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Reflections ... The end of an era

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Reflections ... The end of an era

Chaos ... and out of chaos the dawning of a new world

The Tao that can be told of is not the eternal Tao; the name that can be named is not the eternal Name

Tao Te Ching

Difficulty at the beginning works supreme success. Fertile is the chaos of growth, where the strong and the weak join forces

I China

Four decades of globalization have led to extensive freedoms, but also to undesirable developments. The Pax Americana is over, analogously to the Pax Augusta in ancient Rome. We face a complex environment, with rapidly shifting patterns of global parameters and dynamically evolving interrelationships. The world is traversing a high-risk volatile period with brief intervals of tranquility and a rapid, forceful rearrangement of global conditions. In the background, technological battles are raging in a shifting political and socioeconomic landscape where new norms replace decade-long certainties. Past elites are fighting for a futile continuation of control and masses of people, forming the invincible power of the fourth generational social wave of an 80-year mega-cycle, reciprocate - actively or silently - forming the catalysts and facilitators of unstoppable global change. To discern the future is a daunting task. Nevertheless, upon considerable reflection and deep analysis, the directions of change and the outlines of possible futures are becoming more visible.

The international order in place since the end of World War II is breaking up; conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine are raging, the possibilities of a military clash between the US and China and the risk of nuclear war are rising. On the other hand, conditions of severe crisis allow for strong leaders to emerge, and it is in this very direction, especially in the case of a disillusioned West, where hope for the future lies i.e. in strong as well as wise leadership. The moral and sociopolitical decay of Western nations is alarming. Western elites are struggling to prolong their control over societies, and the best they can offer seems to be a near-totalitarian system, an aristocracy of the few that determines the lives of the many, resting on awe and fear imposed upon populations. But even that scenario is crumbling and cannot be sustained. On every corner of the planet people are bombarded with misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda, engineered to distract the ordinary citizen from the objective truth. Massive protests are on the rise against these practices, the sheer power of the masses at civilizational turning points always being underestimated by the governing elites. Transnational organizations with dying, outdated structures and corrupt moral standards will inevitably be forced to radically change or be replaced. The undeclared global war between the West and the East/Global South is evolving into a larger civilizational clash on the borderlines of the Middle East/South-East Mediterranean, Russia/Europe and Russia/Central Asia, and further out across the South China Seas and the Pacific Ocean, this inevitably eventually involving the US.

The power of the fourth generational social cycle, the last in an 80-year mega cycle that started after WWII, is intensifying in force and power, sweeping across the planet, through war and political, economic, social, and demographic crises, until all paths in all directions have been cleared for a new world order to emerge, a new fresh start. The fate of the world, with emphasis on the ailing Western

World, is being determined right now and will influence developments for the next 80 years, forming the new mega cycle of history. Ultimately, only faith, the power of God, and human resolve and valor will overcome the dark forces the world is confronted with, notably the challenge of nuclear war.

We will now dive deeper to analyze the constituent parts, the forces, the frameworks, and the main players of the dynamically changing civilizational trajectory of our planet Earth.

The US. The rebirth of a great nation

I, however, place economy among the first and most important republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared

Thomas Jefferson in his letter to William Plumer, July 21, 1816

Donald Trump's re-election represents a decisive break from an entrenched disastrous apparatus, which gradually eroded America's constitutional freedoms, paving the way toward bureaucratic overreach and digital conformity. President Trump's determination to clean up America has inspired similar movements in smaller nations such as Israel and Hungary, reinforcing the global momentum towards national sovereignty and ideological freedom. Trump's administration is reshaping America's economy, turning it away from four decades of increasing reliance on government intervention. Central to this shift is the act of confronting the US's immense debt levels, which, despite reinforcing the US Dollar's role as the global reserve currency, significantly amplify the nation's structural vulnerabilities. Deficits need not and should not disappear: they should be reduced to manageable levels. Trump's strategy involves aggressive economic reindustrialization and significantly reducing the national debt. The administration is reigniting domestic production, bolstering competitiveness, and bringing down energy costs by fully harnessing America's vast energy resources, as well as by eliminating excessive regulatory burdens on the economy.

A key component of Trump's economic doctrine is the deployment of tariffs to pressure foreign governments to directly invest in the US economy and, thereby, correct longstanding global economic imbalances exacerbated by globalization and exploitative practices. Rather than constituting isolationist protectionism, these tariffs are designed to establish fair reciprocal market access, reinvigorating American manufacturing and promoting equitable trade relations. The tariffs work primarily as a geoeconomic tool for striking strategically long-term deals for the direct benefit of the US economy and not as a grand strategy against US deficits. Trade deficits are not inherently harmful, posing no measurable threat to jobs, wages, or growth. For the US Dollar to retain its global reserve role, foreign entities must hold and invest US Dollars rather than use them solely to buy US exports. These holdings inevitably manifest as trade deficits. A balanced trading account would require foreigners to abandon these alternative uses - an economic impossibility without stripping the US of its openness, dynamism, and investment appeal. The very conditions that support the US Dollar's dominance are those that necessitate ongoing manageable and not exorbitant trade deficits.

Under President Trump, America's post-national globalist liberalism is being supplanted by a renewed commitment to sovereign nationalism - one that champions robust, culturally distinct nations defending their values and interests, particularly within the Western world. Central to this vision is an unwavering

defense of free speech and resistance to international ideological censorship, safeguarding open expression and national determination across democracies. America's foreign policy returns firmly to historical traditions, prioritizing national interests through pragmatic strength, uninfluenced by international consensus unless directly aligned with US strategic objectives. When transnational bodies diverge from US strategic priorities, they face the prospect of reform or disengagement, as Washington moves to dismantle globalist frameworks such as USAID and confront institutions such as the UN system, the WHO, The Paris Agreement (on climate) the ICC, and the WTO, in its effort to reshape global governance. The US tide of nationalism is reshaping Western politics, weakening entrenched elites and transforming ideologies. Europe's established leaderships, heavily associated with fading globalist narratives, are particularly vulnerable to this transformative wave.

The era of abundant, low-cost labor in the US has ended due to deliberate political actions restricting immigration, leading to structural scarcity and higher Businesses are responding strategically, prioritizing centralization, and vertical integration in order to minimize reliance on traditional cheaper labor markets. This shift cancels out previous strategies that depended heavily on an elastic imported workforce. Firms may now invest in domestic capabilities, equipment, apprenticeships, and advanced technologies, aligning business practices directly with labor policies shaped by scarcity. Consolidation in logistics and redefined supply chains reflect this new reality, emphasizing volume, efficiency, and resilience to reduce labor exposure. The transformation marks a reversal of past models that favored importing labor over technological investment. The evolving business landscape highlights the fact that managing current labor dynamics requires examination of capital allocation needs in lieu of traditional employment metrics. We expect the US to adapt rapidly to the new economic environment, which may then translate into competitive advantages in a new financial landscape unfolding globally.

Donald Trump is firmly addressing an anti-Christian bias within American society, reinforcing Christianity's prominence in public life and federal institutions. Drawing upon America's foundational principles rooted in Biblical texts, the administration seeks to reaffirm national unity through a collective spiritual revival. Historically, American presidents - from Washington to Reagan - have consistently invoked divine guidance during crises, solidifying a spiritual legacy Trump is now actively restoring. Ultimately, Trump's vision of America as one nation under God underscores the foundational role of spiritual unity and collective prayer in national identity. Emphasizing historical reliance on divine guidance, Trump seeks to unify Americans through their shared religious heritage and moral principles. This renewed spiritual emphasis will reinforce America's national cohesion, further empowering the nation to meet strategic, economic, and geopolitical challenges, securing its destiny as a bastion of faith resilient to powerful forces of disintegration.

Technologically, America is investing heavily to maintain global leadership, especially through advancements in nuclear fusion and quantum computing. This strategic initiative, driven by fierce competition with China, aims to establish a decisive edge in clean, limitless, and affordable energy. Success in fusion technology could revolutionize global energy markets, reinforce American dominance in artificial intelligence (AI), and secure lasting global geostrategic superiority. Additionally, nations with the most advanced quantum technologies could have the most advanced weapons systems, pharmaceuticals, weather forecasting, and clean energy capabilities. A total of 135 leading publicly quoted

enterprises in the US out of the 500 globally strongest corporations in R&D worldwide, invested in 2024 about Euros 525 billion. Second in line is China/Hong Kong with approx. 90 enterprises investing approx. Euros 110 billion, followed by Japan with approx. 95 enterprises investing Euros 88 billion. In fourth place comes Germany with approx. 30 enterprises investing approx. Euros 80 billion, with seven out of ten of the strongest R&D corporations being American versus one German. The 128 European companies in the top 500 ranking have a combined R&D investment of about Euros 230 billion, at a huge distance from America's R&D outlays. On the military front, the US is committing significant resources to rebuild and modernize its capabilities across land, sea, air, and space. This extensive military build-up is essential to deter China's aggressive military expansion, ensuring that America retains credible strategic dominance. Nevertheless, the military race against a hyper-technologically advanced China is indeed a tough one. America's commitment to robust economic strategy and military strength seeks to preserve its global primacy; yet the emergence of a multipolar world is already reshaping the international order, suggesting that supremacy may increasingly be shared among more than one actor.

Russia. An ideological fight for a new world

He who is fixed to a star does not change his mindLeonardo Da Vinci

Russia's geostrategic positioning historically rests on the maintenance of a vast protective buffer zone along its borders with central Europe, shielding Russia from an invasion from the West. This buffer, in the form of the landmass of the ex-Soviet Union states stretching from Ukraine to Estonia, is critical for Russia, given that no natural barriers, such as a major mountainous area, exist on Russia's frontier with the central European landmass ... Europe will ultimately have to respect the historic necessity ... A Russia that feels secure can only be in the best interest of Europe.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Research Report, Aspects of an Emerging World A. Times of change ... April 18th, 2018

Russia under Putin is charting a distinct civilizational course, one grounded in spiritual revival, historical memory, and ideological resistance to Western liberalism. At its core lies a revival of Orthodox Christianity, traditional values, and national identity as the moral anchor of the Russian state. This vision, echoing the intellectual legacies of Russian philosophers such as Ivan Ilyin, Nikolai Berdyaev, Vladimir Solovyov, Konstantin Leontiev, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Danilevsky, Alexander Prokhanov, and the contemporary theorist Alexander Dugin, embodies a sacred mission: To restore Russia not merely as a post-Soviet power, but as a spiritually awakened Eurasian civilization. Eurasianism functions not only in terms of geopolitics but as a metaphysical axis around which a multiethnic, multi-religious empire will orbit, from Europe to the Pacific. The war in Ukraine is thus understood as emblematic - a crucible where Russia's moral clarity and national sacrifice confront what is seen as Western spiritual emptiness. Russian soldiers kneeling in a sub-zero, snow-covered landscape for short prayer before battle is not incidental but symbolic of a civilization characterized by prayerful determination and devout willpower. In contrast to Western disintegration and China's secular assertiveness, Russia proposes an inward order of faith, family, and moral purpose, a civilizational alternative. The Ukrainian conflict represents not expansionist aggression but existential defense, positioning Russia as the guardian of sacred tradition against the encroachment of globalist decay.

The Forum of the Future 2050 was held at Lomonosov Moscow State University in June 2025 under the intellectual guidance of Aleksandr Dugin, an admired in Russia philosopher whose Eurasianist ideology envisions Russia as the heart of a new civilization distinct from both the West and East. The forum presented a sweeping foreign policy doctrine for Russia, positioning the nation not merely as a state but as the spiritual axis in a multipolar world order. It rejected Western universalism in favor of a New Concert of Great Powers structured around culturally sovereign civilizations. Russia embodies a civilizational ark, preserving traditional values and offering refuge from what is regarded as the moral and institutional decay of liberal modernity. Autocracy is celebrated as a strategic necessity rooted in Russia's historical continuity. The forum laid its ideological foundation on three central pillars: Dugin's Eurasianism, asserting Russia's preeminence across the Eurasian continent; the Greater Slavic State Ideal, inspired by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's vision of cultural and territorial unity among Slavic nations; and Surkov's Russian World, which blurs political borders in favor of linguistic and cultural spheres of influence, forming a core ideological pillar for Russia since 2014. These ideologies combined portray Russia's foreign policy as a civilizational crusade rather than a tactical exercise. While building on past doctrines, the Forum's vision broke new ground by fusing geopolitics with metaphysical ambition. The ultimate aim is the creation of an antiliberal alternative to the existing global order, led by Russia and supported by likeminded states. Foreign policy, in this view, becomes inseparable from national destiny, cultural memory, and spiritual mission. What emerges is a radical evolution of Russian foreign policy, from tactical realism to moral mission. This does not merely reflect spheres of influence, but the construction of a counternarrative to the technocratic and post-humanist paradigm of Western globalism. At its most idealistic, Putin's vision aspires beyond victory to a world united by shared eternal values, civilizational harmony, and spiritual cohesion.

Russia enters 2025 with an economy that on the surface shows strength but beneath reveals fragility, its 2024 growth of around 4.3% outpacing that of the US at 2.8%, the UK and France at about 1.1%, and a shrinking Germany at approximately -0.2%, yet driven largely by consumption, fiscal stimulus, and defense outlays rather than by broad structural vitality. Nearly 30% of the federal budget still derives from oil and natural gas revenues, with crude and liquefied gas flows increasingly directed to China and India, while still finding indirect routes into Europe through intermediaries and re-export channels. Industrial underdevelopment and reliance on imported technology remain critical weaknesses, as the Kremlin draws upon interethnic solidarity across its 190-plus ethnic groups to sustain unity in pursuit of a national revival strategy. Externally, Russia has pivoted decisively to the Global South, seeking leverage through large-scale strategic projects. In Africa, it positions itself indirectly around the USD 13 billion Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP), a 4,000 km conduit linking Nigerian reserves through Niger to Algeria and with likely endpoints Italy and Spain, designed to deliver 30 billion cubic meters of gas annually and potentially influence Europe's energy architecture. Russia's growing role in the vast Sahel region strengthens its leverage on the latter project but also deepens geopolitical complexity, which could either accelerate or stall its completion. In Central Asia, Russia is prioritizing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a 7,200 km multimodal route connecting Russia, India, Iran, and other Central Asian nations with Northern Europe and designed to bypass chokepoints like the Suez Canal by offering 30% lower costs and 40% shorter transit times. By 2030, projections see the INSTC carrying 15-25 million tons of cargo annually, with container flows rising exponentially, cementing its role as a potential major artery

of commodity and industrial trade and further embedding Russia in an Easterncentric trade framework.

Complementing transport and energy, nuclear strategy forms Moscow's most enduring geoeconomic lever: Rosatom, a vast conglomerate of over 400 subsidiaries and 250,000 staff, maintains dominance across the nuclear fuel cycle, from uranium mining and enrichment to reactor construction and decommissioning. Possessing the world's only nuclear icebreaker fleet, Rosatom underpins Arctic access and the Northern Sea Route while delivering nearly 20% of Russia's domestic electricity. Abroad, Rosatom is deeply involved in long-term projects in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East, binding partners into decades of dependency on Russian reactors, fuel, and expertise. Rosatom is engaged in about 20% of global nuclear plant new builds, while in fuel supply and enrichment markets it commands roughly 35-40% market share worldwide, with its participation in certain long-term fuel supply contracts even higher. With nuclear energy effectively shielded from sanctions given its indispensability, it meets nearly a quarter of US enriched uranium needs and is expanding its deliveries to China. This nexus of corridors, pipelines, and nuclear partnerships reveals a Russia that is assertive and resourceful externally, exerting its influence across Africa, Asia, and Eurasia while at home still constrained by technology gaps and structural inertia. The Kremlin's challenge is to reconcile ambitious geoeconomic strategies abroad with the slower, more difficult task of modernizing its domestic industrial & services base. Nevertheless, with markets too large, resources too strategic, and energy too vital to be sidelined indefinitely, Russia's economic presence will remain inescapable for global business.

Kazakhstan: at the heart of Eurasia

Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island; Who rules the World-Island commands the world

H. J. Mackinder

A British geographer and strategist (1861–1947) who formulated the Heartland Theory in 1904, arguing that control of central Eurasia - the «pivot area» - was key to global dominance.

Situated at the heart of Eurasia, Kazakhstan serves as a pivotal nexus connecting Russia, China, Iran, and Turkey, strategically facilitating significant flows of people, goods, and critical energy transits. Covering an expanse comparable to Western Europe, Kazakhstan's vast territory and extensive borders - over 7,800 kilometers with Russia and roughly 1,780 kilometers with China - underscore its geostrategic centrality. Rich in vital resources such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and gold, Kazakhstan's geopolitical relevance is further amplified by its role as a major energy producer and transit corridor, shaping Eurasian energy security and economic stability. Over the past decade, substantial investments have strengthened Kazakhstan's logistics infrastructure, encompassing new railways and highways, expanded seaports, and enhanced merchant shipping capabilities across the Caspian Sea.

