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IRPOSTS magazine



PRAY FOR AUSTRALIA

How many lives should be sacrificed to understand the importance of the climate change? Chemical, physiological, biological wastes and poisonous barrels were not enough and we also throw our garbage into the seas and oceans which killed millions of marine creatures. We did not stop! We talked about global melting and shared the videos of penguins and polar bears but we didn't change anything! Like the Amazon Forests, thousands of them were burned, thousands of living creatures died, but it never enough! Now a huge continent is on fire, but we're creating new one (!) with our garbage. More than half a million animals burned to death! New species are at risk of extinction. What are we still waiting for? We are so sorry for Australia...

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Cover of the magazine reminds us the protests in the whole world while everyone was celebrating the New Year.

474 women killed in Turkey in 2019. We designed a picture for their memory on the page 20.

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US – IRANIAN RELATIONS

by Mustafa Mert Koç



Iran, the “outpost” of the pre-revolutionary US in the Middle East, became the “enemy” country after the revolution. Although the days of hostility and tension escalated in relationships, sometimes “cooperation” was also seen. Mutual strife never ended. Iran, which has the world’s 2nd largest natural gas and 4th oil reserves, has always been in the interest of Western countries. Oil, discovered in the south of the country at the beginning of the 20th century, led to persistent harassment of the Iranian government by Western countries. With the signing of the nuclear agreement during the Barack Obama period, the relations between the two countries were more positive, but this did not last long. A new process began with Donald Trump taking over the US.



In Iran, where street demonstrations have started due to economic sanctions, Tehran’s administration has sought a way out against sanctions following Trump’s exit from the nuclear deal, but the US has not come a long way because of its weight in the world economy. The dollar peaked after the street demonstrations in Iran last December, the demonstrations started by the tradesmen in Teh-

ran started in many cities, the US publicly announced the support of the demonstrators at a time when Trump urged the countries that are buying oil from Iran to stop their trade until November.

According to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the US administration said “Iran will not have a drop of oil exports.” This means that the region’s oil cannot be exported. If you do this, you will suffer the consequences. He threatened the US with closing the Strait of Hormuz. Washington’s response was quick. The US signalled that Iran is ready to use military force to protect the oil trade in the region against the threat of closing the Strait of Hormuz. “The US navy and its allies in the region are ready to defend freedom of navigation wherever international law permits free trade,” US Defence Department Pentagon Spokesman Bill Urban said. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo likened Iranian leaders to “mafia.” Addressing the Iranians living in the US in a panel titled “Supporting the Iranian Voice” at the Ronald Reagan Library and Public Relations Centre in California, Pompeo said: “The level of corruption and wealth among the leaders shows that Iran is governed by something more mafia-like than a government. Most people don’t know, but Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has an informal investment fund of \$95 billion under the name of Setad. In the course of the nuclear



agreement, Iran’s oil revenues could go to the Iranian people. Instead, they went to terrorists, dictators and proxy militias.” By the way, US press releases secret documents on Iran’s ‘political hegemony’ in Iraq. The US press has published 700-page

documents emphasizing the close relations of the Shiites and Iran, who came to power after 2003, allegedly leaked from the private archive of Iranian intelligence. The documents describe Iran's policies in Iraq, Lebanon and as determined by the Jerusalem Guard of the Army of the Revolutionary Guards, and ambassadors appointed by this unit. It is also stated that the massacres committed by the Revolutionary Guards in 2014 against the Sunnis in Iraq undermine the reconciliation efforts with the United States and caused discussions between Hasan Rouhani and radical groups. Iran's "Washington administration has benefited from the opportunities provided in Iraq," documents, the United States after the invasion of Iraq in 2003, the option to transfer control of Iran to Iraq and warmly looking forward to the "Iraqi Iran is the only result," transferring: "The rise of Iran as an actor in Iraq is due to Washington's lack of plans for the post-occupation. The policies of the United States are not on the ground and are not well calculated." The documents also mention the abuse of Iranian groups against the Sunnis, "Iran's open intervention in Iraq and the practice of Qasim Suleiman led to the reunification of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar against Iran. Iran's negative policies and fostered the corruption between the Sunnis and prepared the basis for the emergence of such an organization after the Daesh for alleged protection of the rights of the Sunnis."

THE COUP HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

by Burkan Yıldırım

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir

The history of the world is full of coups, revolutions and riots. Sometimes a popular movement, sometimes a military intervention, can change the fate of a country, a region and even the world. These actions can sometimes take place on the initiative of the people of the country where they take place, and sometimes through external support and interventions. Such events taking place in almost every country in the world also change the direction of world history. On the other hand, although such incidents take place in most countries of the world, it is important to pay special attention for Latin American countries. Latin American history has witnessed many revolutions, revolts and coups. When we look at the core of these movements, the prominent case is remarkable. The first is economic reasons, which are the basis of many civil commotions. However, the second is imperialism. So much so that the coups in Latin America are mainly supported by the United States. The USA, which has an imperialist aim, of course did not leave the Latin American countries in its side to its fate. The United States, which wants to keep these countries under constant

control, has supported many coup and rebellion movements, including not only political but also economic and even military support. On the other hand, the nations of the countries of the region, which are the target of imperialism, naturally took a clear attitude towards this and they did not settle for the fate predicted by the USA for them. As a result of this, the fate of the region has been shaped and the region has the endless chaos. Although these countries seem to be very nice holiday places with a pleasant life, almost all of them have economic problems, imperialist and anti-imperialist conflicts. This endless chaos continues at full speed today. Recent coup attempts and rebellion movements in countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia and Chile are well known by everyone. What happened in these regions in the past and how did these countries, which embellish everyone's holiday dreams, have such a past and an uncertain future?

In order to understand the present of the region, we need to rewind time. In 1845, the US annexed Texas and started a process that will come to this day. Upon this

development, the diplomatic relations between the USA and Mexico ended and this tension turned into a war when the US demanded New Mexico and California. As a result of the war, Mexico was occupied by the US and a new administration was formed. Under the agreement with the New Mexican administration, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Nevada were sold to the United States for \$ 15 million. So, for years, the United States launched a series of events that would call South America as "Washington's Backyard." In 1903, with the support of the United States, Panama separated from Colombia and declared its independence, and under the agreement with the United States, the right to canalise operate and control the Panama Canal was transferred to the United States. In the same year, while the sovereignty of Guantanamo Bay remained in Cuba as a condition of the agreement with Cuba, the jurisdiction and supervision was left to the USA. By 1914, the Mexican people made a revolutionary movement against the US-led government. To prevent this, however,

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the US occupied Veracruz, Mexico, and remained in the region for about seven months. By 1954, Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz had become a target for the United States. President Arbenz had begun to oppose the United Fruit Company which is monopolized by the USA and with the land reform; he had begun to distribute the land owned by the company to the public, legalizing the communist



party and helping to facilitate the organization of workers. Of course, these were not tolerated by the US. Mercenaries from outside country and paramilitary group that formed inside the country rebelled against President Arbenz. With this movement, which was openly supported by the US and especially the CIA, an atmosphere of chaos and conflict began to prevail within the country. As a result, President Arbenz was forced to resign. When the rebel leader Carlos Castillo Armas took over the country, the USA obtained its aim. However, these events were only the beginning of the bloody events and endless unstable days in Guatemala. Since then, many coup and rebellion movements have taken place in Guatemala; the coup against Arbenz created a civil war resulting in the deaths of almost 200,000 people. By 1961, Cuba was no longer the former Cuba for the United States. A revolutionary movement was made against Batista, the head of the US-backed military regime, and those who made the revolution took over

the control in the country. The new Cuba, under Fidel Castro, openly opposed the United States. Therefore, the intervention in Cuba was not delayed. In 1961, a CIA operation created a paramilitary force composed of Cubans living outside Cuba. This force, together with US troops, launched an operation to invade Cuba. This operation, which was named as "Bay of Pigs" in the history of the world, resulted in a fias-

co for the USA. The army of the US troops and Cuban supporters was defeated. As a result, years of harsh embargoes were launched by the United States against Cuba. Although some embargoes have been mitigated today, they still continue.

