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13. April 2012

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/38084/>

MPRA Paper No. 38084, posted 13. April 2012 12:44 UTC

# **The geopolitics in the spheres of influence, domination, and overrule: Towards a New World Order or Disorder?**

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## **Abstract**

*The term New World Order (NWO) appears to get a more comprehensive meaning from the most recent evolution of dramatic events in various parts of the world. Officially, there is still no any unified approach how it may look like, upon which pillars it will be built, and how it would operate. More assumptions can be heard by ordinary people than by those who are believed to have considerable impact on the flows of this outspoken order. Unlike great revolutionary changes of the past, e.g. the beginning of Industrial Revolution, the rise and fall of Communism, the emerge and the end of the Cold War, among others, that had a starting and ending point ranging from dates to years and at least decades, there is no any consensual answer to the question about NWO neither when, how, by what it has begun, nor if it is in the process and what its expectations are. The reason behind this uncertainty may be found in complex international circumstances that are difficult to be controlled, just as the two world wars were unpredictable in their course and outcomes. Large scale revolutionary experiments worldwide intended for an order often involve a great disorder. The Axis Powers had their own expectations at the beginning of World War Two (WWII) based on the plans they were implementing and got something very disappointing in the end. That is what may turn later to the current euphoria on the NWO. If in this article we are unable to prophesize what this order will bring about, the aim is to critically review the events in world geopolitics to show that it is a matter of the spheres of influence and struggle for domination, which many wrongly consider to be an agenda of the NWO.*

**Key words:** New World Order, world geopolitics, great powers, spheres of influence, domination.

## **Introduction**

It often happens when we do not have a clear answer to the question on the subject that we talk a lot about. A typical example would be: what do we mean by the NWO? Is it something that will bring general well being for the world, a strategy and plan to establish a better rule, or a reserved right of someone to impose an order which for many would be inconvenient bringing them to subordination? The answer always remains deficient deepening on which viewpoint it is taken. It is further ambiguous if we remind the major global events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century after World War One (WWI) that were seen as preconditions for the NWO. The disasters they brought, changed the understanding in favor of another order that had yet to come, different from the one intended prior to the great disorder. Ideally, if the process of WWI was rejected as a needed phase towards a new order due to the horrors caused to humanity, its outcome was used as a reference lesson that the NWO should imply something better for the world peace, leading to the establishment of the League of Nations in 1919. In the opinion of the US 28<sup>th</sup> President Woodrow Wilson, from then on, this should have been the NWO, which was not in the view of those who lost WWI. At the time, the communist Bolshevik Revolution subordinating masses of the people by the Red Terror was on its own considered as a transition to a NWO that should win against capitalism. The Great Depression (1929 – 1933) itself was a new world disorder, the end of which raised the hopes for new more prosperous era. When the Nazis came to power in 1933 with their later plans for conquests, to them it was a NWO about to begin that escalated in World War Two (WWII). Following the end of war, the fall of Axis Power, the victory of the Allies and Communism, the establishment of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1945 and a number of international organizations with the mission to maintain the world peace, were certainly the events leading to yet another NWO.

How long this NWO lasted? Many colonial countries in Asia and Africa won their independence, which would have not been attributed to the desire of colonizers, but to a change in the world's balance of power and rising of national consciousness among the colonies. The mission of this NWO began to be questioned in 1950 when the Korean War broke out, to be followed in Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Cold War and the arms race, many regional costly wars like that between Iraq and Iran, and post communist conflicts in Caucasus and the Balkans. On the day of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S., still without getting the needed news and an assessment what really happened, claims were popping up across the world that this is the event that will change the world, or a momentum

from which the NWO will be shaped. How many NWOs did we have until then? Were we deceived that previous events were not orders that we have been accustomed to hear about them since the early 1920s?

In conspiracy theory circles, the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan (October 2001) and in Iraq (March 2003), Global Financial Crisis and recession (2007 – 2011), revolutions in Arab countries to overthrow authoritarian rules and protests in the U.S. under the slogan “Occupy Wall Street” (Spring 2011), were an agenda of a well planned NWO. What we understand in world geopolitics, are the real events for some time as a battle for spheres of influence and interest. That is the basic principle upon which this article is written. Various conspiracy theories on Illuminati, Freemasonry, fraudulent documents like the Protocols of the Zion propagating that an elite is planning to build a totalitarian world government, are excluded from consideration, regardless that here too, there are many elements that cannot be underestimated, but are not of that type as a magic stick that we should blindly believe in them. We are not interested in the claims as if in the world geopolitics everything is predetermined for an indefinite future, that someone is born and exists to rule forever and the others to remain ruled. Once we have this attitude with a fear, it makes us lose the confidence on our self-determination, look around which side to join as long as we think not to have the courage of any way out except that someone is always able to write out the fate of many and the world, and not us for ourselves. It makes us either useless or a tool of others who can act unimpeded for their own order of interests at our expense. Without careful attention to what goes on around with the surrounding facts, gives the proponents of these theories to generate subjective hating, which then can be transformed into real actions.

Given that the NWO is a very broad concept lacking proper understanding, in the first section of this article I have attempted to explain its principles and preconditions, which from the article as a whole appear as a theory of a great disorder that does not aim at creating any order but is more related to domination under the mask of assumed rules of the NWO. Tendencies by the sole superpower – the U.S. – to seize the momentum with the power it has at its disposal are discussed in section two. The U.S. may not hold long the leading role and continue to expand as the new great powers are on the rise to cause a change in the balance of power. Section three explores a number of selected great powers, two of which are regarded as emerging superpowers (Russia, and China), one great power (Germany), and two regional powers (Turkey, and Iran). This breakdown and selection for consideration is made upon observing their behavior, where some common similarities are found. Russia, Turkey, and

Iran are working on to restore their power in the zones they used to rule, i.e. out of their remains and legacy left earlier. Germany has changed the strategy of behavior from the past to expand the influence. China is a new separate case following a different path from all the above. While each struggling for their own interests, the great and regional powers are forced into alliances either between themselves or with smaller countries, that are discussed in section four as geopolitical repositioning, including the alliances fostered by the sole superpower. The last section draws conclusions that are limited to only what the article has explored, because, the topic is a very broad subject with unlimited questions and debates.

### **1. Principles, preconditions, current state of affairs and expectations of the NWO**

There is an abundance of material, writings, discussions, science fiction and conspiracy theories on the NWO. If one begins reviewing much of them, s/he indeed may get a lot of knowledge, to the extent of becoming more confused than at the beginning when an assessment could be made by guessing. If we rely on the writings perceived as the most influential on this subject, we could agree that the NWO course is in the competence of those who have more power, largely based on current state of events and assumptions as they are likely to evolve. Great social revolutionary changes are often addressed to Freemasonry that many people think of them to be the driving force of present and potential future events where, the governments are accounted only as a technical aspect or puppets of someone else. It is true that the impact of these shadow groups is significant in less developed countries, though their role on global scale tends to be exaggerated.