These developments significantly boost its potential as an essential trade hub along the emerging East-West transport routes, notably the corridors envisioned by China's expansive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The accelerated integration of Kazakhstan's domestic policies with the BRI has led to deepening economic ties with China, exemplified by a bilateral trade volume of approximately USD 44 billion for the year 2024. Russia's comparative trade figures are close to

USD 30 billion. However, while China's growing economic engagement, driven by large-scale infrastructure investments, positions it as an influential economic actor within Kazakhstan, Russia retains a central role in shaping the country's political and strategic landscape.

KAZAKHSTAN at the heart of Eurasia



For Moscow, Kazakhstan represents a crucial component of broader regional ambitions aimed at reasserting influence over former Soviet territories and control of the Eurasian heartland. Russia's dominance persists through enduring historical, cultural, and security ties, reinforced by institutional frameworks and strategic alliances, allowing it to assert regional geopolitical compliance without necessarily seeking territorial expansion. The West, seeking to counterbalance the prominent Russian and Chinese influence, has also been actively courting Kazakhstan through investments, especially in energy security and alternative transit infrastructure. Kazakhstan maintains a nuanced and sophisticated multidimensional diplomatic strategy, cautiously balancing the interests and competitive pressures exerted by Russia, China, and the West. By leveraging its unique geographic advantages and rich natural resources, Kazakhstan adeptly sustains its autonomy while reinforcing its status as the indispensable heartland that shapes the strategic equilibrium of Eurasia. For Kazakhstan geopolitical gravity increasingly tilts toward the Russian side, reinforcing regional alignments and the balance of power in the Eurasian heartland.

China. A quest for world dominance

The emperor shoulders the responsibility of steering the ship of state through the celestial currents of destiny... The emperor is the son of heaven, tasked with maintaining the cosmic order on earth ...

Chinese proverbs that emphasize the importance and the divine nature of the emperor's role in governing the country. The concept of the «Son of Heaven» originated during the Zhou dynasty and was based on the political and spiritual doctrine of the Mandate of Heaven, i.e., the emperor was expected to promote the best interests of the people and maintain the cosmic order on earth.

The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation presents an ideological vision through which China becomes the dominant world power, ending a century of humiliation under the influence of other imperial powers. China's grand strategy encompasses the concept of a Chinese world order supported by history/mythology: this holds that all Chinese are descendants of the Yellow Emperor, a religious and cosmic ruler alleged to have lived sometime in the mid third millennium BCE, the initiator of Chinese culture, conferring a powerful symbolism within Chinese nationalism. China's leadership may be looking back to a mythologized past with a single Emperor bringing the whole world together in harmony and glory...

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

Since 2012, China has embarked on a sweeping ideological transformation under Xi Jinping, by fusing Marxist-Leninist orthodoxy, Confucian ethics, and statedirected capitalism, presenting it as a uniquely Chinese model. This synthesis seeks to reforge national identity and project China's civilizational alternative to Western liberalism. This deliberate fusion reflects China's long-standing tradition of philosophical pluralism and adaptive thought, where foreign ideas are historically integrated rather than rejected. Xi's project draws deeply on China's past, especially the Century of Humiliation - an era from the mid-19th to early 20th century marked by foreign invasions, colonial concessions, and national fragmentation - largely omitted from Western narratives but central to China's political psyche. It serves as a moral and historical impetus for a rejuvenated and sovereign Chinese state. Xi positions Confucian meritocracy not as a rejection of liberal values but as a disciplined alternative capable of sustaining societal order and cohesion. This ideological reframing portrays China not merely as an economic force but as a civilizational model rooted in virtue, historical resilience, and cultural integrity. The modern Chinese identity is thus recast as forwardlooking yet anchored in tradition, morally assertive yet intellectually open. Within this framework, China's global posture emerges not as reactive but visionary, offering a self-defined path that stands in contrast to Western paradigms. As this ideological project matures, China's continued rise under Xi's direction may well become one of the defining global trends of the 21st century.

China is pursuing dominance across fields as diverse as economic strategy, conventional and nuclear military capabilities, undersea and space warfare, outer-space technologies, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. China's grand strategy encompasses virtually all regions of the earth and all oceans, the latter providing the maritime connectivity between continents... The big question is whether America's ingenuity, confidence, and willpower, unparalleled since its inception as a nation, in alliance with other great Western powers, can outcompete China in its long-term unconventional, asymmetric strategic thinking, planning, and operational skills, uniting the key elements of purpose, time, space, and means towards the optimal employment of resources for the achievement of its strategic objectives.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

China is undergoing a dramatic acceleration in military development, positioning its defense sector simultaneously in both a defensive and offensive mode, with selective superiority in specific domains vis-à-vis the United States. Central to Xi's national rejuvenation strategy is the cultivation of a world-class military capable of asserting Chinese interests across regions and domains. While overall parity with the US remains a mid-term goal rather than a present reality, China has already surpassed the US in pace of weapons acquisition across key sectors: hypersonic glide vehicles, shipbuilding, AI-enabled networks, and missile arsenals. Notably, China conducted more ballistic missile tests in 2021 than all other world nations combined. The land force holds numerical superiority in tanks and artillery, and its anti-ship missiles pose serious operational dilemmas for US naval forces in the Western Pacific. Its growing nuclear submarine fleet, integrated with cruise and ballistic missile capabilities, enhances second-strike capacity and power projection. China's navy, now the world's largest by vessel count, is asserting itself from the Indo-Pacific to the Mediterranean, signaling a new, soon to be true global maritime posture. Control over supply chains, especially advanced batteries and rare earth minerals, adds a less visible but vital layer to its military doctrine. China's space warfare architecture, which is swiftly being built up and includes anti-satellite systems, could in a military crisis obstruct the US orbital networks on which the country heavily depends. Satellite imagery confirms large-scale construction of a fortified military command center near Beijing, believed to house deep underground facilities for war planning, secure communications, and continuity of command, further illustrating the seriousness and strategic coherence of China's military modernization. It reflects long-term intent: to confront emerging challenges with an architecture capable not only of deterrence but also of strategic assertiveness across multiple domains.

India: the fastest growing economy in the world

Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny. Now the time has come when we shall redeem our pledge ... the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

"Tryst with Destiny" is an English-language speech by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, delivered to the Constituent Assembly at the stroke of midnight on 15 August 1947, marking India's independence. The speech, which referenced aspects that transcended Indian history, is regarded as one of the most inspirational orations of the 20th century, capturing the emotional and historical gravity of India's emergence as a free nation.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is forging a distinct global identity - neither aligned with Western orthodoxy nor beholden to Eastern blocs - anchored in strategic autonomy, civilizational pride, and pragmatic foresight. This vision champions sovereignty and historical continuity, steering clear of traditional alliances that might dilute its independent stance. In the fiscal year 2024–25, India's real GDP grew by 6.5%, down from 7.8% in the previous year, yet still among the fastest globally, positioning India to soon surpass Germany and Japan as the world's third-largest economy. Exports during the same fiscal period are projected to approach USD 825 billion, up from about USD 778 billion the year before, while foreign exchange reserves stood near USD 700 billion by mid-2025, providing a robust external buffer. With over 40% of its 1.4 billion citizens under the age of 25, India's demographic dividend fuels both labor and consumer markets. Mumbai is being reimagined as a regional financial powerhouse rivaling Hong Kong and Tokyo, part of a broader initiative to establish Singapore-like

financial and tech hubs nationwide. Special economic zones and industrial parks are proliferating across tech corridors, attracting global technology firms and international banks. The government is investing billions into cutting-edge infrastructure and innovation ecosystems, reinforcing India's ascent as a multipolar force with a future-ready economy and a self-assured geopolitical posture.

India's foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects a deliberate strategy of engaging major powers while safeguarding strategic autonomy. It maintains strong defense and energy ties with Russia, even as it plays a pivotal role in the Quad alliance with the US, Japan, and Australia, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. This dual-track diplomacy underscores India's commitment to a diversified global posture. Relations with Israel have deepened through defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, and technological partnerships in agriculture, water management, and cybersecurity. Along with China, India is adopting a policy of cautious engagement, balancing border tensions with cooperative opportunities to stabilize regional dynamics, while cultivating the groundwork for potential strategic alignment with China. A defining moment for India came in April 2025, when a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, triggered a doctrinal shift from deterrence to active repulsion, echoing Israel's assertive stance post-October 7, 2023. This recalibration signals India's evolving counterterrorism doctrine and its readiness to confront Islamist extremism with greater resolve. Nationalist narratives increasingly portray India as a rising military-technological power, unbound by past strategic restraints. Through these layered engagements, India is positioning itself as a proactive architect of regional norms aligned with its values and strategic interests.

India and Pakistan's long-standing rivalry has deepened into a high-stakes struggle over the Indus river system, vital to both nations' water, agriculture, and energy needs. India, as the upstream power, holds leverage despite its unwillingness to implement extreme water cutoffs. Adding to the complexity, one northern branch of the Indus originates in China, drawing Beijing into the geopolitical calculus. While water remains a source of friction, the historical durability of the Indus Waters Treaty and a growing strategic realignment of both nations makes outright confrontation less likely.

Japan: a rising Asian regional power

Nana korobi ya oki (Fall down seven times, get up eight)

Traditional Japanese proverb passed down through generations of Japanese culture

Rooted in Zen Buddhist teachings and embodied in the Daruma doll, it underscores the virtue of perseverance through adversity. The proverb gained cultural prominence in Japan, particularly during the Edo (1603 to 1868 A.D.) period. The number eight carries auspicious symbolism in East Asian numerology, reinforcing the timeless message: setbacks are inevitable, but resilience defines true strength.

Japan is undergoing a profound strategic transformation, recalibrating its global posture through targeted economic and diplomatic engagements across Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Rejecting China's expansive Belt and Road model, *Tokyo embraces a precision-guided strategy focused on securing critical resource corridors and trade arteries to enhance geopolitical leverage*. This outward economic thrust is matched by an unprecedented military build-up: defense spending reached USD 56 billion in 2024 and is set to double by 2027 (if peripheral spending is included) to around

2% of GDP, making Japan the world's third-largest military spender after the United States and China. Rearmament includes stealth fighters, Tomahawk missiles, and hypersonic glide vehicles as well as converting naval destroyers into aircraft carriers for long-range power projection. Trilateral dialogues with South Korea and cautious exchanges with China suggest a recalibrated regional calculus, where historical rivalries are beginning to yield to pragmatic economic and security cooperation. Japan's dual strategy - melding resource diplomacy with high-tech militarization - signals more than national revival: it points to a broader Asian architecture of aligned interests and shared threats. If sustained, this evolution could foster new regional alliances capable of reshaping global supply chains, fortifying energy security, and counterbalancing Western-centric frameworks. By harmonizing assertive defense policies with nuanced diplomacy, Japan is emerging not only as a pivotal Asian power but as a discreet shaper of a shifting world order, remaining aligned with the United States, yet at the same time subtly creating latitude to distance itself from Washington's dominance.

Europe ... a continent lost ... a new superpower on the rise?

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity

Robert Schuman, architect of European integration. In the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950

A German strategic plan for an alliance of core European States ... with the indirect support of the Catholic Church, something which metaphorically resembles the past Holy Roman Empire, may be in the making. Such an alliance, with strong political bonds, will probably not be joined by the Visegrad group (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia), nor by Greece, nor by the Balkan Orthodox arc of states. These developments will lead to further change, fragmentation, or disintegration, of a European Union already weak in structure. Ultimately, a much-strengthened European core politically, economically, and militarily may emerge to impress and impact the entire world ... If in addition Germany acquired the nuclear military means (technologically feasible speedily and at any time), it would open the way for a core part of Europe to become a peer military power next to the US, China, and Russia. Russia will in no way be unconnected to these processes of change and could play a key role in developments in Europe.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Brief, Geostrategy in a World in Turmoil, February 2022

Europe, once the cradle of visionary statesmanship, is now sinking into strategic decline - fragmented, indecisive, and bereft of inspirational leadership. Its diminished global stature leaves it diplomatically sidelined, hesitant to harness industrial prowess. National agendas clash, demographic pressures mount, and regulatory frameworks such as the Digital Services Act - raising concerns over free speech and political accountability - are further fraying cohesion. Energy insecurity and rigid climate mandates deepen bureaucratic inertia, aggravating social unrest. Cultural fragmentation, accelerated by divisive migration policies and a fading shared identity, fuels resurgent nationalism. Brussels, once the proud emblem of unity, now reflects the unraveling core of an increasingly autocratic European Union. Streets marked by rising crime and simmering discontent reveal not collapse but a deeper malaise at the heart of Europe's bureaucratic epicenter. The ascent of openly Islamist politics signals a troubling departure from Europe's foundational ideals, exposing a widening rift between the EU's faltering establishment and assertive alien religious communities. As the Union's core succumbs to sociopolitical crisis, veiled anti-Semitism, and

entrenched unemployment, hope quietly stirs along the periphery, the Visegrad north region, and the resilient Mediterranean South where more flexible, diverse, and dynamic societies may yet nurture new prospects for Europe. Europe's structural decline demands a strategic, unifying force to arrest its descent into historical irrelevance, and the currents of history indicate that such a strong figure may soon arise, most probably from the German political ranks.

Following historic constitutional amendments in March, 2025, Germany has removed fiscal constraints that limited defense outlays, enabling military spending to rise from around Euros 95 billion in 2025 to a projected Euros 160 billion by 2029. Over the 2025-2029 period, cumulative defense and related expenditures are set to exceed Euros 650 billion. The EU's «Readiness/ReArm Europe 2030» initiative aims to mobilize another Euros 800 billion in defense-related investments by the decade's end, reinforcing the emergence of a continental bloc under German leadership. With new permanent deployments, most notably a 5,000-strong brigade in Lithuania, the Bundeswehr's first enduring foreign base, Germany has signaled a decisive return to leadership in European security. While Germany advocates robust, autonomous European defense capabilities and increased spending, dialogue on nuclear deterrence is at the moment still being led by French proposals, with Berlin supportive but not yet making moves toward an independent European nuclear umbrella. In our view, the potential reopening of the Nord Stream pipelines suggests that Germany may become the central energy node in a trilateral framework with the US and Russia. Within this arrangement - speculative at this point - Nord Stream 2 could be repaired under a US-led investor consortium with Russian participation, significantly energizing Germany's industrial base. If such a plan were to materialize, it would substantially shift Europe's energy sovereignty largely toward US-Russian control. If the US continues to gradually scale back its European presence, Germany's expanding military footprint and leadership role may catalyze the continent's evolution into a unified political and defense entity, elevating Europe toward parity with global powers and reshaping its place in the emerging world order.

Poland's political landscape has fundamentally shifted with the election of nationalist outsider Karol Nawrocki as president in June 2025, marking a sovereigntist turn that challenges EU cohesion. Backed by Law and Justice (PiS) the national-conservative, right-wing populist party that dominated Polish politics from 2015 until its 2023 loss of power, championing traditional Catholic values and social conservatism - but running as an independent, Nawrocki's ascent signals a break from Brussels-centric orthodoxy and a tilt toward ideological alignment with the United States, particularly with Donald Trump's foreign policy. This nationalist consolidation questions Brussels' stance on Russia, climate, migration, and trade policies, exacerbating Europe's internal East-West and North-South divisions. His public rejection of Ukraine's NATO bid, positions Poland as a potential anchor in a US-oriented strategic corridor stretching from the Baltics to the Balkans. While Nawrocki may revive the Visegrad Group as a symbolic counterweight to deeper EU integration, there is currently no formal representation underway. Nawrocki's presidency thus symbolizes Poland's assertive reclamation of historical prominence amid Europe's expanding conservative-populist tide. The implications for EU unity, NATO cohesion, and regional diplomacy are profound, as Poland's pivot may catalyze a broader reconfiguration of Central and Eastern European alignments.

Britain faces accelerating social fragmentation, marked by escalating crime, deteriorating public order, and intensifying tensions over unchecked migration, particularly evident in rising public unrest and declining trust in authority. Recent

incidents involving violence linked to migrants have amplified fears, deepening societal divides and prompting warnings of civil disruption, underscoring a rapid erosion of community cohesion and stability. Doubts persist about whether the present government possesses the capacity or the resolve to effectively reverse this troubling trajectory.

Greece & Cyprus: the heart of the South-East Mediterranean

We are all Greeks. Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their root in Greece

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Percy Bysshe Shelley, the visionary Romantic poet, composed «Hellas» in 1821 as a lyrical tribute to the Greek War of Independence, blending classical reverence with revolutionary fervor, affirming Greece as the cradle of Western civilization and the spiritual source of liberty. Shelley cast Greece not merely as a nation in revolt, but as a timeless beacon guiding humanity toward freedom and enlightenment. To him, the Greek revolution of 1821 was no mere national cause but a universal battle for liberty, with modern Greece both heir to antiquity and beacon of Europe's democratic future.

