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# A new world reality in the making The fight for the soul of humanity ...

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# A new world reality in the making The fight for the soul of humanity ...

The days of our life pass without any true meaning, incoherently; we are anxious, we are constantly looking for the next thing to do, unsatisfied and fragmented in mind, soul, and body. Restlessness is only natural since we do not experience the true presence of God within us. When the Grace of God visits us, fragmentation ceases to exist, everything becomes unified, and Divine tranquility pervades body, mind, and soul ...

## The Case of Afghanistan

There are events that act as catalyzing agents. Something unexpected happens, creating a breakthrough, which in effect unleashes a series of chain reactions which, at times, either change the direction of or accelerate events in history. The sudden US withdrawal from Afghanistan has been one of those threshold events in the arrow of time.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan should not necessarily mean a more unstable Central Asia: to the contrary, it may in the short term signify more stability, but of a different nature. It could be stability with the leading world power absent, which would leave room free for a reshuffling of strategic interests between Russia and China, other minor and major Asian powers, notably, Turkey, Pakistan, India, and Iran, plus other Central Asian regional powers. The establishment of a new strategic US outpost could eventually materialize in Central Asia, although America's inability to guarantee the safety of its own citizens in a hostile foreign environment and its unwillingness to defend them has constituted humiliating comportment on its part, with major and lasting symbolic effects.

From China's point of view, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan leads to two interpretations: first, that the US will not defend Taiwan if the latter is attacked by China and, second, that America's failure to deal with the Taliban implies even greater weakness in its ability to stand up to China. Both are, in our opinion, valid assumptions from the strictly emotional and subjective standpoint, but objectively seen unrealistic ones. In any case, in the great contemporary game of propaganda, they do carry a significant symbolic load. China will continue challenging the US on multiple fronts in asymmetric ways. India may be rethinking its strategic priorities and decide to lean towards Russia in the great power game gradually unfolding in the maritime region of the China Seas and of the western Pacific and Indian Oceans. From our perspective, Russia, with a foreign policy of considerable depth, remains in an optimal position, in that she benefits in the long term from the contest of strength between the US and China.

The foundations of European security are shaking after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Europe has no other option but to push for a united military force, waking up to the new Eurasian and Middle East geostrategic realities. The EU with about 3.3 million military personnel will ultimately come to terms with its own strategic autonomy, putting together a formidable war machine under a strong leadership. Where this may lead is an open question and, from certain viewpoints, a disquieting issue and one that could profoundly affect the course of history.

#### Europe

Poland's Constitutional Tribunal has ruled that Polish law takes precedence over European Union law, opening the door to the ominous potential of a Polish exit from the EU. This is the consequence of European federalists seeking to turn the 27-member EU into a European superstate, a centrally managed political entity ruled by a hard core of 3-4 countries, most likely allowing limited democratic control by the citizens of individual European countries: the result would be an EU that is certainly no longer an alliance of free, equal, sovereign states. Separatist tendencies may once again manifest themselves, mainly in countries in the peripheral region of and outside the EU central core. The European Union, in its drive for unity, may be destroying its very own structure. Other powerful geostrategic currents are contributing towards such a disintegrative course, most importantly, the consolidation of *maritime vs. continental powers* for the great upcoming military conflicts we anticipate during this decade. One should carefully watch what direction Greece will be taking in the coming years, especially considering the paradoxical situation of one of the world's leading maritime nations being politically tied to a bloc of land-based powers. Historically, Greece's traditional allies have always been the US and the UK, both leading sea powers. Ultimately considering the powerful geopolitics of the seas, Greece may lean towards its glorious, great maritime tradition. During this decade a Greek exit from the EU cannot be ruled out (with certain key foreign policy parameters guaranteed)!

Central European nations are increasingly looking to their historical heritage. Poland's and Hungary's politics are strongly influenced by the Roman Catholic Church in their struggle for *a Christian Europe*. The French Catholic President Emmanuel Macron has openly declared war against radical Islam in France and is showing ever more support for the Catholic Church. In Germany, the military honored the 90,000 German soldiers who served in Afghanistan with a parade of the Bundeswehr on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in front of the Reichstag. In France and in Germany the extreme right as well as antisemitism are on the rise, nationalist tendencies are certainly also spreading in France. A novel mode of political, military, and religious unity may be in the making in Europe, something like *a new Holy Roman Empire*, a trend worth watching. Ignoring symbolic messages in a period of profound change for Europe could lead to the wrong interpretations for the course of events to come, positive or negative, as a radically different future in Europe may be unfolding in terms of both its structure and its leadership.