What we find in the most influential publications about the NWO, is a content and exploration of rather interesting and fascinating things. The time is disregarding much of them as their authors preferred to trim their sails to the wind according to the state of power that the countries have at one or some time, then hypothesize the likelihood of domination by certain powers in the near and distant future. One of such theories is that of Huntington (1996) on *the clash of civilizations and the remaking of NWO*, speculating a limited world war that will break out on the basis of different cultures, religions in particular.<sup>1</sup>

Huntington's theory in part may be disregarded by the events on site. Romania was included in the "Orthodox World" as one of five civilizations forming major blocks of clashes,

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster (1996).

where Russia is the major power. This calculation is gotten incorrect. Romania is concerned about her regional interests in Moldova where Russian and Ukrainian separatists in Transnistria remain outside Moldovan control.<sup>2</sup> Ukraine as a mixed Orthodox and Roman Catholic country is striving, so far unsuccessfully, to approach more to the West in exchange of limiting Russia's influence. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is still in a dispute with Greece over the name Macedonia, in which Bulgaria keeps the side of FYROM. In 2008 Russia undertook revenge against Orthodox Georgia's actions to restore sovereignty in separatist Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The most recent *clash* between Orthodox and the Western world is perhaps in the geopolitics about Serbia. On March 23, 2011 when Russia's president Vladimir Putin visited Serbia on the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO bombing, advised Serbia not to join NATO and promised a \$10 billion loan, of which \$3 billion for modern Russian arms.<sup>3</sup> Delivery of promised aid and weapons takes years. Putin's strategy was to convince Serbia's authorities to stay on Russia's side in the geopolitics of the Balkans. Meanwhile, the EU on March 01, 2012 gave Serbia the status of a candidate for membership. Conditions to obtain this status such as Serbia's full cooperation with the Hague International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, recognizing Kosovo's independence, among others, were no longer applicable. All EU member states but five (Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain) have recognized Kosovo's independence from Serbia. Four years later, the EU (and the U.S.) will assure that Kosovo will be represented in regional initiatives by a footnote referring to the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 12 June 1999 which recognizes Kosovo as technically part of Serbia.<sup>4</sup> Why the Western World is using this policy of double standards? It aims to limit Russia's geopolitical role in the Balkans. To achieve this aim, the EU will set more conditions for Serbia after membership by imposing the EU rules. The Western World (NATO, EU, and the U.S.) do not prefer to have in central

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<sup>2</sup> Other examples of the territories officially belonging to certain states but practically out of respective country's governmental control, include: Northern Cyprus administered by Turkey, Nagorno Karabakh in Azerbaijan under Armenian rule, Abkhazia and South Ossetia of Georgia occupied by Russia. There is also a number of claimed territories such as: Taiwan by China, Gibraltar by Spain, Falkland Islands by Argentine, Ceuta and Melilla by Morocco.

<sup>3</sup> The weapons that the Serb authorities have discussed with Russian officials to be acquired, included fighter jets MiG-29M, Su-30, long range surface-to-air missiles (SAM) S-300, and radar stations. Sergei Balmasov, "Russia to rescue Serbia from NATO's claws" *Pravda* (05.04.2011), online edition available at: [http://english.pravda.ru/russia/economics/05-04-2011/117464-russia\\_serbia-0/](http://english.pravda.ru/russia/economics/05-04-2011/117464-russia_serbia-0/).

<sup>4</sup> Kosovo declared independence on 17 February 2008. Serbia asked the International Court of Justice to provide an opinion on this right. The Court in Fall 2010 stated that Kosovo's declaration of independence does not violate the UN Resolution. By 2012, 88 countries have recognized Kosovo as an independent state. The full text of the UN Resolution 1244 can be accessed at:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/172/89/PDF/N9917289.pdf?OpenElement>.

Balkans a Russian patron that is surrounded by NATO members to the East (Romania, and Bulgaria), to the South (Albania), and to the West (Croatia). At the same time, there is a clash between the interests of Western World, Russia and China in Syria. Having realized the difficulty in Syria, the West has turned the attention to getting Serbia within its own sphere of influence, before Russia does it.

Elsewhere in the world, Huntington's theory creates the blocks of civilization that are hard to believe they will ever come into being as he thinks. The Sinic or Buddhist civilization where Japan is listed as a separate civilization, offers an experience that the future clash may occur between the countries that constitute it rather than against any major block in the world. Atheist and communist North Korea is unlikely to use the weapons of mass destructions (WMD) against Islamic Iran with which it closely cooperates in military engineering, but against its southern brother – South Korea – with the same language and people, just as sometime East Germany was hostile to West Germany. Reunification of Korea is different from that of Germany. It is not to depend on the will of its people as long as external players play a role, primarily the U.S. in the South and China in the North.

A more realistic approach on clashes in the world geopolitics is offered by the hypotheses of Friedman on forecasting the world's major events in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>5</sup> One of his claims includes impassable zones or uninhabited terrains as a limitation of certain countries for maneuvering and expansion. If these are inappropriate locations for residence due to the shortage of certain natural conditions and economic resources, they are suitable to deploy man made resources and secrets. These areas (deserts, mountains, wastelands, frozen zones, jungles and rainforests) can be more secure to hide strategic weapons from which the worst surprises can be launched. At the height of the Cold War when the U.S. was seriously concerned about the so-called First Strike that the USSR could potentially launch, the U.S. deployed B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers in Greenland at Thule Air Base and maintained a military base at Naval Air Station Keflavik in Iceland (closed in 2006) for Second Strike or retaliation if its mainland was to be attacked by Soviet weapons of First Strike like SS-18 "Satan" and SS-19 "Stiletto".<sup>6</sup> If in the First Cold War sparsely and largely

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<sup>5</sup> George Friedman, *The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, (Doubleday: New York, 2009).

<sup>6</sup> The First Strike doctrine was used during the Cold War by the CIA analysts to hypothesize the probability of nuclear war between the U.S. and the USSR. Team B came with the assessment that the USSR had advantage over the U.S. to use first the 25 megaton thermonuclear intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) SS-18 "Satan" carrying up to 10 warheads and 40 decoys, SS-19 "Stiletto", and intermediate-range ICBM SS-20 "Saber" to destroy NATO bases in Europe with negligible warning. The Soviet High Command, however, never discussed with its leadership the possibility of launching the First Strike, but if the nuclear broke out, the Soviets were planning to win it. For more details, see National Security Archive, "An Analytical Comparison of U.S.-Soviet

unfit terrains for living were so critical in potentially determining the fate of the world, Tibet, Himalaya, Ural Mountains, Rainforest in the Amazon Basin, Siberia, and Alaska are not so useless, but perhaps more useful than Shanghai, Bombay, Rio De Janeiro, Moscow, and New York.

