

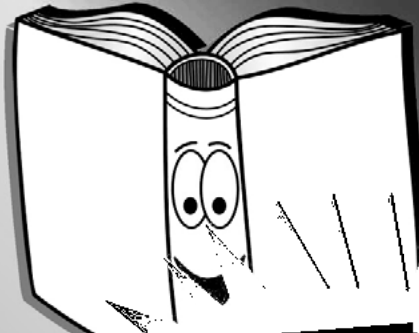


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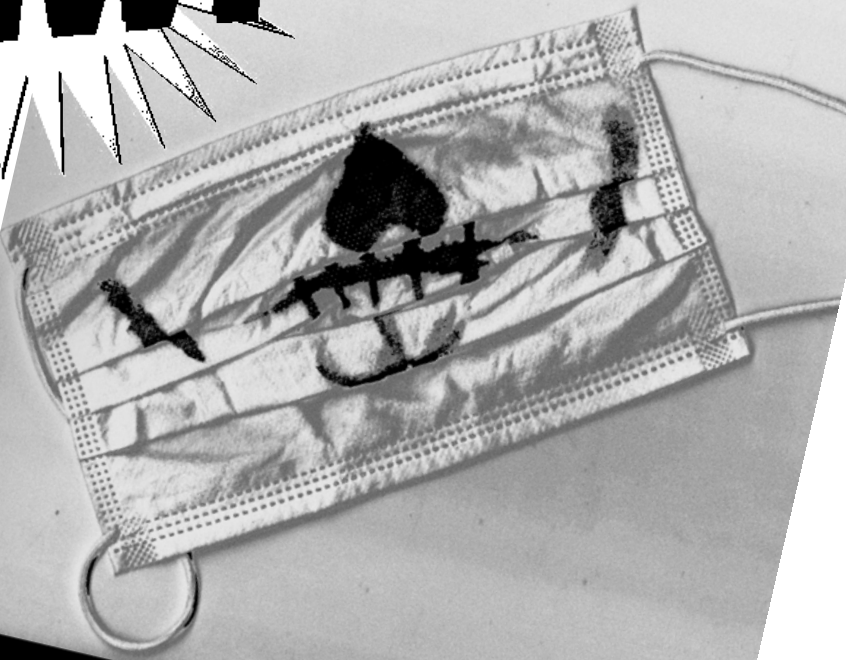
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book review

New Discourse on the Roman-German Emperor by Hermann Conring, Edited and Translated by Constantin Fasolt

by Argentineball

If one studies the history of the concept of statistics, one may eventually come across the name of one of its forerunners, Hermann Conring (1606-1681). Conring was initially a student of medicine, though is better known for his studies in politics—"convinced that the science requires sound empirical foundations," as Constantin Fasolt reads, he is remembered for his practices in information gathering for the advancement of the study of statecraft—the original meaning behind the concept of "statistics," from "statista"—statesman. Composed in the heat of the Thirty-Years' War, the "New Discourse" provides some insight into the mindset of the era. Strictly, the text is the dissertation of one of Conring's students; but as the translator notes, the practice of the seventeenth century emphasized the defense of the dissertation, while the text itself was often, at least to a considerable degree, the work of the professor himself, as was likely the case here for a number of reasons. The text should therefore be considered representative of Conring's views at the time

The views are, without question, those of one on the Protestant side. This is clearly discernible even before noticing the not-so-subtle disdain for the Bishop of Rome in the latter parts of the treatise. It is a book that delineates the principles of the new world order which came with the fall from grace of the Holy Roman Emperor. From beginning to end, Conring traces the history of the imperial title and attempts to determine the rights and privileges which this title confers, his conclusion being that there are effectively none; each and every sovereign state, even the little Republic of Ragusa (former Yugoslavia), is equal by right to the Habsburg Emperors





Within the framework presented by him, it is indeed difficult to prove the Emperor's rights. Conring begins by debunking the assertion (which is based on interpretations of Biblical passages) that the Roman Empire once ruled the entire world, and shows, using facts and logic, that there were in fact lands outside of its control even in the times of Augustus. This is in all a setup for the case that not only did the Empire never rule the world, but it never had the right to do so either. The right to do so would have come from a "positive law of God" (scripture), natural law, law of nations [jus gentium, internationally accepted laws which govern interactions between peoples, not rooted in any single group's civil law but assumed to be universal], or from Roman civil law; the first three lack support, and the last inherently cannot be binding to all nations of the world. If this is the case, whence does this supposedly fallacious concept originate? One might recognize the prototype of a universal leader grounded in a community of faith; an instance of this is the notion of the Caliphate, a notion at which the author himself hints by indicating Muslims as a group who claim divine right to rule all nations, a right that he rejects (only Hebrews, supposedly, have a dominion assigned to them by scripture). One may then at this point recall the claim of Oswald Spengler that Constantine (and it is generally recognized that the nature of the late Empire was different than that of the earlier pseudo-Republican principate) was the first Caliph, a predecessor in spirit originating within the same Aramaic-centered cultural sphere—and with this idea in hand we would say that the universal claims of the imperial title is a relic of the Magian culture, which would necessarily have been purged in Germany, given time; or, otherwise, it was an initially foreign idea which no longer fit the special circumstances of Germany. Conring's world does not permit such grandiosity on the part of an Emperor. It is not possible to establish the rights of any person to such a title. If one first anchors this institution to the Bible, one must then demonstrate a legitimate line of succession to the current holder, similar to the Papacy's claim of descent from Peter, and the Caliphate's claim of right by succession; the statistician's genealogy has the purpose of demonstrating the absurdity of any such pretensions on the Habsburg's account

