

# The IMTe™ Reports

**Dr.-Ing. Ioannis M. Theologitis**  
**IMTE Consulting Ltd. – Athens, Greece**

## **East versus West Alliances ...**

**IMTe Briefs – No.5/2022**  
**November 2022**

## **East versus West Alliances ...**

### **Prelude**

The end of this decade will mark the closing years of an era, the end of an entire epoch, the end of a megacycle that started after WWII. While megatrends characterizing geoeconomic, geopolitical, and geostrategic developments as well as mega-shifts in sociopolitical, cultural, and civilizational patterns dynamically interact at times in productive synergistic processes, during our present times they very often violently collide - resulting in volatile, explosive situations. Seemingly chaotic patterns emerge as uncertainty reaches a climactic height, while entropy in our world attains levels of unsustainability. We could summarize the all too often incomprehensible and bewildering events unfolding on earth as the clash of two major segments of our world, namely, the West, as we have known it since the end of WWII plus Japan, and the East including the large Asian landmass, Russia as well as nations which align or support the East, notably parts of the Middle East, large parts of Africa, and Latin America. In a word, a battle for our future is being waged on different civilizational, geostrategic, sociopolitical, and geoeconomic platforms.

Although our core positions as expressed in our previous writings remain unchanged, nevertheless, the speed of transformation on the global scene is such that new qualitative aspects are emerging which provide additional angles for interpretation of developments. Our aim is to focus on that additional new information and their multiple shades and nuances through which one may view and understand the mosaic of unfolding global developments. With that in mind as we analyze, synthesize, and report, we will try not to unjustifiably repeat ourselves, although certain core themes need to be revisited again and again because of their overriding importance in understanding where our world is heading.

### **Alliances**

Russian-Chinese relations are currently better than they have been in their entire history. Russia's cooperation with India is deepening, while both China and Russia steadily advance their relationships with the African continent, the Middle East, the countries of the Persian Gulf, and Latin America. Russia's strategic turn towards Asia composes a paradigm shift that will prevail for the next 30 years. China, India, and Russia have populations that could mobilize a combined army of 200 million troops.

Trade between Russia and China could be up by as much as 28% compared to last year. While Western nations cut purchases of Russian energy in light of the Russian military operations in Ukraine, China has been dramatically increasing its imports of Russian energy, together with India, providing the Kremlin with a major economic lifeline. During 2022, the Power of Siberia gas pipeline registered an approximately 60% increase in volume flows to China. Out of the war in Ukraine, a multinational power bloc has emerged with Asian and other non-Asian nations aligned with it, the Russia-China duo informally leading that bloc, while the US's foreign policy mistake in confronting two superpowers at the same time is in fact assisting the further intertwining and strengthening of said alliance.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised to make Turkey an international natural gas hub, thereby enabling him to sell gas to Europe via Turkey through eastern Thrace, avoiding Western sanctions and in effect largely neutralizing the impact of Western sanctions on Russia. Meanwhile, Turkey will earn transit fees

from every cubic meter of Russian gas sold to European buyers. A win-win situation for both Turkey and Russia. Turkey, in fact, though within NATO, remains a Russian ally, while at the same time President Erdogan is overtly threatening Greece, a NATO ally, with outright war. *A unique geostrategic paradox and aberration*, something US foreign policy is not willing to acknowledge.

Russia has not only been strengthening its relations with old Latin American partners, such as Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela, but is also establishing new and stronger relationships with countries that were traditionally oriented towards the US, such as Brazil and Argentina, through security training and weapons sales. China has also tremendously expanded its influence in the region, where it is already the largest trading partner, except for Mexico. Over 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries have joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), while the US's and G7's Build Back Better World (B3W), launched in 2021 to counter China, has not even seriously taken off. China, Russia, and Iran have been conducting military drills in Latin America with the aim of establishing military strongholds in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Moscow's aim to open a north-south trade corridor through the Caucasus and to use Iran to circumvent Western sanctions has given Tehran a new and augmented opportunity to take on a leading role in the South Caucasus. It remains to be seen whether Iran may be involved in most political and geopolitical developments in the Caucasus: beyond doubt, it will have an increased role in the latter processes.

OPEC took the monumental decision in late October 2022 to reduce - instead of increasing according to US dictates - its oil production by 2 million barrels per day. It signals the fact that future oil prices will be set in line with the needs of the BRICS+ countries rather than in accordance with those of the West.