When the calendars showed in 1964, a coup plan against Brazilian President Joao Goulart was created. This coup movement, initiated by Brazil's Chief of Defence Humberto Castelo Branco, again received US support and succeeded. Later, according to the documents removed from the decision of confidentiality, it was the coup plan named as "Operation Brother Sam" by CIA. Brazil was not the only country to suffer a coup in 1964. Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro, like some of his counterparts, implemented land reform and started to fight against monopoly companies. In addition, trade union movements were granted freedom in the country, which did not last long. In 1964, the US-backed junta was struck and the Estenssoro was top-

pled. The new military regime would soon kill Che Guevara, the leader of the Cuban Revolution.

In 1965, it was time for the Dominican Republic to break off the relations with President Rafael Trujillo, who had been in good relations with the US for years. He was assassinated in 1961. Juan Bosch, the founder of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, who was in exile for many years, returned to his country and won the elections and became president. After taking office, Bosch was overwhelmed by the land reform laws, some groups and the church and he was overthrown in a coup in 1963. After a two-year break, he returned to office in 1965 with another coup. The instability and internal events aroused the United States and the 'Inter American Peacekeeping Force' was created to support the groups opposing Bosch and the Dominican Republic was occupied with 42,000 US soldiers. In the election that took place just after the invasion, Bosch who had remained under pressure and threat was unsuccessful. In 1973, there were events that would change the fate of the Chilean State and its people for many years. The socialist president of Chile, Salvador Allende, was unwelcome by the United States. He was pursuing an expropriation policy against foreign companies. At the same time, the United States did not want a socialist country close to it. For this reason, he was trying to suppress Chile with economic embargoes, at the same time it was trying to put Allende under pressure in parliament. This situation gradually created an atmosphere of chaos in the country. As the terrorist incidents escalated, some military groups attempted a coup. In August 1973, Allende appointed General Pinochet, the name he trusted, as the chief of defence. However, he did not know that this appointment would cost his life. In September, Pinochet made a coup by US support and bombed the presidential palace. President Salvador Allende was killed in this coup but how Allende died is still unknown. Some say he committed suicide during the coup, while others say that he was killed during the bombing. Following this coup, the period of Pinochet's military

regime began in Chile. For the US, Chile was no longer dangerous. But the same was not the case for the Chilean people. During the years of dictatorship, the Chilean people suffered a lot.

Between 1976 and 2004, there have been a series of coups in many countries such as Argentina, Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Venezuela and Haiti, with similar events and processes. In some of these coups, the US only supported from outside, while in others, it participated in the occupation movements. All these coups have made South America a little more unstable. In 2002, during a coup attempt against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Chavez was suddenly detained. News has spread that Chavez has resigned and fled to Cuba. However, when Chavez announced that he had not resigned and did not escape, his supporters and anti-coup forces within the army acted and suppressed the coup and Chavez returned to duty. In 2009, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya began to establish close relations with Venezuela and Nicaragua. This has attracted US reaction. When Zelaya dismissed the chief of defence, there were resignations and reactions. Zelaya was detained by the army and resigned then he left the country after the Honduran Supreme Court stated the rule as unlawful. Today, there is an ongoing coup attempt in Venezuela. Guaido declared himself as president and openly supported by the United States and his supporters attempted a coup against President Maduro, and there is still instability in the country.

These events, chronologically described above, are a sad summary of the story of a huge South American continent becoming "Washington's Backyard." In addition to the coups, these countries, where there are many popular movements that are not mentioned in this article, have not yet achieved a complete stability. These countries are still overshadowed by a superpower, struggling with political instability and economic crises. As a result of these events and coups that have lasted for years, hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives and still lose. Time will also tell us whether South America will achieve stability. While valuable concepts such as international law and human rights are in the language of the whole world today, it is perhaps necessary to ask a question: Is it logical for international law and human rights that many countries and nations suffer so much and record such devastating cases to their history for only the welfare of a country?

THE CULTURAL GENOCIDE OF UYGHUR TURKS

by Dilara Soy

Today with having the year 2019 the developments that we have in technology and the intensity of globalization is beyond what we ever expected. The reach of information is just one click away, there are systems that secure us in many ways and the freedom that many of us have as basic in our daily lives. A huge supporter was the social media in my opinion, a lot of awareness was spread and a platform where people can also express themselves. However social media don't have just good sides it also became a sector to shape opinions and create new truths. This way of controlling and reshaping of information or facts is becoming more and more popular as a state policy. There are many examples but especially if the matter is lives of people, it becomes vicious. One example of these circumstances is the situation of Uyghur Turks that have been kept, tortured and killed by China.

Since the 19th century Xinjiang (North West of China), where Uyghur Turks are located, is considered as Chinese territory. After several uprisings and struggles, Xinjiang become an autonomous region today. Uyghurs are originally from East Turkistan, Turks from Central Asia meaning that they have a totally different cultural background and more importantly a different religion. Especially this religious difference created difficulties which could not

been solved till today. The Chinese response to these differences was and still is very harsh. As a result, today 11 million Uyghur Muslims are living a life on a very restricted and inhumane way.

According to Chinese government, they are spoiling the integrity of the country. That's why these so called education camps are established. In these camps, they only learn Mandarin and have several other courses for integration but the truth seems different. Some people who managed to flee or had been released say that violence and torture was a daily action.

"They wouldn't let me sleep; they would hang me up for hours and would beat me. They had thick wooden and rubber batons, whips made from twisted wire, needles to pierce the skin, pliers for pulling out the nails. All these tools were displayed on the table in front of me, ready to use at any time and I could hear other people screaming as well." These were the words of Omir in a BBC article.¹ Later in the 2000s, China included that Uyghurs also generate a separatist Islamist threat. Several attacks were blamed on Xinjiang separatists, the tension increased with the Chinese government. As we can understand, it's a long-term crisis but it is slowly getting international criticism.

1- Hughes, Roland. "China Uighurs: All You Need to Know on Muslim 'Crackdown'." BBC News, BBC, 8 Nov. 2018

At a UN meeting in Geneva in August 2018, Chinese official Hu Lianhe said reports of a million Uyghurs being held in re-education centres were “completely untrue”. However, then, in October 2018, the top official in Xinjiang said “vocational education” centres had been set up and were proving effective in staving off terrorism. Just these two converse statements show that something is hidden or is tried to be changed.

harsh and restricting policies in Tibet. The aim was to create the same condition and success (in their opinion) in Xinjiang. Soon after his appointment, just as he did in Tibet, he introduced a strong controlled system by increasing the police presence and also promoting communism nearly everywhere. Mosques were suddenly closed, the Uyghur language was banned from schools nearly everything that had a relation to the Uyghur culture was banned.

Beijing is denying any of the accusations and states that these camps are only designed to fight terrorism and combat Islamic extremism. With this response, the international criticism increased and a joint statement was established. John Fisher, Geneva director at Human Rights Watch, said “The joint statement demonstrates that Beijing is wrong to think it can escape international scrutiny for its abuses in Xinjiang, and the pressure will only increase until these appalling abuses end.”³ The latest progress is the Uyghur bill, which was created by requires the US president to condemn abuses against Muslims and call for the closure of mass detention camps in China’s western region of Xinjiang. This could put pressure on China because of the on-going trade war but China’s response is more on the offensive side that any action of US will not be overlooked. To sum up, the cultural genocide is still continuing in this so-called education camps and millions of people are suffering. Although the Uyghur Bill is a positive development, its link to economic profits is terrible. Why isn’t it obvious that such things are not acceptable and cannot be compared to any deal? Why are millions of people subject to state policies?