Conring's discussion on the rights of the Roman Empire rests on the concepts of usucapion and prescription, which are, respectively, the right of ownership by occupation or possession over time, and the same institution applied to provincial lands in which civil law does not apply. The case is that, even if the Roman Empire had a right to

possess all of the lands that it did possess, this right has since then expired following the conquest of these lands by Germans, who became the rightful owners of France, Spain, northern Italy. This is a practical approach: when claims are brought up based on historical ownership, the question always emerges of why one particular point in time is currently relevant; the most beneficial one for peace is to accept borders as they are, and Conring even remarks as much, that claims of universal sovereignty are good for one interested in starting wars. It is noted explicitly that even if an acquisition was initially illegal, it can become legal over time by investment and usage; this point may be counterintuitive—if a move is illegal, then it ought to be legally reversible. This kind of EU4 coring mechanic, which grant one a limited time to reclaim land and reverse an illegal change before the claim gradually becomes more questionable as time passes, is really just a natural human sense of loss-aversion, and could also be compared to the game-theoretic concept of tit-for-tat, according to which in a repeated game it is best to cooperate with a partner to the same degree that the partner has recently cooperated with you

In regards to the Holy Roman Empire, Conring has stressed a case that even if the Kings of Germany posses that title, the lands of Germany and Italy were never annexed to it, but were only held by the Emperors simultaneously. It is not Rome which conquered them, but on the contrary it was Rome which submitted itself to the Emperors (Charlemagne himself was famously crowned Emperor by the Pope against his own intentions). An element of this case is that both Italy and Germany each hold their own assemblies of their estates to determine matters of the Kingdom; a state cannot have two governments, and thus Kingdoms of Lombardy, Germany, and the Empire must constitute separate entities under one union, not provinces of one state but a confederation which takes the name of its highest-ranking member. For this argument, we need to clarify the difference between what constitutes regional autonomy, which is only delegated by a ruler who owns the state as his property, and what is true sovereignty: if the Emperor rules Lombardy as King of the Lombards, he is constrained by the law of the Kingdom and does not possess higher authority stemming from being Emperor. From a geopolitical perspective, there is a very clear and organic boundary between the two Kingdoms, which makes the development of two different governments a natural consequence. A discussion concerning the seven princes-electors based in Germany (and Bohemia (former Czechoslovakia)) is mostly absent, and emphasis is instead



placed on the link between the imperial title, Rome, and the bishop of Rome (Pope). Ultimately, the author determines that the rights of the Emperor by the fact of being a the Roman Emperor extend at most only to Rome, and the title has little to no real meaning.

The book ends with seven corollaries:

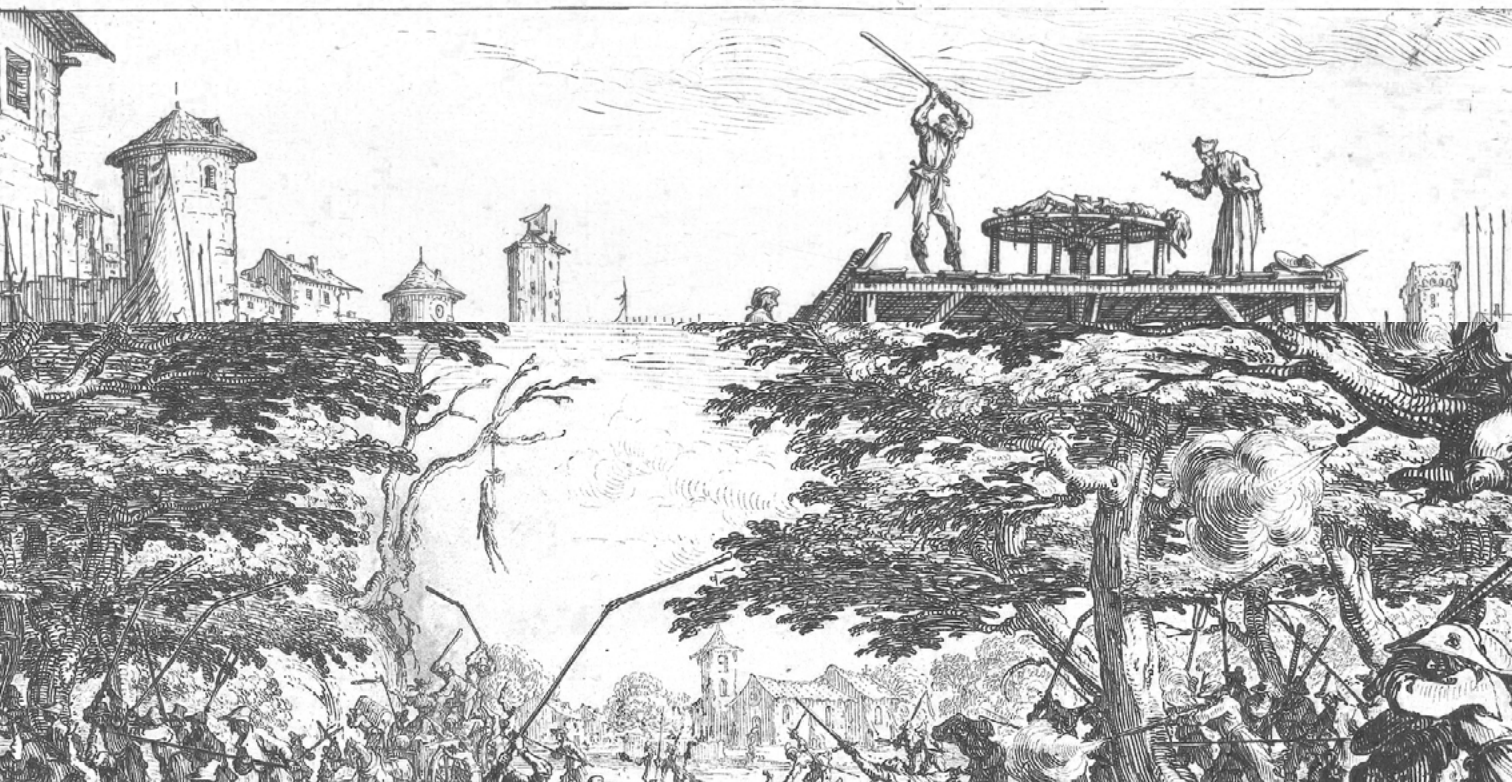
1. The Emperor is the first prince of the world because he rules Germany;
2. The Kingdom of Germany was always elective with hereditary features until Henry IV;
3. It became purely elective after Henry IV;
4. It was better before that;
5. Charles V was right to resign to the electors instead of the pope;
6. Natural law does not prohibit the taking of interest;
7. The oceans should be privatized.