An EU-Mercosur trade deal under the Da Silva Brazilian presidency would not only create the world's biggest trade bloc, but it would also bring Europe back into Latin America, retracing the footsteps of the conquistadors of old. It would reattach Latin America to the continent that colonized it. Especially with the supply line disruptions caused by Russia's military operations in Ukraine, Europe is desperate to find new trading partners. The Mercosur countries possess resources that Europe needs. In return, Europe will be filling some of Latin America's commodity requirements. Looking further ahead, Latin America may be indirectly contributing to the resurrection of *a modern European Holy Roman Empire*, a potential fourth leading world power of the future.

Israel's move toward reconciliation with the Greater Middle East is part of its plan to expand its strategic and security sphere. For Israel, relationship normalization with Saudi Arabia means it will no longer be a small country surrounded by a sea of adversaries, but a regional power around which Arab countries can gather. Saudi Arabia is in turn leaning toward Israel to compensate for its loss of Washington as a reliable partner and ally. In Israel, an emerging majority supporting religious-right coalitions that is reflected in governments with a conservative right wing ethnonationalist, orthodox orientation exhibits not only a longer-term public opinion trend but also an important shift among younger Israelis. Mr. Netanyahu's return to power signifies a far more aggressive militant stance towards Israel's adversaries: risks are thus rising for a military confrontation between Israel and Iran, and/or its proxies, at various levels, over different territories and at varying intensities. In terms of its foreign relations with Europe, Israel will assist Germany to upgrade its fighter jets with highly advanced electronic warfare, sensing and anti-warfare systems in an agreement signed in October, 2022. Germany in return could back Israel in confronting Israel's biggest adversary, namely Iran. We view

this as an important alliance, though of questionable sustainability over the longer term.

German-Polish relations are in deep crisis. Berlin's hegemonial role within the EU, its self-serving European policies, diverging German-Polish geopolitical interests, as well as Germany's stance on the Ukraine conflict are the overriding factors behind the serious rift. Poland with strong US backing is positioning itself as an emerging geopolitical pole on the European continent: this comprises a scenario that German national/foreign policy finds rather difficult to accept and opens up yet another schism in an already fractured European Union in terms of diverging policy positions.

The Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was established in 2009 and includes five member states at present: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan, with Hungary and Turkmenistan having observer status. The OTS is a new geopolitical reality in the dynamically evolving Eurasian space.

Kazakhstan plans to invest in railways linking Europe and China. The projects will strengthen the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route beginning on China's east coast, spanning China and Kazakhstan, crossing the Caspian Sea, and branching into Turkey, Ukraine, and Poland. A route connecting Asia and Europe points to a closer relationship between the two continents, in defiance of US foreign policy dogma that wants Europe geopolitically isolated from the larger Asian landmass.

Strange alliances and set-ups are materializing in a period of world history that is even stranger and harder to comprehend, where, nevertheless, everything happening in the realms of geostrategy, geoeconomics, and geopolitics has its meaning, cause, and effect.

## **East versus West .... geopolitics**

Halford Mackinder, the father of geopolitics, defined *the global heartland* in Central Asia, Russia, and Eastern Europe, as the geographical area which, if seized by another power, would confer control over the global periphery. The *Russian heartland* has repeatedly crushed invaders entering its sphere. Alfred Thayer Mahan in a more modern theory depicts the world as being mainly delineated by the oceans. The *global heartland* in his model was North America, out of which via sheer sea power the US has been projecting and expanding power and influence throughout the world. The periphery comprised the countries across the oceans. The above geopolitical thinking dominated US strategy during the entire 20th century after World War I, and one could argue that it is still currently the prevailing perception – the heart of the Pax Americana. In a far more complex world today and looking into the future, *the global heartland may have shifted once again to the Eurasian landmass*, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. Control of the sea is as vital as ever, but projecting power from the outside into this Eurasian heartland, because of the inaccessibility of its vast geographical landmasses, is virtually impossible. The Russian-Asian landmass remains at present still fragmented but with a strong tendency towards reorganization and integration into what we would term *the core of the East* in its confrontation with the West. Looking further into the future, once the wider Eurasian land mass achieves a considerable level of unification and maximizes its already significant ocean power capacities, it could be destined to become one of the dominating powers globally. The confrontation between East and West on Ukrainian soil is all about that new *heartland* and its potentially growing global power.

