

## TURKEY AND ISRAEL: CRISIS IN THE HORIZON AND THE END OF AN ALLIANCE? PART II

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*"The fate of Jerusalem is not different from the fate of Istanbul," he said, in language reflecting the significance of the holy city to Muslims throughout the world.*

*"The fate of Gaza is not different from the fate of Ankara." <sup>1</sup>*

There is a new power emerging from the grave once great Ottoman Empire. Neo Turk Ottomans are making their re-appearance strongly felt in the Middle East and their former vilayets (protectorates). It seems Turks are getting nostalgic of their former Ottoman grandeur, and are planning a return to the regions of their long-ago empire, once more through claims of defending Islam and the well being of Muslim populations wherever they might be.

The international Israeli condemnation over the Mavi Marmara<sup>2</sup> raid and Ankara's self projection as the sole protector of the Palestinian cause and Islamic interests in the Levant has proved precisely what Turkey's Prime Minister Erdoğan was striving for. As an immediate result of the Mavi Marmara confrontation Turkey has been viewed as a Rising Star in the eyes of many Muslim nations and its populace over the willingness to openly confront Israel. Paradoxically, Ankara has achieved much more than the past tough rhetoric of some regional Arab Muslim states in the area against Israel. For the first time in Gaza since the collapse of the House of Osman in 1918 after their defeat in WWI, the Turkish Red Crescent can be seen once more freely waving into the borders of Palestine. The author of this new Turkish ambitious Foreign Policy or better known Turkey's Strategic Depth Doctrine is no other than the current Foreign Minister and academic Ahmet Davutoğlu.

A new assertive Turkish Foreign Policy of global status and regional prestige is being orchestrated slowly and methodically from the offices of the new Neo-Ottoman Sadrazam, Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Turkey's present foreign minister. Sadrazam was the title given by the Sultan to his foreign policy makers during the Ottoman Empire period and one can equally claim that Davutoğlu might deserve the title. His axiom as a foreign policy maker that he carries implies that his stratagem theories and long term course of action has been researched thoroughly from

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<sup>1</sup> Erdoğan tells Israel in Hebrew: Thou shall not kill. See, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/erdogan-tells-israel-in-hebrew-thou-shalt-not-kill-1.294186>

<sup>2</sup> Nine Turkish Muslim IHHactivists died after clashing with Israeli naval commandos as they abseiled onto the deck of the Mavi Marmara vessel Part of an International convoy heading towards the Gaza Strip. The Israeli special naval Unit Shayetet 13 seized the ships in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea after the flotilla refused Israel's demand to have the cargos inspected at the port of Ashdod and items permitted by Israel delivered by land. The flotilla, organized by the Free Gaza Movement and the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), was attempting to break the blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid and building supplies to the Gaza Strip. At least seven of the commandos were also wounded. Israeli soldiers said they used their pistols only after their lives were endangered. 'We had no choice'. See, at <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=177445>. See also: Bloody Israeli raid on flotilla sparks crisis. See, at [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100531/ap\\_on\\_re\\_mi\\_ea/ml\\_israel\\_palestinians](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100531/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_israel_palestinians)

detailed Intelligence Analysis, and historical facts, pointing out that he has done his homework very well. He introduced Turkey's new global and regional goals by using the Palestinian conflict as a vehicle to promote them, and Islam as the engine to implement them. In addition, the recent Mavi Marmara incident has sudden and unpredictable parameters that could work for the benefit of Turkey's goals in the region. Ankara knew very well that if Tel Aviv retreated or gave even an inch on this affair it would devalue Israel's internal and external posture in the long run. As events unfolded Ankara was proved to be correct with her calculations. After all Israel gave in to easing the blockade of Gaza. Furthermore, the Mavi Marmara incident and the uproar that caused among the Muslim and Arab masses over the world forced Egypt to ease its closure of the Gaza border in Rafa crossing - thus, scoring another positive point in Ankara's aspirations this time to redirect Arab elites static course of action through sheer popular pressure. Turkey is standing to gain world recognition as the first nation that forced Israel to retreat from its maxim.

As the events continue to unfold it seems that Ankara has won the first round on the issue of the Gaza blockade. Overall it was a risk that has paid huge dividends with the Muslim and Arab world. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan however was not alone in this brilliant scheme. His aspirations of Turkey's ascension in the world stage would not have been able to materialize without the help of his personal confidants that of his "*mentor*" foreign Minister Davutoğlu, along with his new ambitious head of MIT (Milli İstibarat Teskilati) Turkey's Intelligence agency, Hakan Fidan. It is not a secret that the Israeli media portrayed Hakan Fidan as the sole mastermind behind the Mavi Marmara and an architect of the Turkish-Brazilian Iran's uranium swap agreement.<sup>3</sup>

Additionally Ankara with the backing of MIT has used IHH (İnsani Yardım Vakfı) a Turkish Islamic Charitable organization with branches in 100 countries and with shadowy origins<sup>4</sup>, as the sole motivating force in helping the Palestinian people in Gaza. With this move MIT has automatically hijacked the cause from the European Left and NGO organizations. It also succeeded in projecting Turkey as the number one pro Palestinian and Muslim defender of the faith. From MIT's point of view, the flotilla operation was a huge success as it subsequently gained the "martyrdom" status of its IHH militants. After all, Muslim support from the Arabic populace is the litmus test for Davutoğlu's Neo-Ottoman ambitions. From this confrontation Turkey came out clearly as the leader of *Muslim Morality* versus *Israeli Aggression*.