Then, in an effort to fight international criticism, the government claims that history is being distorted and that Uyghurs were not originally Muslims by choice.² I think with this illustration they are trying to say that Uyghurs were forced to be Muslim and actually China is liberating them. In 2016, Xi Jinping appointed Chen Quanguo who is known for the established

Some calls this action of China as ‘Cultural Genocide’ which I believe is sadly exactly what they are doing.

In 2019, a letter to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from the group of 22 nations urged China to end its “mass arbitrary detentions and related violations” and required access to the region.

2- “East Turkestan: China Attempts to Mask Human Rights Violations by Claiming Uyghurs Were Forced to Convert to Islam.” UNPO

3- Westcott, Ben. “22 Countries Sign Letter Calling on China to Close Xinjiang Uyghur Camps.” CNN, Cable News Network, 11 July 2019

4- Al Jazeera. “China Warning on US Uyghur Bill Casts More Doubt over Trade Deal.” News\ 4 Dec. 2019

ENERGY POLICY OF PUTIN’S RUSSIA

by Kemal Kısa

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir

In international politics, the phenomenon of energy remains as important as it is in the past because a state that does not have sufficient energy resources, as seen in the case of the EU and Russia, can become dependent on a state with rich resources, and energy can also have a positive effect by developing cooperation between the two states like the example of energy projects between Turkey and Russia.

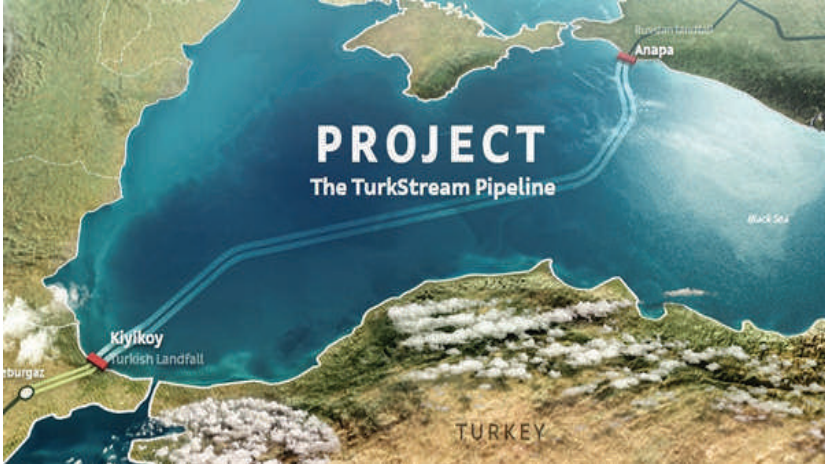
Increasing energy cooperation projects between countries change the distribution of political and economic power in the world system bringing geopolitical consequences. Therefore, energy is one of the instruments used by states in their foreign policies. One of the best examples of this is seen in Russian foreign policy today.

Russian Foreign Policy and Energy

As a country with rich natural gas and oil resources, Russia has been continuously using its energy trump in foreign policy, especially since Putin came to power. When Putin first came to power, he gradually made the economic and political structure that he took over from his predecessor, the pro-Western Yeltsin government, more centralized. By nationalizing energy companies like Gazprom,

he declared a kind of war against the oligarchs. "With its current position in the field of natural gas policies, Russia seeks to solve the problems and to use its resources wisely to become a regional and global power. As a matter of fact, we can see this with Putin's attempts to monopolize the energy institutions by nationalizing them. More importantly, many companies operate in the field of energy, and even try to become multinational companies. However, in order to prevent this situation, Putin nationalized many of them uniting under the name of Gazprom, and he tried to prevent some of them from forming partnerships with other companies." At this point, we need to briefly mention the idea of "Eurasianism" in order to understand the foreign policy moves of Putin and his team since the day they came to power.

Eurasianism is basically an anti-Western / Atlantic view and an intellectual and political view that em-



phasizes Russian nationalism and Orthodoxy. This idea actually implicitly implements some sort of Russian imperial logic. It is inevitable that a Russia under the rule of Putin, who wishes to return to Russia's former glory days, will of course be present in the Turkic states, which were formerly dominated by the Soviet Union, around the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea, the Balkans and the Middle East and other regions. Russia wants to establish dominance through military and intelligence in some of these regions, and through defence industry products and energy exports in others. Putin uses energy as a trump card in Russian foreign policy, perhaps with a realist perspective from his military past and a pragmatic understanding of foreign policy. Perhaps the most obvious example of this is that he makes the EU states in an energy poor geography dependent on Russia in terms of energy. Perhaps the most important reason for Russia's political dominance over the Turkish states in Central Asia is energy. As understood from Russia's new energy security doctrine, this energy policy of Russia is not accepted and opposed by some foreign countries.² "While the US is trying to establish its international sovereignty through military measures in Eurasia, Russia maintains its influence in the region with its policies on economy and energy and succeeds in this. Putin administration, which reflects Eurasian perspective on energy policies, is threatening the Turkish energy security and region policies in Caspian Basin and Caucasus. In contrast, Turkey and Russia's political and economic interests coincide in the Middle East. In this respect, Turkey-Russia relations can be improved with thee energy cooperation in the Middle East. While Russia's policies towards the EU affected Turkey-Russia relations negatively due to the controversies of energy policies, it has been useful in terms of Turkey's prominence as an alternative energy transfer region."³

In Turkey-Russia relations, there have been some negative issues such as crashing of Russian aircraft by Turkey in 2015, and shooting of Russian ambassador. However, contrary to expectations, the relations between the two countries have progressed in a positive direction and energy cooperation projects have been developed as we have seen in the implementation of the Turk Stream Project and the establishment of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant. On the other hand, together with the benefits of the cooperation projects for Turkey, the probability of Turkey's increasing energy dependence on Russia can cause negative consequences in economic and political terms. Therefore, Turkey should give importance to produce and use its national energy resources. In this respect, Turkey should maintain current oil and gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and continue to defend its rights claiming its jurisdiction to the eastern Mediterranean. The best solution to resolve the energy dependence on Turkey will be using national resources effectively.



1-Saiyaer SAILUMU, Rusya Federasyonu Enerji Politikası (1990-2013) ve Çin - Rusya Enerji İlişkisine Etkisi, T.C. Sakarya Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Aralık 2014

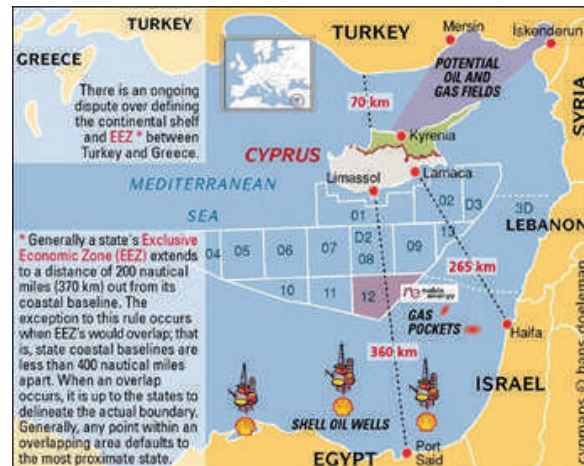
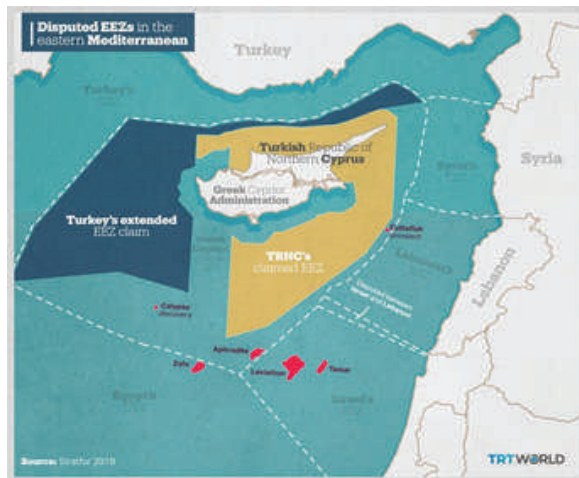
2- Emre Gürkan Abay, "Putin Rusyası'nın yeni enerji güvenliği doktrini imzalandı", Mayıs 15, 2019.