#### .... **geostrategy**

During the winter, the European coalition against Russia, impoverishing the European continent, will either simply disintegrate or weaken to such an extent as not to be of any efficacy or significance. Internationally, the anti-Russian alliance is showing the first serious fracturing, with Japan deciding to continue participating in Russia's Sakhalin-1 energy project. If confirmed, Japan would be the first nation in the Western camp to officially breach the anti-Russian alliance. We also expect a complete turn-around in US positions vis-à-vis the Ukrainian conflict. Ultimately, we may not be very far away from a peace treaty between Russia and Ukraine: this would be the proverbial calm after the storm, a storm which has, nevertheless, not yet completed its full trajectory.

#### ... **the great civilizational battle**

Seen from a different angle, the current confrontation between East and West can also be viewed as the clash between two civilizational and governing systems. One is the market capitalism model with the notion that free markets maximize profit and general welfare, while the other is represented by China which holds that the social agenda should set economic rules and deliver benefits to the population while controlling most of its activities. Russia has elements of both systems along with important characteristics of its own. The theoretical background of its multipolar model respects the most fundamental elements of human societies: God, man, time, space, language, history, and tradition. Ideologically, it stands in an interesting position as a paradigm for an emerging new global society. As such, one can argue that President Putin is also fighting a soft power war, *a civilizational war against the West*, to win the hearts and minds of populations and leaders across parts of the globe blighted and corrupted by Western capitalism for many decades.

#### **Russia: redefining geostrategic boundaries**

Russian resolve to achieve its objectives in Ukraine seems to be as strong as ever: the Russian nation is accustomed to hardship and to persisting against odds using the long-term, patient approach to successfully achieve its goals. American resolve to assist Ukrainian leadership to win a war there is waning, with foreign policy objectives reevaluated and time and patience both on the electorate and the political level running out.

Russia's new maritime dogma focuses on the increased importance of the world's oceans, including that of the Arctic region. Bearing in mind Russia's historic role as a leading *continental power*, Russia sees its future role as also becoming a considerable global *maritime power*, with a leading presence in the Arctic and a naval presence in the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean, with an increased focus on African-Asian-Pacific waters. Whether Russia can meet said overly ambitious objectives, which require considerable budgetary resources, remains to be seen.

Russia's nuclear doctrine is termed *escalate to deescalate*, which can be more appropriately interpreted as *escalate to win*. The most difficult months in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, this probably chiefly concerning Ukraine's fighting forces, are still ahead. Winter has arrived and Russia's strategy is focused on this moment. History displays in all detail how the winter months have repeatedly and successfully been utilized in Russian military strategy in the past.

#### **The Nuclear Nightmare**

In the European theater, US tactical gravity nuclear bombs flown by F16/ F35 jets pose no serious challenge to Russia's tactical nuclear weapons, are vastly

outnumbered by equivalent Russian arsenal, can easily be destroyed, and are logistically difficult to use against such a geographically vast country spread over two continents. The US/NATO option to utilize its tactical nuclear weaponry is no match for Russian offensive capacity: hence, any such threats are not taken seriously by Russia.

The USS Rhode Island, the world's largest nuclear submarine, has been seen leaving Gibraltar under intense protection from the Royal Marines and is reportedly heading towards the Black Sea. This Ohio-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine can carry 24 Trident II missiles capable of engaging targets 18,000 kilometers away. It is a highly effective element of the US nuclear deterrence force, a flexible vessel of great survivability with the ability to patrol continuously. Its arrival in the Mediterranean Sea is probably a response to the Russian submarine Generalissimus Suvorov having successfully launched a Bulava ballistic missile from the White Sea as part of a training mission. The submarine belongs to the fourth generation of nuclear submarine missile carriers, equipped with modern systems of missile and torpedo weapons, radio engineering, navigation and sonar weapons, boasting high maneuverability and acoustic stealth. Both US and Russian nuclear submarines have positioned themselves in strategic locations as the war in Ukraine continues.

Escalation to a full-scale nuclear exchange between Russia and the US could cause two-thirds of the planet to starve to death within two years, while 5 billion people could perish, primarily because of nuclear detonations causing huge infernos that inject soot into the atmosphere which blocks out the sun, devastates crops, and shuts down life on earth. Although one cannot exclude this possibility, which has nevertheless been with us since the end of WWII, our belief and our hope is that conflicts on planet earth, such as the Ukraine war, or others to follow, will not lead to such an apocalyptic military exchange: its devastating effects are well known beforehand to all conflicting sides.