Friedman is reasonably right when he predicts that Turkey will become a great power, and differently from Huntington, asserts that Eastern European countries including the “Orthodox World” of Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria will become closer allies against Russia. However, he is subjective in predicting that Russia will collapse by around 2020, a speculation inspired by his desire what he would like to happen. I wish Russia collapses today, the U.S. tomorrow, and China a day after!

The framework of speculative theories on the NWO includes that of Fukuyama on *the end of history and the last man*, who thinks that the current Western democratic system is the last stage of world civilization, and that there would not be any more appropriate form of governance to the end or apocalypse of the world.<sup>7</sup> Similar assumptions were made much earlier by the most influential thinkers of political economy, Adam Smith and Carl Marx where, the first believed in capitalism as an everlasting system for humanity, whilst the latter offered counterarguments that capitalism does not have where to go except to its death that has to be superseded by communism as the last best stage of human organization.<sup>8</sup> During their development, both systems featured deficiencies in operation, one of which (communism) emerging after the death of Marx largely collapsed and was given up in the early 1990s, and the other (capitalism) is significantly transformed through times evolving into derivative models to the extent that no longer resembled to its original version in the Smith’s time. In modern times of increased uncertainty and reduced timeframe of unexpected human phenomena, not including natural disasters, it would be naïve to believe in any current widespread system like democracy to be eternal. In fact, the world does not have that democracy that we think about it in abstract terms. If the people chose the leadership it likes, then it is the leadership who decides how to rule and what to do, not the people. This divergent rule when the leadership embarks on unknown plans or those dictated by the circumstances, is becoming increasingly present even in advanced countries. The

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Assessment During the Cold War”, *Soviet Intentions 1965–1985*, (1995): 1, 22-47, BDM Federal, Inc.: George Washington University.

<sup>7</sup> Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man*, (New York: Free Press, 1992).

<sup>8</sup> Isa Mulaj, “Self-management Socialism compared to Social Market Economy in Transition: Are there Convergent Paths?” in *Chancen und Risiken für die Soziale Marktwirtschaft im internationalen Wettbewerb der Wirtschaftssysteme*, Berhard Seliger, Juri Sepp and Ralph Wrobel eds., (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2010), 2.



people in most cases cannot undertake anything against those it has elected.<sup>9</sup> Democracy as the US 16<sup>th</sup> president Abraham Lincoln defined it, “the government of the people, by the people, for the people”, is not the case in the real world. It is a formality which hardly turns as we ideally believe in it. Joseph Stalin might have been partially right when he declared that “it’s not the people who vote that count; it’s the people who count the votes”. The one who would be more right in the quotes about democracy, is if s/he says that it does not matter who votes whom, who wins and loses in elections, but only what those elected do afterwards, what their behavior and the end result is. Multi-party elections are not without shortcomings as far as taking power is concerned. In the U.S. with only two major political parties (Democratic and Republican) when the race of presidential candidates was to close to call (George W. Bush vs. Al Gore in 2000, and George W. Bush vs. John Kerry in 2004), turned into resistance to conceive the defeat to the last minute, suggesting that democracy is not the best among worst forms of governance as Winston Churchill called it, but one of many ways aspiring to power and rule. By this token, democracy becomes an ego for power like in any other political system. If democracy is not the best form of governance and we do not have any workable alternative, it is an indication that we do not have the needed knowledge, creativity and determination to put in place a better choice, or if we do, we may be prosecuted by the vanguards of formal democracy for attempting a better alternative that does not suit them.

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<sup>9</sup> To name some examples: 1) the decision of the former U.S. President George W. Bush to invade Iraq in 2003 and joining this move by the British Prime Minister (PM), Tony Blair, met opposition by the people who elected them; 2) the Italian PM, Silvio Berlusconi, calling a German member of the EU Parliament as an appropriate person to play the role of a Nazi guard in the film to be directed by an Italian producer, 3) the President of Germany Horst Kohler using a gunboat diplomacy on German military presence in Afghanistan, and many more. Only the last case (of Horst Kohler) ended up in direct resignation from the post.

## 2. The sole superpower is recycling its strategy for domination

***“[T]he ideas America pushes abroad are markedly different from what it practices at home. How we and others interpret our success (and our failures) has enormous consequences for the choices of policies, programs, and institutions of others” - Stiglitz<sup>10</sup>***

In game theory, like in any other game involving an opponent, the player uses the opportunity to act in the fields where it thinks to gain the upper hand. If it does not act in due time or neglects the case, the opponent can be recovered and resume the lost strength in the positions it has left. A chess player observes the fields where the opponent is weakened and moves in.

The fall of one superpower (USSR) in the early 1990s and its withdrawal from Eastern European satellite states, provided the opportunity for the other superpower (U.S.) to extend the influence in the same region. Former Warsaw Pact countries in Europe are now NATO members. Apart from the places left by the opponent, the sole superpower used yet another strategy to push its biggest traditional foe (now Russia) into more limited space of geopolitical role by military intervention in the Balkans (Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo), Central Asia and the Middle East (Afghanistan, and Iraq). In the Balkans, the intervention was made on human rights' defense justification and was largely supported by the Western countries. Obviously, ending the genocide and savagery in Europe in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, was a matter of human rights just as the U.S. intervention in WWII against the Axis Powers. As history is never a static or fixed topic, no matter how factually and accurately we present what happened, the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq while geopolitically understood as the player's behavior to gain advantage (otherwise others would get it), means a backtracking on the issue of humanitarian intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo. The U.S. did not have any direct interest whatsoever in these small countries of Europe, as it also did not have when it intervened with the allies to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in the 1991 Gulf War. Economic interests were almost inexistent. The rumors of geomilitary also appear to come as unimportant. “Bondstill Camp” rumored to be the American second largest military base overseas, and the U.S. guarantee that it will stay committed to Kosovo, were undermined by recent announcements by the Pentagon for military expenditure cuts and closure of several bases, including the reduction or withdrawal

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<sup>10</sup> Joseph E. Stiglitz, *The Roaring Nineties: Why We're Paying the Price for the Greediest Decade in History*, (London: Penguin Books, 2004), xxviii-xxix.

from Kosovo and possible passing the management of Bondstill to Turkey.<sup>11</sup> That is how the U.S.-NATO led humanitarian intervention in the Balkans with considerable spending did not bring any “return on investment”. But, when one looks in the context of future U.S. interventions elsewhere, the Balkans’ experience gets a different meaning through revision from humanitarian to getting the needed points for interventions in larger countries of Middle East with officially ambiguous justifications. The time and events unfolded some kind of interplay between the objectives of intervention in the Balkans and the Middle East. For instance, Perrit maintained that, as Kosovo’s majority population is Muslim and secular with great sympathy towards the U.S., the U.S. should push for Kosovo’s independence as this would help the U.S. to have more friendly relations with less friendly Muslim countries.<sup>12</sup> If we are not subjective to misunderstand this message but try to grasp its meaning between the lines, it does not hide the suggestion for the U.S. hegemony towards Muslim countries in Asia that is manifested in two forms with the same objective: first, geopolitical domination by friendly approach, and second, if the first is not possible, the military might can be used to attain this objective and later build friendly relations through loyal regimes.