3- Fatih AKGÜL, Rusya'nın Putin Dönemi Avrasya Enerji Politikaları'nın Türkiye - Rusya İlişkilerine Etkileri, Güvenlik Stratejileri Dergisi, Yıl: 2007, Cilt: 3, Sayı: 5, ISSN: 1305-4740, Sayfa Aralığı: 129 – 155

The Importance of Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey's Maritime Deal with Libya

by Selen Ceylan

Today, there is a general agreement that the Eastern Mediterranean refers to the region to the east of the line drawn between the Cape of Tunisia and the Cape of Lilibeo on the western end of the island of Sicily in Italy. Based on this definition, the Eastern Mediterranean is surrounded by the coasts of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.



The Eastern Mediterranean, which has been the scene of great wars in different stages of history, is actually located in what many historians and writers call "Efficient Crescent". This Efficient Crescent defines the areas Egypt, Mesopotamia and Anatolia which have the most fertile soil in the world. The first aim of the civilizations formed throughout history was to dominate these regions, because through this, world trade could be controlled by land and sea. The center of the Empire founded by Alexander the Great and the Eastern Roman-Byzantine Empire was the Eastern Mediterranean. The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire had dominated the region until the birth of Islam. Since the establishment of the Umayyad in the 7th century, Muslims began to attach importance to shipping rapidly and then ruled the Mediterranean for centuries except some of the northern coasts. However, the Crusades led to a long disruption of navy activities. During the 12th and 13th centuries; Egypt, Syria, and the Turkish people had naval power in the east of the Mediterranean Sea, but still in a powerful position. Through the late periods of 15th century, The Ottoman Empire began to develop as a marine empire which formed the basis of the theory of the famous Turkish Admiral Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha's words "Whomever dominates the seas, dominates everything". Every Ottoman sultan on the throne gave great importance to the Mediterranean. In the 17th century, Venice taking advantage of the Ottoman Navy's inability to keep up with the age, gained superiority in the Eastern Mediterranean, but when the modernization of the Ottoman Navy and the galleon era were started Venetian supremacy that lasted half a century ended again in the Mediterranean. Due to the fact that Mediterranean not only owns Suez Canal but also takes under control of The Middle East and its neighboring regions, which contain more than half of the world's oil, is very important. When it is looked from the point of view of the islands Sicily, Malta, Messina, Meis and Cyprus constitute the Eastern Mediterranean, but it is possible to say that Cyprus is the most important island of the region in terms of geopolitical and geostrategic terms. In the historical process, global and regional powers have tried to settle and control the Eastern Mediterranean with the effort to protect their interests and security from long distances and to keep other states under threat and pressure.

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Energy Reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean

It is claimed that the natural gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean, which are located between Asia, Europe and Africa, may constitute 47% of the world natural gas reserves. These rich reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean are collected under 4 areas which are Aphrodite, defined as the Levant Basin between Cyprus and Israel, the Nile Delta between Egypt and Cyprus, the south-eastern part of Crete, namely Heredot between Crete and Cyprus, and the surrounding area of Cyprus. Israel, Egypt and the Greek Cypriot Administration were the first to start the exploration of natural gas and oil in the Eastern Mediterranean. Nowadays, Israel and Egypt have reached their point of exportation as well as extracting sufficient amount. The Greek Cypriot Administration, on the other hand, is trying to achieve its works that it conducts in contradiction with international law with the agreements signed with USA, Italy, Israel, Russia, France and South Korea origin companies.

The international conventions, the International Court of Justice and the court decisions taken have clearly revealed the marine use areas of the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. According to international law, while determining the

marine use areas of riparian countries, they should conduct a three-stage study in the form of a continental shelf, adjoining zone and exclusive economic zone, as well as sending it to the UN.

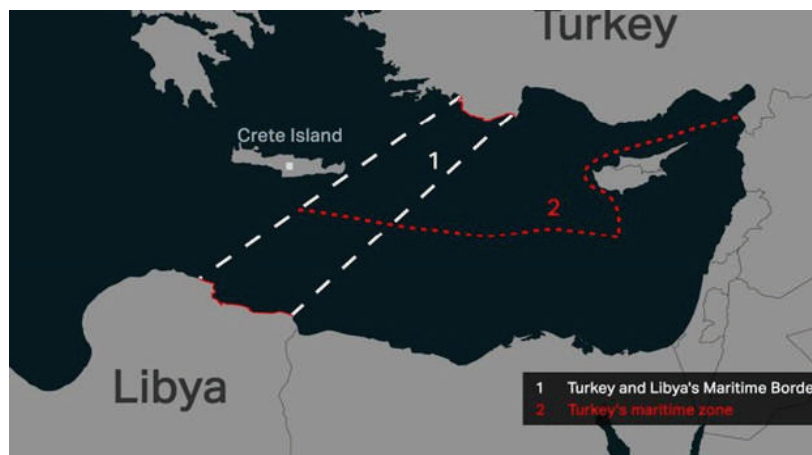
In the article 56 of the 1982 UN Convention on the law of the sea, it is said that the State which owns the Exclusive Economic Zone has the right to investigate, operate and manage the living and non-living natural resources of the waters on the seabed, and under the ground, as well as to obtain energy from water, currents and wind. There are more rules on this issue. The important thing here is that it is not possible for states in the Eastern Mediterranean to declare themselves an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles. Because the distance between the riparian states is less than 400 nautical miles, the relevant riparian countries must reach an agreement and declare this result to the UN. Otherwise, according to the 1982 Maritime Law Convention, the Exclusive Economic Zone does not comply with international law.

Turkey is the strongest actor in the Eastern Mediterranean as it has the longest coastline of 569 miles in the Eastern Mediterranean and has the right to guarantee under the international law on the island of Cyprus under the 1959 Zurich and 1960 London Treaties. Turkey attended the conference convened in Geneva in 1958 related to marine areas and signed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In the region, due to the natural gases the conflicts between the countries never end. Although there is no limit to the region, the USA, Russia, England, France and Italy also operate in the region with international energy companies. Regional countries under various names and formations in Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) in order to push out of the process of formal and informal forms of alliances. Those countries' negative approaches to Turkey's and TRNC's peaceful demands led Turkey to come to the field to protect its rights and interests by increasing the efficiency of exploration and drilling ships. Many problems occurred in the region this summer as a result of drilling of countries that were against the international law.