### **China: the rising giant**

China is separating its people from the outside world through the creation of political, physical, and economic barriers to protect the national homeland from disease but also from unwanted information, propaganda, influence, and pressure. However, since China's prosperity depends upon international trade, international flows of finance, skills, and technologies that can only be acquired by maintaining contact with the outside world, there will be portals through which money, goods, and certain people can pass. Nevertheless, China's leadership will increasingly diminish the ability of foreigners to influence its politics, society, or economy. A global interaction circuit will depend more and more on China's massive «Belt and Road Initiative» in Eurasia, Africa, and Latin America. China is decoupling from the world, while at the same time keeping strategically selected channels open and maintaining its drive to impose worldwide a new power-sharing structure and potentially a new system of governance.

While China has been relentlessly pursuing self-reliance when it comes to raw materials, especially strategic ones such as titanium, tungsten, and cobalt, and other rare earths, for the past several decades, the US has been selling off huge chunks of its strategic minerals stockpile to the extent that its National Defense Stockpile may possibly be reaching insolvency. If China were to stop exporting them to the US, the country could face serious shortages and bottlenecks in acquiring the basic building blocks required to produce the military hardware that the country needs.



A clear message came from China's leadership during the recently concluded Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Congress: China should stand united behind the party to cope with a turbulent and hostile world. China will persevere along an unchanged course, even if this means going through dangerous geoeconomic, geopolitical, and geostrategic storms, as astonishing changes not seen in a century continue accelerating across the world. The CCP will seize the new strategic opportunities at a time of significant shifts in the international balance of power, away from the post WWII US-dominated unipolar world. By pursuing this path, economic growth could be sacrificed for national security, defense, self-sufficiency, and *the safeguarding of China's dignity and core ideals*. Interpreted in simple terms: China is preparing the nation for confrontations and war. China's Xi Jinping secured an unprecedented third term of leadership, and most likely a fourth one will follow, maintaining a leading governing body stacked with loyalists and cementing his place as the country's most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong.

### **A new European empire in the making**

A political shift towards the extreme right as registered in election results in Italy, Austria, and Sweden could alter the political status within Europe significantly, acting as a catalyst for wider changes for the EU. Scholz and Macron representing Germany and France, i.e., the two most powerful poles within central Europe and the very core of the EU, disagree on most strategic areas of EU policy, from economic policy to energy and security strategy. Sadly, the French nation, experiencing as it is a massive and continuous inflow of immigrants, is sliding into chaos and anarchy, with gratuitous violence resulting in either serious injury or death happening on average every two minutes. Meanwhile, the German army is on its way to becoming the most powerful and best equipped force in Europe. A *modern version of the Holy Roman Empire* may be on the rise in Europe requiring a strong Catholic Church to decisively contribute towards political and military union.

### **The US: the battle for preservation of world leadership**

The argument that our world will continue being a unipolar US-centric world relies on the premise that the US is the largest economy in the world, with a highly sophisticated military, able to deploy overwhelming force, as well as with subtle force to decisively shape the world – simply, the most powerful military and economic force in the world, especially when in action. And, in fact, most if not all of these points are still valid. However, the argument that holds that the international architecture created after World War II remains solidly in place is a point with which we have strong objections. Although we do not outright reject the thesis of the continuation of a US-led unipolar world as a distant possibility, we nevertheless disagree overall with the above notions. We live in times of unprecedented change in which the world has been divided into two camps, West versus East, where East should be understood both geographically but also notionally and metaphorically to include important nations and regions which have been disadvantaged by abusive US/Western power in the past, namely, the Middle East, Africa, and South America. The world is changing fast and there is simply no way back to the old order. The US may be at the start of a great awakening, where the Christian right makes a comeback in order to turn back radical secularism and restore constitutional government and the truly great spirit of America's founders. It should ultimately reposition America *as one, and not the, leading global force* in a new world order.