All said, the book is an interesting artifact, mildly amusing. Conring makes a persuasive and thoroughly elaborated case for the dismantling of the Holy Roman Empire and foreshadows the post-Westphalian world order.

Overall score:



Hyperboreanness score:









It is certainly true, but nothing stops a highly skilled mason from carving intricate and interwoven shapes in the marble either. Nonetheless casting the same form in metal would be way easier and require way less effort. What could be made and what ends up being made are two completely separate things. This is why you will find more marble sculptures that are compact and more intricate, hollowed jewelry done in the lost-wax technique.

The shape of the virtual

What are then the morphologies that emerge from the use of digital tools?

The ease in which you can isolate any element, extrude, rescale, duplicate, reverse it, forms the basis of the artistic vocabulary with the digital toolsets. Remember the explosion of self-made advertisements when CorelDraw became popular in the 90s, lots of strong colors, naked ladies, big letters? Remember the Word-art? Think of the contemporary motion design, of all those amazing and satisfying gifs, if they are not based on abstract parametric formulas, they use free stock models and 3d scans to focus on what really matters. High poly ragdolls bend, inflate, are exploded into pieces. Take a look at how memes evolve, each generation engendering millions of alternative versions of one macro. This is all pretty obvious: just like the hyperlink is the signature tech of the internet, collages are the crown visual art form of the digital era. Making them had never been easier.

Not every digital creation uses pre-existing content though, 3d sculpting tools like Z-brush (or Blender) are extremely popular. One look at online marketplaces shows a rather uniform catalog of 3D models made using those tools. They are all made in a similar style, which is also true for 2D concept arts or webcomics. It doesn't stem from the lack of creativity, it's simply that most of the artists are self-taught on the same online tutorials, fed on similar sorts of inspirations, and vidya market is where they are trying to get a job, but it is beside the point. Disregard the fact that most of these models show some kind of mecha (or robust alien/monster big titty futa warrior), look at what are they made of. After the closer examination, you notice that similarly to the aforementioned collages, 3d models are also built by extruding, subtracting, deforming, duplicating, inflating, mirroring, stamping in, etc. It always starts from a plane, square, sphere, or tube.

You could claim that 3d sculpting is not that different from working with physical clay, a fact recognized in the nomenclature of those programs. Unlike in material reality though, clay is unlimited, never dries, and doesn't demand an interior structure made of wire to keep the model from falling apart. This is the major point of divergence between physical and virtual sculptures. The example I like to use is the evolution of the range of Warhammer tabletop models. At some point in the late 90s, artists working for Games Sweatshop switched to CAD design and plastic extrusion replaced tin casting. When you look at old metal models they are hilariously compact and static, with elbows glued to their torsos. New tools allowed artists to design and produce dynamic svelte models that look like suspended in the air. Models are now attached to the bases with just one thin element, defying the laws of physics. I have to admit, mini-figures created in this way do look amazing on a photo or a shelf but are a nightmare to transport, which is worth noting because it points at certain disinterest with the real and practical.

When you work in 3d you can freely zoom in and zoom out, take a model of a large skull and paste a 3 mm version onto a glove of a barbarian warrior you are sculpting. You can stamp the Sonnenrad symbol on the front of his head. You can do it hundreds of times without any effort, you VILL do it, and you VILL enjoy it. But I'm not about the collage this time, I would like to point your attention elsewhere, to the problem of harmony. In aesthetics harmonious composition is such in which small and big elements are related, through proportions, rhythms/ contrasts. This relationship exists between components but also with the whole of the structure. Think of classical greek temple, of the golden rule, or music of Beethoven. Another key in creating good composition is establishing the dominant - when you observe the painting of the masters you notice that the density of the detail is used to create points of interest in certain areas. For example in a portrait painter might emphasize the eyes or hands and leave the rest of the face barely touched with the brush. This mirrors the way our perception works, unless we suffer from autism we have to focus our eyes on something. Having the dominant is a vital part of establishing a harmonious composition.

Digital art has a serious constraint in this field for one simple reason. Unless you are working in a VR headset, you interact with your art piece through a flat-screen, so you never actually see your model as a whole. At a certain angle, it may seem that it needs more details





here or there. The possibility to tweak the model in every phase of work exacerbates this problem. Often a consequence of this process is the “detail creep”: models become so crowded with details that dominant gets watered down and the whole composition suffers. Sometimes those models can have so many details it begins to look schizophrenic.

There is another characteristic, related to the previous one, which is the problem of scale. It remains a big issue and is inherent to the digital technique, even with the VR set. While working with virtual models that were supposed to take a physical form of some kind, I discovered that getting the scale right is the most difficult part of the process. You have to make constant tests, for example by printing the silhouette on paper, to get the scale right. Virtual sculptures have no size, no dimensions, they are suspended in the nothingness of your virtual display. Of course inside the software, they have numbers describing them on the local axis, but the relation to real-life dimensions isn't very clear as you work with them. When creating a sculpture to be displayed in public, 50% of the work is to take into consideration the surroundings and placement of the piece. You must be aware of how the size and shape of what you are doing look IRL. When you consider paintings inside renaissance altars or sculptures from the portals of gothic cathedrals, the use of perspective shortcuts was ubiquitous. Sandstone figures of devils and angels, saints, and kings are deformed, reaching in the direction of the spectator who admires them from below.