The American invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq has brought to the attention even more Huntington’s theory, but in largest part refute it for several reasons. First, it underestimates religious non affiliations in most developed countries that are secular. A person, or majority of the people, can be labeled as coming from Muslim, Christian, or Buddhist country simply because s/he is born there where it is meant belonging to that major religion, irrespective of being non religiously fanatic, or atheist. Second, if Afghanistan is a deeply religious country where the U.S. went for *clash of civilizations*, Somalia is also as much religious as Iraq, but there the U.S. withdrew in 1993 (as part of the UN peacekeeping force) despite experiencing the worst single close combat operation since the Vietnam War, which in popular culture became known as the “Black Hawk Down”.<sup>13</sup> Defeating the civil war warring factions in Somalia was easier than of insurgents in Afghanistan and Iraq. Instead, the U.S. left and went in neighboring Djibouti with military presence to control the Straits of

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<sup>11</sup> More on American-Turkish geopolitical alliance in the Balkans in section four of this article.

<sup>12</sup> Henry H. Perrit, “Economic Sustainability and Final Status for Kosovo”, *Journal of International Economic Law* 25, no.1 (2004): 259-319.

<sup>13</sup> A complete record of this event can be found in Mark Bowden, *Black Hawk Down: The Story of Modern War*, (Berkeley: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997). In 2001, *Black Hawk Down* was made into a film by Ridley Scott and released into public in 2002, winning several awards, among others Oscar, the most prominent award in the world for excellence in the film industry. On October 03, 1993 the U.S. 160<sup>th</sup> SOAR elite troops engaged in a mission to capture the main Somali warlords. The mission time from incursion to extraction was planned to last no longer than 30 minutes. It turned into an 18 hours bloody battle in the streets of Mogadishu, a lesson suggesting how well planned missions in modern times to establish an *order* face discrepancy between plans and outcomes.

Yemen and the Red Sea leading to the Suez Canal. Third, if one country is distinguished as religious in terms of the people, namely Muslim, then this should be Saudi Arabia from which Islam originated and initially was spread. If the clashes of different cultures are to occur, this should be between the US as the most powerful country whose majority population in theory is Christian, and Saudi Arabia which in contrast is the U.S. best patron in the Middle East for business and arms purchase after Israel. The American arms supplies to Saudi Arabia are large as if this country is planning a full scale war with any great power.<sup>14</sup> This military build up is probably being staged as a counterbalance to possible threat coming from Iran which even in official terms is an Islamic republic ruled by religious clerics. Iran's majority of people are Persians, i.e. different from Arabs. This is the difference where the clash may occur, not because of their religion which is almost the same.<sup>15</sup> In addition, it is strange how these two Muslim countries that do not recognize Israel, one of them (Saudi Arabia) intends giving Israel the permission to use the Arab air space for a possible against attack the other (Iran). Religion, as Roman philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca has put it, *is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by rulers as useful*. One more interesting quote about religion with a reference to Christianity's central figure (Jesus), was made by Brooks Phillips: *The Jews tried to keep Christ contained within their law, while the Greeks sought to turn Him into a philosophy; the Romans made of Him an empire; the Europeans reduced Him to a culture, and we Americans have made a business of Him*.<sup>16</sup>

That the role of domination has always economic interests behind as a strategic aim, this can be captured from what happens after military intervention and invasion when the U.S. government deploys USAID (United States Agency for International Development) to support reconstruction, economic development, preparing the ground to control strategic resources and act as an intelligence agency. One of the main resistance forms against the U.S military presence in the Middle East, were the attacks against USAID contractors, or hitting the tale of American hegemony in efforts to undermine its silent aim of invasion – the economic interests. The Afghans have used these tactics of insurgency against the Soviets by attacking convoys and supply routes. In Iraq too, the same tactics have taken the lives of

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<sup>14</sup> The Saudi military expenditure account 4.7 percent of GDP (SIPRI, 2011). The Saudi Air Force is the third largest user of F-15 fighter jets after U.S. and Japan. It is also acquiring hundreds of Eurofighter Typhoons, and was interested in buying Russian S-400 newest SAM systems, an offer that was dropped after the pressure by the U.S.

<sup>15</sup> Arabs are Sunni and Iranians Shia Muslims. The Sunnis consider Muhammad to be last prophet and the Messenger of the God. The Shias believe that Muhammad selected his cousin and son-in-law Ali as his successor who is credited by the Shias also as a prophet.

<sup>16</sup> Brooks J. Phillips, *Your God Is Too Small* (New York: McMillan, [1961]1997).

many civilian workers and contractors who went there for a job or business in favor of invader(s).

Since the Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953) when the U.S. was involved as the main player within the UN, it has learned a good geopolitical and geomilitary lesson which it is recycling and applying now. Although the Korean War ended up in a ceasefire by creating two states in the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel with a four kilometer demilitarized zone, one under the Soviet influence (the communist North) and the other under the American interest (the democratic South), it followed the U.S. intervention in the Vietnam War (1 November 1970 – 30 April 1975) for the same ideological reasons – the battle between communism and democracy.<sup>17</sup> Initially, Vietnam during the war divided in the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel as North and South, a similar scenario to Korea, reunited after the war under the communist rule, different from Korea that remains divided. The U.S. was forced to withdraw from Vietnam in what it considered an endless war. What the U.S. faced in Vietnam, the USSR comparably experienced in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989.