## The Hellenic Republic

Greece is faced with huge national challenges comparable to those that the nation had to confront 100 years ago. The Hellenic Republic has still to define and follow an independent novel and noble course, with a strong sustainable foreign policy prominently displayed on a multidimensional platform, preserving its traditional strong ties with the West, notably the US (both the US and Greece are *great sea powers* and, as such, they belong together), NATO, the European family of nations, and the EU. At the same time, it should also be allowing for independent well-measured relationships with other significant world powers, particularly Russia, with which it shares a common faith and common historical elements going back to the East Roman (Byzantine) Empire, but also with China, the rising Asian giant. As to the Middle East, Greece must further cultivate its friendship and relationship with Israel, expanding its cooperation with this important country in the fields of Israeli advanced military technology so as to decisively strengthen its defensive, deterrent military might. At the same time, international lobbying and the mobilization and utilization of the powerful Greek *diaspora* should help communicate to the world - based on undeniable historical facts - the non-negotiable Hellenic territorial rights in the Eastern Mediterranean, i.e., the Aegean Archipelago. According to indisputable international law, Greece has the right to extend its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles. This is a bold move the Hellenic Republic has to make - once all the above prerequisites are in place. It has to be made with no hesitation and with determination and courage from its political leadership inspired by national ideals, faith in God, history, and patriotism, completely rejecting Turkey's unjustified threats of war. Once the Hellenic Republic is resurrected by a new breed of young, intelligent, nationally oriented Greeks whose ideals are based on the solid foundation of Greek history, tradition, and Orthodox Christian belief, the Hellenic Republic will once again become the beacon of the free Western world.

## Economics: a world on the edge

In late June 2022, Russia, alongside China and other BRICS nations, announced that they were preparing to launch a new global reserve currency made up of a basket of BRICS currencies. The BRICS with Iran and Argentina make up around 33% of world GDP when adjusted on a purchasing power parity basis. The expanded BRICS produce around 26% of global oil, 50% of iron ore, 40% of global corn, and 46% of global wheat. Half a dozen other countries have expressed interest in or have been invited to join the BRICS, accelerating the fracturing of the world economy, as more and more nations consider an alternative to the United States-dominated economic system and gravitate toward an Asian-centric alternative.

Russia and China are assembling a new gold- and commodity-backed currency system as a protection against a widespread Western monetary crisis. As the world transitions from fiat money to a new financial system, a significant part of blockchain digital currency will probably be gold- and commodity-based. On the digital front, China is leading the way with its «digital currency/electronic payments system» (DC/EP). Moscow is setting up a new Gold Exchange to provide an alternative to the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA). Apart from its declared reserves of about 2,300 tons of gold, Russia holds gold bullion in its «State Fund of Russia», which could possibly bring its total holdings up to 12,000 tons. China may have accumulated an undeclared quantity of gold bullion, potentially being close to or over 20,000 tons. Both nations may continue hoarding gold. High-tech and rare-earth metals such as palladium, nickel, lithium, or neodymium are essential for future technologies. Their availability depends heavily on China and Russia. OPEC is working closely with Russia re-establishing a powerful global energy cartel. Goeconomically, the whole world is in dynamic motion.



An escalating dispute between the US and China over Taiwan could drag down the global economy given the fact that if TSMC production flow of chips is disrupted, the production of everything from cars to iPhones could come to a halt, as no other company makes such advanced chips at such a high volume. If China invaded Taiwan, that would cause the biggest impact on the global economy possibly ever. The probabilities of such a geostrategic move are real and high.

Russian state energy giant Gazprom and China's state-run National Petroleum Corp. concluded an agreement on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to switch to Russian rubles and Chinese yuan for sales of Russian natural gas to China. In addition, Turkey has agreed to partially switch to ruble payments for Russian gas, and Indonesia entered negotiations with Russia to switch to settling all bilateral trade in rubles and Indonesia's currency, the rupiah. Meantime, and although challenged by a new economic order, the USD's status as the global reserve currency remains a vital artery for the American economy, financing the nation's vast deficit expenditures.

America's currency would regain stable footing for the first time in half a century if a bill referred by *sound money* activists such as the «Gold Standard Restoration Act» becomes law (introduced October 7, 2022, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services). It calls for the repegging of the USD to gold to effectively address the ongoing problems of inflation, monetary system instability, and exorbitant federal debt.