To use more contemporary examples; toys and characters from games on GameBoy have bigger heads and eyes not just because it's cute, but because small details tend to blend together and disappear. The monumental soviet sculpture has its own set of rules, to make it watchable from afar. One can of course still respect these requirements while working with digital, but one has to be aware of the problem to combat it. Lack of this awareness is a reason why a lot of today's POCCNR, Chinese, North Korean, or Indian monumental sculptures look like designed with a drone as a spectator in mind rather than for human eyes observing them from ground level. Other similar monuments often look like upscaled plastic models. Again there is this certain carelessness for the fact those monuments are supposed to also exist in the real world, not only in the image search.



To recapitulate: the creative process, whether we speak of 2d or 3d digital tools, is a lot like making a collage. The very nature of the technique promotes complex compositions of often disconnected elements. Lack of physical constraints of weight and material allows to craft incredible forms that seemingly defy gravity. Because a digital artist observes his creation through a screen(or VR set) the results often feel suspended in the empty abstract space of the screen. In the following pages,

We should expect to see more of such artforms invading physical realm in the future, virtual models WILL hover ominously over our cities. And you WILL like it.







Rise and Fall of a Third World Arms Industry

by Brazilball

The dunes of Saudi Arabia, 1987. An AMX 40 tank fires 12 shots at a target and misses all. A British Challenger 1 hits 1 out of 12; a M1A1, 5/12; a fourth tank, 8/12. Months of trials for the Saudi Army's new main battle tank are coming to an end.¹ The AMX-40 and Challenger 1 are discarded, leaving the other two on a shortlist for potential acquisition.

1. By itself this final accuracy test doesn't mean much.

The fourth had "*outperformed the Challenger as well as the French AMX 40 and proved at least as good as the US M1A1*".² It was known as *Al-Fahd* to the Saudis and *Osório* to its creator, the Brazilian arms company Engesa. They were overflowing with enthusiasm and for the next years the news spoke of an imminent sale of several hundred tanks.

2. Ogorkiewicz, Richard M. *Tanks: 100 years of evolution*, 2015, Osprey Publishing, ch. 10.

Yet in 1990 Saudi Arabia signed the contract for the M1A2. In 1993 Engesa went bankrupt. By the turn of the millenium most of Brazil's defense production had deindustrialized into nothingness. What went wrong?

For a "dust to dust" approach, let's look at this from the other end. It is 1964. The Army mostly consists of divisions of foot infantry and horse cavalry wielding American WWII surplus. Almost all of Brazil's arms output is from a few Armed Forces institutions. However, the new military dictatorship has wide ambitions of national power and authoritarian capitalist development. They want a modern military, influence in external markets and definitive proof that the elites are competent. For that, they need strong defense companies.

What enabled them was the preexistence of supporting industries like steel and automobiles, ongoing expansion in capital goods production, the economic miracle of the early 70s and the decreasing availability of American armaments. A developmentalist state allied with private entrepreneurs, giving them the Armed Forces market, public R&D output, credit and subsidies. Three giants emerged: Embraer in aircraft, Avibras in rockets and missiles and Engesa in trucks and armored fighting vehicles. All were in São Paulo; Rio de Janeiro produced corvettes and frigates at Navy installations. Together with the production of radar and navigation systems, this was one of the most diverse Third World defense industries.

Embraer and Avibras were headquartered right next to the Air Force Technological Institute (ITA), established in 1950 precisely to spawn

such giants. One of the most demanding centers of higher education in the country, it was intended to create engineers who would kick-start an industrial complex. Embraer was a state enterprise with an output of transport, trainer and light attack craft, such as the Tucano and AMX International jointly developed with Italy. Avibras was privately owned and, though originally meant for aircraft, chose not to compete with Embraer. Its relationship with the Air Force wasn't the best. It's most notable for the ASTROS II multiple rocket launcher.

Engesa — Specialized Engineers S.A. — has the most colorful origin story. Founded by the young engineer José Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro in 1958, it began with just eight people making components for the oil industry. The need to cross poor roads to supply remote installations led it to refit its vehicles, increasing their off-road performance. This was so successful the vehicle upgrades themselves began to be sold. The Army and later the Navy noted them and in 1968 hired Engesa to refurbish their trucks. This work greatly expanded in the following years.

Meanwhile, in the late 60s Army R&D together with private industry were investing in AFV technology, beginning with modifications on existing imported vehicles, such as replacing the engine and transmission on the M8 Greyhound. Next was the development of wheeled vehicles, and in the future, tracked. Engesa contributed to the development of a Greyhound successor and in 1971 inherited the results, thanks to Whitaker Ribeiro's political skills, connections and ideological alignment with the regime. They became the *EE-9³ Cascavel* recon car, in series production by 1975. Likewise, another inherited Army project became the *EE-11 Urutu* amphibious APC.

3. Because it weighed 9 tons

Applied Third Worldism

The rise of Engesa and other companies, together with what was taking place since the past decades — the establishment of oil production, a national road system and overall economic growth — allowed the military to modernize, with the last horse cavalry regiments being mechanized in the 80s. But national armaments demand wasn't that great, particularly with the large debt burden acquired by the late 70s. The industry had to find markets abroad, and such markets did exist; thus at its heyday in the 70s and 80s it became very external-oriented.

THE ENGESA FRONT LINE



In a global study of military needs, Engesa has been researching and developing products and equipment of the most advanced technology available in the field. Its line of tracked combat cars introduces the EE T1 Osório, the most agile of the MBT, with the high fire power of a 120 mm and 125 mm guns. The Osório is also equipped with the most modern day and night aiming devices, and fire control, and the new EE T4, a light armoured vehicle for liaison and reconnaissance. The line of wheeled vehicles includes the EE T1 Urutu, an amphibious armoured vehicle for troop transportation which can be used with different weapons and for multiple applications. The EE 9 Cascavel, a fast vehicle with a 90 mm gun, used in reconnaissance and protection missions, and the EE 3 Javaca, a light agile equipment for reconnaissance purposes. Engesa produces the EE 12 with a fuel tractor with the best features of reconnaissance and transportation vehicles besides the many vehicles on wheels with special traction and suspension for various conditions. Engesa manufactures tanks with 90 and 20 mm guns, with all the most modern sighting and firing equipment, and armament ranging from 20 to 166 mm caliber. Engesa also makes the MAA 1 air air infrared missile to equip all types of fighter-bomber planes. All Engesa products have complete local technical assistance, replacement of parts and personal and audio-visual training on all levels in the buyer's language. It is the Engesa front line which puts it up front. Contact us for further information.



