

The Sultan, as Iketis (petitioner) in the Tsars Palace, in Moscow.



By Ioannis Ath. Baltzois*

The picture is relentless. It usually tells the truth. Also the body posture. Those who saw the pictures from the Putin-Erdogan meeting in Moscow (5th of March) understood a lot. And the information from the Middle East confirms a situation that is extremely disadvantageous to Erdogan's grandiose plans and Turkey's revisionary strategy and presents arrogant Erdogan coming to Moscow as a beggar for help and mercy. Let's see what happened in Moscow and what are the expected developments

The Sultan went to Moscow this time, not as an equal and major ally, but as a beggar (Iketis), asking for Putin's help in dealing with the most difficult situation, which the Turkish army has ever faced, after dozens of dead and wounded soldiers, a painful situation that should be justified to the Turkish people in every way. There, in Moscow, the frosty and excellent tactician in geostrategic and geopolitical games Vladimir Putin, along with the fox of international diplomacy Sergei Lavrof, in a six (6) hour meeting, imposed his terms on "ally" Erdogan, who in fact

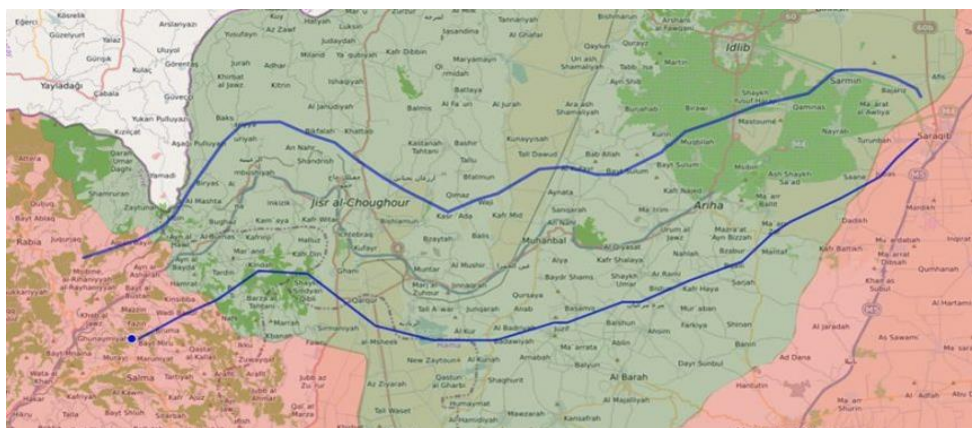
not only canceled his new ambitions in the Syrian province of Idlib, as well as his apparent or even in future geostrategic pursuits in the region.

The Russia-Turkey Agreement

At the meeting in Moscow, Putin and Erdogan agreed on the following:

A. A ceasefire from midnight on Thursday, 5th of March 2020.

B. Russia and Turkey will conduct joint patrols on the M4 motorway, which crosses the southern Idlib, from the town of Sarakib to Latakia. A 6km safety belt on both sides of the highway was decided, to be implemented by March 15, 2020. (As see down on the map of southfront.org). (Note: The north-south highway, the M5, is now liberated by the Syrian Arab Army, with a large Security Zone to its west. Even, within the territories liberated by the Syrian army, 7 of the 12 Turkish observatories have been and remained trapped)!! For my opinion this is the most difficult mission for Turkish army.