Players all over the world are tied inextricably together in a vast dance through equities, debt, derivatives, trade, globalization, international business, and finance, all on a massive mountain of, until now, abundant credit and a monstrous pile of debt. The longer the game runs the more likely it is to end in an uncontrolled avalanche, as *a stable disequilibrium*, or, better stated, *a disequilibrium disguised as stability*, reaches a marginal level. The trigger for the avalanche will be debt-oriented. Although the most destructive detonation may last a couple of days, two to three years will be needed until excesses have been worked out, and up to USD 500 trillion of total global debt as well as derivatives anywhere between USD 1 to 2 quadrillion have been cleaned up. Unfunded pension obligations are a significant part of the large and growing global debt load, big enough to have systemic effects all of their own. If pension plan returns are highly correlated to the S&P 500 and highly correlated to each other, a global catastrophe will unfold if the S&P 500 enters an extended bear market. Can a crisis of such magnitude be averted? It could under very strict conditions of action, though we seriously question the possibility of those becoming realizable options. Nevertheless, a lot lies in the hands of the US Fed, providing the clear direction of action for other central banks in any emergency situation. What is keeping the US currency strong is simply rising rates, i.e., a restrictive monetary policy. Once the Fed stops raising rates or eases them to inhibit or stem a global disaster, the USD could weaken sharply. Owning the best companies in the world is the ultimate ultra-safe asset allocation option. Gold, due to its systemic protective attributes as the ultimate hard currency, remains a shield against catastrophic events; it also holds the possibility of becoming the anchor in a new global reserve currency system and should be part of every sound investment strategy. During this volatile and turbulent period, lifetime investment opportunities are continuously emerging for those strategists who possess the analytical skills and are prudent enough to have the liquid resources to invest.

The world today desperately needs goods and services, energy and resources, not printed money. Oil and gas still amount to more than 50% of energy coverage globally and a change towards eco-friendly energy sources will take years to accomplish. Without a growing supply of fossil fuels, it is impossible for today's economy to continue in its current form. Richer countries will continue trying to

moderate crises impacts to the detriment of billions of individuals living in the developing world, creating massive unrest. The global food crisis continues to intensify as we head for another year of record hunger. In times of rising conflict and uncertainty, nations that control strategically vital assets have the upper hand economically and, depending on size, also geostrategically. The US controls many vital assets. Russia, while controlling huge natural and strategic resources, has an inefficient though low-debt economy: at the same time, it remains an energy giant. China has limited energy resources but has been massively storing energy, controls strategically rare earth elements, and has unlimited human resources. The prosperous period after WWII has passed and a redistribution of power is unfolding globally, along the confrontational axis between East and West and their respective alliances. The world is moving through uncharted territory!

## Epilogue

During President Putin's speech at the Valdai Club on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, differences between East and West could not have been presented more clearly. The collapse of the Soviet Union destroyed the global balance of power. The West felt victorious and proclaimed a unipolar world order in which only its will, culture, and interests had the right to exist - something which had long been silently accepted due to a long period of material abundance and prosperity in the West. Today, the world has reached a historic milestone as the unipolar world is becoming a thing of the past. Russia, without seeking hegemony in the emerging new world order, will continue to staunchly defend its historical spheres of influence and its existential national rights. The memories of countless often tragic mistakes and shortcomings of the West are gradually resurfacing in people's conscious in all those regions of the world that were once Western colonies and suffered from oppression and dependence. A significant part of the world no longer accepts dictates by the IMF, the World Bank, WTO, WHO, NAFTA, various UN bodies, and other international organizations, as well as the highly questionable public health and climate change activism, as they suspect political, social, and economic exploitation. Pope Francis' positions on *reform of the United Nations*, *the need for multilateralism*, *global corporations rediscovering their essential purpose of serving the human family*, and *international decisions based on the widest possible consensus* are all positions worth noting, as they point in the direction of huge and positive change. Elites that have influenced the world order for the past 70 years are facing massive tsunamis of change, remonstrations and outrage sweeping the globe and voiced by the increasingly empowered individuals in our world of eight billion awakening souls. This represents the sheer social power of the fourth generational cycle after WWII, which is a cycle of both destruction and evolutionary renewal. Massive public soft power will continue to grow, manifesting itself in worldwide protests forcing governments to fall or adapt and change. Powerful economic elite centers which are smart enough will adapt and will survive; those that fight change will be swept away and perish. Billions of individuals are simply rejecting centralized left-oriented policies and textbook guidelines for living and achieving happiness. A new world order with new institutional systems, new transnational bodies, cleaner politics, and society at large renewed will emerge, creating in time the economic structures and the new elites which will guide our world into at least two generational cycles spanning a total of 40 years plus of prosperity, of a surge in technological innovation, and economic and energy abundance. The new global leader will not be a single nation but probably a small number of powerful alliances of nations. One of the leading centers of the new world is undoubtedly now being created in Eurasia.

The West today finds itself in a disastrous void with no strategic orientation whatsoever, apart from its defense of a dying world system. It lacks true statesmanship and political leadership, while *the wider East* possesses numerous strong political figures, regardless of whether one agrees with their agendas or not.