Turkey Signed a Maritime Deal with Libya in 27th October

The crisis that started on the Eastern Mediterranean because of the claims of various countries due to hydrocarbon has been continuing since 2003. Turkey signed a maritime deal with Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli. It is the mutual agreement of Turkey and Libya determining jurisdiction in the Mediterranean. Due to the absence of this authority in creating a great deal of space, it made difficult activities for Turkey in Mediterranean according to international law and maritime law. As it said earlier before this agreement; Greece, Israel and the GCA were trying to transcend Turkey by designating their own EEZs, signing agreements among themselves. There was a consortium established by three Mediterranean countries and by this consortium, they constructed the EastMed pipeline project whose aim was to transport the newly discovered gas reserves from the Eastern Mediterranean to southern Europe. Although the project goes through Turkey, the powers did not take the consultation of Turkey. As Turkey got mad, it developed its own plan to prevent this project by reaching a comprehension, with Libya's UN-recognized Tripoli government.

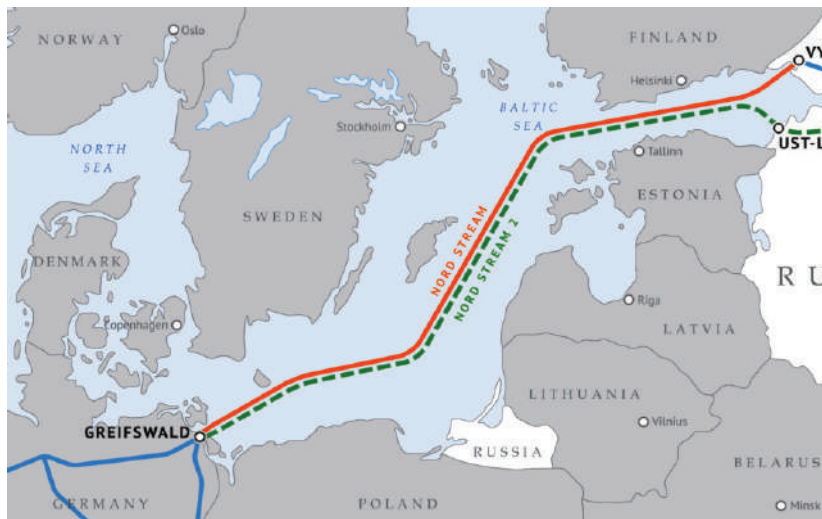


Erdoğan said that “Through this deal, we have taken a rightful step within the framework of international law against the stances imposed by Greece and the Greek Cypriot Administration, opposing the claims of maritime jurisdictions aiming to confine our country to the Gulf of Antalya”. Turkey’s aim is not create enemies but to make friends. “The deal we have signed is appropriate to the international law. We do seismic and drilling work with Libya” said Çavuşoğlu. He added “No one can work without our permission in our continental shelf”. He said it was not appropriate for Greece or the EU to act as a court on these matters of international law. Çavuşoğlu also reminded that exploratory talks were initiated with Greece to overcome the problems in the Aegean but this did not continue under the management of Çipras. He said that the map of Seville prepared by Greece shows the intent of the Athens administration. Çavuşoğlu added that Turkey is willing lasting diplomatic solution, stressing it will not accept the unilateral steps of Greece.

He finished his speech by saying “We will not let Kaş and Antalya located directly opposite of the Meis Island, or the small islands in Egean sea lock Turkey up to the region. If Greece agrees with us, we are ready for it. We will sit down and talk. We are in favour of our rights arising from international law”.

NORD STREAM 2

by Elif Bakar



disruption of gas supplies from Russia. The reason is that Europe experienced disruption for four weeks ten years before. The gas storage facilities in Western Europe are full so Europe could bridge a disruption of about two or three months.

Russia is dependent on Europe and also on customers; Russia has to sell its gas. 60 or 70 per cent of the budget of the federal state budget in Russia dependent on the revenues from gas so Russia has to sell and Europe has to buy. It is a double dependency. Russia also wanted to get rid of fees of gas transport. It is another story for Ukraine because Ukraine is also dependent on fees it charges for gas transport via the pipeline running through Ukraine.

This is a new export gas pipeline which is running from Russia to Europe. Pipeline is crossing from Baltic Sea and its importance is really high in world stage. The reason to build Nord Stream 2 is based on the success behind the Nord Stream.

Why Europe needed a new pipeline?

As Russia said the first pipeline that brought its gas to Western Europe has reached its capacity limit. Europe realised the decline of gas in their domestic gas production and while production was declining, the demand was increasing for imported gas. The new pipeline will be 1200 kilometres and carrying 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year. It means that it will increase its capacity.

Another reason is that dependent on na-

ture. Russia is the main source of natural gas in the world and it still has the biggest gas reserves. It is close geographically to Europe so this makes Russia a natural gas supplier for Europe. In Soviet Union years, it was always Russia that supplied Western Europe such as Germany with most of its gas.

What are the EU and Russia gain from this?

The main goal of the European Union is security of supply for Europe itself. The EU does not want any





What will change?

Undersea Nord Stream 2 pipeline bypasses countries like Ukraine and changes the game completely. Nord Stream 2 adds two more lines and it also makes Russia far less dependent on the pipeline's that crossed Ukrainian territory and that makes Ukraine nervous. The relations between two countries are bitter. Russia's existing gas contracts with Ukraine expire and Russia can effectively weaponize the pipeline by cutting off supplies to countries like Ukraine while keeping Western European customers supply.

There is also geostrategic thought consideration about Ukraine. A lot of gas is going through Ukraine at the moment if this gas bypasses Ukraine, Russia has a handle to put a lot of pressure on Ukraine and that has obviously been a reason for sanctions against Russia in recent years. This is a reason for a lot of tensions between Europe, the US and Russia. Thus, this pipeline could ratchet up the tension.

The US and France objections, Position of Germany

The arguments are mainly political. France was not really in favour of this project in the past but they stuck with Germany. The problem is that it is really splitting the European Union between East and West countries like Poland, Baltic States. They have always been against this project because they fear more Russian influence in the European Union. They feel like they are being bypassed and so this would be one of the arguments some say it might

be a little revenge even from the French government because Merkel did not really whole heartedly support the project. There might be also some commercial interest because France already has some liquefied natural gas terminals and is intending to build more. So, they might be able to receive some of that gas coming from the United States.

The project in its current form is operated by Russian state energy company Gazprom and that is exactly what critics including the US and France objects to. The dependency from Russian gas will increase drastically with this new pipeline and that is the reason why they constructed and it contradicts obviously the European goals not only of the energy union but in the fu-

ture, we will see less gas demand because of climate policy and that is the reason critics say that this pipeline is uneconomical. The Nord Stream 2 is exactly in the same place with the first one and that has been pushed through with a lot of power diplomacy from the side of the Germans for several years now. In the end, Germans have misjudged two things. They misjudged the extent of the resistance within the European Union and especially from France. So, the coordination with France seems to have been lacking or not done well enough and the other thing that Germans misjudged resistance from the United States. The pressure coming from the US since Donald Trump took over as president. That has been massive not only on Germany but also in other countries in the region on the European Union as a whole. The US ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell said that Nord Stream 2 essentially makes Germany dependent on Russia. The German Chancellor Angela Merkel responded to that if we diversify; at the same time Germany will expand its gas terminals with regard to liquefied gas. This means that we do not want to be dependent on Russia under any circumstances but Russia was a source of gas during the Cold War and it has remained until today without as entering into one-sided dependence. This response does not really give an answer to her critics. We have to see behind this to get the answer.



THE LAST STRAW FOR IRANIANS

by Ahsen Sevnur Yıldırım

A gasoline station in Tehran after the protests.



Dozens of demonstrators on the streets, on-going protests for days across the country, brutal police force, internet blackout, violations of human rights, slogans like "Have a shame dictator! Leave the country alone!"...

What did happen in Iran? What was the reason for these protests was it just a sharp increase in gasoline prices or was there any reason behind the demonstrations? What did happen during the protests? Let's try to examine the protests in Iran.