The easternmost island of the Mediterranean has been a crossroads of civilizations for 11,000 years

Smithsonian Institution «Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilizations» National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., September 2010 – May 2011 Exhibition
This exhibition celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus and showcased over 200 artifacts spanning from 8500 B.C. to the 16th century A.D., illustrating Cyprus's role as a cultural and geopolitical nexus between Europe, Asia, and Africa, emphasizing Cyprus's continuous habitation and strategic importance over millennia. It reflects the island's layered history, from Neolithic settlements to Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman influences.

Greece's accession to the European Union and subsequent adoption of the Euro delivered macroeconomic stability but fell short of fostering structural renewal. Two decades into the common currency, the country remains hampered by a narrow export base, underdeveloped manufacturing, and excessive reliance on tourism and real estate. A severe demographic decline - with fertility hovering near 1.3 (meaning that, on average, each generation is producing only about 60% of the population needed to replace itself) - as well as the brain drain, have depopulated the rural areas and have strained public systems. Urban megaprojects offer only cosmetic gains, while rural regions continue to languish. Revitalization requires strategic resets: targeted incentives demographic erosion, diversification of the industrial base, an inspirational energy policy directly supporting manufacturing with a long-term horizon, strengthened local governance, and innovation-led development. Greece's fragmented policy framework, disillusioned middle class, and ideologically disoriented elites must rediscover a unifying identity rooted in the Orthodox tradition and in Hellenic historical and cultural values. From 2007 to 2025, the country endured increasingly destructive wildfires, reshaping its landscapes and testing the resilience of state institutions against poorly managed catastrophic events. Political leadership must transcend mere administration and embody inspiration, projecting a coherent vision for the future backed by a long-range strategy.

«Pharos», Greece's first *AI Factory*, will launch in Lavrio, Attica in March 2026, marking the nation's strategic shift from technology consumer to high-tech producer. It will support startups, universities, and research centers with computing power, curated data access, and expert resources, reaching full capacity by next year's end. Powered by the «Daedalus» supercomputer, «Pharos» will drive sophisticated AI innovation with strategic partnerships across sectors. Greece boasts a very high per capita concentration of elite researchers in

cryptography and AI-related fields worldwide, offering a rare scientific edge. A second center is planned for Northern Greece, expanding the national AI infrastructure. The «Daedalus» supercomputer and Western Macedonia's planned 1GW hyperscale data center will anchor Greece in Europe's digital and AI future, adding strategic depth to its economic landscape, elevating Greece to a leading position within Europe's AI ecosystem. Greece's re-industrialization is being actively shaped by leading industrial players and high-tech defense innovators, whose global footprint and advanced capabilities signal a new era of strategic production. These firms exemplify excellence in sectors ranging from heavy manufacturing to military-grade optical and electronic systems, reinforcing the country's position in both European supply chains and international markets. Their success, however, hinges on the establishment of a long-term, stable, and competitive national energy policy, an essential foundation for sustainable growth and industrial resilience.

A revolutionary new direction for the Hellenic Republic would be its potential exit from the Euro system and the reintroduction of the Drachma. Such a move, in our reasoned judgment, could restore monetary sovereignty, enable exportenhancing devaluation, and unlock fiscal tools otherwise constrained by Eurozone membership. Above all, Greece must urgently unify around a strategic national vision. The tides of history suggest that leadership capable of inspiring such a transformation for the Hellenic Republic may soon emerge.

At Europe's southeastern edge, a formidable strategic axis has emerged between Greece, Israel, and Cyprus. This trilateral partnership now encompasses joint airsea operations, increasingly interoperable command structures, and energy corridors safeguarded under naval protection. Cyprus, once a passive observer, has evolved into a pivotal strategic node in the Eastern Mediterranean. Meanwhile, the Aegean archipelago has become a theater of contestation, with Turkey's «Blue Homeland» doctrine (first introduced in 2006 and adopted fully as state doctrine after 2015), shifting from rhetoric to persistent encroachment, manifested in drone patrols, naval maneuvers, and recurring claims to Greek maritime zones. Greece, compelled to move beyond diplomatic inertia, has responded by elevating its military command readiness and pursuing sustained modernization of its air and naval forces. Greece's assertive maritime strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean - anchored by legal filings, bilateral accords, and marine park declarations, challenges Turkey's expansionist posture. With US energy interests now entangled in exploration south of Crete, Washington's choice is to back its stable ally Greece or dangerously risk ceding influence in the sensitive Southeastern Mediterranean and particularly the Aegean Archipelago to unpredictable Turkey. For Athens, maritime sovereignty and the balance of power in the Aegean Sea and the Southeastern Mediterranean maritime region, rests primarily on the credibility of its deterrence posture, as well as on its alliance and cooperation pacts with the United States, France, and Israel.

Greece is today firmly anchored within the US geostrategic orbit. The US-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA), renewed and expanded in 2021, has revitalized Greek military capabilities and cemented Washington's role as a counterweight to Turkish assertiveness. At the heart of this cooperation lies Alexandroupolis, a once modest port in northeastern Greece near the Turkish border, now transformed into a critical NATO logistics hub. It enables the rapid movement of troops and heavy equipment overland into Eastern Europe, thereby bypassing the volatile and vulnerable Dardanelles and Bosporus – controlled by Turkey - maritime chokepoints leading into the Black Sea. In parallel, the long-standing Souda Bay naval base in Crete remains one of the most important

American naval facilities in the Mediterranean. With its deepwater port accommodating large naval vessels, including aircraft carriers, and an airfield supporting a range of military aircraft used for refueling, resupply, and logistical support, it provides unmatched reach for rapid deployment across the Eastern Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the wider Middle East. Taken together, these hubs not only underscore Greece's role as a frontline state within NATO but also as a key strategic ally of the US, anchoring Europe's eastern flank defense architecture and supporting regional energy security corridors.

Greece and France elevated their long-standing partnership to a new level with the signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement in Paris in September 2021. This accord marked a milestone: it became the first EU-level agreement to enshrine an explicit mutual defense clause. Under Article 2, each country pledges to use armed forces in support of the other if attacked by a third party on its territory, a provision that goes well beyond the EU's general solidarity clauses. The pact is reinforced by major French arms procurements in Rafale fighter jets and Belharra-class frigates, significantly boosting Greece's deterrent posture. Strategically, the agreement frames Franco-Greek alignment as a Mediterranean security pillar, offering Athens a European counterweight to Ankara's regional ambitions. The Franco-Greek pact extends beyond bilateral defense, aligning with France's Mediterranean strategy. As Paris reduces its footprint in the Sahel, Africa, it is projecting power through the Eastern Mediterranean and Levant while also linking its naval presence to Indo-Pacific routes. Greece thus serves as France's forward anchor, reinforcing European strategic autonomy across three interconnected theaters.

Protests in Northern Nicosia underscore a growing rupture between Turkish Cypriots and Ankara's ideological impositions. Long regarded as proxies of Turkish policy, many Turkish Cypriots are increasingly asserting a distinct identity and challenging Turkey's unrestrained political and religious influence. Demonstrations in the north have openly opposed Ankara's political interventions, with community leaders appealing for greater international attention and legal review, thereby undermining Turkey's claim that it is representing their interests. While not amounting to formal recognition, the gradual and pragmatic acknowledgment by Turkish Cypriot voices of the Republic of Cyprus, reflects a critical internal shift with potentially transformative implications. These dynamics strengthen Greece's strategic leverage on the Cyprus issue, complicate Ankara's narratives, and suggest that balance of power may now begin to shift from within the Turkish Cypriot community itself.

Almost all major historical turning points in world history were determined on the seas. Greek shipping will propagate Greece's historical identity worldwide, while Greece will continue to have an important say in the geopolitics of the world's oceans.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ..., March 2020

Greece's history is inseparably tied to its role as a globally leading maritime nation. The Greek-controlled merchant fleet - comprising over 5,500 vessels and commanding nearly 470 million deadweight tons (dwt) - represents about 21% of global shipping capacity, far exceeding the combined fleets of other EU countries and almost tripling that of the Americas. It transports an estimated 30% of global seaborne oil, 22% of LNG, and nearly 25% of dry bulk cargoes. This vast fleet, with its worldwide reach and dominance in the carriage of strategic commodities, provides Greece not only with formidable economic weight but also with embedded geoeconomic leverage across global trade routes.

Turkey: power plays and the Ottoman echo

In our civilization, conquest is not occupation or looting ... our nation removed the oppression from the areas that it conquered. It established justice ... This is why our civilization is one of conquest... Turkey will take what is its right in the Mediterranean Sea, in the Aegean Sea, and in the Black Sea

Words representative of modern Turkish leaders' revisionist rhetoric evoking Ottoman-era grandeur and projecting regional influence in maritime zones

Turkey's neo-Ottoman dogma under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan increasingly echoes ambitions of historical grandeur, inspired by the Ottoman Empire and driven by aspirations to create a Greater Turkish Empire. Projecting power from the Mediterranean basin into the volatile Middle East, northward through the Balkans, and eastwards across the Black and Caspian Seas to Central Asia, Erdoğan openly embraces an ideology seeking to establish Turkey as the preeminent regional power. Its booming defense industry and expanded trade networks, especially into Africa, underline Ankara's determination to forge new spheres of influence, capitalizing on Europe's - predominantly France's - receding role in the region. The collapse of Assad's regime in Syria and Azerbaijan's recent territorial gains further bolster Turkey's strategic positioning, granting Ankara leverage over crucial geopolitical crossroads and enabling direct intervention in Middle Eastern power struggles, notably against Israel. Simultaneously, Turkey's assertive maritime claims through the aggressive «Blue Homeland» doctrine challenge Greece and threaten Eastern Mediterranean stability.

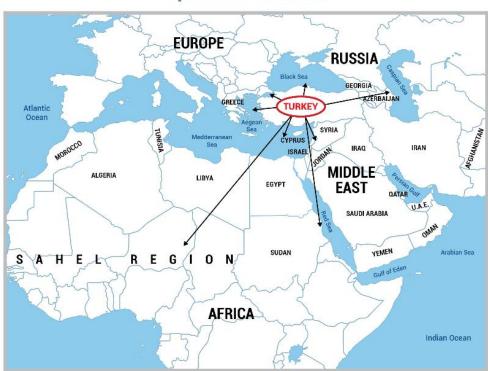
Turkey's «Blue Homeland» Doctrine



Erdoğan dangerously maneuvers between allegiance to NATO, partnership with Russia, and tacit support for extremist Islamic groups—playing a perilous diplomatic multidimensional game. Further intensifying regional tensions, Turkey's potential longer-term pursuit of nuclear military capacity poses an alarming

threat, particularly in the fragile Eastern Mediterranean and Levant regions. Ankara's ambition to join BRICS exemplifies its calculated shift away from Western dependency, the aim being to secure its role as an influential geostrategic and geoeconomic regional force and a global trade hub amid escalating protectionism.

Turkey has embarked on an ambitious global quest for energy and essential commodities, skillfully harnessing its rising diplomatic influence to gain an advantage in an intense worldwide competition for resources. These ventures span all continents, from Russia to Africa and from Southeast Asia to the Americas, a formidable task by any measure. The strategic objective is clear: to ensure reliable access to vital supplies that can sustain its energy-intensive economy amid global supply chain uncertainties.



TURKEY: Geostrategic / Geoeconomic Spheres of Influence

Concurrently, President Erdoğan seeks to expand Turkey's international standing and geo-economic reach, cultivating deeper economic alliances along the way. However, this pursuit carries significant risks. Entrusting a national oil company with the lead role in frontier exploration projects - ventures characterized by considerable uncertainty and financed with public funds - presents to Turkey potential windfalls but equally exposes it to substantial financial losses. Ultimately, Ankara's multifaceted strategy underscores its long-term aspiration to firmly establish itself as a dominant regional power, influencing geopolitical realities from Europe's southeastern flank deep into the Middle East, Africa, and the Caspian Basin.

Israel and the Middle East - is long term peace feasible?

The State of Israel is prepared to make its contribution in a concerted effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East

Israel's Declaration of Independence,14 May 1948 David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister of Israel

The only basic answer we can give to the question 'what will be' is: we will continue to fight, just as we did in the past, and now too ... We must prepare ourselves mentally and physically for a prolonged process of struggle.

IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Dayan (Command and Staff College course, 1969)

Iran's strike (at Israel on Tuesday October 1st, 2024) will beyond any doubt be answered by Israel at the time of its choice, and, in our humble view, sooner rather than later, in a highly innovative, sophisticated, and devastating manner. It could involve such options as an overwhelming strike on Iranian energy facilities and/or nuclear centers, as well as the disabling of energy grids and communication, command & control centers.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Brief, Crisis in the Middle East (2) Updated Edition, October 2024

Israel dramatically reshaped Middle Eastern history on June 13, 2025, with the launch of Operation Rising Lion, a sweeping military campaign that targeted Iran's nuclear infrastructure through precision drone and fighter jet strikes. Prime Minister Netanyahu framed the initiative as a response to an existential threat, invoking memories of the Holocaust and echoing Churchillian defiance and Moses' Biblical call to courage, thus underscoring Israel's resolve always to confront danger before it escalates beyond containment. The operation marked a strategic culmination of nearly five decades of ideological aggression from Iran and its proxies, who openly seek the destruction of Israel and the United States. Tehran's ambitions for regional dominance through militias and nuclear coercion were severely compromised. Israeli strikes critically weakened if not dismantled proxy networks and accelerated Iran's national degradation, marked by collapsing infrastructure, especially its energy grid, and waning public support for hardline rule, potentially paving the way for regime change. In parallel, Israeli diplomacy has redefined regional geopolitics: the Abraham Accords and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor position Israel as a strategic gateway linking Indian dynamism, Gulf resources, and European markets. Expanding ties with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt, and even controversial Qatar signal a shift toward shared prosperity and stability, marginalizing extremist factions. With firm US backing for full Iranian nuclear dismantlement, Israel now stands poised to address entrenched challenges -including the Palestinian question - from a fortified position of regional leadership, advancing a vision of enduring security, economic integration, and technological supremacy.

Israel's vision of a Greater Israel fuses historically rooted legacy with decisive geostrategic ambition, redefining sovereignty from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea while spiritually aspiring to a Biblical destiny extending the State of Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Rooted in early Zionism and reawakened after the 1967 war, the concept blends Jewish religious beliefs with modern nationalism, carried forward by ideological Zionist leaders from Herzl to contemporary heads of state. It may reflect positions embodied in Prime Minister Netanyahu's current portrayal of himself as the custodian of a divine inheritance, unfolding progressively since 1948. Currently measures such as annexation of the West Bank, reoccupation of Gaza and potentially further expansion along Biblical lines reveal an aggressive undercurrent, supported by ideological and religious

frameworks. Plans for a Gaza governance independent of Palestinian influence and securely backed by Israel are being cast as a new model of regional stability, while regional agreements such as the Abraham Accords are cited as evidence of broader Arab support for Israel's legitimacy and for the realization of expansive cooperation projects across the Middle East, aiming to cement long-term peace.

On the other hand, there is the risk that Israel's vision may lead to endless occupation, isolation, and the displacement of Palestinians, whose dispossession since the Balfour Declaration remains unresolved. In our view long-lasting peace in the Middle East will remain unattainable over the long run without the establishment of some form of Palestinian statehood, probably outside Israel's current borders, with the direct support of other major Middle East players. Thus, while *Greater Israel* reflects a fusion of ideology, prophecy, vision, and contemporary strategy, its pursuit underscores the tension between ambition and sustainability, leaving balanced peace for the short to middle term as the only path to secure the future well-being of the region and of Israel itself.

The frequent invocation of colonialism in discussions concerning Israel and the Palestinian people often reflects ideological posture more than historical reality. Popular in certain political movements and strands of Western academia, this framing obscures key truths, namely, the uninterrupted Jewish presence in the land and the profound transformation wrought by Arab-Islamic imperial expansion beginning in the 7th century A.D. These conquests introduced Islamic, Arabic, and new cultural norms that reshaped the Levant's indigenous landscape over centuries. Palestinian identity, which crystallized in the 20th century, must be understood as part of a broader historical continuum, rooted in Arab linguistic, religious, and cultural traditions introduced during the Islamic era; while also drawing on Levantine ancestry that long predates Arab rule. This layered identity complicates simplistic colonial analogies and underscores the distinctiveness of the Palestinian experience within the wider Arab world. Archeological and historical scholarship shows that the ancient Israelite civilization evolved organically from the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Canaanite society. Hebrew belongs to the Canaanite branch of the Northwest Semitic family, anchoring Jewish cultural continuity in the Levant's linguistic matrix. Genetic studies further confirm strong ancestral links between modern Jews and ancient Canaanites, notwithstanding diaspora admixture. Despite exile and persecution, Jewish communities sustained a spiritual and cultural legacy in their ancestral land. To label the modern Jewish return as colonial distorts the historical record. If colonialism applies, it aligns more with Arab imperial expansions that overlaid earlier traditions. A sober historical lens affirms the indigenous roots of the Jewish people in Israel-Palestine and highlights the complexity of identity and sovereignty in this contested land.

