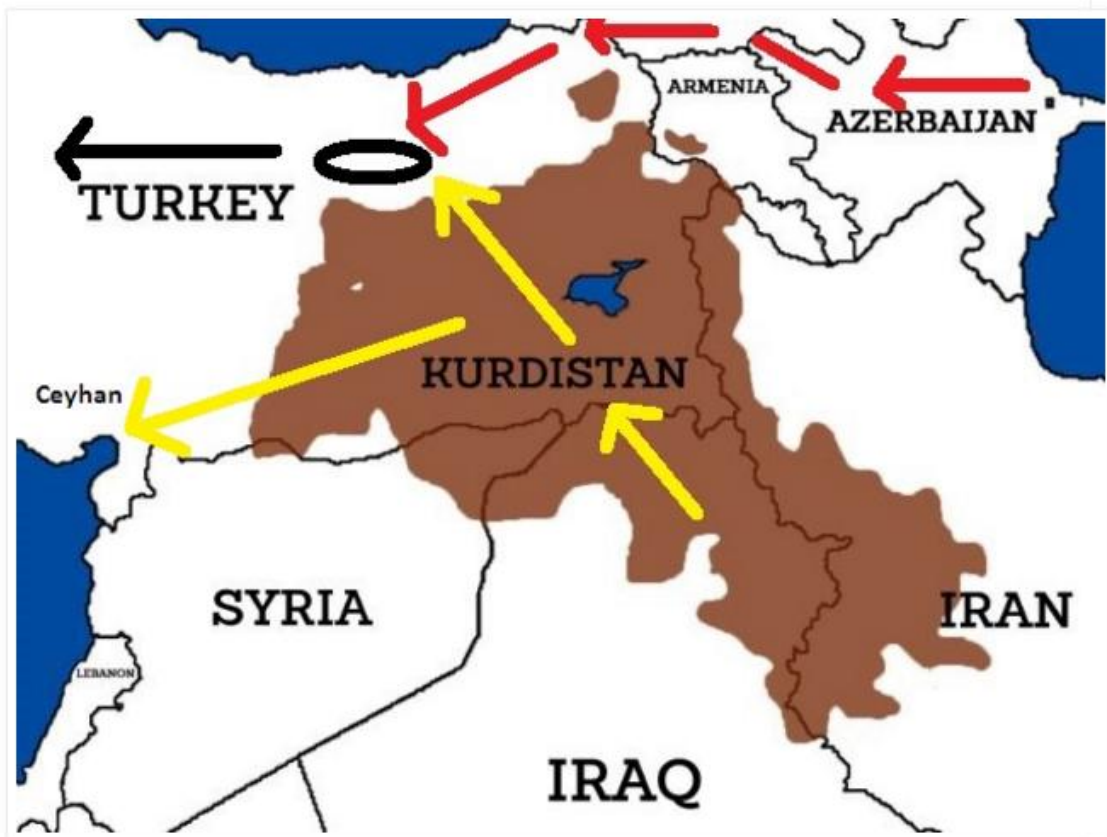
For the Guardian article see

“Suspected mastermind of Mumbai terror attack released from Pakistan jail”, April 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/10/mumbai-attacks-suspected-mastermind-freed-bail-pakistan>

Russia and the Kurds of Syria (February 2016)

The British Minister of Foreign Affairs worries about the growing cooperation between the Syrian Kurds (YPG) and the Russians. He is right to worry about it, because if the Syrian Kurds of YPG completely align themselves with the Russians and the Kurds of Turkey (PKK), the Americans and their allies will not be able to support them, and they will lose their most important ally against ISIS of Syria. The PKK has carried out many terrorist attacks in Turkey, and the more the YPG cooperates with the PKK and the Russians, the harder it will be for the United States to support the YPG.



Alternatively, if the Americans decide to keep supporting the Syrian Kurds, while they are aligned with Russia and the PKK, it will be like indirectly supporting Russia against Turkey, and the Americans definitely do not want that. But it will happen in practice, whether they want it or not, because the Syrian Kurds, together with the PKK, might use the American weapons against Turkey in the Eastern Turkey i.e. the Turkish Kurdistan.

The United States want the Kurds of Syria to use the weapons they provide them against the Syrian Sunni Islamists (ISIS of Syria), and not against Turkey. But how do you make sure that this is what happens in practice? It's not that simple.