The U.S. supported the development of certain countries for geopolitical interests. The best examples of long-term American support with military and economic aid making stronger states, include: Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, and Turkey. There was, and still is, reasoning to this geopolitics. Israel is seen as a key ally to the U.S. interests in the Middle East receiving political, military and economic aid, which in part may be attributed to the influence of strong Jewish community in the U.S. politics. South Korea stands as an opponent to its Northern communist counterpart, and Taiwan from mainland China. If some countries and their people in general do not like the American presence and/or rule, the U.S. inspires revolutions from inside there or an arrested development on them. The lesson since the Korean and Vietnam wars is being repeated in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Afghanistan and Iraq. When the intervention did not work and the U.S. assessed that it is not worthy staying directly committed against them by force which is costly, it changed the strategy by pushing

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<sup>17</sup> In official use for many countries, we may find the name *democratic* misleading or not knowing what it may stand for. Rarely is any country with a pluralist political system in international recognition called *democratic*. In fact, the countries which have associated their name with *democratic* and/or *people's*, were and are mostly communist, with a communist dictatorship at their helm. Examples: Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1945 – 1954, communist North Vietnam), Democratic Republic of Germany (1945 – 1990, as opposed to its Western democratic brother that was called the Federal Republic of Germany), Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (1978 – 1992), People's Republic of Kampuchea (1979 – 1992), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1955 – communist North Korea; the Southern state does not have anything 'democratic' in its name), People's Republic of China (1949 – ), People's Republic of Albania (1945 – 1990, the name *people's* is dropped after becoming democratic). Developed countries with advanced democracies, are known only as Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, U.S., U.K., and so on.

and backing up resistance groups to overthrow their governments (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, recently in Syria and attempts for something similar in Iran). In case the revolutions do not go to the end by toppling the country's leader like in Syria, the U.S. blames Russia and China for blocking the UN resolutions to stop the bloodshed of the regime which is anti-American and dependent on Russian weapons. Russia and China have the reasons to oppose overthrowing of the Syrian regime as they believe this not to be in their interest. External interventions are often inevitable by the circumstances in world affairs to maintain peace, but when geopolitical interests of great powers clash, the greatest price is paid by the people in respective countries where show goes on. The people of Syria now feel betrayed and let down by the West in their effort against Bashar el Assad regime as the Libyans felt in their course against Moammer Gaddafi until they received a backing by air strikes and the determination of the West that Gaddafi dictatorship must be ousted. In Syria, a similar scenario of intervention is unlikely to happen as long as Russia uses a naval base there in Tartu, equipped Syria with sophisticated surface-to-air missiles and has further deals in weapons.<sup>18</sup> The difficulty the West is facing in Syria is being used as a lesson to get Serbia within the EU and NATO that is discussed in previous section of this article. If the West cannot push out Russia's interests in Syria as a Muslim country, it wants to get Orthodox Serbia out of Russia's influence. That is how early the theory on the clashes between civilizations is dropped by geopolitical interests that do not care much where the line between Muslim, Christian, Orthodox and other religious belongings is.

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<sup>18</sup> Syria is believed to possess Russia's long range SAM system S-300, short-to-medium altitude SAM Patnsir S-1, has an order for a squadron of MiG-29M fighters, and was also interested to acquire MiG-31 long range interceptors.

### **3. Great and regional powers: Their way and direction of influence**

By common understanding, a great power is any country (or a nation) capable of exercising influence on global scale in the areas such as politics, military, economy, or all of these together where applicable. Today, the status of great power is attributed to Russia, China, Great Britain, France, Japan, and Germany. Regional powers are those with considerable impact on neighboring countries or in the region. These may include: Turkey, Brazil, Iran, Egypt, South Africa, Mexico, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and others depending on definition. As in case of the NWO, with great powers too, we are not clear enough in drawing a line what great and regional powers are. By accepted definition, India is not included among six great powers, even if it has the capacities of being an emerging superpower.<sup>19</sup> India is the world's second most populous country, 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy, and a nuclear power. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest exporter of oil, and this may be an indicator of a power. Modern economy largely runs on oil and its derivatives. In any case, we will skip these definitions and classifications. In this section we discuss the powers of those that are in the process of becoming more powerful.

#### ***Russia: Regaining the former Soviet territories***

Russia has tradition of hegemony, first as Russian Empire (1721 – 1917), then as part of the USSR (1922 – 1991). The disintegration of the USSR stripped off half of the population to 14 independent states, leaving the other half in Russia. The hunger for prestige and power has pushed Russia in search of the ways to resume the superpower status. Russia focused on former Soviet republics to which it lost effective control and direct rule, by establishing the *Commonwealth of Independent States* (CIS) in late 1991, a confederation with the aim to keep them as latent territories during the hard transition from communism to democracy until a consolidation leads to (re)establishment of stronger and more unified relations. The Baltic States (Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia) slipped away from this union by joining NATO and the EU. Georgia once part of it, got out as a result of dispute with Russia which it took to its bitter end in the 2008 South Ossetia War. In former Soviet republics of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) and Caucasus (Armenia and Azerbaijan),

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<sup>19</sup> Various author like P. Stephen Cohen, *India: Emerging Power* (Washington DC.: Brookings Institution, 2001); Robyn Meredith, *The Elephant and the Dragon: The Rise of India and China and What It Means for All of Us* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2007); Fareed R. Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, (New York: W.W.Norton and Company, 2008), name India with potentials of becoming a superpower.

Russia's influence is under increasing consolidation. Belarus is a loyal partner to the extent that it proposed its unification with Russia. The key to Russia's power and her potential return to superpower is to get Ukraine as the second largest country in the region within the block. With over 8 million Russians, i.e. more than 17 percent of total population, heavy dependence on economic relations, it maybe argued that Ukraine is already under the Russian orbit. Russia still has a naval base in Sevastopol of Ukraine, is using the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, and the exclave of Kaliningrad sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

Russia is believed to have the largest stockpile of WMDs, is technologically very advanced in the systems of delivering them (ICBMs, strategic bombers, submarines, and space forces), and is the world's top supplier of arms. One of the factors attributed to Russia's limitation to gain the superpower status, has been the reference to demographic crisis it has been experiencing since the fall of the USSR. The population slump from 148,538,000 in 1992, to the lowest level of 141,909,000 in 2009. As of 2011, it has increased to 143,030,030,106, roughly as it was in 2005 (see Table 1). There are 16 million Russians living in former Soviet republics, which apart from Ukraine, are in sizeable minority. In Kazakhstan they account for 23.8 percent of total 16 million, Latvia 27 percent, Estonia 25 percent, Kyrgyzstan 9 percent, Belarus 8 percent, Moldova around 6 percent, and Uzbekistan 5.5 percent. This distribution of Russians in neighboring countries helps Russia extend the influence there.

Being permanent member of the UN Security Council, having the largest landmass in the world, rich in natural resources with a tendency of regaining the lost territories after the fall of communism, Russia has managed to pave the road of returning to fully-fledged superpower. NATO's absorption of all former Warsaw Pact countries in Eastern Europe, has pushed Russia further to the East in alliance with China to establish the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a greater opportunity to counter the US hegemony on global scale (more on this in section four).