Davutoğlu's policy cornerstone clearly stipulates that they must win the hearts and minds of the Arab people in order to force the Arab regimes to become peripheries of Turkey's grand ambitions. Prime Minister Erdoğan has even gone as far as to call Hamas a liberation movement and not a terrorist one. His Foreign Minister is also demanding compensation for Turkey's "9-11" victims, as he referred to the Mavi Marmara attack and an official apology from Israel to also include the establishment of an international committee to investigate the bloody incident. Ankara even went a step further by recalling its Ambassador Ahmet Oguz Celikkol back to Turkey, thus making clear that relations will not return to normality unless Tel Aviv met the Turkish demands.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/israel-worried-by-new-turkey-intelligence-chief-s-defense-of-iran-1.294568>

<sup>4</sup> Evan F. Kohlmann THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC CHARITIES IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST RECRUITMENT AND FINANCING Copenhagen, Denmark 2006/7 at <http://www.diis.dk/sw19083.asp>

The political and economical gains that Sadrazam Davutoğlu policies stand to bring to Turkey are immense. The president of the Arab League Amr Moussa has already positioned himself behind Turkey along with the Organization of Islamic countries in condemning Israel. His provocative statement to the Arab world that the nine dead “*are our martyrs as well*” raised many eyebrows and suspicions. Egyptian foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit also openly stated in a Turkish newspaper that: “*{W}e support Turkey’s demand to try those behind these acts*”.<sup>5</sup> More profoundly the Emirate of Qatar has vowed to support Turkey financially in whatever takes to keep alive the agenda through media and legal channels concerning Israel’s crimes during the Mavi Marmara Incident. Lastly during the Turkish Arab Cooperation Forum that took place on June 11, 2010 in Istanbul without any hesitation Sadrazam Davutoğlu openly confirmed Ankara’s ambitions with the Arab World. At the TAC Forum, Ankara proposed a free trade zone between Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon as “the first stepping stone of Ankara’s grant Scheme.” The creation of an economic Muslim Union with geo-political connotations in his mind for the long run :“*{W}e want a vehicle to be able to leave Turkey and reach Morocco without stopping at any border gates*.”<sup>6</sup>

Response from Israel has been muted if not haphazard. Even after all these anti Israeli statements and acts there are those in Israel and influential Jews abroad still wishing to maintain the alliance with Ankara. Defense Minister Barak initially tried to mend the widening rift with his January 2010 visit in Ankara. As a prior military and highly decorated officer of the IDF he probably thought that he could have negotiated something face to face with his Turkish Armed forces counterparts. He even signed a new military deal between the Turkish Air forces and Israel’s IAI and Elbit Systems Ltd envisaging a 141 million project concerning several aerospace systems. Figuring this good will from the part of Israel could have saved face for both nations and put relations back on track, but as it turned out it came with no avail. Ironically not only Barak, even Israeli Trade Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer,<sup>7</sup> both former highly decorated officers of the IDF but with different political views, think that they might still be able to deal with Ankara. Even a director of a powerful think tank institute and a former Israeli prime-minister i.e. Ehud Olmert still believes that both sides should get back together.<sup>8</sup> The latest addition to this group was that of Efraim Halevy, the director of Mossad from 1998-2002 and a former senior adviser to a succession of Israeli prime ministers. Even the President of the powerful Geopolitical-STRATFOR Intelligence magazine George Friedman visited Turkey at the start of June 2010 trying to mend fences and scout the atmosphere in Anatolia.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, some Israeli newspapers along with some in the US press still write editorials claiming that Turkey is not Israel’s

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-212898-arab-nations-turkey-condemn-israeli-aggression.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-212778-davutoglu-proposes-regional-trade-alliance-at-tac-meeting.html>

<sup>7</sup> As Barak Ravid writes in his article Trade Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer: “*{S}poke out against Israeli efforts to boycott Turkish products, saying, “I refuse to accept using boycotts and a means of [applying] political pressure. Such a deterioration will also harm the many Israeli companies that despite the crisis continue to have productive economic ties with Turkey.”* ...Quoted from Barak Ravid, at <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/report-turkey-mulls-suspending-israel-ties-over-gaza-flotilla-1.296407>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=177641>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-212339-strategist-friedman-turkey-could-play-role-reconciling-palestinians.html>

enemy and that Tel Aviv should normalize its relations with Ankara.<sup>10</sup> Turkey already knows that part of her *Takkiye*<sup>11</sup> (engage in deception) seems to be that of divide and conquer and it seems she is doing a good job! Ankara through the media portrays certain Israeli politicians as hawks (Prime-Minister Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Liebermann, Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon) and thus if a new government emerged it will be acceptable with the Turks to resume talks. Erdoğan through his public speeches has made it clear that Turkey has no problem with either the Israeli people or the Israeli state, calling on the country's citizens to stand up against the Netanyahu-Lieberman government, which he said hurts the interests of the Israeli people. The question at this point should be did Israel learn anything after the fiasco of the 1978 Iranian revolution? There is fear now that Israeli technology given to Turkey may end in the hands of Israel's enemies, Syria and Iran.