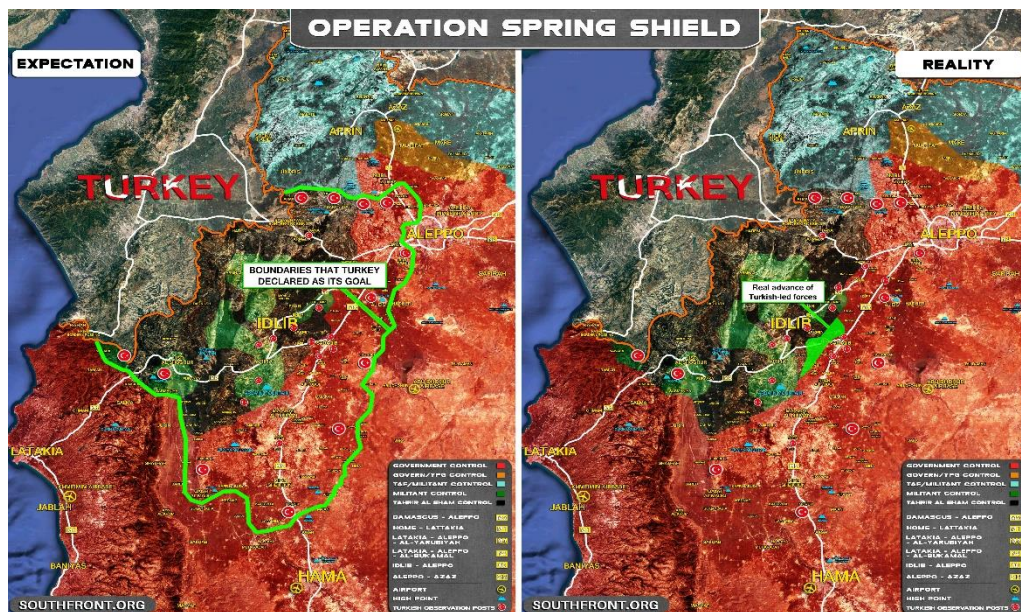
C. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to create the conditions for the return of the refugees.

D. Both parties have confirmed that this conflict is not a military solution.

Analyzing the Russia-Turkey agreement, it reveals many and interesting changes that, they are dramatically change the geopolitical environment. Specifically, we have:

A. The recent military gains of the Syrian Arab Army are no longer disputed and are permanently consolidated, as the new contact line has now become official. In the map below (southfront.org), we see to the left what he was aiming for and to the right, what he did not get, or lost. Plus the loss of the M4.

B. Russia and Syria will continue to fight all extremist Islamic jihadist organizations internationally recognized as terrorists, such as al-Qaeda, the ISIS, al-Nusra, and all their own related terrorist organizations, regardless of any change in their names.



C. Russia continues and remains a dedicated patron of the legitimate Syrian government under President Assad and accepts no question about it.

So, according to all the above mentioned, we consider the following as conclusions.

- The Blitzkrieg, the lightning war and the victory that Erdogan dreamed of, failed miserably and resulted in tragedy with dozens of dead Turkish soldiers.
- Erdogan understood that he had two options, to increase his military presence in Idlib and to escalate the war or to declare a supposed “victory” (for Turkish people) and accept the agreement. He wisely chose the second, at least, as a temporary measure.
- Neither NATO, nor the E.U. have shown finally any disposition or indication that they wish to join the Turkish war in Syria, nor of course the USA, even the friend of Erdogan the American president Mr. Trump. And this is why the Sultan ran for support and help, to his friend (aw Erdogan uses to say) and “ally” the president of Russia Mr. Putin, but his effort also failed.
- Iran, Hezbollah, and Libya (LNA by General Haftar) have stated that they are ready to fight the Turks, as long as it needs.
- The Erdogan’s reaction to his defeat at Idlib was to move the interest of his people, to another field and to other events, to his “favorite” country for provocation and threats, Greece. First he ordered and blocked all the Internet Social Media in Turkey. Second, he started an asymmetric war against Greece, and a well designated Hybrid war, with the code name “1453” (which is the year that Constantinople, the capital of Byzantine occupied by the Ottomans), according to Turkish newspaper Hurriet . This operation which is the epitome of Hybrid War was designed and organized by two Public Services. The Ministry of Interior (by Minister Suleiman Soilou) and the National Intelligence Organization (Turkish: Millî İstihbarat Teşkilatı, MİT) (by Hakan Fidan). The operation “1453” is a very dangerous hostile action of Turkish against Greece, a really invasion against Greece, the epitome of the Hybrid War, using an new instrument, a new method, a new weapon. Turkey , "weaponized " the immigrants, sending tens of thousands with public and military means (buses, trains etc.) in the Greek-Turkish boundaries, in Evros River, in North-East of Greece, using methodically fake news that Greece has opened the borders and everyone can travel in Europe, using Greece, as first step. But Greece, which is the European border did not permitted to this crowd of tens of thousands to pass, because it