“The Kurds, the Kremlin, and the Ceasefire”, February 2016

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/02/23/the-kurds-the-kremlin-and-the-ceasefire/>

“Britain says uneasy after evidence of Kurdish coordination with Syria and Russia”, February 2016

<https://news.yahoo.com/britain-says-uneasy-evidence-kurdish-coordination-syria-russia-115536652.html>

“Turkey calls for unconditional U.S. support against Kurdish YPG”, February 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-security-idUSKCN0VT0S1?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

The Doctrine of Neo-Ottomanism

At the following map you can see with red and pink the remainings of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th Century. A few years before the complete collapse of the Empire, during the Italian-Turkish War (1911-1912), during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913), and during the First World War (1914-1918).

Map 1



http://images.mentalfloss.com/sites/default/files/styles/insert_main_wide_image/public/ottoman_empire_territory_lost_copy_copy.jpg

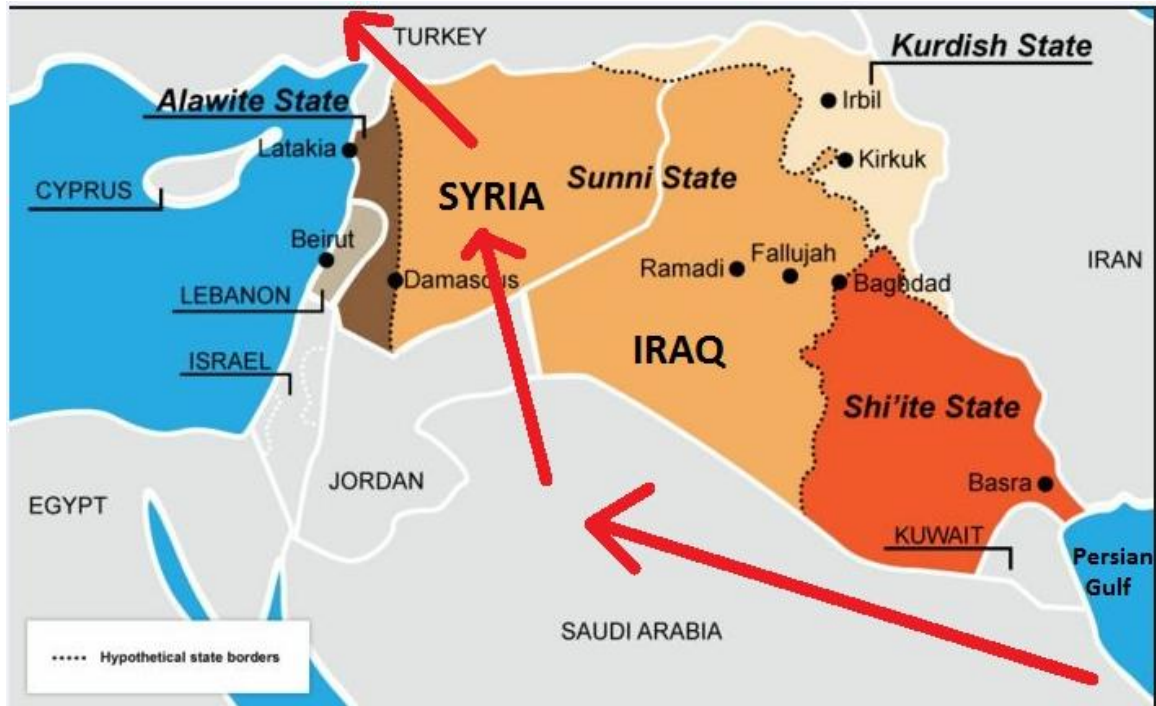
With pink you can see Libya, lost to Italy during the Italian-Turkish War 1911-1912, and the European part of the Ottoman Empire, lost to Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria during the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913.

Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and the parts of Saudi Arabia that were controlled by the Ottomans, were lost to the Arabs during the First World War (1914-1918).

After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Kemal Ataturk founded modern Turkey, based on the Western model, leaving Islam aside. That's the Turkey we knew until 2003 and the rise of the Islamists to power. Tayyip Erdogan and Ahmet Davutoglu, both supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamo-Socialist organization, are trying to revive the Ottoman Empire, both by placing Islam at the heart of the state, and also by extending Turkey's influence at a level similar to the one at the beginning of the 20th Century.

Through its influence over ISIS, i.e. the Sunni Islamists of Syria and Iraq, the Turkish Islamists have again great influence over the Sunni parts of Syria and Iraq i.e. the light brown areas of the following map.