### Turkey

Ankara and Moscow plan to extend Russian knowhow for the construction of two more nuclear energy plants for Turkey, in addition to a USD 15-20 billion nuclear reactor already under construction on Turkey's Mediterranean coast. These developments are increasing Turkey's dependence on Russia, who is also Turkey's biggest supplier of natural gas. Turkey presents a true paradox, a country which has been - since the early 1950s - and continues to be a supposedly strong NATO ally while also maintaining a deep strategic and military alliance with Russia. This odd situation will certainly not hold in the long run, especially in an environment where the largest world powers are consolidating their resources to meet the challenges and confrontations of the current decade.

#### Russia

Russia has considerably reduced its gas supply to Europe while amassing troops on its western borders. The United States has been monitoring significant Russian military movement along the border with Ukraine. Acting according to the

traditional adage that *if one wants peace one should prepare for war*, Poland plans to increase its number of professional soldiers from 110,000 to about 250,000 to substantially strengthen its armed forces.

Russia's growing presence in Africa is characterized by numerous military and economic operations throughout the continent, in such countries as Mozambique, Sudan, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. Russian mercenaries are present in several African nations, including Libya and the Central African Republic. Russia's strategic positioning in North Africa strengthens its military and economic influence in the Mediterranean and provides access to key trade routes. Africa is increasingly a destination for Russian goods, especially non-energy exports.

Russia has transformed its military from one based on conscription and mass mobilization to one that possesses ready, flexible, active-duty forces, with possibly more maneuver units than the US. With new weapons designed to asymmetrically counter US advantages, a *hybrid* war capacity that has been employed in the Crimea and Ukraine, and increased use of private military organizations, Russia poses a highly professional, complex, and formidable military challenge.

Belarus and Russia have signed the new «Military Doctrine of the Union State», still undisclosed in its details. The doctrine introduces an elevated level of coordination and coherence in defense policy between Russia and Belarus to confront the perceived pressure from the collective West on both countries. The doctrine would take into consideration the realities of the geopolitical/geostrategic situation in Europe, including the expansion of NATO, as well as other technological and military challenges. It would probably allow Russia to, if not bind it to, directly repel a military threat or a nuclear missile strike carried out in any location of the joint Union State.

### **Belarus - Poland**

The EU is accusing Belarusian rulers of having launched *a hybrid attack* on the EU with the recent refugee crisis on the Polish-Belarusian borders, while Belarus is threatening retaliatory action, as it regards the crisis as a provocation by NATO. Belarus's relations with the West are at their lowest point, while it is sliding deeper into Moscow's orbit.

### Israel – The Middle East

The waning of American influence in the Middle East is closely linked, if not inexorably tied, to Israel's strategic priorities, the most important being its main adversary, Iran. As Iran continues to enrich uranium and readies itself to deploy a nuclear weapon, any such move will mathematically lead to war with Israel. Israel's Defense Forces are continuously drilling for the possibility of such a war. A key question is whether Iran could afford a war with Israel, with a highly probable involvement of the US, and the logical answer to this question is clearly no. Iran has an outdated army – dating back to the 1980s war against Irag - with a small, ill-equipped navy and a resource-strained and weak government. Its main militant activity is arming proxies around the Middle East, i.e., in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, all Israel's enemies. None of its proxies are, on the other hand, prepared for a major conflict against Israel. While Iranian-backed conflicts that the Middle East has endured for decades will continue, nobody can reject the possibility of an accident, leading inadvertently to an Iran-Israel war, or else a first strike by Israel if red lines are crossed on Iran's path towards perilous nuclear arms development.

Cyprus and Greece, who, together with Israel, are members of the Eastern Mediterranean Alliance (EMA), would probably support Israel, in particular its air force, in any confrontation between Israel and Iran.