On November 15, Iranian people surprised by the sharp increase in fuel prices. The decision to increase the prices of gasoline was taken by The Supreme Council of Economic Coordination. By this decision;

*Each private vehicle will be limited to 60 litres of fuel per month at 15,000 rials (about \$0.13) per litre - a 50 per cent increase from the previous price,

*Taxis and ambulances would be limited to 500 litres per month at 15,000 rials (\$0.13) per litre,

*Any purchases beyond the 60-liter ration will cost 30,000 rials (\$0.26) per litre - a 300 per cent increase.

The scene of Iranian streets was composed of destroyed banks, gas stations, public transports and dozens of angry demonstrators. After the decision of the government, people took to the streets to protests this decision. Some of the protesters began to chant slogans against the government like "Have a shame Rouhani, leave the country alone!", "Have a shame dictator, leave the country alone!"... During the violent protests, on November 16, the government shutdown the access of the internet. For days, Iranian people could not achieve to show what was going on during the protests.

On November 19, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a press briefing saying that UN is deeply concerned to see that there are use of force, internet blackout, some arrestments and overall number of deaths which is difficult to verify and UN urges both demonstrators and the government to resolve the on-going protests by peaceful means without destruction of property and physical violence.

After the removal of the blackout the inter-

net, some videos and photographs began to show up from the protests such as clashes between security forces and protesters, physical violence by the police force etc. How come the increase of the gasoline prices did lead to such protests? Was there any reason behind these demonstrations? The government expressed that these funds will be used to help the poorest Iranians but even this explanation could not achieve to settle Iranians. There are a couple of reasons why these expressions of the government backfired and turned into violent widespread protests. Above all, US sanctions on Iran has a part in this situation. The Iranian economy is already facing rising inflation, the issue of unemployment and low income. Also, Iranian people have difficulty in meeting basic needs because of the high prices. In brief, Iranians were already challenging with some problems and the hike of gasoline prices was the final straw.

To conclude, the overnight increase in gasoline prices was the final straw for Iranians and the Iranian government should take these demonstrations as a warning for themselves.

WORLD SPRING

by Aslihan Gazioğlu

2019 was a year full of riots, and since the beginning of the year, people around the world have rebelled against poverty, corruption and authoritarian rule. The world is shaking more than ever, and the people are standing in all geographies. However, it is not possible to say that all of them are uprising for the same things, for example in some places there are riots due to economic problems (Lebanon, Ecuador, and Iraq), elsewhere there are riots due to nationalist demands (Hong Kong, Catalonia). As a result, every society has different demands from their states and in this case it causes uprisings.



It all started with Hong Kong

The first protest in Hong Kong began on March 31, but the main protests began on July 9. Protests take place in more than 20 regions of Hong Kong Island. So how did all these actions begin? It is possible to say that the current Hong Kong government (the government following the line of the Chinese Communist Party) brought a bill to the Autonomous Administrative Council for the extradition of criminals. According to this bill, the criminals would be extradited to China, the Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan. The first action was to try to block the return of Hong Kong political opponents to China by ensuring the cancellation of the bill. Although the Beijing administration first described the activists as the "revolt of radical protesters", it later stiffened their attitudes and described them as "terror-like action". On the other hand, the Chinese army's military shipments and exercises

in Shin Chan, near Hong Kong, were expressed as a warning to the demonstrators, but China's stern attitude caused the protestors to continue their stubborn resistance. As a result, the Chinese government understood that it could not stop the actions and began to take a step back, however, on October 23, close to the line of the Chinese Communist Party, the Hong Kong government, officially withdrew the bill, which was the reason for the actions announced. In addition, these actions act as leaderless and independent of political structures. Activists say that they follow Bruce Lee's philosophy of "be like water",

which is why the forms of action are constantly changing according to their environment.

In general, activists who prefer peaceful actions sometimes wear black masks and perform violent protests. The activists often asked Trump, Britain and Queen Elizabeth for help. Support came from

Western-based NGOs, such as Amnesty International. Although the protests began with the cancellation of the extradition tariff, different demands emerged as the protests progressed. Another request, for example, was the resignation of Carrie Lam, the elected president of the Special Administration. In addition, demands such as Hong Kong's independence from China or its reconnection to Britain began to emerge. The cancellation of the extradition bill has taken place, but actions are on-going for further requests. Since the protests began, more than 10 people have been killed and this is the number of people who have died as a means of protest. Moreover, there are over 2,000 wounded, and more than 2,000 people have been detained or arrested during the protests. Sometimes it seems that uprising, fighting and trying

to change things that don't go right will not work, but at the end of the day it is possible to see such things change and it is important to remember that peoples start to find solutions to problems, sometimes they win and sometimes they are frustrated. Another uprising began in Lebanon and the results are not bad at all.

What do people want in Lebanon

We can say that the protests in Lebanon are caused by short economic conditions, but if we open it, it is exactly the taxes. Tobacco, gasoline, telephone conversations over the internet and even WhatsApp taxes started protests across the country. Lebanese protests began on 17 October. Protesters took action after the new tax package, because in Lebanon, where internet and telephone charges are high, the infrastructure is also inadequate, and VoIP and WhatsApp are the main means of communication in the country, so most Lebanese just buy internet packages. Although the new tax package and the internet package plans to add additional taxes to the protesters are seen as taking action, this is the last point that annoys the public because of problems in the country. The main reason is the country's inability to repay its foreign debts due to the on-going corruption in the country and the economic problems caused by it. With a total population of 6 million, approximately 2 million of Lebanese participates in the protests. Another striking aspect of the protests is that the Lebanese people, who are divided into 20 and according to other protests, it is one of the most distant



6 MIDDLE EAST

waves of social media.

Iraqi protests with many deaths

The October 2019 Iraqi protests, which had the highest number of deaths since the US invasion, were once again revealed to the insignificance of human life. 74 people were killed in the protests; nearly 8 thousand people were injured. Unlike the other uprisings, the people started protests before the end came, and banners were written to continue the protests until the Prime Minister and the corruption system collapsed. Unlike the Lebanese protests, the “protesting for my rights” tag, which attracted attention in the social media in the Iraqi protests, which had a great impact on Twitter. On the one hand, the Iraqi Prime Minister was trying to calm the protesters by promising a job to university graduates and ordered a harsh intervention in the protests. As a result of the interventions,



the rebellion was stopped due to the large number of deaths.

However, on October 23, the rebellion flared up once again, and government forces rebuffed again, but the insurgents did not give up, and this began to make a worldwide impression. Four MPs, first from the Iraqi Communist Party, resigned due to on-going demonstrations in the country, and finally Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi announced his resignation and was approved by parliament. However, demonstrations continue and the public says they will not stop until the country's economic and political structure changes.

People's struggle with the government in Bolivia

The situation is mixed in Latin America, and the people are in rebellion there. What's the reason? In short, for many years Latin America has been regarded as the backyard of America, but things have changed. The Bolivarian wave can be explained by the more popular power, the more independent it was, with two major

leaders at the beginning, Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and Evo Morales in Bolivia. While things in Venezuela deteriorated with the death of Chavez, the Bolivarian Revolution in Bolivia was difficult. On October 2019, demonstrations around the world began in Bolivia. Morales said he had won the general election on October 20, but the opposition did not believe it and went down the streets for alleged election corruption. On October 21, the protesters filled the fields, demanding Morales to resign and vote again to be counted by an independent international institution. As a result of the recount, Morales won the election with a small margin, but the public and opposition still refused to accept the allegations of corruption. As a result, auditors were appointed by the Organization of American States. This review, however, was not enough to overheat the protests. Unlike many other rebels, there is a leader at the head of the rebellions in Bolivia, Carlos Mesa, the opposition presidential candidate. Along with the latest developments, Mesa receives both US support and the support of the country's right-wing Christian Democrats. Carlos Mesa has become the hope of young people, especially by drawing attention to the country's overall problem of high unemployment and cost of living. Morales, on the other hand, said there would be no re-election and that the supervision of the Organization of American States should be binding for all paws. Although the protests in Bolivia have generally been peaceful, nearly 21 people have been killed in the protests since October 21st. As a result of this, with the pressure of the opposition and the army, President Evo Morales resigned.