Map 2 Sunni Syria and Sunni Iraq



http://cdn2.vox-cdn.com/assets/4396135/sunni-shia-kurd_state_crop.jpg

The Turks also have military bases in Qatar at the Persian Gulf, and they are getting financial aid from Saudi Arabia. In a sense Erdogan is the undisputed Sultan of the Sunni World in the Middle East. Shia Iran is the only Muslim power that can challenge Turkey in the Middle East, both in military terms, and also through the Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline.

In Egypt, Turkey and Qatar supported the Muslim Brother Mohamed Morsi who rose to power in 2012. Mohamed Morsi accepted Erdogan as the Sultan of the Muslim World. The Time Magazine wrote that Erdogan was treated like a “rock star” by Morsi. I prefer the term “Sultan” or “Chaliph” rather than the term “rock star”. See Time “Why Turkey's Erdogan Is Greeted like a Rock Star in Egypt”, September 2011.

<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2093090,00.html>

Unfortunately for Turkey Morsi was overturned one year later by the Egyptian socialists, with the support of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

In Libya, Turkey is behind the Islamic government at the Western part of the country i.e. Tripoli, while the Western countries support the government at the east i.e. Tobruk.

In Greece the Greek communists are cooperating with the Turkish Islamists, and they are bringing millions of Muslims to Europe and Greece. See “Germany’s Defeat by the Turkish Islamists and the Greek Communists”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2015/12/08/germanys-defeat-by-the-turkish-islamists-and-the-greek-communists/>

Angela Merkel does not want to take initiatives against the immigrants sent to Germany by the Turkish Islamists and the Greek Communists, due to Germany’s Nazi past. Austria and Hungary are fighting the Greek Communists and the Turkish Islamists instead.

Most European leaders see the cooperation between the Greek Communists and the Turkish Islamists, and they say that the borders of the West must be moved from the Greek-Turkish borders to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Greek borders. Bulgaria is a Christian country, and a member of the European Union. Albania is a Muslim country but one of the most pro-American countries in the world, and with a population of less than 3 million people. The Europeans consider substituting Greece with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in order for the European

Union to be able to connect to the Caspian Sea, and also for the South Europe and the North Europe to remain connected if Greece goes, or if Greece is expelled.

Map 3



Map 4



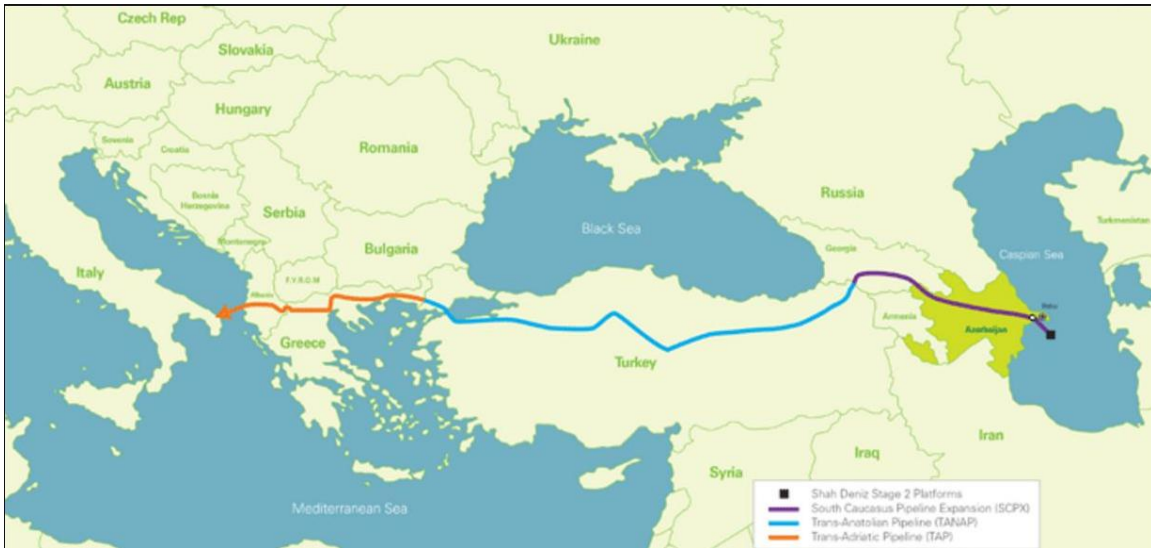
Map 5



The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a Christian country that wants to join the European Union and NATO, but until now it is mainly blocked mainly by Greece. I guess that if the Greek communists convert Greece to a province of the Islamic Caliphate, the Europeans and NATO will accept FYROM, in order to establish new European borders at the Albanian-FYROM-Bulgarian axis.