In a two-week exercise on October 17-28, the most advanced aerial exercise ever was held in Israel at the Uvda Air Force Base, groundbreaking in terms of technology, quality of training, and the number of participating nations. Participation included air forces from the US, UK, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, and India, contributing in total about 70 aircraft and 1,000 soldiers. Threats to the State of Israel emanate from Iran, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, and are only increasing. As Iran becomes bolder and continues to threaten Israel's existence, Israel is turning towards international alliances to mitigate that threat. One arm is the European one, which is, however, in our view a debatable policy decision. A large part of Europe continues to be hostile towards the Jewish nation, while Catholic Europe repeatedly sought to conquer Jerusalem in the past. This time, European forces have entered the Jewish land peaceably and on an open invitation. Another arm of Israel's international military cooperation stems from the groundbreaking Abraham Accords which Israel signed in September 2020: in this connection, Israel, the UAE, and the US Navy trained together for the first time in history in the early-November 2021 five-day drill in the Red Sea.

Many Arab nations plan to normalize relations with Syria and help the country rebuild, a leading nation in the drive for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Syria being the United Arab Emirates.

### USA

Warnings of the inevitable decline of the United States are almost as old as the country itself. To interpret the withdrawal from Afghanistan as a sign of America's decline or permanent weakness is therefore too simplistic and insufficiently defensible. The exit from Afghanistan, though not executed in the right manner, did not take place out of military necessity but arose out of planning, objective political and geostrategic considerations, and a reorientation of priorities. The US is directing its foreign policy towards the central challenge of the present: China.

### Society

A Unique Patient Identifier, as promoted in the US, and analogous schemes in the EU and other regions of the world once implemented would allow government officials, corporations and other employers, schools, airlines, gyms, stores, and restaurants to discover what, if any, vaccinations, or other medical treatments an individual has or has not received. This would, in effect, create *a medical caste system* where those who refuse to follow the mandates or advice of the *experts* will be denied opportunities to work, receive an education, go to church, or enjoy a social night out. Such a health pass (if inappropriately used, and who can reliably guarantee its proper use?) may ultimately weaken health care by making individuals reluctant to share personal information with health care providers, discourage sick individuals from seeking medical care for fear their physicians will discover that they are unvaccinated and/or see their health status, or their engagement in unhealthy behavior, thereby creating and spreading worldwide a global biomedical tyranny.

### Economics

Debt loads, both public and private, are so gigantic in the US that injecting more money into the economy no longer has the stimulative effect it once did, with

declining velocity a key parameter in this. While liquidity is being created, it cannot force banks to lend or businesses and consumers to borrow. With velocity declining, each dollar produces less GDP, while monetary policy is becoming ineffective in its traditional capabilities. Money is trapped in the financial markets, ending up in peripheral accounts and other products, directly or indirectly boosting the stock market rather than moving into the real economy towards productive investments and, ultimately, the advancement of the standard of living. Easy money coupled with low interest rates has been boosting home prices, thereby exacerbating wealth and income disparity. A comparative analogy can be seen in Europe and other parts of the Western world. The breakdown of vital supply chains and chip crises are issues that will probably level out over the coming six months. Many renowned economists maintain that in the US (this applies too to any other large economies/economic blocs), the creation of money out of thin air can safely continue, the running of high and even higher levels of debt should not be seen as a problematic issue, and political, monetary, and central banking authorities still have enough ammunition left, or even have unlimited additional space, to confront and resolve any global financial crisis. We strongly disagree with the above notions and theories, and firmly believe that the present global economic situation is hazardous and unsustainable and is vulnerable to suffering some kind of serious accident, a situation which, to put it mildly, will not end well. High inflation is only one consequence of the current problematic situation: it is a new reality that the world will have to endure in the longer run.

Undeniably, *blockchain* assisted by *cryptography* is a once-in-a-century breakthrough technology which will further revolutionize the *Internet* of *Things*. Nevertheless, we are extremely wary of the danger, that the *cryptocurrencies'* already high-risk profile would be exacerbated, should authoritarian or criminal control be exerted over digital wallets. Also, the incorporation of democratic norms in their utilization is a very difficult process.

#### Energy

India received its first delivery of liquefied natural gas from the Russian Yamal LNG gas plant located in Sabetta in the north-east of the Yamal Peninsula. This is a Russian controlled energy project (Novatek share at 50.1%), with heavy European and Chinese participation (major shareholders: Total S.A., China's CNPC, and potentially China's Silk Road Fund). LNG would be shipped to Asian markets through the Northeast Passage, the shipping route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, along the Arctic coasts of Norway and Russia. The Yamal LNG energy venture has commissioned 15 LNG tanker/icebreaker ships to export its gas, with each icebreaker capable of operating year-round from the Yamal peninsula, breaking ice up to 2.5 meters thick. The first icebreaker, *Christophe de Margerie*, travelled from Norway to South Korea across the Northern Sea Route in 19 days in August 2017.