Qatar's geopolitical role remains complex and contradictory. Leveraging vast natural gas wealth, Doha simultaneously maintains robust alliances with Western powers, notably the US, while financially supporting extremist Islamist groups such as Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hosting America's critical Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar benefits from strategic ambiguity, fostering connections across ideological divides. However, this dual approach destabilizes US policy coherence and poses significant risks to Israel's strategic interests. Qatar's sustained funding for radical elements, even after Hamas's October 2023 atrocities, underscores the urgent need for Washington to clarify its stance, potentially compelling Qatar to decisively choose its alignment through credible threats of relocating key military installations.

Turkey, under Erdoğan's assertive leadership, is aggressively pursuing an ambitious neo-Ottoman agenda, to a certain extent influencing Middle Eastern power dynamics. By supporting Syria's new government under President Ahmed al-Sharaa, which assumed office in January 2025 - following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad - Ankara has strategically challenged Israel's regional deterrence. The conflict over Syria has evolved into a strategic contest, with Turkey seeking to prevent further Syrian fragmentation and to consolidate influence through Islamist-aligned factions, while Israel has countered by repelling threats to its borders, supporting the Druze community and thwarting both Turkish encroachment and the residual Iranian presence. The trajectory remains precarious, with the prospect of military confrontation between Israel and Turkey becoming a distinct possibility if Ankara's aggressiveness remains unchecked. Current and future dynamics beyond any doubt favor Israel in shaping Syria's future. At the same time, Israel is reinforcing its strategic partnerships with Egypt, Greece, and Cyprus. Lebanon's recent political transition, marked by the election of President Joseph Khalil Aoun on 9 January 2025 after a two-year vacancy, signals a potential realignment, with a leadership widely viewed as far more independent of Hezbollah and Iranian influence.

Israel's dominance in the cyber domain underscores its exceptional military and economic synergy. Cybersecurity capabilities form a critical strategic edge, while an unparalleled cyber ecosystem, closely integrated with commercial innovation, reinforces Israel's economic resilience and sustains growth despite perpetual conflict. Its robust high-tech sector, strongly supported by US partnerships, illustrates how technology can uniquely fuse security with prosperity, offering a compelling example for comparably sized nations—and particularly for Greece.

Africa: a vast continent on the rise

I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself Nelson Mandela

Africa is undergoing a profound realignment as traditional Western influence recedes and emerging powers step into the vacuum. In the Sahel, former French colonies have requested the withdrawal of Western forces amid surging jihadist violence, increasingly turning to Russia's state-run Africa Corps - the successor to the Wagner group - and other non-Western partners for security guarantees. Moscow has reinforced its leverage by offering military training and paramilitary support in exchange for strategic mineral concessions, embedding itself in fragile states such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic. Across the continent, destabilizing conflicts such as Sudan's civil war are reportedly being exploited by Iran, to carve out an Iranian proxy hostile to the West on the Red Sea, raising alarm among regional and global stakeholders. Meanwhile, China has entrenched itself as Africa's largest trading partner, financing vast infrastructure projects through the Belt and Road Initiative and securing stakes in energy and critical minerals, while Turkey is expanding its presence through construction contracts, arms sales, and military bases such as in Somalia, projecting influence across the Horn and beyond. Gulf states, i.e., Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are also deepening their footprint, particularly in strategic ports and agribusiness. However, from a pan-African perspective, there remain grounds for cautious optimism: regional initiatives are advancing and several of the world's fastestgrowing economies on the African continent continue to point toward a future where Africa's long-term trajectory is nothing short of positive.

Economics - the end of the post WWII financial system

There is no means of avoiding the final collapse of a boom brought about by credit expansion

Ludwig von Mises

The global economy has shifted beyond the high tide of globalization into an era marked by protectionism. The United States has turned tariffs into instruments to massively force foreign investments in the US, narrow its twin deficits, and preserve geopolitical primacy. Their effects are double-edged: domestically they push up prices, while abroad they depress demand, forcing Europe and Asia into different strategic responses. These regions begin from stronger fiscal positions than the US, but if tariffs prove ineffective, Washington could possibly contemplate extraordinary measures, such as imposing fees on foreign-held Treasuries or converting them into ultra-long maturity bonds, e.g., 150-200 years. Though still hypothetical, even the notion of such moves would shake world markets, undermine trust in US debt, and mark a dramatic departure from the financial order established after 1945. It is a fact that the US Dollar's global supremacy is slowly eroding. While the USD still accounts for about 58% of official global reserves and roughly half of world trade invoicing, these figures have been inching lower. Yields on US Treasuries remain high, reflecting both cyclical pressures and deeper concerns about debt sustainability. China is steadily trimming its holdings of US Treasuries, while investors worldwide have shifted record sums - about 7.0 trillion US Dollars plus - into money-market funds, favoring short-term yield over long-term risk exposure. Against this backdrop, political pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut rates threatens its independence: the FED has been a pillar of stability since post world-war agreements. A weakening of central bank credibility would risk higher borrowing costs for households, businesses, and governments alike.

Meanwhile, alternative poles of monetary power are taking shape. China promotes the yuan internationally, experiments with digital currency, and calls for greater IMF representation for emerging economies. Russia and China, along with a growing bloc of Asian economies, are turning to gold as a foundation of resilience. Officially, both hold around 2,300 tons, but they are widely believed to possess multiples of these amounts in undisclosed state-controlled reserves. The BRICS grouping has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia, with Saudi Arabia membership still pending. Its members encourage trade in local currencies and explore cross-border payment systems, verifying the slow erosion of the USD's monopoly. In Europe, Germany's new security doctrine has placed defense at the center of economic policy. Actual outlays reached about 88.5 billion US Dollars in 2024 - just over 2% of GDP - but are set to rise sharply in the coming years, with projections approaching 3.5% to 5% of GDP by 2029. Already among the world's top five arms exporters, Germany's rearmament is invigorating European industry and stimulating growth but also tightening fiscal constraints.

Digital finance is further reshaping this new, evolving financial order. Bitcoin, once dismissed as speculative, has entered the mainstream, with large banks now allowing its use as collateral. Stablecoins, digital tokens tied to the US Dollar, have surged to about 250 billion US Dollars in circulation. Under the 2025 GENIUS Act, they now fall under federal regulation, with issuance limited to licensed institutions. Stablecoins indirectly create a federally supervised, privately run digital US Dollar akin to a retail Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). Stablecoin expansion, potentially to approach 2 trillion US Dollars by 2028, could

drain trillions of US Dollars from traditional banking, risking severe monetary policy distortions, fiscal imbalances, and systemic vulnerabilities. While politically appealing, a shadow digital USD framework risks disrupting coordinated central bank policies with unforeseen consequences for a fragile global economic system.

For investors, the landscape is fraught with systemic risks yet alive with opportunity. US-China severe divergences, inflationary pressures, overhangs, climate risks, demographic imbalances, and technological disruption are merging into a structural storm that is unsettling old certainties. Switzerland holds its place as the ultimate leading world jurisdiction of stability. Gold remains crucial for capital protection against catastrophic risk, especially against runaway inflation and systemic and geopolitical instability. It should however be borne in mind that while gold offers refuge, it carries its own risk of government Proactive strategic considerations in asset allocation strategies addressing the transitional dynamics, with a focus on structural, long-term economic and geopolitical changes rather than temporary disturbances, should be key elements in successful portfolio management strategies. At the same time, asset managers must combat the syndrome of inertia caused by systemic or strategic long-term risks, which can consistently lead to underperformance and missed participation in substantial short- to medium-term investment opportunities arising from emerging sectors of the global economy, technological advancements, and innovation. To succeed in this transitional era, capital must be both protected and deployed with agility, anchored in resilience yet open to the winds of transformation.

Fossil Fuels - can the world survive without them?

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell

Edward Abbey - Environmentalist, Author

An American author and environmentalist (1927–1989) renowned for his fierce defense of wilderness and critique of industrial development, inspiring modern environmental movements and advocating ecological balance.

In the 21st century, national survival will hinge on reliable and abundant energy. As demand rises within an increasingly complex global system, scarcity threatens stability, making the financing of small and midsize enterprises - vital engines of growth - especially critical to both advanced and emerging economies. Despite vigorous advocacy for an accelerated green transition, existing technologies remain inadequate: heavy industry remains fundamentally incompatible with renewable energy, while hydrogen continues to be prohibitively expensive. Fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas - are poised to dominate for at least another decade, with nuclear power, exemplified by France, standing out as the most reliable clean energy source. The «World Climate Declaration» signed by nearly 1,600 scientists including Nobel laureates, is scientifically arguing that there is no climate emergency, counter to prevailing narratives. Meanwhile, AI is propelling electricity demand to unprecedented heights: consumption and prices in the US are surging, while global data center power usage is expected to more than double by 2030 placing strain on energy grids and potentially catalyzing a nuclear renaissance, underpinned by supportive government policies and hyperscaler investment aimed at delivering stable, round-the-clock energy. Tech giants are pouring billions into nuclear infrastructure, reshaping the utility landscape, while America's abundant natural gas serves as a strategic bridge fuel and source of industrial leverage during the scale-up to nuclear energy. Looking further ahead, fusion energy, with its clean, virtually limitless potential and minimal waste,

represents the long-term solution to global energy needs. If development continues steadily, fusion could begin contributing to the global grid by the mid-2030s or 2040s, transforming not only energy and industry but also space exploration.

Geopolitics & Geostrategy Alliances: a different world on the rise

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones

Albert Einstein

Who controls the Rimland rules Eurasia; who rules Eurasia controls the destinies of the world

Nicholas J. Spykman

An American political scientist (1893–1943) who developed the Rimland Theory in the early 1940s, contending that the coastal periphery of Eurasia is the true strategic fulcrum of world power.

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.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Briefs, East versus West - Alliances ..., November 2022

A new Cold War grips Europe, challenging the post WWII order for the first time since 1945 through direct interstate conflict. Yet Russia has already met a crucial strategic objective: halting NATO's relentless eastward advance perceived by Moscow as an existential encroachment on its historic sphere of influence. Russia's war in Ukraine definitively ended this trajectory, reaffirming a historical pattern of Russian resurgence in the face of collapse. Successive traumas going back to European invasions from the early 19th century into the Russian heartland, forged a deep-rooted strategic culture of defensiveness and vigilance. Russia, having faced existential threats time and again, has invariably clawed its way back onto the world stage. Its sheer geographic scale, vast resources, forbearing population, and enormous nuclear arsenal ensure that periods of weakness remain temporary. Putin's ambitions are not solely territorial: they are narrative. His suggestion that Romania, Poland, and Hungary possess dormant rights to Ukrainian territory revives suppressed nationalist claims that could fracture EU unity. Labeling Ukraine's borders as historically artificial, he seeks to encourage subtle revisionism and further splintering European resistance to Russian objectives. Putin's broader aim: to transform Ukraine into a pliant, fragmented buffer state and, in doing so, rewrite the strategic architecture of Eastern Europe.

Russian national security remains rooted in the enduring axiom of Tsar Alexander III: that Russia's only trustworthy allies are its army and navy. This guiding principle is vividly reflected in Moscow's sharply rising defense expenditures and

reinvigorated military capabilities. Russian maritime forces are returning to Soviet-era strength, capable of projecting power across vast distances. Its updated nuclear doctrine lowers the threshold for first nuclear force use, allowing preemptive strikes if Russia, or Belarus face existential threats, even from conventional weapons. In May 2025, President Putin approved a new Naval Development Strategy, the first of its kind in Russia's modern history. The Russian Navy is the third-most powerful in the world, after that of the United States and China. Improving its maritime power remains a high priority for Russia. Putin has demonstrated his commitment to developing the navy, announcing close to USD 100 billion to construct new warships and transform naval capabilities by 2050. Moscow's hybrid military dogma fuses conventional operations with irregular tactics, cyberwarfare, political manipulation, and psychological pressure, targeting adversaries across all dimensions.

The deepening Russo-Chinese alliance is reshaping global geopolitics. Cemented by their shared antagonism toward US dominance, the two nations are entwining economic and strategic interests, with trade between them surging to record highs in 2024, while cooperation with China in AI and military technologies is expanding rapidly. China's support for Russian war logistics has become vital to Moscow's continued campaign in Ukraine. Chinese troops may undergo training in Russia this year, specifically focusing on countering Western military hardware, drawing directly from Russia's battlefield experiences in Ukraine. This intensified military cooperation underscores a strengthening strategic alignment between Russia and China, particularly relevant to China's potential ambitions integrating Taiwan. Such collaboration highlights a formidable, emerging Asian nuclearly armed alliance of nations significantly shaping the geopolitical landscape and potentially driving future global confrontations. Efforts by Washington to sever this axis have largely failed. The possibility of a massive Eurasian force looms not as speculation but as a strategic consideration, its scale and technological edge challenging every tenet of post-Cold War power assumptions. Russia may ultimately assume a leading role in such a bloc of nations - with China as its primary ally - surprising many prominent strategists and Western military analysts.

Russia, despite early operational failures, is most likely adopting a strategy attributed to Carl von Clausewitz, the Prussian strategist and influential military theorist of the Napoleonic era. Von Clausewitz famously argued that «war is a continuation of politics by other means» and warned that «cordon warfare» i.e. defending a vast continuous line, is inherently ruinous unless backed by overwhelming firepower at every point. Ukraine today finds itself in a precarious position defending hundreds of miles of trenches and hardened positions against a numerically superior adversary. The geometry of defense demands strength everywhere, while attackers need only mass at one breachable node. For Ukraine, dispersion remains a strategic liability, while Russia is adhering to Clausewitz principles in breaking through the core interior of Ukraine. The enduring lesson from Clausewitz is that in protracted war, mass and coordination remain decisive. Three constituent elements, i.e., people, army, and government, interact in complex, often nonlinear ways, making war a volatile but also adaptive system. Clausewitz warned that ignoring any one of these parameters would render any theory of war useless. In Ukraine, the unforgiving reality of a thinly stretched, extended perimeter defense is becoming increasingly apparent. We modestly suggest that the strategic balance has already shifted toward the side that most effectively leverages time, force, and battlefield geometry - all of which favor Russia.

Russia has escalated its offensive across the entire eastern front in Ukraine, deploying nearly 700,000 troops with clear signs of intensifying momentum. The Kremlin's deeper intent seems to be outright conquest, unyielding, unhurried, and undeterred. Russia's ambitions extend far beyond Ukraine's eastern territories. Strategically, it seeks to dominate the entire northern Black Sea coast - Odessa, Transnistria, and Moldova - securing a corridor of influence that links Crimea to pro-Russian enclaves. In the event that control of Odessa - long regarded by Moscow as a historically Russian city - falls to Russia, Ukraine would lose its maritime access, granting Moscow uninterrupted strategic command over the Black Sea. With Transnistria - a frozen conflict zone where up to 200,000 residents (of a total population of about 465,000) hold Russian citizenship -Russia may justify military intervention under the pretext of protecting nationals. From this base, Russian influence could spread through Moldova and into Romania, completing a zone of control stretching from the Caucasus to Eastern Europe. Control of Crimea amplifies this vision, allowing Moscow to dominate Eurasian energy corridors and strategic infrastructure critical to Western interests. It imperils, to a certain extent, American and European access to Central Asian resources and disrupts EU energy ambitions, while simultaneously empowering China to capitalize on secure, land-based energy and trade flows.

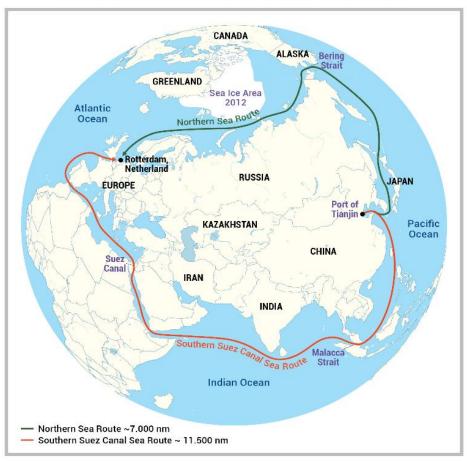
Belarus is approaching full strategic absorption into Russia, with President Lukashenko surrendering the last vestiges of sovereignty in exchange for security and economic lifelines from Moscow. The stationing of Russian tactical nuclear weapons and the deployment of hypersonic missiles signal Belarus' transformation into a forward-operating military bastion under the Kremlin's nuclear umbrella. For Russia, this consolidation delivers multiple advantages: a fortified western frontier, deeper insulation from NATO intrusion, and a secure launchpad projecting power toward Poland, the Baltics, and Ukraine. Belarus' defense and economic sectors are now almost entirely reliant on Russia, enhancing Moscow's logistical depth, command cohesion, and deterrence credibility across Europe's eastern rim. It fundamentally redraws NATO's threat calculus. With Belarus effectively under control, Moscow may now turn to Kazakhstan, resource-rich and geostrategically vital, at the very center of Eurasia's heartland, as the next candidate for integration at a Union State status, a supranational framework promoting deep integration across political, economic, and military domains.