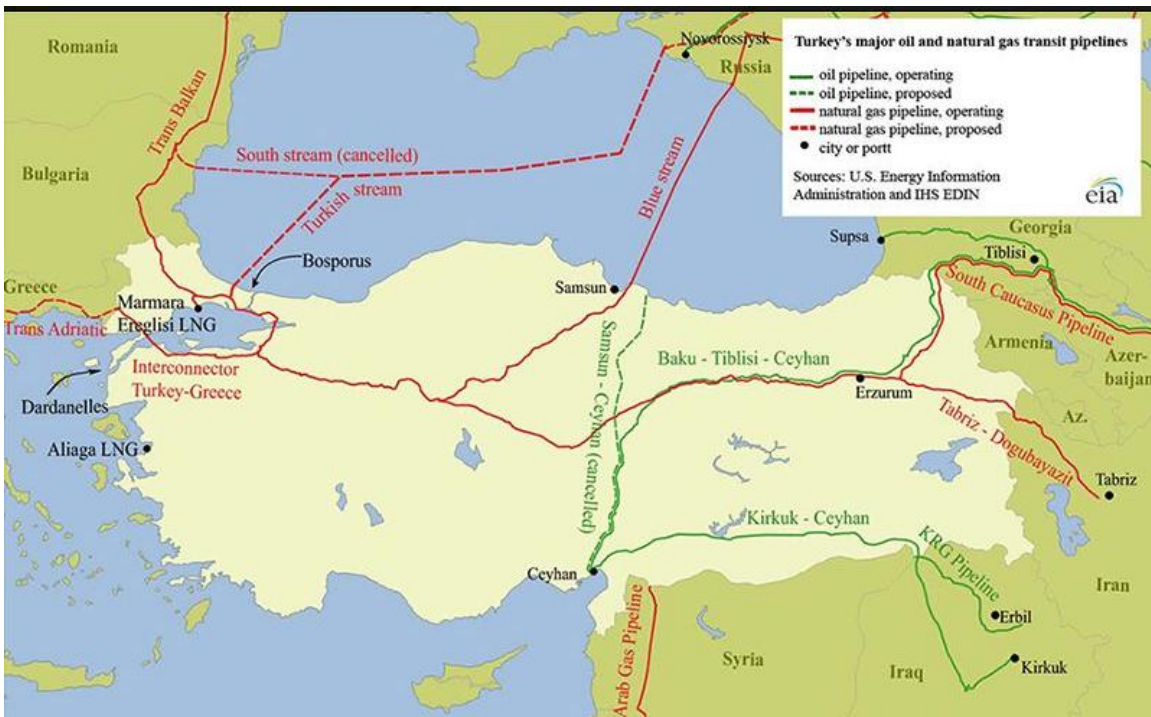
Turkey has also great influence over the Caspian Sea due to her alliance with Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Map 6 Southern Energy Corridor



https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/shah_deniz_regional_map_700x335.gif

Map 7



<https://www.eia.gov/beta/international/analysis.cfm?iso=TUR>

And Turkey has influence at the other countries of Central Asia too, through the various Sunni Islamist groups she supports in Central Asia.

Therefore the Doctrine of Neo-Ottomanism, promoted by Davutoglu and Erdogan is at a quite advanced stage. However to promote this doctrine Turkey has found herself in some kind of war with Russia, but also with the US, since the US support the Kurds in Syria and Turkey supports the Sunni Syrians, and the US supports the Kurds and the Shiites in Iraq while Turkey supports the Sunni Arabs of Iraq. Turkey is at war with Israel too in Gaza, with the Syrian dictator Bashar al Assad in Syria, with Iran in Syria, and with Egypt.

At the same time two civil wars are ready to explode within Turkey, one between the Turkish Islamists and the Turkish socialists, and one between the Turks and the Kurds. Moreover Davutoglu and Erdogan have used a very aggressive monetary policy and the Turkish economy is a bubble.

I must also say that in Europe there is a great difference for the Ottomans, compared to what was happening in the First World War. During WW1, the Empire of Austro-Hungary and the German Empire were allies of the Ottomans, because the Germans wanted to construct the Baghdad Railway, in order to reach the Persian Gulf through Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire.

