Erdoğan’s Regional Ambitions pose as Damocles Sword undermining the Sovereignties of Neighboring Arab States

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The latest move by Washington to withdraw the American troops from Syria simultaneously while the US Administration reaching some form of understanding with the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, for Turkish troops to assume the role thus far played by the American troops in Syria, bodes ill for things to come. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will stretch the reach of the Turkish troops inside Syria and makes it harder to reach an early political solution in Syria.

This, since Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been ever since the start of the military activities in Syria more than 6 years ago, very instrumental in fueling the war in Syria, playing on the regional contradictions and those inside and within Syria.

Turkey’s Erdoğan poses as the biggest threat preventing an early end of the all-destructive civil war in Syria, and of ensuring that Syria regains its full Sovereignty and ensure Syria’s Territorial Integrity. In particular, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan seems to have set his eyes to keep under Turkish control the North Western Syrian enclaves of Reef (countryside) of Idlib and Reef Aleppo, vast territories that are adjacent to the Turkish borders.

It increasingly looks that Turkey’s Erdoğan is preventing the Syrian troops and Syria’s allies of dealing the Jihadist Salafists of Al-Nassrah (Qaeda) and the other Jihadist Salafists organizations that are spread over those regions an early decisive defeat.

As the Arabs and Muslims in general were very much sold on Erdoğan’s rhetoric shortly before the start of the Syrian civil war, I remember I was shocked, quite stupefied by Erdoğan’s call on NATO to intervene militarily in Syria in the example of NATO did less than a year earlier in Libya. Libya is left ever since in total shambles.

I recall in this vein to have written an article at the time expressing awe and disbelief at Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s declarations. The article was entitled,
“Erdogan's Call for NATO's intervention in Syria: A Very Strange Call,”
November 19, 2011.

In the said article, I wrote, most disbelievingly:

“Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister of Turkey groomed in the recent years as the hero of the Arab people made a declaration couple of days ago that seemed to insinuate that Western countries members of the Western Military Alliance NATO are obligated to come to the help of the Syrian people in the manner they did in Libya. That appeared the meaning of Erdogan's statement to that essence blaming two days ago Western powers of "Double Standard" for not rushing thus far to come to the aid of the Syrian people as the Western powers did coming to the aid of the Libyans that culminated in a full-fledged NATO’s active military intervention in Libya motivated, according to Erdogan, by Oil, as he exclaimed “why the West are not doing anything about the Syrian crisis?”

I added:

“Erdogan’s message can only be interpreted as requesting the NATO forces to now intervene militarily in Syria now that the West had thus far, singularly and collectively, are exhausting other none military measures of pressure on the Assad including the application of all sorts of diplomatic and economic sanctions and economic embargo on both the close members of Bashar El-Assad's entourage and on Syria as a whole to make it hard on the Syrian regime.

“Thus, Erdogan's call has only one meaning: i.e. inviting NATO to intervene militarily in Syria.

“Erdogan's call to the Western power leaves one wondering what Erdogan and what Turkey are up to. As foreign and Western military intervention and campaign against Syria would cause the destruction of the military capabilities of one of the steadfast countries neighboring Spartan Israel; at a time when nuclear Israel is ruled by a warlike Junta intent on complete violation of the International Law; territorial expansion by force into the Occupied Syrian Territories of the Golan heights; the Shab’a farms in adjacent Southern Lebanon; the colonization and expelling of the Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank; the maintenance of a criminal unlawful siege of Gaza; one only wonders, notwithstanding the none.”
I long became convinced that the powerful charismatic leader of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, is operating out of a Grand Regional Design to restore the rule of the Ottoman Empire, as the only logic explaining Erdoğan Turkey’s destructive role in Syria and before that in Libya. This, led me to write an article entitled, “Arab Chaos & the Neo-Turkey: Could it be ‘The Harbinger Preceding the Revival of a New Ottoman Empire!’” May 8, 2015.

In the said article, I finally became convinced of Erdoğan’s dangerous regional political game as I mused:

“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 is 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 perusal 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 fueling 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.”

Consequent to all the above, now with president Trump handing over the mantle of the role previously assigned to the American troops in Syria to Turkey’s Erdoğan, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will now try to play it tough on the Syrian Asad Regime, causing more complication to an already complex situation, and causing, unnecessarily, further diversions and waste of efforts for reaching at an early political solution to the Syrian problem.

Erdoğan Turkey will now assume the role of the departing US troops, serving in the process multi-purposes: proving Erdoğan’s mettle as a reliable ally vis-à-vis both Washington and Washington’s European allies. Furthermore, Erdoğan will take advantage of the occasion while enjoying a freer hand to checking hard on the insurgent Kurds, Erdogan will capitalize on this opportunity to try mend his generally mistrustful relations with the European Union.

Thinking all the time Imperially -i.e. the Restoration of the Glory of the Ottoman Empire - this would equally render Erdoğan unwieldy, the more unpredictable and the more adventurous.

However, this takes me to a totally another different venue, to another thought posing the question, “What’s holding Erdoğan from taking a decisive action regarding the much-publicized murder case of the Saudi Journalist, Jamal Khashoggi?”
It is taking Erdoğan Turkey long, too long for President Erdoğan not refer the investigation of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi to a widely recognized Competent Independent International Agency, more specifically the UN International Criminal Court at the Hague?

Three Months have elapsed since the heinous murder of Jamal Khashoggi as President Erdogan appears weighing his options, hesitant to move into more decisive action to bring the culprits of the heinous murder of Jamal Khashoggi in the very diplomatic premises of Saudi Arabia to Justice,

With the CIA’s Conclusions along with top American Legislators implicating MBS of being behind the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, one wonders, “What’s holding back President Erdoğan of moving forward with the case?”