India's deepening alignment with Russia, underscored by bilateral trade exceeding USD 65 billion in FY 2023-24 (a nearly six-fold increase from pre-pandemic levels, and expected to reach USD 100 billion by 2030), signals a clear strategic shift away from Western, particularly US, influence. The recent imposition of US tariffs on Indian exports, framed as a response to India's ties with and support for Russia in the war in Ukraine, underscores mounting American pressure on New Delhi to reconsider its alignment with Moscow. However, such measures will probably backfire and, in fact, accelerate India's integration into the emerging Russia-China-led Asian alliance. US punitive tariffs may reinforce rather than undermine the geopolitical cohesion of a rising Eurasian bloc, perceived by the East and the Global South as a continuation of longstanding American economic coercion aimed at influencing the foreign policies of other nations.

In the Arctic, Russia currently leads the geopolitical race, reopening Soviet-era bases and adapting infrastructure for subzero warfare. As the ice recedes, new trade routes offer strategic and economic advantages, slashing Asia-Europe transit times. China is increasingly leveraging advanced maritime technologies to expand its influence in the Arctic, while the United States continues to trail both

Russia and China in articulating a coherent Arctic strategy. President Trump's revived interest in acquiring Greenland highlights its resource wealth and critical strategic location. As a reservoir of rare earths, energy, and a platform for missile detection, Greenland is essential to any credible Arctic strategy for America.

Northern versus Suez Canal Sea Route



The combined military strength of Russia and China constitutes a formidable axis of power, fusing vast manpower with a rapidly advancing technological edge. Together, their armed forces form the world's largest standing military bloc, underpinned by vast reserves, strong military-industrial capacity, abundant energy resources, and the endurance to sustain protracted campaigns. At sea, China commands the world's largest naval fleet by vessel count and is rapidly expanding its nuclear-powered carrier program to project global reach, while Russia leads in undersea warfare with stealth-optimized nuclear submarines capable of both second-strike and precision-strike missions, together enhancing deterrence and maritime dominance. Russia's offensive and defensive architecture is anchored by a mature nuclear triad and an unmatched hypersonic arsenal, deploying glide vehicles capable of exceeding Mach 25 (around 25 times the speed of sound), which severely challenge existing US missile defenses. China, meanwhile, is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal and advancing longrange hypersonic systems, including space-launched glide vehicles projected to reach Mach 20 with extended range and maneuverability. These complementary strengths compress adversary decision cycles and steadily erode the credibility of established Western defensive frameworks. North Korea, though limited in scale, reinforces this alignment through its nuclear arsenal and evolving missile

capabilities, complicating Western strategic planning in Asia. India, with its vast manpower and developing nuclear deterrent, increasingly signals its potential to add a decisive geostrategic dimension to this emerging coalition. The collective military trajectory of the Eastern bloc points to a profound reconfiguration of global power balances, reshaping escalation dynamics and challenging the foundational architecture of international security.

Israel, the US's permanent ally in the Middle East, views Iran as its biggest adversary, perceived to be critical to the very survival of the Jewish nation ... A strategic military dogma, with conceptual depth and wide-ranging effectiveness, has arisen over time, one that embraces all types of action, whether of defense or of retaliation or involving a full-fledged war. In the first two instances, it neutralizes threats and establishes security and, in the third, it automatically allows for a new regional order to emerge. In the eyes of both allies and enemies, such a framework underlines Israel's belief in its operational superiority, its state-of-the-art technological base, its unparalleled military capabilities, and its crystal-clear view and absolute determination to pursue, by any means necessary, the security of the Israeli homeland. Israel promotes a unifying national narrative among all its citizens and diaspora, imparting a sense of mission as well as a constant commitment to mobilization for collective efforts, both in peacetime and at times of war.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Research Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

If Iran gets too close to building a nuclear bomb (and it may already be there), thereby developing a nuclear arsenal, Israel's geostrategic dogma allows no other option than to neutralize Iran's nuclear sites.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Brief, East versus West - Countdown ... April 2023

The 2025 US-Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure mark a pivotal shift in Middle Eastern power dynamics and global strategic alignments. Targeting key facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan with precision-guided weaponry, the campaign dealt a substantial blow to Iran's nuclear ambitions, exposing critical vulnerabilities and undermining Tehran's overreliance on regional proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas. Israel's concurrent military successes, notably Hezbollah's defeat in Lebanon, allowed deeper Israeli penetration into Iranian defenses, reshaping perceptions of modern warfare. The IDF's integration of real-time intelligence, advanced technology, and multifront command has established a new strategic benchmark, reminiscent in scale and effect to the 1967 Six-Day War. While Iran's regime remains intact and determined to rebuild, its ideological project of exporting revolution has been deeply shaken. The strikes not only disrupted the emerging Russia-China-Iran axis but also reaffirmed US credibility as a global security guarantor, with the US-Israel alliance emerging even more central to Washington's strategic calculus. Amid growing pressures for internal change in Iran, Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi's potential consolidation of leadership could signal a historic reorientation, one that may open the door to a pro-Western Iran, reshaping the geopolitical architecture of the broader Levant.

The concept of the Thucydides trap states that when an emerging power pushes against an established hegemonic power, there will arise a strong tendency towards war. This is where China and the US find themselves today. The odds are increasing that the US and China may confront each other militarily, the potential start-up area of conflict could be the wider maritime region of the East and South China Sea.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Brief, A World in Transition, September 2020

China's expanding naval power is increasingly reshaping strategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, driven by deliberate demonstrations of military might and

provocative naval maneuvers intended to assert regional dominance. Leveraging advanced naval assets, including sophisticated aircraft carriers that symbolize technological and operational prowess, China is signaling its ambition to dictate maritime terms to democratic nations across the Pacific. These aggressive operations, accompanied by confrontational rhetoric, are aimed at openly intimidating neighboring countries and undermining established regional alliances. The US is strategically countering this assertiveness by bolstering military cooperation with Pacific allies, enhancing joint defense capabilities, and deploying advanced weaponry to deter potential Chinese aggression, with the aim of disabling a new geostrategic reality whereby Beijing may establish hegemony over a critical global maritime region. China now controls or holds significant stakes in nearly 115 overseas ports, many located at strategic chokepoints, giving it leverage across key global sea lanes and critical trade routes. Alongside Russia and Iran, Chinese influence in the Red Sea and North Africa is deepening, establishing a geostrategic capacity to constrict Western naval access and place key shipping corridors at risk.

Beijing's military posturing around Taiwan is intensifying, marked by exercises simulating blockades and amphibious landings. Amphibious capabilities, cyberattacks, and hypersonic missiles form the backbone of China's potential blitz, aimed at crippling Taiwan before it and its allies can react. The China-Taiwan military balance is tilting in China's favor. By harassing Taiwan's civilian vessels, performing war drills near or within its territory, penetrating its air defense identification zone, and undermining its diplomatic relationships, China is working to wear Taiwan down, even before real war starts. *US strategic planners face a critical dilemma: defend Taiwan at the risk of a wider war or cede regional dominance to China. The answer may be critical for the coming decades.*

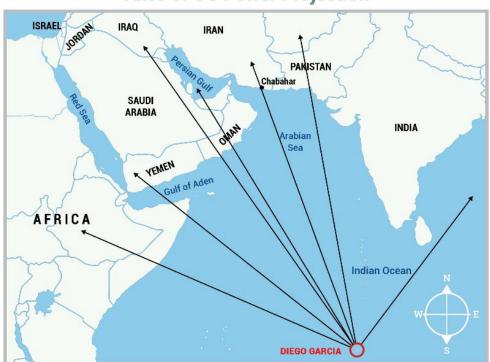
US strategy has remained unaltered over time in Europe: no single power should dominate the European continent. ... Despite media noise and multiple opinions circulating the globe ... the plain truth is that, although US foreign policy evolves dynamically according to circumstances, it always contains continuity at its core dictated by necessity... The US remains deeply engaged globally and this is not about to change...

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

The UK, though much diminished since its imperial past, remains strategically active through enduring alliances and transatlantic cooperation. Outside the EU, Britain maintains deep integration within NATO and plays a pivotal role in AUKUS and Five Eyes. AUKUS - a security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - strengthens defense technology collaboration in the Indo-Pacific. Five Eyes - comprising the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand - enables seamless intelligence coordination across the Anglosphere. The UK's global defense posture relies less on large-scale power projection and more on networked influence, backed by nuclear capabilities, intelligence-sharing depth, and regional deterrence. Strategic assets such as the RAF base in Akrotiri, Cyprus, allow Britain to maintain a forward presence across the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Participation in NATO's integrated air and missile defense framework further ties the UK into Europe's evolving security shield. Strong indications suggest that in mid-2025 US nuclear weapons have been redeployed to RAF Lakenheath in the UK for the first time since 2008, following significant infrastructure upgrades. This likely move probably signals a reinforced NATO deterrence posture against Russia. In May 2025, the UK and Mauritius signed a treaty on the Chagos Archipelago, which preserves exclusive US-UK access to the Diego Garcia base for 99 years while also addressing

sovereignty claims. Diego Garcia remains critical for rapid deployment, intelligence gathering, and strategic air operations across the Indian Ocean Rim - from East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to South and Southeast Asia and key chokepoints such as Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and Malacca. The base underpins Anglo-American power projection and remains one of their most valuable strategic outposts in the world.

Diego Garcia Axes of US Power Projection



Global chokepoints such as the Suez Canal, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the Strait of Hormuz, the Turkish and Danish Straits, the Strait of Malacca and the Panama Canal, face mounting exposure to military conflict, which would negatively affect world trade, energy, and food flows. Severe disruptions could paralyze supply chains, ignite economic shocks, and erode global stability.

The unification of Europe under the US/NATO umbrella is temporary and misleading. We already see the birth of a highly militarized core European alliance under German leadership, which coalition will shake the world power order in the coming years. We are witnessing the birth of Europe as a new global power.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Briefs, The End of Modern History, March 2022

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 IMTe Reports, IMTe Briefs, East versus West - Alliances ..., November 2022

The transatlantic alliance is showing signs of fracture, as tensions over Ukraine, trade, digital sovereignty, energy, and freedom of speech were openly debated and exposed during the 2025 Munich Security Conference. European leaders expressed growing concern over Washington's unpredictability and inward focus,

highlighting deepening divergences in values and priorities, and reinforcing Europe's accelerated shift toward strategic autonomy. Germany's troop deployment to Lithuania marks a decisive end to its postwar military restraint, signaling emerging leadership in continental defense. Meanwhile, Britain's 2025 Northwood Declaration with France commits both nations to joint retaliation against threats to European security, laying the groundwork for deeper nuclear integration despite maintaining formally independent arsenals. This aligns with Germany's calls for nuclear cooperation and coincides with the possible basing of French nuclear-capable jets in Germany. The July 2025 UK-Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation further restores strategic depth lost after Brexit, embedding mutual defense commitments beyond NATO and linking British deterrence to German security interests. Together, these moves are forging a new European defense framework, independent, cohesive, and insulated from US oversight. Nonetheless, we believe that Britain, though seeking continental relevance, may in the end hesitate to fully embrace this tectonic realignment given its enduring ties to Washington. Meanwhile, a Central European core under German leadership - potentially bolstered by support from the Catholic Church may be coalescing into a new axis of emerging global power, both militarily and economically.

A premature US withdrawal from Europe would create a dangerous vacuum on the continent. Despite European pledges to raise defense spending and modernize forces, the continent remains reliant on US surveillance, intelligence, logistics, and rapid military response capabilities. Critical assets such as long-range missiles, ISR networks, strategic airlift, and cyber tools are overwhelmingly American, capacities Europe cannot yet match. Their absence would erode NATO's coherence, weaken readiness, and expose vulnerabilities mainly on Europe's Eastern flank. Russia would exploit European uncertainty through hybrid tactics: exerting political pressure on exposed states as well as influencing campaigns targeting European publics. The real risk is less a Russian march across Europe, which is highly improbable, than its manipulation of the West's absence of vision and strategic direction. The only exception is the Baltics, where NATO's steady advance toward Russia's borders risks provoking a Russian response aimed at securing its last remaining European buffer zone. This critical issue could though be defused through a comprehensive peace settlement of the Ukrainian war, a scenario not unlikely with sustained US support. The central challenge for Europe is that, in its current state, it may be viewed by Russia and China not as a bastion of stability, but as contested terrain amid the ongoing global realignments.

Highly computerized open societies are vulnerable to electronic warfare including Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) attacks. Another form of technological threat that puts the public at major risk involves cyber-attacks on societal infrastructure.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Brief, A World in Transition- September 2020

Warfare is undergoing a profound transformation: the era of limited, contained conflict is yielding to total war, state-wide mobilization, hybrid tactics, cyber offensives, and psychological operations. Russia and China are advancing in hypersonic missiles, electromagnetic pulse weapons, and AI-driven command systems, while the First-Person View (FPV) drone revolution is reshaping tactics, force structures, and doctrine. Lessons from the Russia-Ukraine conflict underscore FPVs' lethality, scalability, and tactical flexibility, exposing vulnerabilities in traditional military structures. In the cyber domain, China has likely outpaced the US by embedding offensive cyber-capabilities into its doctrine, allowing for the likely potential to disrupt US critical infrastructure, paralyze logistics, and undermine mobilization. Such asymmetric leverage could enable Beijing, in a Taiwan confrontation, to possibly delay reinforcements and deter

intervention without firing a shot. The US, by contrast, has long suffered from fragmented defenses, vulnerable infrastructure, and an incoherent deterrence strategy, though steps are now being taken to confront and correct all these shortcomings. To avoid ceding the digital battlespace, Washington must urgently craft a credible cyber-deterrence posture that blends robust defense with offensive capability, underpinned by firm political will to regain leadership and prepare America for the realities of this new era of digitally driven conflict. We believe this process is already in motion!

Geoeconomics: global wars for dwindling resources

In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable

Dwight D. Eisenhower

The United States is spearheading a profound strategic realignment in global trade, directly challenging China's entrenched export-driven model characterized by manufacturing excess, mercantilism, and suppressed wages. America is pushing China toward sustainable, domestic-driven economic growth, confronting unfair subsidies, currency manipulation, and regulatory discrimination to foster equitable global economic engagement. The United States is actively pursuing the restructuring of international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank, aiming to refocus them on their foundational missions of financial stability and economic development. This effort also reflects a recalibration of global economic realities, most notably, the recognition of China not as a developing nation, but as a fully developed economic powerhouse. What is debatable about President Trump's policies is that American-led recalibration needs cooperative partnerships rather than isolation, to allow for the establishment in consensus with other major nations of a fairer, more balanced economic world order.

The US Dollar's role as the global reserve currency presents a structural economic paradox for the United States. Maintaining this privileged status, while ensuring sufficient global liquidity, requires the persistence of perpetual deficits. Efforts to reverse these imbalances through protectionist measures risk undermining the US Dollar's valuation, potentially triggering a loss of its reserve currency standing. Such a shift could signal broader systemic volatility, ushering in abrupt and unpredictable monetary disruptions with the potential to ignite a global economic crisis.

Europe faces severe vulnerability amid the current trade tensions with the US, and it is doubtful whether the latest US-European agreement on trade and the massive European investments required for its realization, particularly in the US energy sector, are practically achievable. Unlike China, the EU lacks leverage in its position versus the US; its threats against US digital services and advanced technology firms carry minimal strategic weight. Europe's chronic structural weaknesses, including inadequate digital autonomy, technological stagnation, overwhelming dependence on external energy supplies, and suffocating bureaucratic inertia, impede the implementation of adaptive economic policies and strategies. Lacking strategic depth and decisiveness, Europe, increasingly exposed to economic disruptions, requires comprehensive policy recalibration to avert lasting marginalization. A way out of this impasse may be provided by private industry, predominantly the military establishment, which could navigate Europe into a new era of technological rebirth and growth.

Russia's capture of strategically critical lithium reserves in Eastern Ukraine represents a significant European foreign policy failure, further exacerbating Europe's vulnerability regarding access to indispensable resources for technological advancement. Energy cooperation between Russia and China continues to strengthen through major infrastructural and energy undertakings. Russia's Power of Siberia pipelines (PoS & PoS-2) are strategic gas corridors linking vast gas reserves in Siberia to China's growing energy market. PoS-2 is designed to pump 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually from western Siberian fields to China's industrial heartlands. Both pipelines PoS and PoS-2 redefine Russia-China energy trade, enormously enhance China's energy supply security, and offer Moscow a critical long-term, economic pivot eastward toward Asian energy markets, amid shifting global alliances. Instability in the Middle East, intensified by the Israel-Iran conflict, has made China's reliance on Iranian energy increasingly untenable, prompting Beijing to seek strategic shelter in Russia's vast, stable energy reserves.