Any too strict, too fast, and aggressively applied *green sustainable energy standards* will inevitably bring back nuclear energy, e.g., *France the world's champion in nuclear energy*, which will meet emission standards only due to its well-established nuclear platform, and Germany, which may well return to the nuclear option. France remains for Europe the key nation for the bridging of any energy shortfalls and gaps.

#### The Environment

The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), held in Glasgow from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, converged about 400 private jets carrying world

leaders, royals, *green* CEO's from around the world, creating a huge air traffic jam. Private jets are far more polluting than commercial planes, with the typical jet emitting approximately two tons of carbon dioxide every hour. Conservative predictions point out that for *this environmentally friendly event*, the fleet of private jets blasted out 13,000 tons of carbon dioxide in total.

The debris created out of the destruction of dysfunctional satellites in orbit pollutes space and can be extremely dangerous for Space Stations and other functional installations in space, since fragments are traveling at tens of thousands of miles per hour.

#### Militancy

On November 15th, the Russian military successfully tested a missiledefense/anti-satellite interceptor and destroyed with astonishing precision an old Russian dysfunctional intelligence-gathering satellite named «Cosmos 1408» flying at about 500 kilometers above the Earth. The Kremlin's continuing armament modernization agenda is focused on further development of the Russian Aerospace Forces, and specifically their space components. The aim is for missile/radar systems to be capable of tracking, intercepting, and destroying incoming ICBM warheads at any stage of their flying trajectory, including space. The latest anti-ICBM defense S-550 missile system will be fully equipped with anti-satellite space-attack capabilities.

China's explosive growth and modernization of its nuclear and conventional forces will soon allow the Middle Kingdom to execute any plausible nuclear employment strategy. Although China is still a long way from achieving atomic parity with the US, it is catching up faster than previously thought and could well possess 1,000 warheads in just a few years. China is modernizing its delivery systems and may have already established a nuclear triad - the ability to fire nuclear warheads from land, sea, and air. It is militarizing artificial islands in the South China Sea, while hundreds of missile silos are being built throughout the vastness of China's territory. Some of its newest ICBMs have an operational range of up to 15,000 km, armed with up to 10 warheads, and primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery. Part of China's arsenal are AI-controlled, unmanned surface vessels, hypersonic weapons, a complete range of anti-satellite systems, air to air missiles, plus advanced cyber and electronic warfare capacities. China's goal is to complete its national defense and military modernization by the year 2035. Well before that date, China seeks a war machine capable of winning several regional conflicts, potentially including the unification of Taiwan, while at the same time deterring, repelling, or even defeating third-party military intervention. The US is being more effectively challenged militarily today than at any other time in its history.

The triangle China - Taiwan – US, could in an extreme case lead to a catastrophic nuclear war!

### Geostrategy

Russia plans to cease its diplomatic engagement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the latest move in the worsening relations between Russia and the West. This, though, does not mean a termination of relations between Russia and individual NATO states.

Pakistan announced that it will deny the US use of its territory for air surveillance of possible terrorist activities in Afghanistan. Pakistan's government may well be positioning the country into China's sphere of influence.

China and Russia conducted in October 2021 their first ever joint naval patrol in the Western Pacific, following a combined exercise in the Sea of Japan, evidence of their deepening defence cooperation. The goal was to convey multiple messages that would communicate the strong bonding between Russia and China, the preservation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and the protection of the maritime commercial activities of both countries. While US military strategists have generally assumed that any conflicts with China and Russia might come one at a time, that assumption may have lately become questionable.

Australia, the UK, and the US announced the formation of the AUKUS alliance on September 15, 2021, under which the three nations pledged to increase their military cooperation, especially in the Pacific region. Australia, with US help, is poised to become the eighth member of the elite club of countries that operate nuclear submarines. This could redefine the naval balance of power in the South Pacific.

The historical cyclicity of the great wars between *land-based* versus *sea-based powers* will once again mark our current transitional period. Since the end of World War II and during the Cold War, it was always the West (i.e., North America, Europe, and Australia) against the Soviets. Now it is the Anglo-Saxon *sea powers* versus China, and/or Russia, with Europe either relegated to the sidelines or surprisingly supporting Russia. Greece may ultimately align itself with *the great maritime powers* (where it historically belongs), causing additional fragmentation of the EU's already weakened structure.