So how did Turkey break the alliance she had with Israel? Using an old Ottoman stratagem that seems always to work for Ankara under the right conditions as long as Turkish interests demand to honor any perceived agreements benefiting the land of Anatolia; when a non Muslim state is perceived to brake an accord intentionally or non -intentionally, suddenly religion is used as an ethical weapon to reciprocate or cancel any peace agreement or alliance with the latter. Israel's alliance with Turkey was easily severed by Ankara on the issue of the Palestinian cause. Ironically, someone might ask what was the difference in 1996 under the then Islamic Government of Necmetin Erbakan when the two nations became officially known to the world as the areas strategic allies? Nothing. It was just a pretext for Turkey's interests to mature. All this was set in motion in 2009 in Davos when Erdoğan called the Israelis war criminals because of their invasion of Gaza. All this played according with Ankara's well designed and constructed Geo-political objectives.

Turkey's attitude has not really changed because of the Palestinian plight. Turkey's decline of secularization and the rebirth and the formation of a new Islamic orientation begun when Adnan Menderes won the elections on May 14 1950. The Rise of Islam once more under his premiership infiltrated all the ranks of civil power in Ankara. His policies and agendas liberated the Islamic underground that was oppressed by the Kemalist forces for more than 30 years. He used Islam as a pure form of energy for his political ambitions. The rise of new mosques and Imam Hatip Occulari pious secondary education schools cemented political Islam. Just to mention one of the notable alumni is Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. It is not a pure accident that President Abdullah Gül and the AKP party pay homage to Mendere's origins from the province of Aydin. On May 14th, 2010 President Abdullah Gül once more visited Aydin to commemorate the 60th anniversary election victory of Menderes Democrat Party (DP) against the Kemalists one party rule in Anatolia. Former Islamist Prime Minister Necmetin Erbakan and the current one Tayyip

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<sup>10</sup> Haaretz Editorial, see, at <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/turkey-is-not-an-enemy-1.294203>. See, also, NY TIMES Editorial, Turkey's Fury. at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/05/opinion/05sat2.html?scp=9&sq=Turkey&st=cse>. Alon Ben Meir, Israel And Turkey: What Went Wrong? at <http://www.turkishweekly.net/columnist/3356/israel-and-turkey-what-went-wrong.html>

<sup>11</sup> As Raymond Ibrahim clearly explains :"*Taqiyya offers two basic uses. The better known revolves around dissembling over one's religious identity when in fear of persecution. Such has been the historical usage of taqiyya among Shi'i communities whenever and wherever their Sunni rivals have outnumbered and thus threatened them. Conversely, Sunni Muslims, far from suffering persecution have, whenever capability allowed, waged jihad against the realm of unbelief; and it is here that they have deployed taqiyya—not as dissimulation but as active deceit In fact, deceit, which is doctrinally grounded in Islam, is often depicted as being equal—sometimes superior—to other universal military virtues, such as courage, fortitude, or self-sacrifice*"...Quoted from, Raymond Ibrahim ,*How Taqiyya Alters Islam's Rules of War*, Middle East Quarterly Winter 2010, pp. 3-13.

Erdoğan are his protégés, facilitating his legacy in the continuation of the Ottoman Empire in a Republican facade. Even former president Turgut Özal's himself a pious Muslim, after the collapse of the Soviet Union had the same dreams and visions as the latter's - a Turkish Foreign Policy that stemmed from the Adriatic Sea to the walls of China. Obviously, Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman is a realist when he openly told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York that "it was a "mistake" to think that it was possible to change Turkey's attitude toward Israel through any gesture or efforts, since the negative change in Ankara reflected a strategic change by the Turkish leadership stemming from deep shifts in Turkish society,"<sup>12</sup> a change that required termination of Tel Aviv's hegemony in the area. Turkish Strategists had to cut the umbilical cord with Tel Aviv in order to facilitate their, aspirations in the region. Even Secular former Prime-Minister Mesut Yilmaz in an interview with Spiegel magazine openly stated that Turkey's strategic multiphase policies and interests imply that Ankara must reduce its military dependency on Israel.<sup>13</sup> Already Ankara has denied Israeli participation in the Anatolian Eagle exercise that is taking place currently canceled all future training with IDF (CSAR Reliant Mermaid) and further more is thinking of freezing all military and civilian agreements with Israel. According to British newspaper Sunday Times, Israel's defense establishment has expressed serious concern about the deteriorating relations with Turkey's government might force Ankara to shut down an Israeli intelligence station next to the border with Iran. Something that the IDF does not want even to think about, since its intelligence capabilities will be severed to a minimum concerning the Iranian nuclear threat.<sup>14</sup> Prime-minister Erdoğan and his Sadrazam Davutoğlu know exactly what they want to accomplish for Turkey and they move according with the national interest of the Turkish nation something that many politicians and heads of state in the region don't want to admit yet.