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Clockwise from the top right:
 Urutu, Cascavel, Osório and Ogum

Arms exports overall were in the rise, and for a Third World armaments provider, this stage of the Cold War was perfect for selling to other developing states. The demand for technological sophistication was modest, technology transfers were common, former colonies had untapped potential, America restrained its sales for internal political reasons and smaller First World providers like West Germany, France and Italy were winning bigger stakes.

Brazil found its niche in reliable, low-cost weapons systems sold with no end-user conditions to anyone, regardless of ideology. Anyone means anyone, from Pinochet to Saddam and Gaddafi. Through the latter Engesa AFVs found their way into conflicts in West Sahara and Chad. For Whitaker Ribeiro, this was not his problem; his clients were sovereign states. America was not pleased and the CIA monitored his production by satellite.

The Middle East in particular was a bountiful market. The oil price boom gave its militaries plenty to spend and encouraged the rest of the world to export to compensate. Brazil had to resort to bartering goods for oil, and among those were armaments. In the 80s the Iran-Iraq war ramped the region's demand even further. Although Brazil faced recession in its first years and as a whole it was a lost decade, the defense sector was completely unfazed.

Saddam bought rocket artillery from Avibras hoping to win an edge in the war as well as hundreds of Engesa AFVs. Engesa was more flexible than traditional European providers. It established informal channels with regime figures, provided instructional videos and color-coded ammunition for the barely literate conscripts, made whichever modifications the clients demanded and produced parts for other weapon systems (even spare parts for T tanks and MiG jets). Unlike European providers, Engesa personnel were psychologically attuned with their Iraqi counterparts. When the Iraqis made mistakes, they'd describe how they went through the same before, rather than criticizing them.

The most numerous Engesa exports were in fact trucks, but what's impressive is the EE-9 Cascavel, a resounding success both with national mechanized cavalry and foreign armies in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. 1,738 were built, some of which have seen combat as recently as Iraq's campaign against ISIS and the Second Libyan Civil War. The EE-11 Urutu, not as popular, had 888 units.

All this talk of export success must be put into perspective. The industry fed the media overblown numbers to aggrandize itself, and today those few who remember these golden years believe them, such as “fifth greatest armaments exporter”. In fact, it was the tenth. Given how the sector was concentrated, this meant just one percent of the world market.⁴ The number of employees peaked at 39 thousand, 0,4% of the national industrial workforce, with a similar GDP participation and little evidence of civilian spin-off.⁵ As reliance on imports was very high, it is doubtful there was even a positive impact on the balance of trade.

Trying too hard

The last step in national AFV development, taking place in the 1980s, was tracked vehicles. Like with wheeled, it was preceded by experience refurbishing existing models. The Army’s main tracked AFVs were the M113 APC and M41 Walker Bulldog light tank. They were to be replaced by Moto Peças’ *Charrua* APC and Bernardini’s *Tamoyo* tank. Note Engesa’s absence; it specialized in the wheeled sector. Bernardini was its closest competitor and yet had an order of magnitude less employees, lower technological capacity and a greater dependency on the Army.

The *Tamoyo* is a second generation model, not a tank fit for competing with the Abrams. It’s a development on the M41, weighing 30 tons and firing a 90 or 105 mm gun. It’s meant for a Third World budget and infrastructure and barely qualifies as a MBT. Its counterpart is the Argentine TAM, a 30-ton Marder chassis with a 105 mm gun. Not impressive either, but it beat the *Tamoyo* on a competition in Ecuador and actually entered production. Though the *Charrua* and *Tamoyo* were deemed adequate by the Army, there wasn’t enough money or willpower to get them past the prototype stage.

And this is where Engesa dreamt big. In the early 80s Saudi Arabia opened an international competition for a new MBT after West Germany refused to sell the Leopard 2 to a non-NATO member. There was further tank demand in the UAE, Oman, Greece and Turkey. If wheeled armor had worked out so well and there was money to invest, why not break into the tracked sector and sell to the Saudis?

In 1982 Engesa announced it’d enter this market. It planned to sell a cheaper version with a 105 mm gun to the national army, though the

4. See [SIPRI](#) data.

5. Conca, Ken. “*Technology, the Military, and Democracy in Brazil.*” *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, vol. 34, no. 1, 1992, p. 147.

weight (>40 tons) exceeded what military authorities set as the limit (36), and a competitive version with a 120 mm abroad.

Going from wheeled to tracked was more than changing a vehicle component. The wealthy Saudi Army demanded not a “reliable, low-cost” item but a sophisticated MBT. National industry couldn’t provide this level of technology; it’d have to be acquired abroad. A partnership was sought. Thyssen-Henschel made an offer but it was just a Marder chassis (see the TAM). The West German government wouldn’t let an alliance with Porsche. Finally, Vickers agreed to make the turret. The rest would be designed by Engesa’s engineers with foreign components. The result was that in amazing speed⁶ a prototype was ready (the 105 mm version in 1984), and the tank was a Frankenstein of different providers — Brazilian chassis and armor, British suspension, turret and 105 mm gun, German engine, transmission and treads, French sights and 120 mm gun, British or Dutch fire control and so on.

*“The manufacturers purchased some of the best components available from abroad to produce a potentially formidable tank. Firepower in mobility in particular are first class.”*⁷ It was a third generation MBT on par with the latest technology.

