Arab Chaos & the Neo-Turkey: Could it be “The Harbinger Preceding the Revival of a New Ottoman Empire?”

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If logical reasoning and rational conclusions can solely be based on appearances and the obvious, the new Turkish era rightly labeled the Recep Tayyip Erdoğan era perceived from the optic of Turkish assertive involvement in the Arab Affairs to onlooker non-savvy observers is very perplexing, confusing and full of contradictions – judging on the apparent and the obvious.

However, to a real savvy analytical observer, the perusal of Arab and Middle Eastern Policy by Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (the new All-Charismatic leader of Turkey, Master at the Power Game increasingly measuring up to the status of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk) leaves so many questions unanswered. Turkey’s Arab and Middle Eastern Policies seem increasingly more inspired by a well-calculated and a premeditated Design that is fervently driven. Turkey’s active role and encouragement of the chaotic and destructive turn of events ravaging many important Arab countries ever since the start of the so-called “Arab Spring” leaves a savvy observer wondering what’s truly in store; what’s the ultimate purpose; what’s truly the end game?

Nevertheless, One question comes to mind trying to navigate through the perplexity and the contradictions trying to figure out what truly motivates and lie at the heart of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s conduct, i.e. “Could it be the pursual of a ‘Dream’: “The Revival of once a far-reaching Ottoman Empire stretching over the entire Sunni Arab world?” This is the only explanation that comes to mind trying to make sense of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s perplexing continuous shift on the issues that defy rationale as judging by the man’s apparent supper astuteness as judged by the consistent successes of being and his ruling party steadily catapulted to higher plateaus of power and influence wedging through the complex labyrinth of internal Turkish politics. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s Arab Policies appear influence by design rather than influenced by the whims of tactical politics of the seesaw of action-reaction of the short span of the “Politics of Expediency.”

Jumping to action that significantly contributed to the fuelling of the all-destructive civil war in Syria before even exhausting the huge store of goodwill that Recep
Tayyip Erdoğan enjoyed with Bashar El-Assad that he painstakingly built in the course of the latter years prior to the flare up of the armed struggle leaving hundreds of thousands dead and millions of Syrian refugees roaming the world seems to defy all reasonable thinking. Erdoğan’s flagrant call on NATO to directly interfere in Syria during the early stages of the armed struggle in the example and in the same flagrant manner NATO did in Libya seems to confirm the apparent fact that Erdoğan is operating out of an Agenda closely kept to the chest.

The support that Erdoğan showed to the decisive military intervention of NATO in Libya to overthrow Muamar Gadhafi - which ultimately caused the state of chaos Libya is mired in to the point of possible break-up of the country - tends, in hindsight, to strengthen the plausibility of the argument that Erdoğan is not all that innocently motivated but, as earlier stated, is working out of a Grander Design, that of the Revival of the Ottoman Power under more ripe regional conditions.

Erdoğan could have reasoned that with a desolate Arab Middle East by virtue of bleeding civil strife would set the stage in due course at opportune moments for Turkey to be the sole power player that would ultimately determine the political outcome given the ensuing power vacuum. The time could then be more opportune for Turkey to place agents at the helm of power in those battled and desolate Arab countries once the armed struggle finally tapers.

Bringing the Sunni Arab countries under its fold or sphere of influence, Turkey as an important member of NATO, could very much enjoy the blessings and support of the US and the influential Western powers to start with. This, especially as the whole map of the Middle East is being redrawn and as the Western Powers and NATO is loath and determined of not getting involved in local armed conflicts in the Middle East by committing Western troops on the ground. The recent costly wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the revamping of Western powers’ Defense Strategies and significant cut in Defense Budgets appear to give further credence to such an argument.

As with regard to the need by the Western powers to reconcile and maintain good strategic and military relations with Israel and needing not alienate an already vociferous Israeli polity and leadership, Turkey’s close relationship with Israel appear to alleviate, at least partially, Israel’s anxieties and the rising power of a Turkey member of NATO. However, and in all cases, Turkish-Israeli relations appear to be founded on more solid grounds than what rhetoric and confusing appearances might wrongly otherwise suggest.