«POWER OF SIBERIA» Gas Corridors



The Arctic is emerging as a critical geopolitical flashpoint, fueling intense rivalry among global superpowers, with Russia clearly asserting a leading position. Moscow's strategic edge is underscored by its formidable fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers, the only such fleet in the world. Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy corporation, has signaled interest in developing nuclear-powered, ice-class oil tankers capable of transporting crude year-round through the icy waters of the Northern Sea Route (NSR) to Asian markets. The region's vast, untapped reserves of oil, natural gas, and precious minerals further amplify Russia's strategic dominance, positioning it decisively ahead in this unfolding great-power contest.

China's global infrastructure and critical-mineral strategy is both expansive and carefully synchronized. The Belt and Road Initiative now extends into Latin America through the deep-water Port of Chancay in Peru, inaugurated in

November 2024 by COSCO Shipping Ports and Peru's Volcan, establishing a pivotal hub for Asia–Americas trade. In the Asia-Pacific, China's investments in Australia's mining, energy, and agricultural sectors reinforce a robust and evolving interdependence, highlighted by high-level dialogues like the 2025 Australia–China CEO Roundtable. Critically, Beijing has cemented its dominance over the global processing and refining of essential minerals: currently accounting for roughly 90 % of rare earth processing and 60–70% of lithium and cobalt refining. As such, China's vertically integrated control, from extraction through downstream processing, empowers it with considerable geoeconomic leverage over Western supply chains, particularly those underpinning electric vehicles, clean energy, high-tech manufacturing, and defense. *China's mineral strategy transcends commerce: it's a calculated geopolitical engine*.

Remote ocean territories rich in critical mineral resources are rapidly emerging as theaters of geopolitical contestation. Regions such as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - a vast 1.7 million square mile expanse of the Pacific Ocean seabed between Hawaii and Mexico - harbor one of the world's most abundant deposits of polymetallic nodules, containing cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese vital to clean energy technologies. The heavily contested China Seas, marked by overlapping sovereignty claims and strategic maritime exploration zones, and the geopolitically volatile waters of the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean, home to significant offshore gas fields and unresolved maritime boundaries, now stand as strategic frontiers in the global race for energy and seabed resources. These regions are not only resource-rich but also potential military flashpoints, where intensified competition for offshore assets is reshaping alliances, military postures, and international legal frameworks, signaling maritime rivalries as pivotal forces in the reordering of global geopolitical dynamics.

Artificial Intelligence: science, myth, reality An epic duel for AI domination

We've arranged a global civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster ...

Carl Sagan

Misconceptions about artificial general intelligence (AGI) persist, though current AI remains bound to statistical and linquistic data processing, incapable of genuine perception, reasoning, intuition, or consciousness - making true AGI a distant goal. Intelligence transcends computation, requiring embodiment, emotional resonance, and experiential depth, qualities uniquely human. Augmented human intelligence (AHI) offers a breakthrough by rejecting the flawed notion that models themselves embody intelligence. Unlike AI, where models simulate autonomy and understanding through vast datasets and statistical processing, AHI explicitly recognizes current AI models as powerful yet shallow reasoning tools. Agency remains with humans, with context, intent, and memory externalized and controllable. Unlike AGI's pursuit of internal replication of cognition, AHI extends thought externally, amplifying human capacities. Its novelty lies in empowering humans by integrating machine speed and breadth into structured, evolving, explicitly human-driven workflows. Achieving minimal meaningful intelligence may demand paradigm shifts, potentially quantum-based computing, yet even this can never replicate the divine miracle of the limitless human mind, created in the image and likeness of God.

The global race for AI is reshaping the architecture of state power, casting democratic ideals in stark contrast to authoritarian practices. China is advancing a techno-authoritarian model through sweeping surveillance systems and ambitious digital infrastructure, extending its global influence while normalizing autocratic governance. In response, democracies - most notably the United States - struggle to define and implement a coherent techno-democratic alternative. Divergent ethical frameworks, especially in such areas as genetic manipulation, deepen anxieties over an emerging moral arms race, eroding prospects for international cooperation. AI introduces profound systemic risks, with a largely unappreciated potential to trigger global crises in biosecurity, cybersecurity, and nuclear safety. China's lax safety standards in AI development magnify these vulnerabilities, compounded by stalled diplomatic engagement with Washington, leaving the international community increasingly exposed. The United States seeks technological primacy through intensified investment, strategic alliances, and the reinforcement of democratic institutions. Yet the imperative remains: to establish ethical norms rooted in democratic values, lest authoritarian models prevail. As opposing moral paradigms widen the ideological chasm, the vision of a common global platform for applying norms, standards, and regulations to the implementation of AI drifts ever further from reach.

AI is transforming warfare at a scale surpassing past technological revolutions, embedding itself across multiple military functions. China's swift progress in the use of efficient abundant energy and next-generation manufacturing, underpins rapid, large-scale AI deployment, giving it a potential strategic edge over the West. The US retains an edge at the frontier of technological breakthroughs especially in AI-enabled services, while China is broadly comparable in research breadth and excels in scalable production and swift implementation. Russia applies battlefield AI pragmatically, but sanctions and restricted access to advanced computing power keep it well behind the US and China at the cutting edge, at least for now. To sustain leadership, America must urgently build innovative alliances, expand investment in technological infrastructure, and revitalize its industrial base. Without such action, the West risks surrendering enduring technological leadership and critical military advantages to China, a shift that could secure for the PRC long-term dominance and significantly reshape the global order.

Civilizational Clash Hellenism & Judaism: the intangible powerful symbolic space beyond East and West

The fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future Samuel P. Huntington

Faith is born of the soul, not the body. Whoever would lead someone to faith needs the ability to speak well and to reason properly, without violence and threats... Not to act reasonably, not to act with Logos, is contrary to the nature of God ...

Manuel Paléologue II

Manuel II Palaiologos (1350–1425), Byzantine emperor from 1391 to 1425, was the penultimate Byzantine emperor, known for his diplomatic finesse and intellectual depth. He traveled across Europe seeking support against the Ottoman threat, while producing theological and philosophical writings. In his final years, he retired to monastic life, dedicating himself to spiritual reflection

Judaism, nevertheless, together with Hellenism and Christianity is an inalienable component of our Christian Western civilization, the eternal "call to Sinai" against which humanity again and again rebels

Herman Rauschning

Hermann Rauschning (1887–1982) was a German conservative intellectual and briefly a Nazi Party member who broke with Hitler in the 1930s, later writing influential anti-Nazi works in exile

From its inception, Islam's geopolitical and theological ambitions have rested on a binary worldview: lands of submission versus lands of war. This dichotomy has allegedly justified centuries of conquests, notably under the Ottomans, and remains active in modern Islamist narratives, evident in Turkey's irredentist claims on Greek islands and Aegean maritime space and ambitions to reclaim Jerusalem. Central to this view is the belief that Islam is the original and only true religion, with Judaism and Christianity cast as distorted derivatives. Such doctrine fuels not only a territorial revisionism but also a deep-seated ideological hostility toward the Judeo-Christian civilization. Europe, caught in a leadership vacuum amid mounting global transformation, is in the midst of a cultural and civilizational crisis. The rise of radical Islam, bolstered by migration policies cloaked in humanitarian rhetoric but shaped by ideological/civilizational goals, threatens the continent's foundational values. Islamist extremism, often legitimized by segments of the radical left, targeting Israel and the West, is seeking to recast historical narratives in favor of a politically engineered Islamic identity. The persecution of Christians - over 380 million facing high levels of persecution and discrimination globally - further illustrates the ideological war on Judeo-Christian heritage. Europe, with its increasingly hostile attitude toward Israel and its failure to defend its spiritual and cultural identity, is unwittingly accelerating civilizational erosion at a critical juncture in world history.

Amid an ideological unraveling, the world order is being reshaped along civilizational lines, with the West in retreat and three alternative blocs rising: a) a Greek-Orthodox /Russo-Slavic civilization, anchored in spiritual centers across Greece, Holy Mount Athos, the broader Russian-Slavic world, Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and the Orthodox monastic communities established by the late Father Efraim in the US; b) a Chinese Han civilization, broadly defined by its Han cultural core yet encompassing a multiethnic national identity; and c) an Islamic bloc, where Shia Iran's influence is receding while Turkish ascendancy grows across parts of the Middle East and Central Asia. Israel stands apart, neither fully Western nor Eastern, charting an independent course grounded in historical legitimacy and enduring sovereignty. Greece, by contrast, carries profound symbolic weight as the cradle of Western thought and Orthodox Christianity, bridging East and West. As a civilizational beacon and leading maritime power, Greece holds the capacity to project new ideals and a renewed vision to a directionless world. Together, Israel and Greece represent not merely geographic or strategic poles, but cultural and spiritual anchors in a world moving toward multipolar contestation. This historical juncture calls for a reawakening of values, history and belief, as civilizational identities, long dormant, may once again shape the fate of nations.

Greece is the country where the eternal meets the past, the future, and the present in one single reality ... a country where dreams, aspirations, and ideals come true, enveloped in an aura of wisdom accumulated over the millennia ... the birthplace of democracy and the beacon of Western civilization ... Greece is the forerunner of all important sociopolitical trends related to our Western civilization ... Greece is the nation where the lights of the glorious 1,000-year Byzantine era still flicker in the thousands of Orthodox Christian Churches ... in Holy Monasteries and on Holy Mount Athos, where the convergence of thousands of prayers day and night support and cure human sadness, create true joy and

new hopes in shattered lives, alleviate fears and pain in famines, wars, and other catastrophic events ... This is our beloved country, Greece; this is the country the world is rediscovering today; this has been Hellenism throughout the ages!

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ..., March 2020

Israel has kept ancient Jewish symbolism alive, a process constantly fueling a strong sense of national identity and a sense of purpose for the future. Israel's future may reside just as much in the Middle Eastern region, where lie its historical roots, as in the Mediterranean basin and in its renewed warm relations with Cyprus and Greece, which countries could thus become a bridge to Europe for the Israeli nation.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ..., March 2020

Israel and Greece inhabit a unique symbolic space that transcends conventional alignments of East and West. Israel, deeply rooted in a civilization spanning more than four millennia, holds a distinct standing in the global universum. Despite clear Western affinities, Israel remains intrinsically individualistic, capable of fluid interactions across Western, Middle Eastern, and Eastern cultural domains, much like Greece, whose timeless legacy continues to inspire beyond the limits of mere geography. Both nations share historical depth and vibrant collective memories, illuminating the world through their distinctive identities, cultures, and enduring traditions. Jerusalem - *the center of the world* - bears a profound and sacred historical significance as the place of confluence of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate's custodianship of vast sacred sites in the Holy Land, underlines Orthodoxy's enduring stake in Jerusalem's contested future.

Greece blends resilience and cultural grandeur, navigating historical currents with an inherent seafaring tradition going back to antiquity. Greeks, far from being mere subjects to external dictates, proudly carry forward the torch of philosophical wisdom and sacred Orthodox tradition, resonating deeply throughout the Mediterranean basin, reaching into the sacred lands of Jerusalem and the African continent. Inspired by the heroic sacrifice at Messolonghi in April 1826 during the Greek War of Independence, Greeks have throughout the ages continuously arisen from adversity, forever imparting lessons of honor and freedom to humanity. Today, as Greek communities thrive globally, the nation stands poised once more to be guided by enlightened leadership. Such leadership has yet to arise, while the timeless vision of Odysseus and Ithaca stands ready to inspire a new political and spiritual leadership, calling Greece to further enlighten a directionless West toward civilizational renewal.

Western civilization, deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian ethics of individual dignity, morality, and a tradition of empirical spiritual reasoning stemming from Orthodox Christianity, now stands imperiled. The unrelenting rise of neo-Marxist ideologies -advanced by global elites - threatens societal cohesion through divisive identity constructs, reckless immigration agendas, and manipulated notions of social justice. By exalting tribal affiliation above individual merit and virtue, these forces corrode the intellectual and moral foundations of the West, fragmenting communities, degrading academic integrity, and sidelining enduring ethical frameworks. And yet, across America and Europe, societies are stirring in quiet defiance, resisting the unraveling of their civilizational fabric and returning to the timeless pillars of truth, freedom, and moral clarity, with America at the forefront. Amid this cultural and ideological upheaval, another ancient civilization, China, has turned to the foundational heritage of the West: Hellenic culture. Its growing

engagement with Ancient Greece is expressed through academic partnerships and cultural diplomacy, most notably through the establishment of the Sino-Hellenic Research Center in Athens. This deliberate gesture underscores China's recognition of Greek thought as essential to illuminating the democratic decay afflicting Europe and the broader Western world.

Belief ... the divine in our contemporary world

Christians are immortal in this world because their thoughts and cares are directed toward immortality, incorruption, and the divine ... They learn to distinguish shadow from reality, the transient from the eternal, the perishable from the imperishable. They cling to indestructible realities and values, basing themselves and their lives on them ... as soon as man, every man, experiences Christ, he is transformed into an immortal and eternal being, a divinely exalted and majestic being, who lives in the immortal worlds of ineffable perfections of God in heaven. From the writings of Saint Justin Popovich of Chellie (free rendering in English)

When the people themselves rule and not the law, then arises a tyranny; for the multitude becomes despotic ... and in democracies there arise demagogues, who flattering the people become tyrants

Aristotle – Politics Book V (free rendering in English)

The contemporary world is silently witnessing the subtle erosion of democracy, where freedom meekly yields not to overt authoritarian force but to insidious manipulations of the human psyche. Economic anxieties, indebtedness, and consumerism craft invisible chains, reducing vibrant individuals to passive, compliant beings. Responsibility dissolves into anonymity, while subjugation flourishes through the calculated manipulation of fear and manufactured desire by ruling centers. Spiritual freedom, the innermost sanctuary of humanity, is facing a stealthy siege as critical consciousness is systematically dulled, transforming once-active citizens into spiritually passive observers, numbly succumbing to superficial gratifications. Society today is inundated with relentless streams of fragmented information, numbing attention, eroding discernment, and diluting spiritual vitality. This deluge, deceptively empowering, sedates human consciousness, perpetuating existential inertia and spiritual vulnerability. Amid technological advancement and educational abundance, a profound existential question surfaces: why does modern humanity willingly surrender its innate autonomy? The Aristotelian vision of humans as intrinsically active and politically engaged beings has faded, replaced by passive anonymity, an easy submission disguised as convenience. Intellectual leaders retreat into detachment, into mere theorizing, abandoning their historic role as challengers of injustice and quardians of truth, thereby leaving societies defenseless against the subtle encroachment of technocratic mass media directives and demagoguingly directed power centers.

Nevertheless, in the midst of this quiet despair, *Orthodox Christianity offers a potent alternative vision: true freedom as active spiritual liberation, achieved through persistent internal struggle and divine grace*. Orthodox tradition emphasizes freedom not as passive acquiescence but courageous detachment from fears, passions, and manipulations, enabling decisive, deep theologically inspired, righteous action. Regrettably, contemporary *institutional Christianity* frequently praises cautious neutrality and compliance with secular power, betraying *the divine spiritual mission of a true Christian*, perpetuating societal fracturing and deep injustice. Genuine hope lies exclusively in profound spiritual

renewal - a collective awakening demanding steadfast rejection of comforting falsehoods, embracing difficult truths, and reviving moral courage. Only through such an internal renaissance can humanity reclaim authentic dignity and true freedom.



Holy Mount Athos (Agion Oros)

Across the West, quietly but unmistakably, signs are emerging of a burgeoning spiritual renaissance, marking the twilight of an era dominated by secular materialism, technological hubris, and utopian ideologies. Disenchanted with the Enlightenment's hollow assurances - proclaiming that reason alone could vanguish faith, that science eliminates mystery, and that ideology can replace divine truths - humanity is instinctively returning to our forgotten spiritual roots. Orthodox Christianity, with its timeless message of internal spiritual warfare and transformative struggle, resurfaces powerfully amidst crumbling contemporary structures: families fracturing, communities dissolving, nations faltering, ecosystems declining. The Holy Land, with its epicenter in the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem radiating unfathomed Divine Light upon the world; Holy Mount Athos (Agion Oros) and the thousands of Orthodox Holy Monasteries in Hellas and across the Balkan arc; the Russian nation as a powerful pole of Orthodoxy; and the Holy Monasteries founded by the late Father Efraim in America and Canada all emerge as beacons and quardians of the Orthodox Christian faith, a faith unaltered through the ages.

Art ... a whisper of worlds to be born

Art will remain the most astonishing activity of mankind born out of struggle between wisdom and madness, between dream and reality in our mind

Magdalena Abakanowicz

Polish sculptor and fiber artist (1930–2017) internationally renowned for her monumental woven forms and later large-scale cast figures, exploring themes of individuality and collective identity.

No artist is ahead of his time. He is his time, it's just that others are behind the times

Martha Graham

American dancer and choreographer (1894–1991), widely regarded as the mother of modern dance. Over a career spanning seven decades, she revolutionized movement vocabulary and created more than 180 works that reshaped the global landscape of performance art, a towering figure in 20th-century choreography.