The battle between East and West militarily manifesting itself in this phase on the Ukrainian terrain, extends far beyond into other soft power spheres. The West's shortsighted policy in confronting Russia may end up making Putin a mythical hero in the eyes of the Eastern, Middle Eastern, African, and South American countries, a political figure who dared to directly confront the West, NATO, and the US-led parts of the world. The East is clearly in a far stronger position to win the all-important ideological/civilizational battle with the West, unless the West radically changes course and arms itself with powerful ideological weapons, at present non-existent. This decade is a period of a confluence of mega-risks and parallel confrontations on many different fronts, all happening at overlapping time intervals. A period of high volatility and risks. To navigate through such uncharted, stormy waters requires immense skills and, we would say, divine blessings ...

## Sources, References & Further Reading

<https://www.bergos.ch/> BERGOS  
BERGOS MACRO, Dr. Holger Schmieding 3.11.2022  
<https://www.bild.de/> Bild  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/> Bloomberg  
<https://breakingdefense.com/> BREAKING DEFENSE  
<https://www.breitbart.com/> B BREITBART  
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/> Congressional Research Service, *China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities*, CRS REPORT Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress, March 8, 2022  
Dugin Alexander, *The Fourth Political Theory*, Arktos Media Ltd., 2012  
<https://www.express.co.uk/> EXPRESS  
<https://www.gallup.com/> GALLUP  
<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/> GATESTONE INSTITUTE  
GATESTONE INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL, Alan M. Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Emeritus at Harvard Law School, *Why is the Left so Afraid of Twitter?*, November 2, 2022  
<https://www.geopolitika.ru/en/> Geopolitika.ru  
<https://www.goldmoney.com/> Goldmoney – Alasdair MacLeod, *An Asian Bretton Woods?*, September 8, 2022  
<https://geopoliticalfutures.com/> GPF Geopolitical Futures  
<https://goldswitzerland.com/> GOLD SWITZERLAND  
<https://www.kathimerini.gr/> Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ  
Prevelakis George/ Πρεβελάκης Γεώργιος, Professor of Geopolitics/ Καθηγητής Γεωπολιτικής Sorbonne (Paris 1), *Η ρωσο-τουρκική γεωπολιτική συμπληρωματικότητα*, Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ (I KATHIMERINI/ ekathimerini.com) 21.08.2022  
<https://www.iif.com/> INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE  
Mackinder Halford John Sir, *Heartland: Three Essays on Geopolitics*, Spinebill Press, 2022/ *The Geographical Pivot of History*, Cosimo Classics, 2020  
Mahan Thayer Alfred, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History 1660-1783*, Courier Corporation, 1987  
<https://www.investopedia.com/> Investopedia  
<https://www.jstor.org/> JSTOR  
<https://www.repubblica.it/> la Repubblica  
<https://www.mauldineconomics.com/> MAULDIN ECONOMICS  
THOUGHTS FROM THE FRONTLINE, *Pension Sandpile*, John Mauldin, October 15, 2022  
<https://www.asean.mercer.com/> Mercer  
<https://www.moneymetals.com/> MONEY METALS  
<https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/> Monmouth University Polling Institute  
<https://www.nasa.gov/> NASA

<https://www.news4mee.com/> news4mee  
<https://www.newsmax.com/> NEWSMAX  
<https://www.nzz.ch/> Neue Zürcher Zeitung  
<https://www.oneriveram.com/> ONERIVER ASSET MANAGEMENT  
<https://www.turk-pa.org/en/> Organization of Turkic States  
<https://ourfiniteworld.com/> Our Finite World  
Our Finite World, *Why financial approaches won't fix the world's economic problems this time*, Gail Tverberg, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Pope Francis, *I Ask You in the Name of God Ten Prayers for a Future of Hope*, Hernan Reyes Alcaide Editor, Edizioni Piemme, expected March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis pontificate  
<https://www.pronews.gr/> PRONEWS  
<https://www.reuters.com/> REUTERS  
<https://russiancouncil.ru/en> RIAC  
<http://www.ronpaulinstitute.org/> RON PAUL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY  
SHIPPING & FINANCE, Raymond Matison, *Will the next global leader not be a single country but an alliance?* Issue No. 315, September 2022  
<http://svop.ru/> SVOP The Council on Foreign and Defense Policy  
Sergey Lavrov addressing the Assembly of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, May 14-15, 2022, Lesnye Dali, Moscow  
<https://thediplomat.com/> THE DIPLOMAT  
<https://eurasianimes.com/> The EurAsian Times  
<https://jamestown.org/> THE JAMESTOWN FOUNDATION  
<https://www.nytimes.com/> The New York Times  
The New York Times, *Why Russia Believes It Cannot Lose the War in Ukraine*, Serge Schmemmann interviewing Sergey Karaganov, Russian political scientist, Academic Supervisor, Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Dean of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/> The Telegraph  
<https://www.thetrumpet.com/> theTrumpet  
<https://unherd.com/> UnHerd  
<https://valdaiclub.com/> Valdai International Discussion Club  
President Putin at the Valdai International Discussion Club 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Final Plenary Session with Fyodor Lukyanov as Moderator, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/> WH.GOV  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/> WIKIPEDIA  
<https://www.wfp.org/> WFP World Food Program