### **THE REBIRTH OF THE OTTOMANS?**

Next in Ankara's geopolitical puzzle is the Balkan region. To accomplish this she must diminish of Greece's and Cyprus' strategic value in the region. If Turkey wants to become a major regional power it needs a strong navy and open seafaring routes free from any obstacles that might arise from the presence of foreign interests. A powerful navy that can travel in the Mediterranean Sea freely is something that seems to be problematic when Greece commands almost all the sea routes in the Aegean Sea. General Ilker Başbuğ leader of the Turkish Armed Forces is also one of the believers and supporters of the need for a naval presence in the Mediterranean.<sup>15</sup> Currently for the first time since the collapse of the House of Osman, the Turkish navy has acquired a naval base at the

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<sup>12</sup> Lieberman: It's no use, Turkey won't change. See, at <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3902359,00.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,699090,00.html>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle\\_east/article7144753.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article7144753.ece). It should be noted that Turkey and Israel signed in 1994 an Agreement called Security Confidentiality Pact that demands secrecy concerning the details about past and future Security Agreements between the two nations. For more details on this issue and other Israeli Agreements that followed, see, Mourtos George, Turkey and Israel: The absence of Greece from her natural regional Sphere (Translated from Greek), (Athens 1999: Epikinonies press), p.45.

<sup>15</sup> According with the Turkish ruling elite: "*{W}e have set minimizing independence of our Turkish Armed Forces on foreign countries and meeting the needs of the needs of the Naval Forces Command through national industry our prior target,*" Erdogan said in the ceremony... Also speaking in the ceremony, Gen. Ilker Basbug, the chief of General Staff, said that it was an indispensable obligation to ensure security of the seas surrounding Turkey and have a strong naval force to cope with threats." Quoted from, World Bulletin, Turkey puts its first national warship at Sea, at [http://www.worldbulletin.net/news\\_detail.php?id=28876](http://www.worldbulletin.net/news_detail.php?id=28876)

Albanian Base of (Pasa Limani) in Avlona.<sup>16</sup> Albanian Naval ports were the first areas that were rushed to be "cashed-out" by Ankara's friendly relationship with Tirana, thus ensuring safe mooring and presence of the Turkish Navy in privileged locations like the northern Mediterranean seafaring routes of the strategic Straits of Otranto - a location that happens to be equally and extremely important to Greek and Italian interests and defense matters. Ankara is setting the tone for its own Mare Nostrum dreams in the Mediterranean Sea. Greece is encircled once more since its early conception as a modern state from the Osmanli realm in the 1830s. Now both sides of her naval periphery that of the Aegean and the Ionian Sea compel Athens to reconsider her defensive policies versus Ankara's geostrategic maneuvering. It is not an immediate naval threat due to Turkey's logistical capabilities at the moment but nevertheless an intimidating gesture, one that if left unchecked could pose a major danger in a future conflict between the two historic rivals. Furthermore Ahmet Davutoğlu states adamantly in his doctrine the "*Geostrategic depth*" that Turkey's loss of the Aegean was a major blunder and that has to be rectified soon. Ankara's tactics to neutralize Greece's control of the Aegean is by creating continuous claims of inhabited or uninhabited islets or sea routes and refusal to comply with Greek air traffic control regulations. The uninhabited Aegean rocky islet clustering around larger Greek islands, had been chosen by the Turkish military establishment as the testing ground of Greek reactions in Ankara's Aegean engage in threats of the use of force, ongoing and unbroken since the invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Lately the islands of Agathonisi and Farmakonisi both inhabited have been added to the Turkish claims.

More precisely these Salami tactics and continuous disputes are aiming to bring Athens on the negotiation table, signifying automatically that Turkey has rights in reshuffling the Aegean boundaries. According to Davutoğlu's Strategic Dogma he openly argues that: "*{T}he ambitious countries define what they consider a threat to themselves based on their strategic goals, not on fears. In contrast, passive, non ambitious countries formulate strategies subservient to the threats that exist.*"<sup>17</sup> More over Societies with radically reduced and worn national esoteric consciousness do not encompass logical strategic goals, or visions. For Davutoğlu: "*{T}hey actually endanger their own historical existence, therefore they are being marginalized in the international scene " and*