Map 8 Europe 1900

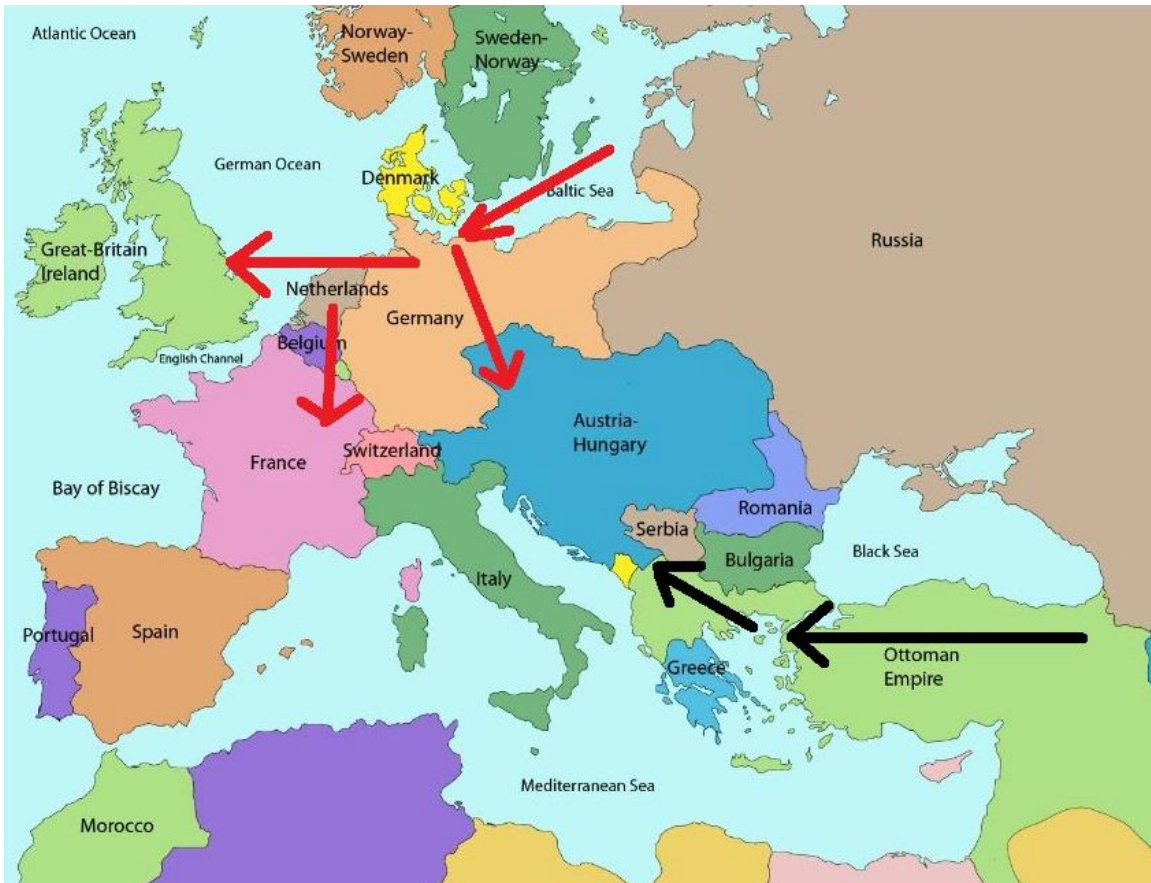


During the First World War, Russia, France and England were rivals of the German Empire, and the Baghdad Railway that would take the Germans to the Persian Gulf was bringing the Germans and the Ottomans very close.

But today the energy cooperation between Germany and Russia, through the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, threatens the main geopolitical objective of Turkey i.e. the Southern Energy Corridor. In Nord Stream 2 the Russians have given stakes to the Germans, the Austrians, the Dutch, the British and the French.

The Greek communists are the only ally of the Ottomans in Europe, and that's why many Europeans say that the European borders must be moved to the Albanian-FYROM-Bulgarian axis.

Map 9 Europe 1900



Nord Stream 2 is a direct threat for the Southern Energy Corridor, and the Southern Energy Corridor is located at the core of the Neo-Ottomanism Doctrine.

Italy on the other hand was very disappointed by the cancellation of the South Stream pipeline (Russia-Bulgaria-Greece-Italy), and wants a stake in Nord Stream 2, or at least more money from Germany.

The reason the Turkish Islamists are so bold, is that the E.U. wants to reduce its dependency on the Russian gas, and wants the Southern Energy Corridor to go ahead. Moreover the European Union does not have an army, and Turkey can threaten the European Union quite easily. Finally the Turks are counting on the US-Russian rivalry, because this rivalry forces the Americans to support Turkey and the Southern Energy Corridor.

If the Americans try to support Russia, the Turks will align themselves with Russia, and will promote the Turk Stream pipeline instead i.e. Russia-Turkey-Europe.