### ***Iran: A regional power at risk or on potential rise?***

Iran is the heir of what in ancient times was known as Median Empire (625 BCE – 549 BCE), the First Persian or Achaemenid Empire (550 BCE – 330 BCE), and the Second Persian or Sassanid Empire (AD 224 – AD 651). Today, Iran is regarded as a regional power. Its geopolitical orientation is shaped by the direction of threat (the U.S. and Israel) and cooperation with great powers such as China and Russia. An oil rich country with the second proven reserves of natural gas after Russia, controls the Straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf through which 40 percent of the world's oil trade is shipped. Iran is dependent on Russian arms and cooperation in nuclear energy for commercial purposes, which U.S. and Israel are concerned that Iran may use it to make nuclear weapons. China's large and fast growing economy is very dependent on oil where Iran is one of the main suppliers.

Iranians or Persians are Shia Muslims that make up to 60 percent of the population in Iraq. There is also a sizeable minority of Shias in Syria, a country with good relations to Iran. Azerbaijan is mostly Shia. The first direction of Iran in boosting the regional power into a possible great power is to its large population in Iraq, supporting the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon which many Western powers list it as a terrorist organization. Outside the region, Iran has the status of observer in SCO to which it has expressed the interest for full membership. A large offensive or military action by the U.S. and Israel against is unlikely to happen soon knowing the interests of Russia and China there, and also because of world economic consequences if the Straits of Hormuz in Persian Gulf are to be closed for oil transport to many countries. Iran's reaction to an Israeli attack would be to put into action the Hezbollah in Lebanon in carrying out terrorist actions against Israel. The UN economic sanctions pressured by the West do not seem to weaken Iran. Instead, the American and Jewish intelligence agencies (CIA and Mossad) switched their attempts to blackmailing Iran by industrial terrorism and eliminating Iranian nuclear scientists. The American – Jewish concern is not to diminish the Russian – Chinese influence on Iran, but because Iran is becoming a power itself.

The anti-Iranian rhetoric in the West does not correspond much with Iran as a dangerous country. Iran has not invaded any country in last 200 years and has suffered a lot during the war with Iraq (1980-1988). Military expenditures of Iran are relatively low and the lowest per capita among the Persian Gulf states. The risk presented as coming by Iran appears exaggerated, despite that it has got medium range surface-to-surface missiles (2000+km) by which it can hit Israel. Certainly, a nuclear armed Iran under the rule of

religious clerics is a serious threat to Israel which is also a nuclear state.<sup>20</sup> The U.S. and Israel are aware that Iran's power is on the rise, therefore are working to impede its progress.

### ***Turkey: Getting on track to a great power***

Like Iran, Turkey is regional and is mentioned as an emerging great power to expand the influence in much of the territories that once were ruled by the Ottoman Empire (1453 – 1923). Turkey is strategically located between the Black Sea, Mediterranean, Middle East and the Balkans. It controls Bosphorus connecting Europe and Asia and has the second largest army in NATO after the US. It played a crucial role during the Cold War. It was in Turkey that the U.S. deployed nuclear weapons, leading to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1961. The American Air Base at Incirlik is the major point to carry military air campaigns in the Middle East (the 1991 Gulf War, operation Northern Watch implementing the no-fly zone for Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in its northern part).

Turkey manufactures the American F-16 fighter jet under license, will produce in partnership with the U.S. 116 F-35 Lightning stealth fighters, and will develop its own fifth generation TFX fighter that is expected to enter service by 2020. By implementing these plans in the military, Turkey may become a great military power in the near future.

Right now, the U.S. is to some extent following the suggestion of Friedman in supporting Turkey's influence in the Balkans, mostly in Albania, Kosovo, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In addition to implementing the projects of renovating historical buildings and cultural sites built by the Ottoman Empire ((hammams – public baths, bridges, mosques, and other cultural objects of Ottoman heritage), the rise in economic cooperation and trade with the rest of Balkan states (Romania, Greece, and Bulgaria), is one of the main determinants of this influence. The Balkans, however, has a small share in Turkey's foreign trade (below 10 percent of total). Turkish goods are comparably cheaper and facing competition with those from China. Back at home, Turkey has become one of the main destinations of tourism. The economy after 2008-2009 global recession returned to strong growth.

The reason why Turkey will require more presence in the Balkans is primarily economic on interests. Amongst the people in the Balkans, Albanians may be more tolerant and cooperative to Turkey's role due to the role and contribution that many Albanian figures

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<sup>20</sup> Although Israel has not signed non-proliferation treaty and officially does not accept as having nuclear weapons, its secrets were revealed on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1986 by one of its nuclear technicians (Mordechai Vanunu) to the British newspaper *The Sunday Times*.

played in the Ottoman Empire, and in the establishment of modern Turkey in 1921. The other direction of Turkey's influence is in the Middle East and Caucasus.

Turkey has a number of disputes that has not yet fully resolved. They include Northern Cyprus, Hatay Province claimed by Syria, and the issue of 13 million Kurds who have been striving for autonomy and separatism since the early 1980s. The Kurdish cause lacking the support by major powers, so far has been unsuccessful.

### ***Four public secrets of Germany***

The term public secret as applied hereto denotes the activities producing some results which in official interpretations between the countries are not accepted as having that objective. Officially, non public recognition of these secrets is made on purpose for not breaking the relations and cooperation between different countries. Such a phenomenon is present among some EU states, namely the great powers towards smaller countries in the union.

Germany is a central European country, a great power that is better known as the second largest exporter of goods after China, and major player in the EU's single currency, the Euro. Violent appetites for domination like in WWII that brought the trauma of division into West (Federal Republic of Germany – FRG) and East (Democratic Republic of Germany – DRD) now have changed to another front, i.e. making use of the EU and the Euro. Austria as its southern neighbor has a German speaking population, as does also majority of its other southern neighbor, the neutral Switzerland.

*The first public secret* not so much explored on increasing role of Germany, is not the deployment of its armed forces for peacemaking mission in Kosovo, Afghanistan and elsewhere, but the role in the EU, especially after financial crisis and of the Euro. Germany is the most populous country, the largest economy and contributor in the EU. The European Central Bank is seated there. The secret with the Euro was not recognized (or publicly admitted) by the economists when it was launched, which left the impression that the Eurozone, with some transfer of resources from more advanced to less developed countries, will lead to more balanced development. After nearly a decade, the strategic role and defect of the Euro in the European Common Market became known by the results that might have been assumed to come. The free movement of people, goods and services was expected to make the EU, Eurozone in particular, economically more integrated and developed. The open markets put less developed EU countries in competition with those more advanced, e.g.

Greece and Portugal vs. Germany and France. According to economic principle, if a country in international trade is not capable of affording competition, it can devalue the currency to make its goods and services cheaper or more competitive. This is what Greece could undertake to alleviate the crisis and encourage export growth. However, Greece cannot devalue the Euro which at the same time is the currency of Germany, France and the rest of Eurozone requiring the consensus on devaluation by all of them. Germany is not prepared to accept something about the Euro if this currency in certain countries causes difficulty or crisis.