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ms. Scarlett Gingell for the proof-reading and checking of this brief as well as her thoughtful remarks and comments. We also thank business associates and friends for the productive exchange of views with the author and their support in the realization of this essay, largely researched and compiled on the magnificent alpine settings of mountainous Korinthia in the Peloponnese and finalized on our beloved Tinos island in the Cyclades.

## Important Notice

This report has been prepared exclusively for informational purposes. For the purposes of this legal notice, it is understood that this report with all attachments hereto forms one integral and single communication which may be referred to as "communication" "report" "website" or any other corresponding designation. It does not constitute a financial analysis, consulting of any type or a recommendation for the purchase or sale of financial instruments. The information contained therein relies among others on independent sources and is only current as of the day of this present communication. We can neither accept responsibility nor make guarantees for the correctness or completeness of this information. This communication is not a substitute for legal, fiscal, financial advice or other professional advice. Before taking any business or investment decision or completing a financial transaction we strongly recommend seeking the advice of a qualified professional. This communication is only intended for individuals who are not subject to a legal restriction which prohibits the sending of these documents.

The present report may refer to web sites of third parties through corresponding links. Said links are quoted in this report solely to facilitate readers of said report, while the web sites to which said links refer to, are subject to the terms of use of the corresponding web sites. The quoting in this report of said links does not in any way or form imply the approval or acceptance of the content of the corresponding web sites from the author of this report, who in no way bears any responsibility for the content, practices of protection of the confidentiality status, or the accuracy of said data/ information or material within said web sites. If the reader of this report decides, through the quoted in this report links, to utilize any of the corresponding web sites of third parties, he automatically accepts that he is doing so in his own entire responsibility. The present report and the attached hereto material, may refer to external links of third-party providers. To utilize said external links you have to accept the prevailing at any given time terms and conditions of the corresponding external providers, to which the present report refers to through said links. We deny and reject any responsibility for whatever damage may occur directly or indirectly, including whatever loss or damage may occur from internet viruses or malignant material that may affect your overall IT hardware, software systems or data or the validity of information you have acquired through this report and/or attached material hereto.

The information in this report is not a substitute for legal, fiscal, financial or other professional advice. The content of the present report is provided on an "as is" basis without any type of warranty, stated or implied. Any warranties and/or representations are strictly subject to contract. The present communication is confidential and privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately by reply email at [imt@imte.gr](mailto:imt@imte.gr) or by phoning +30 210 68 97 150 and return this communication to us. This report is strictly intended for the personal use of its recipient. Amending, copying, distributing, publishing as well as utilizing it for any other than personal informational purposes without the prior written authorization of IMTE Consulting Ltd. or Dr.-Ing Ioannis M. Theologitis is prohibited. IMTE Consulting Ltd. is a limited liability company registered under Greek law in Athens and provides a wide range of business, economic and strategic consulting services on an international basis. Dr.-Ing. Ioannis M. Theologitis is a strategic economic adviser offering his services internationally.

Your personal confidentiality is important to our Company. All Personal Data are collected and undergo processing in accordance with the Greek and European Union legislation regarding the protection of Personal Data. For more information with regard to the manner in which your Personal Data are processed, please refer to "**PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION POLICY**" at our website [www.imte.gr](http://www.imte.gr).

## Copyright

IMTE Consulting Ltd. (IMTE) and Dr.-Ing. Ioannis M. Theologitis reserve all the rights in this document. No part of this document or its content may be rewritten, copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form by any means or redistributed without IMTE or Dr.-Ing. Ioannis M. Theologitis prior written consent.

Copyright 2022 © IMTE Consulting Ltd. & Dr.-Ing. Ioannis M. Theologitis

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Athens, Attika/ Kato Oikismos, Trikala, Korinthia/ Tinos, Cyclades - Greece