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<sup>16</sup> The naval base of Avlona (Pasa limani) was build in 1957, initially as a naval base for Soviet Submarine presence in the Adriatic Sea and could accommodate 12 submarines of mixed Albanian and Soviet personnel. However the removal of Albania from Moscow's influence in 1961 by Enver Hoxha Soviet Naval Assistance was terminated. Nevertheless, the same period along with the construction of the main base of the Pasa limani, the Soviets manufactured approximately 40 kilometers further South in the region of Cheimaras, another underground submarine base that of Porto Palermo which is often confused with the Pasa limani. Ironically this base if fitted accordingly could host components of Turkey's attack U-209 Submarine fleet since it is large enough and easily hidden from public scrutiny. Another surprising factor of the Turkish Albanian military cooperation is the continuous training of Albanians pilots to flight F16 and F4 Jets. Thus, signifying Greek fears that Turkey might hand over to Albania a substantive surplus from her third generation of air force planes. For more information about Turkish Albanian military collaboration on both issues and many more, including the upgrading of Albanian airport facilities. see, [Turkish Albanian Cooperation: A potential threat of Greek Sovereignty\(Greek Translation\)](http://www.enkripto.com/2010/03/blog-post_8164.html), at [http://www.enkripto.com/2010/03/blog-post\\_8164.html](http://www.enkripto.com/2010/03/blog-post_8164.html)

<sup>17</sup> Explorations : [The strategic depth of Turkey and its international position in the world Stage\(translated from Greek audio\)](http://www.enkripto.com/2010/06/blog-post_03.html) at [http://www.enkripto.com/2010/06/blog-post\\_03.html](http://www.enkripto.com/2010/06/blog-post_03.html)

have no saying in major decisions even for their own national security." <sup>18</sup> Greece happens to be the prime example for him despite the fact that he is not directly mentioning it.<sup>19</sup>

For him "*{T}he Aegean sea is the major Sea Fearing route of the Eurasian continent concerning the North - South geo-economical supply line.... This sea - is a major transient that occupies a unique place in the geopolitical, geostrategic, geo-economic, and geo (international) interaction ... It has a prime strategic importance not only for Greece and Turkey, but also for the countries bordering the Black Sea and all the global and regional powers in need of a transport and commercial hub ... Cyprus, which holds the world center (geostrategic) position, is located together with Crete, on which their intersection axis holds a vast geo-economic and strategic importance since it controls all Sea Fearing Routes in the region ... A country that neglects Cyprus cannot have a decisive role in the global and regional policies and also it cannot get active at international field ... Even if there was not a Muslim Turk there, Turkey should had kept open a Cyprus issue"* <sup>20</sup> The importance that Davutoğlu gives on Cyprus is based on the national interests and ambitions of Turkey. After all as Dr. Mazis a Greek major Strategic analyst elaborates in his writings: *The Geopolitical ambitions for Turkey in the 21st Century* that Davutoğlu is a frank believer of the Spykman theory. <sup>21</sup> According with Spykman Eurasia's Rimland, the coastal areas or buffer zone, is the key to controlling the World Island (Eurasia and Africa), not the heartland. Therefore Cyprus becomes that buffer zone for Ankara's Neo-Ottoman ambitions.<sup>22</sup> For him countries that lack vision don't stand a chance and their destiny is to become peripheral satellites in the area around Turkey. A country that does not defend its national interests due to economical issues or societal norms is considered a weak one.<sup>23</sup> In addition a Greek population that has not dealt with war for over sixty years and has enjoyed the benefits of EU membership is perceived as one that would not fight so easily for something small like a small islet. As the case of Imia in 1996 proved Turkey's calculation to be correct. <sup>24</sup> However Ankara since then has increased the ante with its policies of every day incursions of Turkish war planes in the Aegean by adding that of its naval presence even closer to Greece's populated islands. Its rationale just for projecting image and PSYOPS fears to the local inhabitants promoting the absence of Greek authority. Now for the first time since the collapse of the House of Osman, the Turkish Navy

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<sup>18</sup> Dr. Christos Yiannaras, Strategic logic versus disorder (Translated from Greek), at [http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_columns\\_2\\_13/06/2010\\_404393](http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/_w_articles_columns_2_13/06/2010_404393)

<sup>19</sup> Yiannaras, at [http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_columns\\_2\\_13/06/2010\\_404393](http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/_w_articles_columns_2_13/06/2010_404393)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, at [http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_columns\\_2\\_13/06/2010\\_404393](http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/_w_articles_columns_2_13/06/2010_404393)

<sup>21</sup> Professor Mazis Theodoros, The Geopolitical ambitions for Turkey in the 21st Century and Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu's Neo-Ottoman Goals, (Greek translation) [http://www.geo-mazis.gr/components/com\\_mtree/attachment.php?link\\_id=200&cf\\_id=36](http://www.geo-mazis.gr/components/com_mtree/attachment.php?link_id=200&cf_id=36)

<sup>22</sup> For a more detailed explanation about the Mackinder and Spykman political world domination supremacy Strategies at <http://facweb.bhc.edu/academics/science/harwoodr/geog105/Reading/HeartRimIntro.htm>. See also, at [http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/item/2006/0406/semper/semper\\_spykman.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/item/2006/0406/semper/semper_spykman.html)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, at [http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_columns](http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/_w_articles_columns)