The thing is that if Turkey keeps threatening Europe that she will flood it with immigrants, the United States, the European Union and Russia will have to find a way to cooperate against Turkey.

European Union VS Germany

On September 4 2015, Gazprom, together with E.ON (Germany), OMV (Austria), BASF (Germany), Shell (England-Netherlands), ENGIE-ex GDF Suez (France), signed a shareholders' agreement for the construction of Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will double the quantity of Russian natural gas that can be sent to Europe through the Baltic Sea and Germany. You can read about the agreement at the following page from Gazprom's site, titled "Gazprom, BASF, E.ON, ENGIE, OMV and Shell sign Shareholders Agreement on Nord Stream II project".

<http://www.gazprom.com/press/news/2015/september/article245837/>

Gazprom will hold 51% of the shares, ENGIE will hold 9%, and all other companies will hold 10% of the shares. The new pipeline will carry another 55 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Germany, and the agreement is not in compliance with the European Union's Third Energy Package. The Third Energy Package requests the break up of production, transport and sale of natural gas within the European Union. In other words the producer of natural gas cannot be the owner of the pipeline networks that carry this natural gas in the EU, and the producers and network operators cannot sell the natural gas in the markets of the European Union. Note that the European Union consumes approximately 450 billion cubic meters of natural gas every year, and approximately 150 billion cubic meters of this gas is supplied by Gazprom, the Russian state owned giant.

Recently the South Stream pipeline was cancelled, which was supposed to connect Russia to the European Union through the Black Sea and Bulgaria, because it was not in compliance with the EU anti-monopolistic regulations. Moreover the European Union has limited Gazprom's access to the OPAL and NEL pipelines, which carry the Russian natural gas to Germany and the Czech Republic, and Germany and the Netherlands respectively, because Gazprom has large stakes in both of these pipelines, violating the EU anti-monopolistic regulations. For the OPAL and NEL pipelines see the following map.

Map 1



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Nordstream.png>

The agreement about Nord Stream 2 upset the European Commissioner on energy issues, Maros Sefcovic, as you can read at the following Politico article, titled “Šefčovič warns energy firms over Nord Stream II participation”, September 2015.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/sefcovic-warns-energy-firms-over-nord-stream-ii-participation/>

Currently the EU allows Gazprom to use only 50% of the OPAL pipeline, due to the participation of Gazprom's subsidiary Wingas in the pipeline. However as you can read at the following Reuters article, titled "EU delays decision on Russian access to Opal gas pipeline", November 2014, no other company was interested to use OPAL's remaining 50% spare capacity. That makes sense, because only the Norwegian state owned Statoil could use it, but Statoil is already connected to Germany.

I guess that the EU insists in forbidding Gazprom to use the other 50% of OPAL's capacity, in order to oblige Gazprom to sell more natural gas through Ukraine, because the pro-EU Ukrainian government badly needs these transit fees. But there is a lot of pressure on the EU on the issue of the Russian gas, because Russia is a very reliable supplier, the Baltic route is a very safe route, and there are many giants involved in this project. And I am not talking only about the energy firms. As you can read at the following article from Gazprom's site, titled "Siemens to supply control tools and electrical systems for South Stream's offshore section", April 2014, Siemens, another German giant, would develop significant parts of the South Stream pipeline, which for the moment is cancelled.

<http://www.gazprom.com/press/news/2014/april/article187804/>

As you can read at the following article from Gazprom's site, titled "Gazprom and Wintershall sign Agreement on closing asset swap deal", September 2015, Gazprom and Wintershall, which is the largest German

producer of oil and natural gas, agreed on an asset swap which gave Gazprom most of Wintershall's activities and facilities in Europe, and it gave Wintershall a stake in some Russian gas fields of Siberia. Wintershall is a subsidiary of the German BASF, which is the largest chemical company in the world. BASF has already a 10% stake in Nord Stream 1, and had a stake in South Stream too.

<http://www.gazprom.com/press/news/2015/september/article245878/>

As you can read at the following Natural Gas Europe article, titled "Germans have a plan of protecting Gazprom's business in Europe", September 2015, the Germans want the control for the European antimonopolistic regulation to be passed from the European Commission to a Federal Cartel Office. According to Natural Gas Europe the Germans want that because they will have more influence in a Federal Cartel Office, and they will be able to be softer towards Russia.

http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/jakobik-germany-protecting-gazprom-business-in-europe-25239?utm_source=Natural+Gas+Europe+Newsletter&utm_campaign=554fd73704-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c95c702d4c-554fd73704-307785513

The agreement for the North Stream 2 did not only upset the EU. It upset many other players too. The Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, called the agreement a "betrayal", and said that it will cost Ukraine and Slovakia billions of dollars, as you can read at the following Euractiv article, titled "Slovak PM calls Nord Stream expansion deal a betrayal", September 2014.