It had two-axis gun stabilization and computerized fire control based on the “coincidence window” concept and using environmental and meteorological inputs. The commander could seek a second target while the gunner fired. What gave it an advantage was that it began development later than its competitors, making it safer to employ onboard electronics; for instance, those were used to control braking and reduce engine power if temperatures got too high.

The power-to-weight ratio and off-road performance were also good. Armor had to be sacrificed and, though the aim was to have it resist 120 mm APFSDS, it could only withstand 105 mm APFSDS. No source says this directly but I find it possible it had weaker protection than the Abrams. The weight may be a hint — over the 40-ton mark, whereas the Abrams and Challenger 1 were around the 60-ton mark. On the upsides it had good angles, a low silhouette, an anti-fire system and compartmentalized ammunition storage that exploded upwards instead of towards the crew. Optionally it could use an active protection system. There were smoke grenades. Reactive armor was considered but not implemented.

6. Also owed to CAD/CAM usage, in its time a novelty in tank design.

7. Gelbart, Marsh. *Tanks: Main Battle Tanks and Light Tanks*, 1996, Brassey’s, p. 14.

The Osório program cost 50–150 or even 250 million dollars. Meanwhile Engesa embarked on a massive expansion of its workforce, research, productive capacity and subsidiaries, with the entire group peaking at 10–11 thousand employees in the middle of the decade. It had other AFV projects: the EE-3 Jararaca, a small 4x4 wheeled recon car, the EE-17 and EE-18 Sucuri, a wheeled tank destroyer with a 105 mm gun (see the Italian Centauro), and, strangest of all, the tracked and air-transportable EE-T4 Ogum, comparable only to the Wiesel. Only 63 Jararacas were built; it turned out to be technically flawed. The Sucuri and Ogum were too niche to get past the prototype stage.

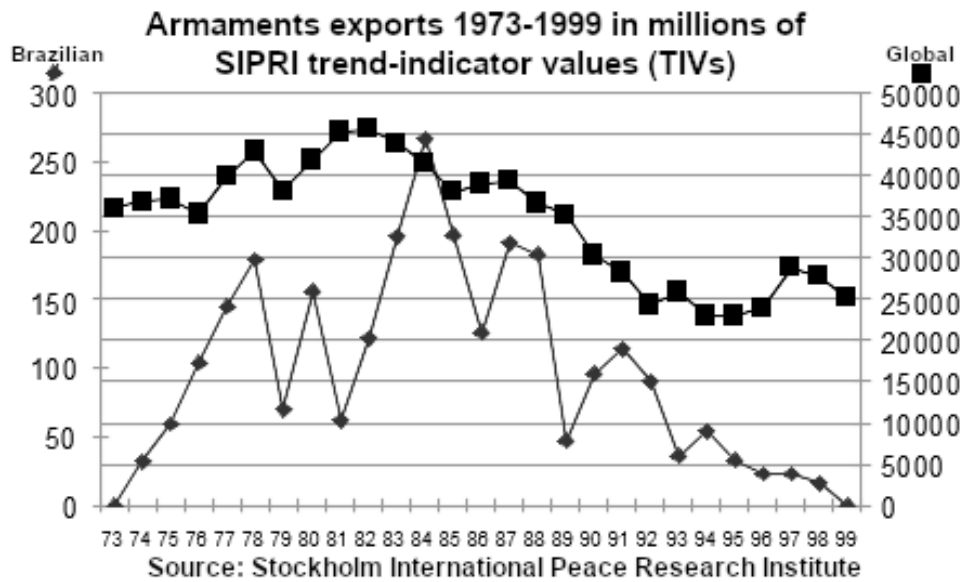
The fall

All of this investment kept a lot of capital immobilized, only to return if sales could go ahead. But they wouldn't. Engesa's problems long predated the Osório's failure and began from the inside out. Its technological edge was owed in large part to aggressively capturing qualified manpower with better wages, then allowing engineers to remain in the technical sector while rising to management-level wages ("Y career"). Over time engineering continued to develop while management didn't keep track. This wouldn't have mattered in the first years because decisionmaking was ad hoc, centralized on Whitaker Ribeiro's charismatic leadership. But in the 80s the company was too large and complex for ad hoc administration, leading to poor judgement and internal subversion of the founder's rule.

Meanwhile, military rule ended in 1985. Measures against rampant inflation hurt exporters. Abroad, Arab purchases declined with falling oil prices, Saddam's development of a native arms industry and in 1988 the end of the Iran-Iraq war. There were rising markets in India and the Koreas, but out of reach. Instead the industry's established markets had increasingly fierce competition. Then came the end of the Cold War. Global arms exports declined and the market became one of shrinking demand and booming supply. It turned out there were insufficient economies of scale to sustain a technological leap such as the Osório.

Sure enough, there was the civilian market. Embraer had its firm stake in civilian aircraft while Avibras made items such as antennas. Engesa sold tractors, trucks and jeeps, though it never put much effort as the higher-ups didn't value the sector.





The Sucuri tank destroyer in promotional material (left) and its Engesa “boomerang” suspension in use (right)

By the late 80s Engesa was buried in debt and on those contracts it did sign it often failed to deliver the vehicles or follow up with spare parts, sending its reputation to the bottom. From 1987 the entire industry's crisis was visible in red balance sheets and mass dismissals. By the early 90s Engesa, Avibras and Embraer were on the march to bankruptcy. Embraer was privatized in 1994, turned its fate around and today exports the Super Tucano. Avibras had better management than Engesa and just barely survived. Engesa didn't make it. According to very patriotic people this happened because American political pressure on the Saudis made the Osório, which had "proven itself superior", fail and this in turn brought bankruptcy.

Did it? It is very much true Engesa lost in the political field. But one cannot deny agency to the Saudis. The tests did not conclusively establish the Osório's superiority, only that it was fit for purchase, and the Saudis bought the M1A2, not the M1A1 which competed in the desert. Nor is mere technical performance, which doesn't even vary that much, the sole factor in deciding which weapons system to buy.