<sup>24</sup> On December 25 1995, a Turkish vessel known as Figen Akat ran aground near the Greek claimed islets of Imia. Although the incident occurred close to the Greek islands of Kalolimnos and Kalymnos, Turkey asserted that those islets (Kardak for them) constituted part of Turkish territory. Both sides then issued contradictory claims to the reefs and tried to install their national flag on them. Meanwhile Turkish Naval forces were assembling close to the disputed area soon to be followed by Greek ones. . Within a few weeks the two NATO states were closer to an armed conflict than any other time with the exception of Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus. Thanks to US mediation the incident got defused. For more details about the Imia incident see, The Citizens Movement & ELIAMEP, Borders Sovereignty Stability: The Imia Incident and Turkey's Violation of International Law, (New York: Mellissa Publishers, 1996), p.3

makes its presence visible even outside Cape Sounio just next to Athens.<sup>25</sup> Turkish smugglers bring every year thousands of illegal immigrants to Greece. Additionally there is video footage that suggests some Turkish Coast Guard involvement.<sup>26</sup> Thus sooner or later Athenian fears that Greece will be flooded with Muslim immigrants gains ground along with the fact that they could easily be manipulated by Ankara's policies in the region gains momentum.<sup>27</sup> Academic and foreign Affairs Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu clearly states in his Grand Scheme that the Muslim populations of the Balkans namely that of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Bulgaria's strong Muslim Minority can accommodate, guard and promote Ankara's strategic dreams in the region.<sup>28</sup> They along with the Muslim minority in Greece are the connecting power with mother Turkey due to their shared Ottoman past - a link that should not be taken lightly.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore by adding the Muslim immigration in Europe Ankara has found a natural partner and link to advertise and defend her future policies. Turkey by attacking Israel was seen as the protector of Islam and its interests all over the world. The Mavi Marmara incident proved it. Thousands of Muslim immigrants all over Europe under the banner of Islamic solidarity along with leftist non-governmental organizations demonstrated outside Israeli embassies.<sup>30</sup> Turkey found natural Allies inside Western Europe for the first time is something that is not going to be unnoticed in the future by Davutoğlu or the rest of the World.

Here Davutoğlu managed to do what Abdul Hamit II failed to do with his Caliphate policies at the beginning of the 20th century in order to save the ailing Ottoman Empire. Taking a hard-line against Western involvement in Ottoman affairs, he emphasized the Empire's "Islamic" character, reasserted his status as the Caliph, and called for Muslim unity behind the Caliphate. Turkey seeks a similar role by uniting all Muslims under the banner Neo-Ottomanism.<sup>31</sup> Even the founder of the IHH Bulent Yildirim adheres to this dogma. In his speech at a Gaza rally in January 2009 is mentioning the name of the Sultan Abdul Hamit II as the connecting link of all Muslim brotherhood.<sup>32</sup> One of the Greek activists that got arrested on the free Gaza flotilla also by the Israeli navy (naturalized Egyptian Greek citizen) happens to be the President of Muslim Association of Greece Chairman Naim Elghandour said something that got unnoticed in Athens by the Hellenic Media during the Erdogan Official visit in Greece. When asked by reporters from the Turkish newspaper Zaman whether a mosque with a 500-person capacity

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<sup>25</sup> [http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=12550&Itemid=141](http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12550&Itemid=141)

<sup>26</sup> According with Greek Media some Turkish coast Guard units close their eyes in human trafficking or they even cooperate with the smugglers. at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36\\_uFZtDV0c&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36_uFZtDV0c&feature=related)

<sup>27</sup> Explorations : The strategic depth of Turkey and its international position in the world Stage(translated from Greek audio) at <http://www.enkripto.com>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, at <http://www.enkripto.com>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, at <http://www.enkripto.com> . See also video with Turkish minorities supporting Ankara's War against the PKK in FYROM's Capital Skopje [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM-j1ZFik2Y&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM-j1ZFik2Y&feature=player_embedded). In addition Ankara is using the Organization of the Islamic Countries successfully for their ambitions in the Area. Turkey managed to get a support from the OIC in a form of a resolution concerning the demands of the Muslim minority in western Thrace. See, at <http://www.oic-oci.org/37cfm/en/documents/res/37-CFM-MM-RES-ENGLISH-FINAL.pdf>. See, Hundreds in Sarajevo Protest Israel Raid on Gaza Aid Ships at <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/news/28490/>

<sup>30</sup> Deuche Welle Reported : "*that In the northwestern German city of Duisburg, some 5,000 protestors took part in a demonstration organized by Milli Gorus, an Islamist movement with Turkish roots. Both Palestinians and Turks took part in similar protests took place in Duesseldorf, Nuremberg and Frankfurt...Quoted from, Darren Mara, Martin Kuebler (AP/AFP/Reuters) See, at <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5653248,00.html>*