was a real invasion and would be the total destabilization of the country. In other circumstances, this plan would be a war action, for any country. Turkey by the Public Services supported and helped the mass of immigrants (there are not refugees, because they are from Afganistan, Pakistan, Magreb countries etc.) to break the Greek border, to invade illegally in an indepedented country, using army, police and many army material, as special armored vehicles of Turkish army, as the Turkish made vehicle Hizir, provided them with tear gases , Molotov cocktails, ropes, chain cutter and many others. Finally, it was revealed that the men that used these materials were not immigrants, but secret service men and terrorists from Idlib and other areas of Syria, who are in service of the Turkish public services as MIT, Turkish Army etc. But Greek Army and Police faced successfully this war, gaining an important victory against the offensive and illegal plan of Turkey. And the battle in Greece-Turkish border is continuing, trying in any way to invade in another country, but Evros boarder never will be fallen.

- Turkey, tried in the interior, completely controlling the "media" by the Erdogan regime, using black and gray propaganda, fake news about the events in Evros River, about the "bad Greeks" who do not open the borders and "shoot" the desperate immigrants, and many others. So the Turkish people knows what Erdogan regime permits, about Idlib, the humiliated agreement with Russia and many others.

Estimations

The hydrid war which Erdogan was designated against Greece, with the "weaponizing" of the human migratory stream, failed miserably, as Turkey did not expect the overall Greek reaction. Erdogan with his plan tried to flood Europe with immigrants, since it would open the Greek borders, first destabilizing Greece, and then Europe, finally failed.

The Erdogan regime also sought to threaten and blackmail Europe into receiving more money, tolerance and assistance in its plans in Syria, by occupying territories, creating "Security Zones" in northern Syria, and most of all, issuing visas for Turkish people to travel freely in Europe, but did not success. Europe, even the US, stood by side with Greece, justified its strong stance on closed borders and did not accept the lies and fake news that Turkey's regime built.

Erdogan has far outstripped its utility to Russia. Putin also has the biggest part of Libya, with General Khalifa Haftar whose operations appear to have been extremely successful against Turkish troops and jihadists sent from Turkey to Libya. The Russians, quietly but effectively, support Haftar, who, could be very useful in Russia's geostrategic pursuits in the Eastern Mediterranean. Already the Russia's power display has already be in both countries, Syria and Libya, pled by the "unwise" policy of the USA in the Middle East (Leaving the Kurdish allies at the mercy of the Turks, leaving Syria, coming back to protect oil, etc.), it is so powerful and catalytic for developments that it becomes the mastermind of developments in the region.

Erdogan, facing unfavorable developments and his defeats (Syria, Evros river in Greece), ran to Russia for help. But what Putin did during his meeting with Erdogan, was first to force him to wait for two minutes and then in front of two symbolic statues, the statue of Catherine the Great and the statue of Russian soldiers, reminding him two humiliated treaties that Ottoman Empire forced by Russia, the treaty of Kioutsouk Kainartzy, in 1774, and the treaty of Saint Stephen, 1878, and second forced him to sign a bad agreement, making him clear two things.

□ If you attack Syria again, you will lose, obviously worse than the first time.

□ If you try to conflict with our geostrategic interests in the future, we will mercilessly strike yours.

So the Moscow Iketis (supplicant) tried for support to Europe, but there he returned hastily and frustrated with empty hands. It is now obvious. The countdown to the "Great Turkish Leader" has begun. It is enough for us, the Greeks and all the Europe to understand what happens in Evros river and to oppose to the illegal plans, by a dangerous leader, criminal of war according to Carla del Ponte, former Chief Prosecutor of United Nations international criminal law tribunals, who ignores every international Law, who invaded in a country, Syria, four times, who invaded in the Cyprus Economical Exclusive Zone (EEZ), who threatens and violates with actions an intepented country, Greece. As it happened in Greek-Turkish border in Evros river. We can.

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***Iketis: Ancient Hellenic word for the man who had made something very bad and he is coming to the Greek Gods asking for mercy and petition.*