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/slovak-pm-calls-nord-stream-expansion-deal-betrayal-317531>

At the following Yahoo article, titled “Ukraine PM calls second Russia-Germany pipeline anti-European”, September 2015, you can read that the pro-western Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseni Yatseniuk, called the agreement about the Nord Stream 2 “anti-European” and “anti-Ukrainian”. According to the Ukrainian PM Nord Stream 1 did increase Europe’s energy security, but Nord Stream 2 will convert this energy route to a monopoly route, and will endanger South and Eastern Europe’s energy security. Note that Ukraine earns 2-3 billion dollars in transit fees every year from the Russian gas. The larger the amount of gas sent to Europe through the Baltic Sea and Germany, the smaller the revenue for Ukraine.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/ukraine-pm-calls-second-russia-germany-pipeline-anti-163441687.html#3Fcxmnd>

The Slovaks on the other hand are carrying to Central and Western European countries the Russian gas which reaches Slovakia through Ukraine, with their national pipeline network which is called the Eustream. See the next two maps. At the second map you can see the Eustream network from the site of Eustream.

Map 2



Map 3



<https://tis.eustream.sk/TIS/#/?nav=bd.map>

At the following Reuters article, titled “Slovakia's Eustream offers alternative to South Stream pipeline”, November 2014, you can read that the

Slovaks were proposing the EU to construct the EASring pipeline through Slovakia, in order to send natural gas from Western Europe through Slovakia to East and South Europe, in order to reduce Eastern and Southern Europe's dependence on Russia.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/28/slovakia-gas-pipeline-idUKL6N0TH1JM20141128>

As expected the announcement of Nord Stream 2 upset Poland and the Baltic States i.e. Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. These countries claim that this agreement completely ignores European Unity, and they compare the German-Russian pipelines with the alliance between the Nazis and the Communists in 1939 (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact). Actually Putin, in order to get even more on their nerves, defended the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, as you can read at the following Moscow Times article, titled "Putin Defends Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact in Press Conference with Merkel", May 2015.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/putin-defends-ribbentrop-molotov-pact-in-press-conference-with-merkel/520513.html>

It is too much to compare the North Stream pipelines with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, because today Germany is a perfect democracy which bans both communism and nazism. However Russia is gradually becoming similar to Hitler's Germany, with the exception of anti-Semitism of course. Putin is collaborating with the Israelis against the Islamists who are supported by Turkey and Qatar, and has not spread anti-Semitism in Russia, and he was even the first Russian President to visit Israel. However if anti-Semitism is not taken into account, Putin's Russia has many similarities with Hitler's Germany. And if there is a deeper crisis no one can guarantee that

Germany will remain the democratic country she is today. Moreover if there is a war, and Germany and Russia are on the same side, they would have to annex Poland and the Baltic States in order to be able to communicate with each other, and also to have a unified front.

What is for sure though is that the economic reasoning of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the Nazis and the Communists is exactly the same with the economic reasoning of the Nord Stream Pipelines. In both cases Russia was supposed to provide Germany with raw materials, and Germany was supposed to provide Russia with manufactured goods.

Germany's Economic Addictions

Germany exports each year 1.38 trillion dollars in goods, approximately 50% of which go to the 10 countries you can see at the following picture. The largest importer of German goods is France, followed by the United States, England, the Netherlands and China. Note that the table is given in euros.

Largest Exporters and Importers of German Goods

Germany's major trading partners, 2012

in EUR bn

Import		Export	
Netherlands	87	104	France
China	77	87	United States
France	65	72	United Kingdom
United States	51	71	Netherlands
Italy	49	67	China
United Kingdom	44	58	Austria
Russian Federation	42	56	Italy
Belgium	38	49	Switzerland
Switzerland	38	45	Belgium
Austria	37	42	Poland

Preliminary result.