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, at <http://www.enkripto.com>. See, THE IMFATUATION OF ABDUL HAMID(2); He is said to be dominated by the idea of Pan-Islamism,( Published by the NYTIMES: September 5, 1901) at [http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?\\_r=1&res=9B0CE6D91E3BEE33A25756C0A96F9C946097D6CF](http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?_r=1&res=9B0CE6D91E3BEE33A25756C0A96F9C946097D6CF)

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLNWwSDjFzs>

isn't just a bit small for 700,000 people (ironically he did not clarify openly that those are illegal immigrants), Elghandour laughed and winked in reply: "*{L}et's get the first one built, get the Athenian public used to a mosque -- the second and third ones will be built soon after, I'm sure.*"<sup>33</sup> For Sadrazam Ahmet Davutoğlu and his policies these events under the right conditions can be manipulated, where by Islam alone could play a major role for his geopolitical schemes. In Egypt, readers of an independent newspaper called the Al-Masry Al Youm described Prime Minister Erdoğan as the Caliph of the Muslims.<sup>34</sup> Also during a protest rally in Lebanon thousands of Lebanese carried Turkish flags and nine coffins draped in the red banner that were displayed in honor of the Turkish flotilla dead. They were chanting: "*{O}h Allah, the merciful, preserve Erdoğan for us,*". *Something usually reserved for Hezbollah's popular leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who has also praised Erdoğan's posture over the Palestinian cause.*"<sup>35</sup>

The Turkish diaspora in Germany and Belgium alone should be noted for its support to Ankara's policies. A considerable Turkish/Muslim immigrant population translates to a vast amount of votes and lobbying for the land of Anatolia not to mention demonstrating when the latter implies it. It should be noted that the leader of the Green Party in Germany, Cem Ozdemir, happens to be of Turkish descent. Would his leadership translate to Turkish gains? Time will tell.<sup>36</sup>

Now returning back to Israel and its misconceptions or second thoughts about its alliance with Turkey it should stop looking inward as if a miscalculated political force caused the rift with Ankara. The same should apply for the US agenda in the area. Turkey is not looking eastward because of Europe's denial to accept her as an EU member thus abandoning its role as the Bridge between West and the East as Secretary of State Robert Gates clearly argues.<sup>37</sup> Turkey is making her own agenda as Ankara wants to become the center and not the bridge and not getting guidelines from the USA on how to act. As researcher Anat Lapidot-Firilla better states: "*{T}here is an element of imperialism and over-importance in Turkey's self-perception. At the same time, there is also an element of provinciality vis-à-vis the Western world. Turkey's new elite is trying to compensate for years of being marginalized by projecting itself as a moral leader, an economic leader and a pivotal country that the world should recognize.*"<sup>38</sup> The recent alignment with Brazil and voting against the new Iranian sanctions at the UN is part of it. The refusal to allow US troops back in 2003 to pass through its territory to fight Saddam Hussein's forces in Northern Iraq should had been a warning sign for the US State Department and Department of Defense about Ankara's Kurdish fears and

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-210312-mosque-in-athens-a-bitter-story-but-hopefully-one-with-a-happy-ending.html>. See, also at [Http://flotillamassacrepassengers.wordpress.com/2010/06/21/excerpt-from-an-eyewitness-account-by-mario-damolin/](http://flotillamassacrepassengers.wordpress.com/2010/06/21/excerpt-from-an-eyewitness-account-by-mario-damolin/)

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-212582-104-analysis-erdogan-a-rising-star-for-arabs-over-israel-stance.html>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-212582-104>

<sup>36</sup> Martin Kuebler at <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5653248,00.html>

<sup>37</sup> US blames Europe for Turkey vote against Iran sanctions, at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/509f373a-7426-11df-87f5-00144feabdc0.html>.

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-205059-israeli-palestinian-talks-would-bring-turkey-israel-closer.html>

also about its long run ambitions in the area.<sup>39</sup> Worth mentioning are also the Russian oil and gas deals with Turkey plus the sale of a nuclear reactor to Ankara promotes Turkish dynamics of Great importance.<sup>40</sup>

The Byzantine alliance as once *New York Times* columnist William Safire called it in 1996 that was erected as a counter balance against any potential Arab threat proved to be a utopian dream. The Turks desired to gain only military technology along with the Jewish Diasporas' political lobbying against its enemies and most importantly just wanted to buy time for the right moment to project their agenda.<sup>41</sup> Geopolitics and geo-economics dictated it. Time will tell if their course of action will work or if Israel starts thinking for new alliances in the Area namely that of Greece and The Republic of Cyprus. Greece already has cooperated with the Israeli Defense Force in the past. In the spring of 2008 the Israeli air force used Greek military bases and air space in the Aegean for practicing refueling and long range attacks, a possible prelude to an Israeli air attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. This exercise took the codename Glorious Spartan. In addition in May 2010 the HAF and the IAF once more flew together over Greece under the codename MINOAN 2010<sup>42</sup> and the head of the Israeli air force Aluf Ido Nehoshtan was going to make an official visit in Greece signifying warmer relations between the two air forces. Ironically the exercise was canceled due to the Gaza Flotilla events. It is scheduled to restart however when the political conditions allowed it. Nevertheless Turkish confrontation with Israel has brought together the Greek/Cypriot Lobbies and the Jewish ones in finding ways to cooperate together. There is enough evidence to suggest that something is brewing between Israel and Greece.<sup>43</sup> Worth mentioning is also the security forum that took place under the Israeli Embassy and the RIEAS<sup>44</sup> Institute in Athens bringing together security experts from both nation in combating terrorism and security threats in the region. Already voices from the government in Athens or from the main political parties (only exceptions the Greek Communist Party and that of the Leftist Coalition Syriza) call for Greece's realign interests to