Modern art speaks profoundly of the future, vividly capturing a world fractured by chaos and so often painted in shades of vibrant red, colors that echo humanity's wounds and silent cries of despair. Yet, within these unsettling images of distortion and turmoil, art gently whispers that humanity, though remaining on the side of overwhelming darkness, softly heralds the miracle of rebirth and healing to come. Hidden tenderly among the canvases one discovers glimpses of hope, where humanity appears not merely in its earthly strife but illuminated by eternal essence - each individual a radiant bearer of Divine Light, reflecting uniquely the Creator's timeless image, an unbreakable bond weaving together man and God. Within these prophetic visions, the artist, gifted with heightened sensitivity, ventures beyond the visible into realms of imagination and unlimited possibility, revealing unseen dangers, yet carefully also illuminating pathways toward new civilizational dawns. Thus, modern art transcends mere depiction of contemporary darkness, becoming instead a beacon illuminating a transformative tomorrow, whispering of worlds yet to be born, worlds of beauty and truth, guided silently by the profound and sacred power residing deep within the human spirit. Once the current overriding dream of relentless drive towards material progress fades into oblivion - its place will be taken by a solemn gravity where spiritual depth and an urgent longing for truth and authenticity will rise amid the chaos of a restless world. Through exploration employing myriad reproductions, vivid hues, and symbolic disguises, modern artists invoke a compelling aesthetic gravity. Steered by a valiant emotional fervor, their creations confront disorder head-on, unflinchingly portraying troubling imagery of distortion and anarchy which often foreshadow destruction; yet, ultimately, from this darkness, the radiant vision of a bold and beautiful new world emerges, softly propagating rays of regeneration and renewal.

The end of an era ...

Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it

George Orwell

What is called economic planning is the planning of other people's lives by bureaucrats

Ludwig von Mises

The period from the French Revolution of 1789 to the cataclysm of World War I in 1914 was an age of exalted optimism, imperial expansion, and near-unshakable faith in human reason and progress. The devastation of two world wars shattered this confidence, giving birth to an era that sought to escape tyranny through dismantling strong national identities, moral certainties, and spiritual traditions. However, this pursuit of openness bred its own paradox: a civilization in the West stripped of conviction, captive to hollow relativism, and spiritually barren. *Now, as the weary framework of the twentieth century collapses, the long-silenced forces of nationalism, faith, and decisive leadership are re-emerging with elemental power*. Propelled by the energy of populist movements, they will not merely challenge but very likely unseat the entrenched elites, restoring humanity's perennial passions - no longer to be dismissed as relics of the past but embraced once more as indispensable pillars of the future.

Defining leaders of the current transformative age - most strikingly Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi, Javier Milei, Viktor Orbán - embody assertive nationalism, discarding postwar globalist orthodoxies in favor of direct, even confrontational politics. Trump vigorously champions an «America First» ideology that favors economic nationalism and secure borders; Putin pursues ambitious geopolitical revisionism reminiscent of Russia's historic empirebuilders; Xi Jinping advances a techno-autocratic state aiming at global supremacy. Central to their vision is strong and capable leadership born out of historical knowledge, civility, productivity, and national pride, underpinning social order and renewed economic dynamism. The emerging political climate increasingly favors raw authenticity, rejecting managerial elitism and embracing decisive leadership that articulates national interests openly and unapologetically.

Amid the rapid collapse of the established global order, geopolitical, economic, and military landscapes have become deeply unstable. Major transnational bodies face unprecedented scrutiny; their relevance and effectiveness questioned amid growing Western public reaction against corruption, despotism and managerial globalism. The democratic system itself, historically resilient, is facing critical tests as global integration paradoxically fuels local attachments and tribal divisions, intensifying identity crises. Structural vulnerabilities have widened inequality, exacerbating systemic instability as global economies approach fossil fuel extraction limits. These pressures suggest inevitable disruptions followed by systemic resets, while the risk of interstate and intrastate military conflicts rises.

The global trade landscape is shifting irreversibly toward a fragmented, tariff-driven order, with the US still at its center. In America, bipartisan support for protectionism ensures that tariffs and nationalist industrial policies will endure beyond any single administration. As multilateral free trade recedes, new regional blocs - predominantly aligned with the East and Global South, where China, Russia, and India hold leading positions - will gain greater influence over commerce and the emerging economic order.

The US Dollar's dominance is gradually eroding, weakened by persistent deficits, while emerging markets adopt multi-alignment strategies to hedge against US unpredictability. Global supply chains will contract, and investment incentives will diminish amid rising trade barriers, as industrial policy tools – subsidies and regulatory interventions backed by tax breaks - progressively replace market-driven trade. Decoupling between the US and China will intensify, particularly in strategic sectors, and the transitionary economic landscape will dampen growth, distort pricing policies, reduce global cooperation, and create fertile ground for

geostrategic crises and conflict. Ultimately, domestic politics, reinforced by targeted alliances, will shape the future trajectory of trade.

BRICS



The mechanism regulating how the world has for long been functioning is changing.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Research Report, Aspects of an Emerging World A. Times of change ... April 2018

Europe finds itself in a state of profound fragmentation, spiritually adrift, culturally disoriented, and politically immobilized. The continent's institutions face a deepening crisis of legitimacy as national morale and purpose erode, and military preparedness languishes. Populism is surging, driven by widespread disenchantment, corruption, and a pervasive sense of nihilism, challenging the postwar liberal consensus and threatening the foundations of democratic governance. Far-right movements are gaining traction and, with the political pendulum shifting, a future realignment of selected European states toward Russia, particularly in the aftermath of the Ukrainian war, is becoming plausible. emblematic increasingly Brussels, of Europe's bureaucracies, is under mounting pressure to reform as disillusioned citizens demand the dismantling of stagnant structures and the renewal of political life. This upheaval is not confined to Europe alone; global institutions such as UN bodies, the WHO, and the WTO also face growing skepticism and may be forced to transform or risk obsolescence. The reelection of Donald Trump marks a pivotal moment on the world stage, symbolizing a broader turn toward national sovereignty, cultural rootedness, and strategic clarity - a decisive break from the compromised ideologies of recent decades. Whether Europe's cherished democratic values can withstand these sweeping currents of change remains uncertain.

The European Union's latest trade agreement with the United States has left it politically diminished, economically weakened, and strategically exposed. It marks a significant shift in transatlantic economic relations. While it removes tariffs on US industrial goods and expands American access to European markets, it imposes substantial duties on EU exports and binds Europe to major energy and investment commitments in the US, which Europe may not be able to meet. The deal has sparked debate over its long-term strategic consequences for

European autonomy. What the EU should be doing is stimulating domestic demand through large-scale investment, supported by the European Central Bank. It should pursue pragmatic macro-deals with China, forge new alliances across the East and the Global South, and gradually phase out reliance on US fracked LNG. Strengthening European autonomy requires decisive leadership, which only Germany can deliver. Over a longer-term horizon, Europe should reestablish economic ties with Russia, leveraging its vast resources and cultural affinities. This demands shedding a narrow balance-of-power reflex in favor of a broader global vision, one that recognizes that the true strategic rivals through the end of this decade are the United States and China.

In the East, a formidable geopolitical and economic bloc is emerging as Russia, China, and India edge toward a profound alignment. Combined, this potential troika would unite nearly three billion people across three vast nations, accounting for about 22% of global GDP in nominal terms and close to 30% on a PPP basis, with the capacity to field the world's largest combined military force. Their interests are converging: Russia seeks essential backing amid its protracted war in Ukraine; China desires stable relations with India to focus on the integration of Taiwan into the PRC; and India, under mounting US economic pressure, aims to assert strategic autonomy while sustaining its traditional closeness with Russia. Historically constrained by the India-China border rivalry and New Delhi's balancing act between East and West, shifting circumstances, including a prolonged absence of major clashes and new channels of deescalation, have opened space for pragmatism between India and China. The gradual thaw between the two Asian giants underscores the potential depth of this evolving partnership, while recent punitive US tariffs on India risk backfiring. Russia, should resource-rich Kazakhstan accede under a Union State-type treaty akin to the Belarus-Russia framework, would gain decisive geopolitical weight through Kazakhstan's strategic location at the heart of Eurasia. If a formal alliance between Russia, China, and India crystallizes, it would transform Asia's strategic architecture, redefine global geopolitics, and pose one of the most formidable challenges to American primacy.

The United States faces its most pressing contemporary challenge from China, whose economic power, measured in purchasing-power parity, overtook America more than a decade ago. China continues to channel vast resources into advanced technology, industrial manufacturing, and military modernization, most notably its navy, projected to number some 450 vessels by 2030. America's miscalculation in underestimating China's capabilities potential overestimating its own unilateral strength carries profound strategic risks. The expanding axis of cooperation between Russia, China, and their Eastern partners, supported by shared access to military bases, is set to enhance their ability to project power into regions long beyond their traditional reach. This evolution brings new operational capacities, threatens the survivability of US forces, and creates fresh strategic contingencies for Washington. Effective mitigation of these risks requires urgent adaptation and a decisive shift from isolation toward integrated strategic partnerships spanning military, technological, and economic domains. On the other hand, current US foreign policy appears misaligned in pursuing this objective, risking the alienation of both allies and pivotal swing states through counterproductive trade disputes and unnecessary diplomatic affronts.

Israel stands at a historic inflection point, emerging from an ongoing crisis transformed, shifting from mere defender to regional guarantor. History repeatedly illustrates that great powers are not born but shaped through crises.

Israel's crucible moment came when it confronted its arch-enemy Iran, decisively dismantling Tehran's proxy networks and neutralizing its nuclear ambitions. This strategic evolution signals the birth of Pax Israeliana, an order grounded not in idealistic aspirations but in proactive security, regional dominance, and tangible alliances. Building on the Abraham Accords, Israel is cultivating an expansive Abraham Alliance - an economic, developmental, and security architecture set to radically transform the Middle East by converting existing ties into comprehensive multilateral partnerships. Syria's collapse further enabled Israel to strategically extend protection to Israel-friendly minority communities, notably the Druze and to a certain extent the Kurds, solidifying its position as their security provider amid waning US regional engagement. This transition requires Israel to shoulder substantial burdens, particularly an internal psychological transformation from historical defensiveness and introspection toward confident assertiveness, embracing unapologetic strategic clarity and decisive action free from external judgment. For Israel, the era of passive defense has definitively ended; the age of the forceful unbreakable indestructible quarantor has arrived, placing Israel firmly at the center of a fundamentally new regional order - probably imperfect yet viable, durable, and under Israeli guidance and control.

Within today's shifting global order, democracy faces challenges less from populist turbulence or external foes than from entrenched elites seeking to preserve authority amid public discontent. This subtle managerial authoritarianism, born of technocratic rationalism, materialist excess, and abstract utopianism, reduces citizens to mechanized participants in systems optimized for maintenance rather than individuals engaged in civic life fostering growth and self-realization. Its instruments are increasingly refined: guided discourse, selective censorship, procedural manipulation, and even doubt cast on inconvenient electoral results. Presented as safeguards, they erode democratic participation, turning governance into a managed performance orchestrated by concentrated power centers. Institutions remain outwardly intact, yet citizen influence steadily wanes. Europe illustrates this trajectory sharply: the post-Cold War unipolar era shifted crucial functions to supranational EU mechanisms and imposed neoliberal orthodoxy, narrowing economic alternatives and constraining democratic agency. The Covid-19 crisis accelerated centralization, showing how technoscientific and political systems adapt and evolve under stress. Populist uprisings often proved transitory, absorbed or neutralized through institutional containment and counter-narratives.

Democratic participation in the West has seldom been substantive; even in its post WWII prime it was largely steered by elite consensus. Over time, evolving sociopolitical and economic realities produced a more managed, less participatory order. Today, as Western primacy wanes and a multipolar world advances, longstanding weaknesses are exposed, and space is opening for political renewal. In Europe, especially within the EU, such renewal demands not cosmetic reform but a reimagining of organization that moves beyond rigid supranationalism and reconnects with popular will. Donald Trump's return to power must be read not as an anomaly but as a historical inflection point, reverberating across the Western world and into the global geopolitical, sociopolitical, and geoeconomic order. The rise of a fourth generational social wave - a highly disruptive force of change carries with it a civic reawakening, with the potential to sweep away the old and restore meaning, dignity, and democratic governance. The tide of change now moves irreversibly forward: by the end of this decade, former centers of dominance will slowly recede, while new structures take shape over successive generational cycles, guided by humanity's enduring pursuit of truth, freedom, and renewal.

A distancing of the US from European policies and the UK's exit from Europe may be two events creating a historical impetus for a new beginning for Europe. Brexit could well have been a calculated move in the competition between the Anglo Saxon world and Europe, along the long-existing collision lines between land and sea forces and major forthcoming worldwide geopolitical events and realignments.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Research Report, Aspects of an Emerging World A. Times of change ... April 2018

The sea is regaining its economic and strategic importance, while space is opening up new frontiers. Struggles and potential forthcoming confrontations will continue to center around the control of the seas, while battles will be waged in space for the control of vital information, communication and digital warfare coordination links. Sea and space will become inextricably connected in tomorrow's battles for world dominance. The US will continue to dominate the world's seas despite being challenged by China. China shrank when in the past it destroyed its sea force: today, it is again opening up to the sea, a huge undertaking of immense geostrategic significance. Greece will remain a leading maritime nation in terms of its global commercial fleet, one of the worldwide carriers of such intangible values as ideology and symbolism, culture, history, and belief.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

The United States and Russia will probably re-establish distinct spheres of influence, with continental Europe either sidelined or in second role in such arrangements. Following the end of the Ukraine war, parts of Europe may gradually realign with Russia through emerging economic, sociocultural, and strategic linkages. The European Union is expected to undergo structural transformation, with a German-led continental core on the rise that may eventually emerge as a fourth global pole of power alongside the United States, China, and Russia. Israel is expected to maintain its dominant and territorially expansive role in the Middle East and wider Levant, underpinned by the enduring vision of Greater Israel. The United States will deepen ties with Europe's peripheral states, notably the Visegrad Group, particularly Poland and Hungary, as well as Greece in Southern Europe. As a leading commercial shipping power, Greece may in the longer term reconsider its position within the Eurozone, or even the EU, aligning instead with oceanic powers such as the United States and the United Kingdom, in keeping with its historic Hellenic maritime role.

Today's geopolitical contest pits the continental powers, most notably China and Russia, against the maritime tradition led by the United States. The former assert influence through land-based militarization, authoritarian control, expansionist ambition, while the latter draw strength from commerce, industry, and alliances anchored in the open seas. This enduring struggle now shapes the contours of a new world order, as continental states challenge both the Pax Americana and the maritime system sustaining it. For the United States, whose advantage lies in geography and global economic reach, slipping into a continental mindset by erecting barriers and threatening neighbors and longstanding allies would squander its strategic maritime edge and risk repeating the very cycles of repression and conflict it once sought to prevent. In such a scenario, America would simply forfeit the prospect of a favorable outcome in the East-West confrontation.

... History and the nature of geopolitics teach that established powers rarely cede their dominance to up-and-coming new powers without a fight. The US-China rivalry will continue regardless of trade negotiations and can only be viewed within that historical truth.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of conflict ... March 2020

The US-China relationship, lacking civilizational commonality, is increasingly defined by strategic rivalry, with Taiwan remaining the most immediate flashpoint. We assess the risk of China moving militarily to integrate Taiwan into the PRC within the next 12 to 36 months as high, potentially occurring before the United States completes critical military modernization. We believe such a clash would be both large in scale and devastating in impact, albeit most likely confined to the two principal adversaries. Russia's support for China, while difficult to predict, is expected to remain indirect though strategically important. The prospect of escalation into a major regional war involving allied nations cannot be dismissed, while we regard the risk of a full-scale global conflict as less probable. Even so, any such confrontation would shock the world, profoundly reshape the balance of power in South-East Asia, and leave a lasting imprint on geopolitical and geostrategic alignments. It would also reverberate across the geoeconomic landscape of the world.

... 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.

The IMTe Reports, IMTe Briefs, East versus West - Alliances ..., November 2022

A new age of rivalry has emerged - a second Cold War stripped of the old certainties - defined by proxy conflicts, competition over resources, and rival alliance structures. Surveillance imperatives, trade frictions, and a renewed nuclear and space competition frame this contest, while ideology no longer aligns neatly with geography. The United States and China dominate the global scene, confronting each other while remaining deeply economically intertwined, embodying parallel models of global capitalism: open and entrepreneurial on one side, centrally directed though still highly innovative on the other. Russia seeks to define itself as an alternative pole rooted in cultural conservatism; although its systemic appeal remains constrained today, its model could gain traction as global upheavals reshape ideological space, particularly in segments of the Global South receptive to narratives of sovereignty, tradition, and resistance to Western liberal universalism. The sharpest ideological fault line now lies within the Atlantic community itself: a populist-democratic impulse in America, dynamic and assertive, colliding with a liberal - though growingly autocratic - Europe weakened by its struggles over sovereignty, migration, free speech, and industrial policy. This rift is not merely rhetorical but material, as tariffs, energy strategies, and North American reindustrialization increasingly clash with Europe's rules-based, overly bureaucratic, green-led, and still ill-defined sociopolitical model. For now, US leadership remains the sole undisputed anchor of the Western world.

