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REGIONAL GEODYNAMICS IN THE BALKAN - ASIA MINOR FIELD

With reference to regional geodynamics in this part of the World, my position is, very briefly, this: The Balkan - Asia Minor area is a field of historically high integration. Its dynamics, when activated, radiates potently to Middle East, Caucasus and the Caspian region, Eastern Europe. An extremely long series of consecutive political organizations (in the form of Empires) of that geopolitical *continuum* accumulated enormous stocks of "commonness", cultural above all, despite even religious differences. Strong integration of the space concerned always coimplicated booming economic activity and heightened prosperity for all its peoples; it also presupposed effective military might. Turbulence in the area during the last two centuries was mainly due to the resolution of an Imperial integration of multimillennial standing into the segregation of national States (according to the pattern evolved primarily in Western and then, Central Europe and under an ideology of superficial Enlightenment and (Hegelian) Statism), this decomposition and recomposition proceeding furthermore within a tense *continuum* for that matter. The instability is thus bound to be temporary, and the fierceness of the conflicts that it generated is misleading. As the system is over time stabilised, even with a sequence of shocks, its inherent unifying potential will become increasingly manifest and operative. We must push forward in the natural direction of, finally, least resistance, notwithstanding the artificial, transient growths of false nationalisms. Integration now means cultural intercommunion, political and military coordination, strategic convergence and economic cooperation, all densely textured. The contribution of each state towards this end will be proportional to its power-capabilities, and each should be allowed, indeed encouraged, to play the role that it can successfully play. Crucial in this respect should be a vigorous Turco-Greek axis of full understanding and close strategic cooperation. (A sound and solid Serbia would be instrumental in such a design - in the sense of the Triple Alliance of 1953 - and this is the point of the Dayton Agreement. But Serbia, at present, proves herself reluctant or unable to move forward, bound by her Central European and Russian connections, as well as by her autocratic and sterile political establishment). High resonance between Greek and Turkish policies requires a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding problems between the two countries, many of which are mere projections of their state of confrontation; the Cyprus Question should also be included as a high priority in the list, since it essentially consists in (and provides the test case for) the question of their broader strategic convergence or otherwise. The step by step approach is fallacious and *counterproductive*. The capital question is not to erect crises - avoiding or handling mechanisms and processes, but to force the Greek establishment into adopting a thorough strategic coordination with Turkey, that will reflect the actual situation in terms of respective capabilities and efficiencies in the short and long run. Crucially, significant integration of the Balkan - Asia Minor field in dynamic consonance with the global system of unipolarity, is also, esp. in the middle and long run, a vital interest of the U.S. The intense cultivation of an open, vibrant, competitive, entrepreneurial spirit in the society and economy fits also well in. Local untoward foreign policy orientations and dependencies on the E.U. dirigiste protectionism may thus impede the process of integration, as in the case of Greece.

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