Finally, it is necessary to say that these waves of an uprising against the authoritarian regimes and corruption all over the world show us that the people are trying to stop this trend. Even if the regions are generally different and the demands vary, the rebels do not want to put an end to their resistance without getting what they want and it is possible to say that they are right about this. The uprising of these people, who rebelled against injustice and corruption, is perhaps their greatest right, I hope they get what they deserve and their resistance won't be in vain.



RISE AND FALL OF BAGHDADI

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir



It was recently announced by Trump himself that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who was the leader of Iraqi Damascus Islamic State (ISIS) and the last of the jihadist terrorist organizations that have started to cover the whole world since the 1980s and is a serious danger both in the Middle East and the whole world. The claim that Al-Baghdadi, who was alleged to have been killed by both the US and Russia since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, was indeed dead this time was similar to that of Osama bin Laden, former al-Qaeda leader. It was explained that he died like a coward because he blew himself up when he realized that he would be caught also DNA test was applied with the samples taken from his underwear obtained and confirmed its identity, then his body was thrown into the sea. In this article, I will analyse who Al-Baghdadi is and the process from his rise to the caliphate of ISIS to his death. He has many different names but he is known all over the world as Ebubekir Al-Baghdadi. He was born in 1973 in the city of Samarra, Iraq. Al-Baghdadi, who has very limited information about him, has witnessed the Iran-Iraq War and then the 1st Gulf War since the beginning of his childhood. The family of al-Baghdadi, who had many relatives in the Iraqi army, was a prominent religious leader in the region. Afterwards, Al-Baghdadi declared that he belonged to the Hz Muhammad's Quraysh tribe. Greatest breakpoint in his life was during the Second Gulf War in 2003. In February 2004, Al-Baghdadi was arrested while he was with a friend who wanted by United States. However, he released in December due to the fact that he had low risk. After that with a rapid rise, he has been described as the new leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, which is linked to the Iraqi branch of al-Qaeda. Since 2010, Al-Baghdadi has made a reputation for himself in various terrorist acts in Iraq. With the weakening of the central authority as a result of the protests after the Arab Spring, the Arab Spring spread to Syria in 2013 and became a very

serious region in a short time. Al-Baghdadi, who likes to appear in front of the camera like Bin Laden, has given fear to both the neighbours in the region and to the whole world with the images of the actions. Since 2015, with the US and later Russia's direct intervention in the region, ISIS and the propaganda videos have decreased and then disappeared. In the same period, both the US and Russia have repeatedly declared that Al-Baghdadi had been killed, but it could not be proved, and the allegations have been denied by ISIS propagandas. Al-Baghdadi, like Osama bin Laden, was one of the jihadist leaders who were raised and destroyed by the US. There are also various discussions on this issue. The region, which has consistently been unstable since the First World War, was paved for the use of radical Islamist groups against the Soviet threat, especially towards the end of the Cold War. The most typical example of this is the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979. At that time, the US and other Western countries armed the jihadist organizations in the region indirectly in response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and eventually achieved their goals with the Soviet withdrawal. Ironically, one of the most important Mujahedeen in the region at that time was Bin Laden and the Western states announced all over the world them as anti-Soviet freedom fighters. 12 years after the withdrawal of the Soviets in 1989, they were responsible for the September 11 attacks, and the same West portrayed them as the leader of the dangerous

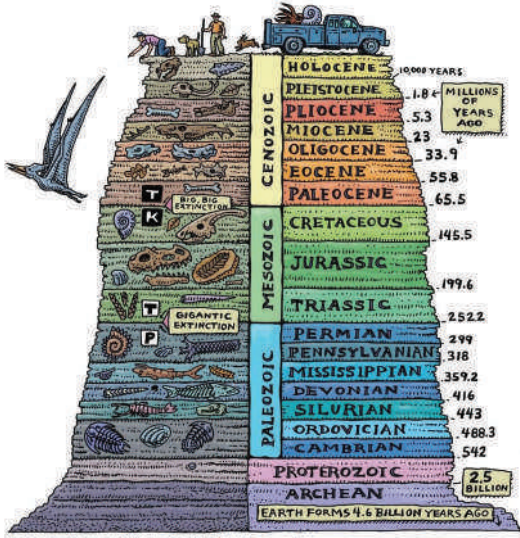
terrorist organization. Al-Baghdadi followed Bin Laden's footsteps and became the leader of a more dangerous organization than al-Qaeda. Another issue is the impact of the unstable dynamics of the region, which started with the intervention of US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan in 2002 and continued with the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Because of the disproportionate use of force by the coalition forces in the region such

as exclusion, torture in captivity and interrogations, and many other similar headings, serious hatred of the West has been created in the region. The easy religious, sectarian and ethnic mobilization of peoples in the region who does not have a link as identity made more difficult this process and accelerated to join the extreme radical group. ISIS has also benefited from the gap of authority created after the overthrow of the dictatorial regimes after the Arab Spring and added new members to it. Although the ISIS presence in the region has weakened and its leader, al-Baghdadi, has been killed, peace has not yet been achieved and clashes continue. Because the Syrian Civil War turned into a proxy war and the efforts of the USA and Russia to keep the strategic points in the region, it is not expected to achieve peace in the region for a long time.

by Can Abanoz

SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

By Berkay Bulut



Everyone knows the historical ages, such as the ice age or the Jurassic era, where dinosaurs lived. Usually these ages have evolved after millions of years but did we ever think after which events these ages ended? All of them include their own species. For example in the Jurassic age, there were dinosaurs and this era closed after the death of all. Probably you all know the dinosaurs died because of a giant meteor but how a meteor managed to kill the entire specie? Actually the truth is a bit different. After the meteor crashed the earth, sulphur in the surface mixed the atmosphere and

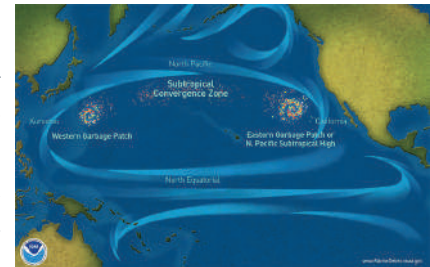
create an ice age. So, the start and end points of the ages based on geological reasons. We –humans- entered the Holocene stage about 12000 years ago. One of the most important characteristics of geological ages is that it affects living things. For example in the Holocene age, glaciers were melted and then there was a transition to settled life. However, according to many scientists, this era of writing, art and even technology came to an end. How can we move on to a new era in such a short time of period as other transitions have spread over hundreds of thousands of years?

Since with the development of technology, geology no longer affects living things, but living things –humans- affect both geology and ecology. But why and how? In July 16, 1945 with the first nuclear test, named as Trinity, humanity left a radioactive footprint on Earth and this date seems to be the beginning of this new era. This new age, which has the highest human impact on the world, is called the Anthropocene.¹ Can this era also end with the dead of entire current species including us?