*The second secret*, derived from the first, is the policy of economic liberalization to ensure the free movement of labor force or labor mobility. If someone would have warned in time by analysis what the implication of this policy can be in the long run, s/he would have been labeled as speculative and Euro skeptic. Free movement of labor force and expertise is still a significant challenge in the European Common Market where, language differences are the major barrier. If a Greek or Romanian goes to work in France, s/he should know the French, in Holland the Dutch, in Germany the German language, and so on. The problem is not with different working rules and culture, as it is not also with manual works where a basic language can be learned quickly. In developed countries, at least half of GDP is created in services and other knowledge intensive sectors where a professional language, apart from the general one, is required. This kind of language cannot be learned overnight and takes time. What can be achieved overnight by the EU countries, is that they can open the borders and the markets. Some or many people are ready with their knowledge of foreign languages to move into certain countries for a job. The barrier in this respect is that the foreign language(s) and expertise cannot be learned collectively as a nation. Switching to learn *en masse* a foreign language such as German that is of greater perspective in the labor market of German speaking countries, would imply expanding the cultural influence like in the past by Great Britain and today by the U.S. with English. As a matter of comparison this critical element of culture in the EU with the U.S. where the population is more diversified by race and color, the labor market operates more efficiently in the U.S. If an African-American expert or scholar from New York loses the job and goes to search for and finds a work in Chicago, s/he still uses the same language – English. In Athens, Amsterdam, Milan, Paris, and Berlin is different.

*The third secret*, which by the objective of certain great powers in the EU may be the first, is with the EU funds to support the development of less developed countries within the union. Although these funds are very welcomed and necessary to poorer countries of Europe,

they create a terrain and dependence on developed countries the result of which is felt later like with the problem of huge debts in Greece that brought the country near to national bankruptcy. All too often, the main strategy of long term influence and domination is pursued in this way, and when an integration in this form of support is reached, overrule and dependence can work easier. For instance, we are happy and welcome the training free of charge in IT and using of computers. As we become more dependent on computers, we need to buy new ones or become consumers of the companies manufacturing the computers. The manufacturer or a country cannot use the people living in the jungles or isolated locations from the urbanized world, but the ones whom it has supported either itself or someone else did it instead. A similar phenomenon happens with the EU funds that seem to prepare the ground for longer term domination to serve the interests of certain EU powers where Germany has the central role.

*The fourth secret* is the EU enlargement process, from which great European powers, mainly Germany, will benefit. The Western Balkan countries are in queue of future EU enlargement. Croatia, an ally of Germany is the first to have gained the candidate status for membership. Germany played a significant geopolitical role during disintegration of former Yugoslavia by pressuring the EU to recognize the independence of Croatia. Slovenia as Croatia's northwestern neighbor is already a member of the EU and it is bordered with Austria. This is presumably the primary zone of German interest. The rest of the Balkan states (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia) have an uncertain status of influence from outside. Section four of this article discusses the probability of external influence to these countries.

### ***China: What kind of emerging superpower?***

China follows a different scenario of a great power with potentials to becoming a superpower. It does not have any colonial past or invading other countries. Her current strength is built from inside under the communist rule by relying on own forces. It is the world's most populous country, the second largest economy at PPP, maintains the largest number of soldiers on active duty, and is second in military expenditures after the U.S. Table below provides some key indicators of different great and regional powers as well as of the sole superpower.

**Table 1: Population, economy, military, and the status of different powers (as of 2010-2011)**

	Population <sup>a)</sup>		Economy (GDP at PPP) <sup>b)</sup>		Military expenditures <sup>c)</sup>				Active troops <sup>d)</sup>	Status
	In '000	World %	Σ in \$bln	World %	Σ in \$bln	% of GDP	World %	Per capita \$		
<b>U.S.</b>	313,115	4.47	15,064.82	19.10	687	4.7	43.0	2,141	1,458,219	Superpower
<b>Russia</b>	143,030	2.04	2,376.47	3.01	52.6	4.3	3.5	430	1,027,000	Emerging superpower
<b>China</b>	1,347,350	19.25	11,316.22	14.35	114	2.20	7.3	74	2,285,000	Emerging superpower
<b>U.K.</b>	62,300	0.89	2,253.59	2.86	57.4	2.7	3.7	922	197,780	Great power
<b>France</b>	65,350	0.93	2,216.77	2.81	61.3	2.5	3.6	931	352,771	Great power
<b>Germany</b>	81,796	1.17	3,089.47	3.92	46.8	1.3	2.8	558	250,613	Great power
<b>Japan</b>	127,770	1.83	4,395.60	5.57	51.4	1.0	3.3	401	230,300	Great power
<b>India</b>	1,210,193	17.29	4,469.76	5.67	34.8	2.7	2.5	30	1,325,000	Great power
<b>Iran</b>	76,146	1.09	930.236	1.18	7.1	1.80	0.5	89	523,000	Regional power
<b>Turkey</b>	74,724	1.07	1,054.56	1.34	15.6	2.7	1.1	244	510,600	Regional power

Note: Due to different sources and rounding, the indicators may not add up or give the figures as they appear.

Source:

- Does not include a fixed year and unified source that vary from 2010 to the early 2012. The source across countries includes census result, official estimate, and monthly official estimate.
- International Monetary Fund – IMF, *World Economic Outlook: Slowing Growth, Risking Risks*, World Economic and Financial Surveys, World Economic Studies Division (Washington D.C.: IMF, 2011).
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute – SIPRI, *Military Expenditure Database 2010* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 2011).
- James Hackett ed., *The Military Balance 2010*, International Institute for Strategic Studies – IISS (London: Routledge, 2010).

By its size of population and the economy, the Chinese army is comparably smaller than that of the U.S. and Russia. There has been a kind of ridicule to China's population, subject to various jokes as if their power rests only in very large number of people.<sup>21</sup> The economic miracle associated by an average of double digit growth over the last three decades, has made China an economic giant. Last year, the IMF's data projected that Chinese economy will overtake the size of that in the U.S. by 2016.<sup>22</sup> America's road to superpower has been the size of its economy giving rise to military might. The question is: will this path be applicable to PRC?

<sup>21</sup> To mention one of these jokes: The President of Albania visited China for the first time in mid-1990s after Albanian – Chinese split in 1978. Albania's President begins by telling the new communist leadership of PRC where Albania is situated that has around 3 million inhabitants. When the Chinese communists thought of this number in comparison to their nearing 1.3 billion people, they allegedly have asked the Albanian President: "So, why you did not take all of them for a visit and to be accommodated in China for a couple of weeks?"