AI has the qualities and characteristics of a systemic, all-encompassing, disruptive technology, not just altering the economic landscape but also the very

structure and fabric of society ... Humanity is confronted with a dangerous fallacy, namely, that an unlimited digital increase of data processing capacity equates humans with God ... However, such a «machine religion» is, in fact, driven by a deep-seated contempt for the human and is, in truth, a denial of the divinity of the human being, possibly leading to what we might call «the post-human era», with, albeit, a civilized façade. This situation entails the potential of a future mega-confrontation for supremacy between man and machine, ultimately with horrifying consequences for the human race ...

Venturing within the realms of AI with the insufficiently understood parameter of intelligence linked with the even less understood factor of consciousness is a highly questionable human endeavor as to its end result, as well as to the qualitative and quantitative aspects of its transformative power. If approached humbly it could revolutionize life on planet earth - otherwise, it could destroy life. The IMTe Reports, IMTe Research Report, Aspects of an Emerging World B. Times of Conflict ... 2nd edition, March 2020

Society stands entranced by a new digital creed, one that elevates data to divinity and reduces reality to streams of quantification. In this ideology, emotion, imagination, and spirit are sacrificed on the altar of metrics and algorithms, flattening the vibrant tapestry of human experience into sterile abstraction. As virtual realms supplant tangible life, individuals drift into estrangement - from self, from community, and from the sacred - adrift in a spiritual void. This reductionist metaphysics, which reveres only the measurable, breeds nihilism, and hollows out the soul. Inner insight is displaced by a cold pursuit of digital certainty. What unfolds is not merely a cultural shift but an existential rupture: a severing of humanity from wonder, meaning, and inherited dignity. At this civilizational crossroads, the choice is stark. Either we surrender passively to AIpowered authoritarianism, or we consciously return to democratic vitality, ethical reflection, and spiritual renewal. To resist technological domination, society must reawaken to the immeasurable, by rekindling imagination, moral vision, and the essence of authentic being. Through this reconnection, humanity may reclaim freedom, integrity, and hope. From a mountaintop in Chile, the Vera C. Rubin Observatory with its 3.2-gigapixel eye, will as of late 2025 scan the heavens every three nights to capture the entire visible sky and generate 20 terabytes of data nightly. It may yet reveal that the cosmos itself is dynamic, alive, and evolving. In this light, the future must remain hopeful, empowered not only by inner resilience but also by the awe-inspiring scientific frontiers.

Knowledge of the past is the only foundation we have from which to peer into and try to measure the future ... Expert knowledge, however indispensable, is no substitute for a generous and comprehending outlook upon human story with all its sadness and with all its unquenchable hope

Winston Churchill

Civilizations do not advance in straight lines but in tidal surges of ascent and collapse, each wave bearing both creation and destruction. Neil Howe's generational theory, developed with William Strauss, describes an 80–100 year super-cycle divided into four turnings, each shaped by the succession of generations. Societies move from post-crisis rebuilding and collective unity, through institutional consolidation, into an era of heightened individualism and civic erosion, before entering a final crisis that overturns and resets the order. This rhythm of cohesion and fragmentation resonates with other cyclical visions: Kondratiev's long waves of innovation-driven expansion and decline, Schumpeter's creative destruction through which economies collapse and regenerate, and Leo Nefiodow's projection of a sixth Kondratiev wave rooted in

health, sustainability, and holistic renewal. Taken together, these frameworks suggest a deeper pattern: civilizational progress is not linear but tidal, a sequence of upheavals that clears the ground for rebirth. However, these remain interpretive models rather than universal laws, reminding us that every crisis is at once a wound and a womb of renewal.

Though currently the world finds itself in an interlude of relative calm, this silence is thin, already cracking at the edges. And yet, within this pause lies a final, luminous chance: the last opportunity for awakening, for a decisive shift in course. It is time to abandon the frenzied, destructive rhythms of modern existence and embrace a new epoch, an experiment in optimism, upheaval, and the profound renewal of life on Earth. Two paths lie before us: one, a transformation born of global collective will; the other, a passive surrender of vital human agency to authoritarian governance, guided by technoscientific decree. Only the former resonates with the great cycles of history, with the social and political tides that have always heralded humanity's cultural metamorphoses. It is this path alone that offers the promise of a new beginning, a new era worthy of our highest aspirations: this is where we believe humanity is heading.

We continue to foresee a systemic crisis poised to shake the world's economies to their very foundations, a profound disruption that will serve as the catalyst for the birth of a new monetary order. We anticipate the emergence of two distinct systems: one anchored in the United States and aligned with the nations of the Western world; the other centered in Russia and China, likely inspired by the deep reflections of Russian economic thinkers and envisioning the realities of a multipolar order and a pragmatic alternative to a bankrupt fiat currency system. The Russian-Chinese model may likely represent a monetary framework not backed by thin air but secured by gold and a basket of core commodities. We cannot envisage how two new global economic frameworks would be able to coexist; in practical terms, in an interconnected world, they cannot. Thus, the two systems will ultimately have to converge through a future historic world summit of the leaders of major economies into a single new system. Within this new order, the digital dimension of currencies will be integral, playing a decisive role in global transactions. The catalyst for such sweeping transformation will arise either from one major systemic crisis - our prevailing view -or from a succession of significant economic tremors which, in their cumulative force, will lead to the dismantling and eventual collapse of the present economic order. Whether through a singular upheaval or multiple shocks discharging the weight of an unsustainably indebted fiat monetary system, burdened with the waste amassed in the decades since the end of the Second World War, the result will be the same: purification of the world's economic foundations, clearing the way for the dawn of a new monetary order. From a prudent investor's perspective, this should not inspire panic but rather contemplation - an opportunity for caution, foresight, and recognition that history is moving forward toward a more sustainable future. We hold fast to this faith, knowing that a new era cannot begin while weighed down by the debris of the past, for renewal demands release. What lies ahead must be fresh and supple, unfettered by excess, unencumbered by waste, heralding a renewed entrepreneurial beginning in science, politics, business, health, and the exploration of new frontiers both on Earth and in outer space - innovative, productive, and joyful. It will also be an age of elevated spirituality, where spirit, not matter, stands at the center. We nonetheless acknowledge the shadow that looms closer than ever in human history: the peril of nuclear catastrophe for our planet Earth. We trust that divine providence, the prayers of millions of devout Christians, and the prevailing logic of world leaders will avert such a fate. The nuclear threat has long been a

theoretical weapon, an emblem of absolute strength and a deterrent against catastrophic aggression. We fervently trust it will remain so, and we go further by predicting that, humanity having survived the nuclear darkness, the dawning new era will see global powers convene to negotiate on a historic scale, the abolition of weapons of mass destruction, predominantly nuclear, to the maximum possible extent. Thus, as always, we choose to focus on a hope-filled horizon, on the bright, invigorating light of a new civilizational era. After the turn of this decade, a new super-cycle should begin, unfolding across four successive generations before the next great civilizational winter arrives some 80 to 90 years hence, bringing with it another period of upheaval and renewal. Fully aware of the grave dangers that accompany this time of immense change, we remain steadfastly optimistic - resolutely so - meeting the trials of our fragile planet with hope, confronting every crisis with courage, and affirming with our faith that, from the transience of Earth to eternity, optimism, based on faith and Divine guidance, is the only lasting way forward.

Closer than ever: It is now 89 seconds to midnight

Science and Security Board, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists - 2025 Doomsday Clock Statement

The Doomsday Clock is set every year by the Bulletin's Science and Security Board in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes nine Nobel laureates. The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to global catastrophe caused by man-made technologies.

Greece - a miraculous country

Do not mourn for Greece ...

She rises from every blow stronger, striking back with the spear of the sun

Yannis Ritsos (free rendering in English)

All the world's seas are Greece. All waves know the keels of Greek ships Stratis Myrivilis (free rendering in English)

Greece is not just soil; it is the eternal song of the sea, the light that never fades, and the unyielding faith that defies centuries ... The small village churches, like candles lit across the islands, keep the flame of faith and freedom alive ... The sea taught Greece freedom; the winds taught Greece courage, and the distant horizons taught Greeks the poetry of longing

Greece in the hearts and souls of famous Greek artists and poets

Greece is a land of miracles, an enchanting country whose very soul emerges from the seamless blend of history, myth, and faith, unfolding gracefully across centuries. The spirit of Hellenism, a radiant way of seeing, feeling, living, and creating, has illuminated humanity's journey since antiquity. Through epochs of triumph and trial, this spirit persisted, reshaped but never extinguished, preserving a timeless bond between yesterday and today, philosophy and faith, reason and revelation, extending the human soul from the mundane present to the spiritual infinite.

Long after Athens shone as the cradle of democracy, wisdom, and art, the flame of Hellenism continued burning in the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as Byzantium, the empire that for about 1000 years transformed ancient Greek ideals opening them up into a profound Orthodox Christian spiritual vision. For

over a thousand years, from the founding of Constantinople in the 4th century to its dramatic fall in 1453 A.D., the Byzantine Empire flourished across a vast expanse stretching from the heart of Europe to the Iberian Peninsula, the Balkans, all the way into Asia Minor, further out into Asia and south into North Africa. It was not merely an empire but a sacred civilization, crafting earthly images of heaven in golden mosaics, majestic domes, and fervent chants. Within its embrace, Orthodox Christian revelation absorbed ancient Greek philosophy, forming a unique synthesis that would echo through generations. Its monks and scribes patiently safeguarded classical knowledge and divine orthodox teachings, passing them forward as priceless artifacts to humanity. Even after Byzantium's fall, Greek civilization found resurrection through the Orthodox Church, which became the resilient guardian of the nation's spirit. During centuries when foreign powers, notably the Ottoman Empire, cast heavy shadows over Greece, it was this faith, in humble villages and vibrant monasteries, that kept alive the language, traditions, and unvielding spirit of the Greek people. The Church became a refuge, its liturgies nourishing the community's soul, sustaining hope, and quietly resisting despair. The Greek Orthodox faith, through devotion and suffering, transformed culture into something profound and sacred.

But Greece's legacy has always stretched beyond its shores, carried by vessels sailing the world's seas that unite rather than divide. From the time of legendary mariners crossing Mediterranean waters to today's Greek owned mega-fleets traversing oceans worldwide, Greek ships, apart from being the leading carriers of trade globally, also became ambassadors offering gifts of culture, learning, and civilization. They carried language, philosophy, art, and ideas far and wide, returning with inspirations that enriched their homeland. This eternal voyage became symbolic of Greek destiny - a yearning for freedom, exploration, and communion with humanity, always returning home, renewed. This maritime spirit finds one of its expressions in the breathtaking beauty of the Aegean archipelago. Beneath boundless skies and brilliant sun, countless islands gleam like scattered pearls on sapphire waves. Here, every whitewashed chapel and azure-domed church stands as an affirmation of faith and freedom, sanctifying rocks and shores alike. From bustling islands to solitary coves, everything proclaims resilience and the uncompromised Greek spirit, a declaration of independence etched forever in stone, painted in white and blue. Indeed, the Aegean itself is a living hymn to light, purity, and freedom, a divine interplay of nature and culture, where sunlight becomes revelation and sea becomes prayer. The islands, with their chapels, beaches, and villages, symbolize pure Hellenic spirit, celebrating life's simple yet profound mysteries. Here traditions remain alive in festivals, hymns, and rituals that merge sea and sun with the radiant splendor of Orthodox devotion. This sacred bond between land, majestic mountains, sea, and spirit has kept Greek identity vivid and enduring through turbulent histories.

Mount Athos is the ark preserving the true Greek spirit - the unwavering lighthouse of faith guiding our journey through history ... Byzantium is not dead; it lives within us, whispering prayers, painting our hearts with the divine colors of Orthodoxy ...

Mount Athos and the Byzantine Empire as seen and felt in the hearts and souls of famous Greek artists and poets ...

In the far northern reaches of the Aegean archipelago rises Mount Athos, the Holy Mountain, towering mystically from deep blue waters. Its slopes shelter ancient monasteries where monks chant prayers unchanged across centuries, living in ascetic purity and timeless devotion to the Creator. Athos is an ark of spirituality, preserving Byzantine tradition as a living symphony. Icons glow softly in

candlelight, sacred chants echo through rocky cliffs, and the air itself is sanctified. Holy Mount Athos is devoted to the Mother of God, its protector, the Virgin Mary. This unique peninsula is more than a refuge; it is a source from which Greek Orthodoxy draws constant renewal, a quiet beacon illuminating the path toward eternity. Mount Athos remains a living miracle, showing how spiritual authenticity and cultural continuity can thrive untouched by time's erosion. Its monasteries are spiritual lighthouses, radiating peace and inspiration, preserving the deepest essence of the Greek Orthodox faith. Throughout centuries of conflict and transformation, Holy Mount Athos has endured, not as an isolated relic, but as a vibrant testament to the enduring power of belief and prayer, its existence a profound affirmation of the miraculous nature of Greece itself.



Through this unbroken journey, Hellenism has quided civilization's evolution, revealing paths for humanity to follow - paths of wisdom, beauty, and balance. From democracy's first dawn in Athens to the imperial power and deep spirituality of the Eastern Roman Empire, as represented by the first Holy Emperor Constantine the Great and his mother Saint Helen, Greek civilization has consistently offered humanity visions of dignity, truth, and freedom. It reminds us that culture, nourished by spirit and reason, can transcend the world's turbulent, strident, materialistic trajectory, awakening uplifting hope and renewal. The miracle of Greece lies precisely here: in its endless capacity for rebirth and resilience. Despite countless challenges, this small yet extraordinary nation continues to astonish. Its language echoes unchanged through millennia; its culture survives through ceaseless adaptation and inspiration. Time and again, Greece has transformed suffering into triumph, darkness into light, doubt into renewal. A country where history and faith blend effortlessly, from ancient philosophy to Byzantine basilicas, to contemporary wisdom. Greece remains a nation eternally young, forever teaching humanity the profound lessons of courage, compassion, beauty, and faith. Under an everlasting sky, the Hellenic Republic continues to write its remarkable story, a narrative of resilience, redemption, and grace, a place where every stone whispers poetry, every wave carries memory, and every sunrise heralds a new miracle. Greece will remain what it always has been - a place of timeless wisdom, where miracles come true, illuminating humanity's endless journey.

Epimetron: AI in our research writings

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness William Shakespeare

Spoken by King Henry VI in Act 1, Scene 1 of Shakespeare's «Henry VI, Part 2». He utters it upon welcoming Queen Margaret, expressing heartfelt gratitude to God for the blessing of her arrival and their union.

Amid the accelerating complexity and velocity of global change, our research methodology now strategically incorporates advanced AI, most prominently OpenAI's legacy ChatGPT-4 and the integrative ChatGPT-5 suites, complemented by Microsoft's Copilot suites. These tools are employed through parallel prompting and comparative streamed evaluations, enabling the immediate cross-verification of outputs across models - a form of real-time triangulation that highlights consistencies, exposes divergences, and sharpens interpretive depth - thereby expanding the dimensionality of analytical synthesis. This structured approach rigorously assesses narrative consistency, nuance, and coherence, converging on finely calibrated reporting. We have to emphatically stress that AI agents' integration explicitly serves only as an augmentation, not a replacement, of human judgment, merely supporting sophisticated multivector analysis across geopolitical, geostrategic, economic, civilizational, cultural, and ideological domains. By processing vast data volumes, accelerating summarization, and aligning prose with our established intellectual tone, AI substantially reduces cognitive load, enabling enhanced human concentration on conceptual depth and multidimensional longitudinal perspectives on conceptual areas of focus and key topics being explored. Crucially, the interpretive voice remains always human; the strategic synthesis, conceptual framing, iterative refinement, and ultimate conclusions remain exclusively within the human purview. We therefore maintain at all times absolute control of the entire research process ensuring integrity, originality, and strategic foresight throughout our essays.

The whole life of a Christian is a continuous Christ-centered feast of the Holy Spirit...

From the writings of Saint Justin Popovich of Chellie (free rendering in English)

Researched, analyzed and written from December 2023 to September 2025 at: Holy Mount Athos (Agion Oros) – Karpenisi, Agrafa Mountain, Evritania - Kounoupidiana, Chania, Crete – Krakow, Wroclaw & Warsaw, Poland – Limassol, Cyprus - Mytilene, Eastern Aegean - Palaio Faliro, Attika - Tinos island, Cyclades - Trikala, Korinthia, Peloponnese - Zurich, Switzerland

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