There's geopolitics — the Gulf War deepened Riyadh's trust in Washington for its defense and Engesa was a major supplier of the Iraqi enemy — and safety — the Abrams was battle-tested and had production lines running, whereas the Osório was a prototype that'd have to draw on a huge, vulnerable supply chain to be mass-produced by a company with zero MBT experience. There were risks of delayed production and, once it entered service, of early technical difficulties. Engesa should have predicted at least some of this all the way back in 1982, but it didn't.

It took more than just the Osório to bring it down: the loss of government support, Saddam's 200 million dollar default after the Gulf War and, of course, years of bad decisions. Its smaller sidekick Bernardini had the same fate. Exports went all the way down. From the 90s onwards the Armed Forces were once again primarily equipped with imports.

There was a recovery of productive capacity in the 2000s, but Engesa is now only an obscure historical subject and memory. Its story and that of the arms industry it was part of is one of boom and bust, of how far a Third World industry can go under favorable conditions and how its mistakes and weaknesses can expose its fragility to an international crisis.

Further reading for Anglophones

Franko, Patrice. [“Defense production in Argentina, Brazil and Chile: A comparative perspective”](#). *Defense Analysis*, vol. 12, n. 3, 1996.

US Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. [Global Arms Trade](#), 1991.

US Department of State & Department of Defense. [Sale of Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia](#), 1989. Background on why the Saudis wanted a new tank.

Henry, James S. *The blood bankers: tales from the global underground economy*, 2003, Four Walls Eight Windows. Very clueless and mistaken on military matters but has information on Engesa's use of corruption to secure credit and clients.





Ceterum autem censeo Anglos esse delendam

by Sloveneball

The hegemony of the English language and its consequences have been a disaster for the scientific terminology. In many aspects, the English language is most blatantly unsuitable to be considered a serious language; grammatical structure and morphology already start breaking down with texts of complexity one would encounter in college, and yet it tries to present itself as the language of postdoctoral scientific discourse, to a great detriment in quality of communication. It is beyond bizarre that a language so poor in own linguistic devices that it has to use the crutch of French, Latin, and Greek loanwords for any discussion more complex than buying groceries or children's playground games has now become the medium of discourse on the cutting-edge scientific discoveries, thus giving itself the authority to invent neologisms, which almost invariably strike as being constructed on a mental level of children's babble.

If that's not enough, English language is also hopelessly obsessed with spelling. It behaves almost like a language that's primarily supposed to be a written, not a spoken language; this, no doubt, is a consequence of the extremely arbitrary correspondence between spelling and pronunciation in writing traditionally. When encountering scientific terminology, traditionally coming from Latin texts, sometimes incorporating Greek vocabulary as well, loanwords were acquired primarily as written words, without an accepted pronunciation. That people have learned those words from texts but never knew how to pronounce them has led to them often having many different pronunciations with no single accepted one. This is not limited only to rare technical terminology! There are words as simple and basic as "data" where, due to English language's arbitrariness in transcription of vowels and a complete mess in their etymological derivation, there are as many as three different accepted pronunciations: /dætə/, /dɛtə/, and /dɑ:tə/. While this has only been a problem to English speakers while English was just another language that picked up words from scientific literature (it's purely their fault for having such dumb language, honestly), the fact that now all other languages are downstream from English means that this inadequacy is now ruining the lives of everyone.

If previously there has been some logic and reason behind scientific neologisms that was helpful in communication of new concepts, English language with its extremely rudimentary morphological structure behind word formation (no doubt eroded by extensive loanwording traditionally) has turned invention of new vocabulary into utter chaos. Let us look, for example, at degeneration of vocabulary used in physical sciences. Latin language scientific literature of the XVIIth and the XVIIIth century gave us elegant terms such as potential, precession, albedo; by the XIXth century publications written in French and German, as well as English authors who still had knowledge of Latin and Greek, gave us diverse neologisms such as Greek entropy, diode, and electrolysis, French battery and oxydation, Latin impedance and nucleus; German started to dominate more in early XXth century giving us *bremsstrahlung*, *umklapp* scattering, *zitterbewegung*, and *aufbau* principle. With transition to English all those gave way to atrocities, in best case formed as acronyms or portmanteaus (yikes), but often not even that and instead just pure nonce words – and the entire world has to suffer with disastrous and idiotic terminology such as: *quark*, *boson*, *quasar*, *blazar*, *maser*, *laser*, *weak force*, *strong force*, *dark matter*, *dark energy*, *wimps*, *machos*, *black holes*, *brown dwarfs*, *dwarf planets*, *hot jupiters*, *ploonets*, *blanets*, it goes on and on and on. Those new terms are most of the time untranslatable (while previously, terminology could easily be calqued between other European languages, which are invariably more malleable and fluid than the rigid English), and in the cases when authors were unable to provide a proper name, instead opting for a compound term, the translations almost invariably strike as retarded.

Astronomy has been particularly afflicted by the scourge of English language; the necessity to name an ever-growing catalogue of celestial objects and types thereof. English language's weird obsession with spelling, the same which leads parents to give their children names such as Kaytlynn, has given us names for Pluto's satellites Nix and Kerberos – because conventional spellings of Nyx and Cerberus are already used for asteroids, so we're told – something that hasn't been a problem at all with similar naming conflicts of asteroids with numerous satellites of Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. Well, of Jupiter's major satellites, only Io and Europa are in full naming conflict – for Ganymede and Callisto, the asteroids are officially spelled in German, 1036 Ganymed and 204 Kallisto, since by lucky coincidence those names were first registered by Germans allowing English





language obsession with correct spelling to adopt those instead. This is of course a massive middle finger to all astronomers who don't want to use English language spellings and instead want to continue using traditional localisations. There is even a naming conflict between two minor outer satellites of Jupiter – Herse and Ersa, both named after 2000, are clearly named after the same mythological figure...