<sup>22</sup> The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that Chinese economy will overtake that of the U.S. in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) if it grows by 9 percent in 2012 and 9.5 percent 2016 compared to the U.S. economic growth by 1.9 and 2.7 percent in corresponding years. IMF (2011), p. 178, 183.

Authors like Shirk do not question the Chinese economic growth, but views China as a fragile superpower from communist regime perspective that is supposedly afraid from possible internal problems. She offers more an analyses of a fragile regime (despite that it is very strong), rather than of indicators by which the superpower may be defined.<sup>23</sup> The regime can be either changed or become different in politics from communist to democratic. Will that mean disrupting or reversing the Chinese achievements so far? The answer is hard to know as long as this does not happen.

In geopolitics, China has managed to consolidate influence in its special administrative regions Hong Kong and Macao by bringing them back to its rule in 1997 and 1999 after many years of British and Portuguese administration. Communist North Korea is also a close ally to China. Further to the East, China faces limits to regional expansion by American presence and patrons (Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan). The power of China rests in its large economy, the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world and an enormous trade surplus that may shift the balance of power in the contributions to the IMF and the World Bank funds and policies that have served the U.S. interests since their establishment. The current limit China to gain the superpower status is related to lower level of innovation and technology that lags behind most developed countries, even behind Russia. This shortcoming can be compensated by cooperation with other countries for which China has the needed resources to sponsor.

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<sup>23</sup> Susan Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

#### **4. Geopolitical repositioning: The emergence of the great powers' alliances**

The powers under consideration hereto are making different moves into alliances to share the interests. Outside the former Soviet territory, Russia with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan established in 2001 the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) that is viewed as the NATO of the East. If the number of population is any major factor in determining the power, then China has around 20 percent of it in world. What Russia is supposedly missing, that can be supplemented within the SCO by the most populous country in the world. Also, if Russia's economy is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the world, behind that of UK or France whose combined population do not make up that of Russia, China is currently the second largest economy on the way to become first soon. What China misses in military technology and quantity, Russia has an abundance of it.

The SCO is not a unified block to play an active role globally. Each of the big two in the SCO (Russia, and China) have their own intentions of becoming a superpower. None of them is interested to see each other becoming a superpower, except their own self. They have formed a block against the sole superpower – the US – that is penetrating and putting pressure on their doorsteps. This appears to be the major division of the world – the American and European Block, and the Asian one – giving rise to the Second Cold War that already is has emerged.

The U.S. go it alone policies of military intervention when it assessed to make the way through smoothly like in Iraq, met opposition by few large NATO members (Germany and France among others) that get especially angry over the US double standards, hypocrisy, and even arrogance that many are fed up with. Such policies give rise to strengthening of alliances between the states and/or powers to counter the U.S. influence. The African countries prefer and welcome the Chinese capital and projects than of the West with colonial experience in Africa.

Two cats can beat a dog (China and Russia vs. the U.S.). That is why the U.S. will have to back up regional powers and encourage its allies to curtail the Chinese influence. The U.S. still has strategic interests in using Turkey as an ally in the Balkans and the Middle East to compete or counter the Chinese goods. Turkey has the strategic location and preconditions of becoming a great power, Iran does not and will remain a regional power. In some parts of the Balkans (Albania, and Kosovo), Turkish companies implement large projects in



infrastructure in cooperation with the American companies.<sup>24</sup> There are also a number of banks, education institutions, and companies from Turkey operating in the region. This part of the Western Balkans with small fragile states (Albania, FYROM, Kosovo) is subject to external influence anyway. To the U.S. and these countries themselves, Turkish influence is more preferable than of Russo-Chinese.

The Western Balkans is a region where German, Turkish and Russian interests will cross. With around 75 million inhabitants Turkey is not so eager to become an EU member when it feels to be a factor of influence in the Balkans. Albania and Kosovo would like to be positioned on the side of Germany, but it appears that Germany is not much interested to extend direct influence beyond Croatia. Serbia in the EU will side with some different interests like of Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Cyprus, Slovakia, and Italy while maintaining traditional ties with Russia. Under this scenario, a divergence within the EU block that is rumored to be the next superpower, may evolve. Smaller countries joining the EU get many benefits and some rights in short to medium term, including the right of a veto over major decisions in the block, by which the power of great powers (Germany, France, Britain) may be proportionally diminishing. It is not quite as it appears. New small member states will find it difficult to resist the pressure coming from economic liberalization, opening of the markets and labor mobility. There is no any veto against in this respect. These are standard rules of the game, or conditions for membership in the EU that will lead to certain outcomes which more or less can be predicted, but we do not have space in this article to discuss about them into more details.

Exploring geopolitical repositioning in the rest of the world to some extent is overshadowed in this article by the focus on Middle East and the Balkans in a sense that these are the regions with greater likelihood of clashes (as they have been so far). The greatest price of repositioning and building of alliances by great powers and the sole superpower, will be paid by smaller countries upon which it will be experimented. The future theatre of confrontation then will emerge in regional powers where the U.S. and its opposing great powers will be involved by proxy. Large scale confrontation between the great powers will not happen without sorting out the spheres of influence in smaller countries first. Many small countries will lose their degree of independence when they are found in a kind of “cross-fire” of interests that will be forced to be aligned with a certain block. The primary ones are those in the Western Balkans and the Middle East as the hottest areas that will fall

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<sup>24</sup> One of these large projects includes a highway from Durres (Albania) that is finished and now continues through Kosovo to Serbia that is being constructed by the American-Turkish consortium “Bechtel&Enka”.

victim of overrule by the great powers' interests. Traditionally neutral countries and principalities (Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino and many others) are not in the agenda of any interest of clashes.

## **Conclusions**

The NWO is not well-understood. We can only deduce it from current balance of power in the world and what is going on, to assume its expectations in the near future. What we are certainly sure about, is that the struggle for domination has always been at play throughout history. There is no escape from it. We may find ourselves in the following scenarios: i) powerful to subordinate others; ii) weak by resisting to defend our freedom; iii) positioned on the side of one great power to either defend ourselves or attempt to rule the others; iv) stay neutral and independent, if possible; and v) prefer to behave according to the flows of power and overrule. In all these scenarios, there are parameters of decision-making, the main one of which is that of economic interests. The polarizations of the world on cultural basis are desires which the economic interests and needs will not let them take global character. The whole battle in strategic terms is related to exploitation, overrule and economic survival which is being camouflaged by the rhetoric of World Order. In principle, this was the objective in the nature of human beings, it is now, and will be in the future. Labeling such objectives differently does not matter. The future large scale conflict is in the front of economic resources and constraints by the nature. Of course, a lot of justifications (race, nation, culture, religion, ideologies, human rights) will stay in front and behind of this ultimate aim.

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