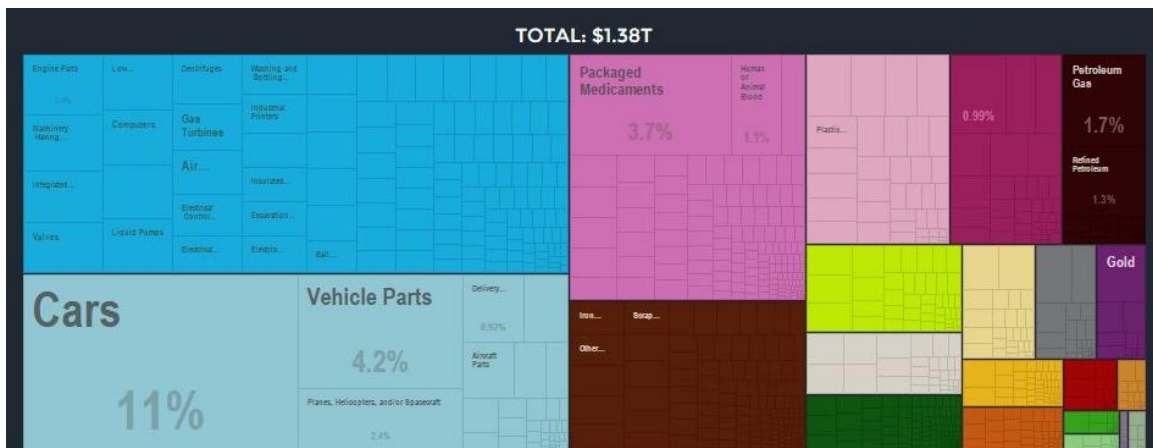
© Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden 2013

<http://openeuropeblog.blogspot.gr/2013/11/us-and-germany-trade-blows-over-macro.html>

Germany imports 1.15 trillion of goods each year, approximately 50% of which come from the 10 countries you can see at the above table. Germany's largest supplier is the Netherlands, followed by China, France, the United States and Italy.

Cars are the main good exported by Germany, and together with vehicle parts, they account for approximately 15% of German exports.

Image 2 German Exports



<http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/deu/>

Oil and natural gas are the most important goods imported by Germany (from Russia and the Netherlands), and they account for approximately 10% of German imports.

Image 3 German Imports



<http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/deu/>

To put it very simply Germany needs to sell cars and needs to buy oil and natural gas.

The Dictator of the Rich in Oil and Gas Kazakhstan

Nursultan Nazarbayev is the President of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of oil and uranium reserves. Nazarbayev is a Muslim of Turkic origin, like most of the people of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan). However for as long as the countries of Central Asia were Russian colonies, that is until 1991, Nazarbayev was a communist atheist, because that's what Russia demanded, in order to prevent the Arabs, the Iranians and the Turks from using Islam to gain influence in her colonies.

However things changed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Nazarbayev, who was the General Secretary of Kazakhstan's communist party, and he knew how to "move" around, became Kazakhstan's President, a post that he holds to this very day (September 2015). Kazakhstan does not want to depend on China for its oil exports, and wants to send its oil to Europe too, through Turkey. However Kazakhstan has to take Russian threats seriously before selling oil to Europe, which is Russia's major client. Putin has declared that there was never a country called Kazakhstan, making clear what will happen if Kazakhstan decides to send its oil to Europe.

Map 1



Nazarbayev is trying to have good relations with Russia, because Russia has the military advantage in the region, but he is no longer the atheist communism he once was, and he is promoting Islam, in order to come closer to Turkey. Nazarbayev counts on Turkey's help to counter the Russian threats and send Kazakhstan's oil to Europe. Turkey is in very good terms with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which both need her to counter the Russian threats and export their oil and natural gas to Europe, but she has problematic relations with Uzbekistan, because Uzbekistan wants the oil and natural gas of the region to move eastwards in order to pass from Uzbekistan.

With Tajikistan Turkey does not have strong relations, because Tajikistan is close to Iran, but Turkey has good relations with Kyrgyzstan, because the pipelines pass through Uzbekistan and not through Kyrgyzstan before reaching China. Therefore Kyrgyzstan does not have much to lose. However Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are now talking about a pipeline through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to China. If this pipeline

is constructed at some point the relation between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan might be affected.

There are three major influences in Central Asia. Russia's military influence, China's economic influence, and Turkey's cultural influence (Islam). Some people call Central Asia the Middle East of the 21st Century. Nursultan Nazarbayev is dancing between communism and Islamism because he wants to sell the oil of his country to both the East and the West. As you can read at the following Bloomberg article, Nazarbayev has appointed his daughter as the deputy Prime Minister, because he wants her to succeed him in Kazakhstan's leadership. Communists and Islamists have something in common. They are not very democratic.

“Kazakh Leader Names Daughter to Cabinet With Succession in Focus”,
September 2015

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-09-11/kazakh-leader-names-daughter-to-cabinet-with-succession-in-focus>