This new era which we passed millions of years earlier than expected shows us that we are all influencing the world in some way. Just think about how many different plastics like sachet, pipette, bottle or packaging you are using in a day. According to a research by the University of California, the world has produced 8.3

billion tons of plastics over the past 60 years. 91 percent of this produced plastic was thrown in the trash and these plastic wastes will be dissolved in 400 years.² It would be more accurate to call this huge mass of plastic wastes covering an area of 3.4 million square kilometres as the continent than the island because according to the reports about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, this marine plastic mass is bigger than Texas maybe twice. The majority of this mass is located between Hawaii and California. It is described by scientists as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It is not the only garbage area. Similar wastes still continue to be collected at five different locations in the world. Besides, biggest ocean garbage patches are present in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.³ We are adding an almost continental area to the world, but most of us



1- Özcan, Barış. "7. Kıta". September 15, 2019.

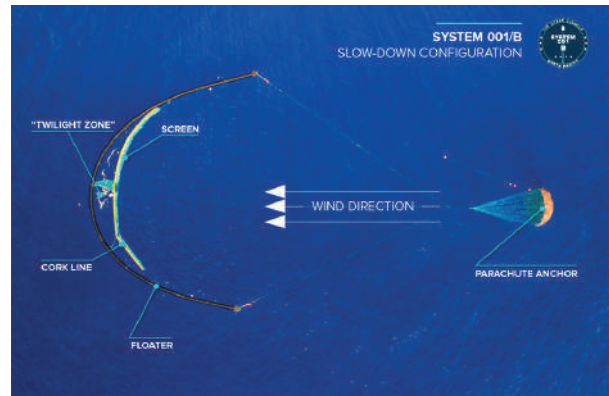
2- İnoaktif Kimya Dergisi. "Son 60 Yılda 8.3 Milyar Ton Plastik Çöpe Atıldı". July 26, 2017.

3- StadtWien, "Çöplerin Ayrıştırılması, Çöp Yerleri ve Problemlü Çöpleri Toplama Merkezleri"

6 ENVIRONMENT

are not even aware of it. Specialists stated that it is very difficult to see this pile from afar, as the majority of them have turned into less than half a centimetre micro-plastics under the influence of the sun and waves. It threatens more than 700 species. Not just the aquatic animals, but all the animals that have a relation with them. It is estimated that 44% of seabirds or turtles have a piece of plastic in their stomach. More than a million seabirds die every year because of this reason.⁴ The research conducted by the University of California again says that in the oceans, there would be more plastic than the weight of the fish till 2050.⁵ In addition, since the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is so distant from country's coastline, none of them is willing to take over responsibility to clean it. According to Moon, giving a fund to clean up the Garbage Patch would be "bankruptcy for any country". While many different types of garbage exist in the ocean, plastics constitute most of the debris in the sea for two reasons. First of all, plastic's durability, minimum cost and machinability mean that it is generally used in in-

dustrial and consumer goods. Secondly, plastics split up little pieces but not biodegrade.⁶ On the other hand, especially marine mammals like seals are at risk. The plastic thrown into the sea may interfere with the fishing nets due to bad weather and illegal fishing. Seals and other mammals often drown in these forgotten nets, which are known as "ghost fishing". As micro plastics and other litter garbage gather on or near the surface of the ocean, they prevent the sunlight to reach underwater so plankton and algae cannot reach that. Algae and plankton are the best known autotrophs in the seafood network. Autotrophs are organisms that capable of producing their own nutrients from carbon and sunlight.⁷ If the algae and plankton communities are under threat, this can change the entire food network. Animals that fed with algae and plankton such as fish and turtles will have less food.⁸ With the decrease in the population of these animals, hunters such as tuna, sharks and whales will reduce the hunting for food. In the end, seafood will become less accessible and unhealthy for humans.

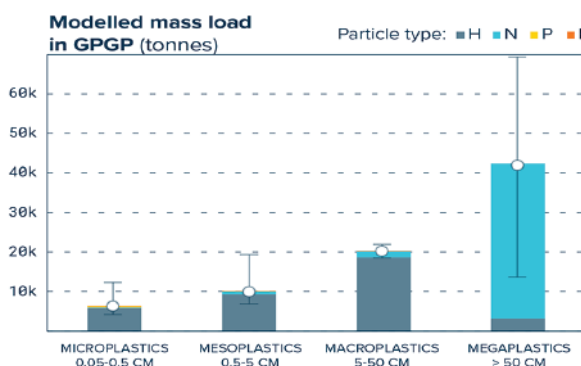


It is not as easy as it seems to clean the marine debris. However, many individuals and international organizations are committed themselves to prevent the growth of the patch. Ocean Cleanup Project is one of them.



The aim of vast cleaning system is not only to collect fishing nets and plastic objects but also micro plastics. Thanks to the flow created by it, sea creatures can proceed without being attached to the vehicle. The vehicle makes use of flows, winds and waves while doing this cleaning. The vehicle itself moves like a garbage stream, but with the help of wind and waves, it can go faster than garbage, allowing it to catch up with the waste.⁹ The device has solar-powered lights, anti-collision systems, cameras, sensors and satellite antennas. Since the device is equipped with transmitters and sensors, its position can track via satellites and it sends the data to a ship that will collect the gathered rub-

bish every few months.¹⁰ Periodically, garbage ships come and collect the accumulated waste, but unfortunately this is not enough since around eight million metric tons of plastic waste find its way into the sea each year from beaches along with some 600,000 to 800,000 metric tons of abandoned fishing gear. The aim of the Ocean Cleanup is to collect 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in five years and 90% by 2040.¹¹ That's just for the existing garbage. If we don't change anything, the garbage heap will continue to grow and these initiatives will be far from sufficient. Limiting or eliminating the use of disposable plastic and increasing our use of biodegradable resources are the best way to prevent the growth of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. At least we can divide our garbage as plastic, paper and glass. With these three easy-to-decompose substances, you can make a huge contribution to recycling. Remember that the plastics we use are transformed into a continent somewhere and this world is not only ours, but also the world of living beings trying to survive among our wastes.



4- Loria, Kevin. "The giant garbage vortex in the Pacific Ocean is over twice the size of Texas — here's what it looks like" September 8, 2018

5- İnoaktif Kimya Dergisi. "Son 60 Yılda 8.3 Milyar Ton Plastik Çöpe Atıldı". July 26, 2017.

6- Marine Debris Program. "Garbage Patches".

7- National Geographic. "Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

8- The Ocean Cleanup. "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

9- The Ocean Cleanup. "The Ocean Cleanup Successfully Catches Plastic in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

10- The Guardian. "Ocean cleanup device successfully collects plastic for first time".

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Hatice Gülcemal
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 Erdemir Aslı Şahin Filiz Tekin
 Emine D. Bahar Akdemir Deniz
 K. Derya Tavşan
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 Fatma Birgül Yalçınkaya Songül
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 Kaplan Gülnur Yılmaz Gökçen S.
 Şükran Candaş Büşra Güllü Fatma
 Akkaya Melek Yılmaz Keteven
 Katamadze Dönmez Firdevs S.
 Defne Şener Akyurt Derya

Ayşenur Ercin
 Gizem Tabak Aslı Yıldız
 Güçlü Emine Yıldız Eda
 Kaymaklı Nur Muhammet
 Berzo Ayla O.
 Y. Hayat M.
 Mukadder N.
 Aysel Şah
 Bayram Fa.
 Tutucu Gül.
 Sibel Akçalı Cemile Aydın Aycan
 Bozbay Serra Bozbay Ayşe I. Hatice
 U. Dilek O. İlkay
 K. Sakine Oğuz
 Sivaslı Esra
 Findik S. Y.Y.
 Aysegül Ç.
 Fehime
 Küçük
 Sevdije
 Tosun Merve
 Ünal Zeynep Katan Ayşe
 Özlem Bağdemir Müzeyyen
 Boylu İssi Tatiana Acan
 Şengül G. Aygül
 Güler Elif

474 women killed in Turkey in 2019
 In memory of them...

In

2020

we don't want to see more...



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