#### Paradigm Shifts

We wholeheartedly accept the merits of medical sciences in their contribution to the advancement and wellbeing of our civilization and acknowledge that vaccines and vaccinations have historically saved hundreds of millions of lives. Nevertheless, certain aspects of the current global vaccine program against the coronavirus pandemic could unleash the biggest political crisis since the end of the Cold War, leading worldwide to a radical shakeup in government, in health policies, and in the media, while discrediting a large part of the healthcare industries, mainstream media, and politics. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has become a world-changing catastrophe, mostly because of the political response to it.

Mounting *global disruption on several levels resembles the manifestations of war and not cyclical social and economic events*. The degradation of the global economic system, with many subsystems interacting and failing, may not have easy financial solutions. There is a real risk that the fabric of the global economy could be torn apart. Inflation, which should not mistakenly be taken as a temporal phenomenon, will negatively impact the economy with damaging and long-lasting consequences. We could be witnessing the start of a global depression, originating not only in an overburdened financial system but, more profoundly, in the disintegration of political, sociocultural, health, economic, transportation, and demographic structures, which have been in stable and harmonious interaction for decades. A worldwide downturn coupled with geostrategic conflicts may well last a generation until a new global balance has been firmly established.

The global liberal order is today at the service of an outdated economic paradigm. The much-publicized *global reset* marks a transitional period prompted by disruption at different levels on a global scale: it is highly questionable in terms of its objectives and end goals. The ongoing political transformation in the name

of *securing biosafety* and *fighting climate change* could in the long run fatally undermine democracy, allowing rules and decrees to be issued by organizations, corporations, and power centers which have little to do with parliaments. We nevertheless believe that a negative paradigm shift will ultimately spark a societal renaissance of unprecedented proportions, following a decade of disruption, social and political unrest, war and suffering.

#### Art

Polyphony, often cacophony, and chaotic patterns, but also fascinating images of a world on the move, are evident in the global art scene. Art proves once again to be such an important precursor of events to come, currently pointing to a world out of sync, a world seeking new aspirations, a new equilibrium, and a bright new horizon.

# The Fight for Planet Earth

The ongoing health crisis, climate change, the loss of cultural identity, economic tremors, environmental catastrophes, and growing world militancy are elements pervading our society, composing a framework exceptional in intensity and multidimensional manifestation, and not seen since the Second World War. Sociocultural and political integrity and our economic system may not be able to cope with the impending challenges. The new system in the process of being established wants people in a state of fear, enslaved, oppressed, insecure, so that they can be more easily manipulated and directed, docile flocks of sheep of the New Age. True and false become irrelevant notions, while illusionary and highly dangerous realities hover ominously in the sociocultural, political, and economic realms. The world we see on the news, on social media, and on the streets of our cities is the world of techno-medical tyranny, the world of totalitarian government, along with *militant new-age Marxism* on the rise, the world of materialism, relentless lies, deceit, corruption, and the constant erosion of human rights. It is a world of supply-chain collapses and rapidly rising inflation, imminent food shortages, social unrest, chaos, and war. It is a world where imperialist China and Russia progressively fence in a pathetic, uncoordinated America. Europe is endeavoring to find a new vision, structure, and role in an unstable world, and, moreover, we are not at all certain it has learned its lessons from the past two catastrophic world wars. Liberal democracy is becoming the victim of current distressing developments. Evolution and civilization's advancement continue to fight their way forward during the course of a dangerous decade, when tensions and disorder exceed the capabilities of any head of state. When human beings reject Divine Truth, they start worshiping their own selves and opinions. Harmony in life is derailed as dark dystopian energy fights Divine Faith. A battle is being waged for the collective soul of our planet. But there is hope for the future and for that ray of light that will illuminate the hearts of the people, the nations, and their leaders, radiating out from a tiny part of the planet ... and enlightening the entire world!

Our world is being hammered by all manner of disasters, all this the Divine price being paid for our excessive levels of materialism, pride, godlessness, immorality, idolatry, hatred, and violence ... and then sunshine suddenly breaks through the clouds and another world appears not too far away, accessible in a split second, true, just, honorable, gracious, with mighty, dazzling power. This is the Divine Realm, all but forgotten by our modern civilization ...

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