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<sup>39</sup> A Turkish thriller Novel called *Metal Storm* describes a war against the United States and its NATO allies. The novel captures Turks' fears that the Iraq War could lead to instability in Turkey's Kurdish region. The fictional war begins in 2007 after U.S. troops fire on Turkish troops in Northern Iraq. This leads to the US Armed Forces invading Turkey and a suicide bomber detonating a nuclear bomb in Washington D.C. out of revenge, see, at <http://www.readersread.com/blog/4223052>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=turkey-russia-engage-in-nuclear-waltz-2010-05-12>

<sup>41</sup> Daniel Pipes , *A New Axis: The Emerging Turkish-Israeli Entente*, at <http://www.danielpipes.org>. Also Ironically Namik Tan the Turkish Ambassador to the USA called the Jewish Diaspora very emotional on the issue of the Gaza Flotilla an Antithesis of during the Golden era of Turkish Israeli Relations: "*H}e described American Jewry as "extremely sophisticated, and very, very credible people, all of them." He went on to say, though, that "They are very emotional, very emotional. They have chosen the simplest way, [to] try to shift the focus on Turkey, shift the blame on Turkey. This is wrong." Tan and his colleagues also criticized members of Congress who this week denounced Turkey for its treatment of Israel over the Gaza incident and for voting against the Iran sanctions approved by the UN Security Council earlier this month.....* Quoted from, Hilary Leila Krieger, at <http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=178928>

<sup>42</sup> The Minoan 2010 military training between the HAF and the IAF despite its abrupt postponement due to the Mavi Marmara incident ( The first part was materialized only the CSAR part was deferred ) showed that there is plenty of ground for improvement in military affairs. IAF could acquire airspace for its planes and the HAF could get experienced in Air refueling procedures. Just to mention some of the mutual benefits. See, at [http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=12422&Itemid=49](http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12422&Itemid=49). See, also, <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/101332/experts-israeli-air-forces-likely-to-prefer-greek-airspace-than-turkish-one.html>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.enet.gr/?i=news.el.article&id=174994>

<sup>44</sup> [http://www.ri eas.gr/index.php?option=com\\_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=31&Itemid=62&year=2010&month=05&day=25&uid=fe21209ae4e523d4a910661cd60cfd03&catid=41](http://www.ri eas.gr/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=31&Itemid=62&year=2010&month=05&day=25&uid=fe21209ae4e523d4a910661cd60cfd03&catid=41)

form a strategic cooperation with Israel - a suggestion totally unheard some years ago.<sup>45</sup> Greek Cyprus is already orbiting under the auspices of Israel. Its policy not to allow the Free Gaza Flotilla in its ports to dock and its latter's closure of its offices and depart from the island it says it all.<sup>46</sup> Cyprus currently is seen as the extension of Israel's defense mechanisms and the only secure supply route with the West since Israel is surrounded by many not so friendly states. Tel Aviv must look forward and not backwards as the *Almighty Alliance* is dead once and for all. After all the most useful allies are those nearest to the enemy, for they know how best to fight his forces.<sup>47</sup>

If Israel thinks that with the possible changing of the guard in Ankara relations might get back as it was before that will be a grave mistake. Turkey's Geographical location, economics and demographics along with its religious ties with its surrounding environment are enough resources alone for any future Kemal or Abdul Hamit II to continue under a different scheme the same set of guidelines of Sadrazam's Davutoğlu Great Strategic Depth Doctrine.

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.enet.gr/?i=news.el.politikh&id=169870>. See also, ALLEGED CYPRUS ARMS AFFAIR POINTS TO WIDER QUESTIONS, at [http://www.riegas.gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1080](http://www.riegas.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1080). See, at [http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/Articles/el-GR/070610\\_PR\\_1615.htm](http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/Articles/el-GR/070610_PR_1615.htm)

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3895287,00.html>. Averof Neofytou, Deputy Chairman of the Democratic rally (Party) of Cyprus Israel Our forgotten Neighbours: Four reasons why to move closer to Israel, at <http://www.alitheiaportal.com/alitheia/politika/abero-ph-neophutou-tessereis-logoi-gia-na-kinethoume-pros-israel.html>

<sup>47</sup> Lutwak Eduard, Take me back to Constantinople, at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/10/19/take\\_me\\_back\\_to\\_constantinople](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/10/19/take_me_back_to_constantinople)