If that's not enough, in recent years, the IAU has also decided to start approving traditional names of stars, compiled from various star charts, as official modern proper names. As there were some discrepancies between different old star charts regarding names, a deviously evil solution was devised: different stars can be named different variant spellings of the same traditional name. (Usually, that traditional name is derived from Arabic, and etymologically it usually derives from names of body parts – unlike the western practice of designating stars in the same constellation by letters of Greek alphabet, Arabic astronomers used corresponding body parts of a picture of person or animal in the sky... which, being a proper word instead of just a letter, misled clueless western astronomers to believing those are actual proper names for single stars.) We are thus left with pairs such as Markab and Markeb, Acamar and Achernar, Jabbah and Dschubba, Rukbat and Ruchbah, Wazn and Wezen, Mirach and Merak.

And if that's not enough... the IAU, in its desire to paint itself as more globally oriented, all while being incapable of thinking in a language other than English, decided to spit in the face of all languages which have traditionally used own mythologically-derived names for the planets. The international names for planets are inherited from Greco-Roman tradition: thus, we have the classical planets named after Roman deities: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn; the list was meaningfully expanded with Uranus (discovered 1781; it should be noted that Uranus is the only Greek name among planets, the Roman equivalent Caelus much more obscure), Neptune (discovered 1846), as well as Pluto (discovered 1930; initially thought to be a much larger planet than just the largest of many small planets populating the outer reaches of the Solar System – the Kuiper belt, here included because it was named as a regular planet).

As an exception within Europe, Greek uses the equivalent Greek names of deities: Ermés, Aphrodítē, Árēs, Días (Zeús in Ancient Greek), Krónos, Ouranós, Poseidónas, Ploutōnas (whose original




name Hádēs has been avoided as a taboo since about Vth century BC). As the first asteroid belt objects were discovered in early XIXth century, they were at first named after female deities: of the first 10 discovered before 1850, 6 bear Greek names (2 Pallas, 5 Astraea, 6 Hebe, 7 Iris, 9 Metis, 10 Hygiea) and 4 bear Roman names (1 Ceres, 3 Juno, 4 Vesta, 8 Flora). Again, Greeks translated those names into Démētra, Ęra, Estía, Khlōrís. But as number of known asteroids grew, names grew more and more varied and irregular, and no effort was done into not using names of equivalent figures for different bodies – leading to naming conflicts in Greek as asteroids were named after Greek deities equivalent to those Roman ones: 1108 Demeter, 103 Hera, 46 Hestia, 410 Chloris.

Separate astronomical traditions outside Europe of course used different names for the classical planets, and then often expanded them accordingly. Arabic thus has ‘Uṭārid, az-Zuhara, al-Mirriḥ, al-Muštarī, Zuḥal; from Uranus on names are simply loaned. In India, names of the planets in Sanskrit are: Budha, Śukra, Maṅgala, Bṛhaspati, Śani; Uranus is named Aruṇa after the charioteer of Sūrya – the Sun, Neptune is named Varuṇa as he is associated with the ocean (though there’s a possible but unlikely etymological connection of Varuna with Greek Uranus instead), and Pluto is named Yama after the god of death. In Chinese, the five classical planets correspond to the five elements of oriental tradition: 水星 (water), 金星 (metal), 火星 (fire), 木星 (wood), 土星 (earth) – 星 meaning star; Uranus is then 天王星 (sky-king-star), Neptune is 海王星 (sea-king-star), and Pluto is 冥王星 (underworld-king-star). In a similar manner, Chinese also semantically translates the names of minor planets: Ceres is thus 穀神星 (grain-deity-star). Japanese and Korean follow Chinese in names of the planets, but use English loans for minor planets and satellites. Some other languages, such as Maori and Nahuatl, also try to maintain local names for planets, but that’s not common.

So what did the IAU do once American astronomers started discovering further minor planets in the Kuiper belt? Facing a shortage of names, and in desire to present itself as cosmopolitan and not-Eurocentric-at-all, the idea was to look for names of deities from traditions as diverse as possible. Needless to say, this in turn tramples all over the traditions of any language that isn’t content with simply loaning English names. The largest one received a somewhat conventional name Eris – after the Greek goddess of strife, with its satellite Dysnomia. Other Greco-Roman names include Chaos





(Greek), Ixion (Greek), Salacia (Roman) with satellite Actaea, and Orcus (Etruscan) with satellite Vanth. Orcus and Vanth here are deliberately chosen because Orcus is the Etruscan Pluto, while Vanth is his other psychopomp besides Charun. China managed to squeeze in a couple names too: there's Gonggong with satellite Xiangliu, and Zhulong. Then, there's: Haumea with satellites Hi'iaka and Namaka (Hawaiian), Makemake (Rapa Nui) with a yet unnamed satellite, Quaoar with satellite Weywot (Tongva), Sedna, binary Sila and Nunam (Inuit), Huya (Wayuu – phonetically respelled from Juyá), Lempo with satellites Hiisi and Paha (Finnish), Dziewanna (Polish), Praamzius (Lithuanian – sic: nobody bothered to spell it with correct ž, even just as a footnote), Teharonhiawako with satellite Sawiskera (Iroquois), Mbabamwanawaresa (Zulu), Altjira (Arrernte). We even get Tolkienian deities such as Manwë with satellite Thorondor, and Varda with satellite Ilmarë, and Vonnegutian binary Borasisi and Pabu. And then... there's G!kún||'hòmdímà and its satellite G!ò'é !Hú. Because fuck you, we absolutely need unpronounceable Khoisan names that nobody will ever learn how to spell correctly, that's why. But... the biggest problem is that we also find one named Varuna, which brings it in naming conflict with Neptune in India.

The consequences and reasons for English language hegemony's ruination of terminology can thus be summed up as such: English language speakers, especially Americans, have a really hard time comprehending that there's people out there who would like to think in a language other than English. Combine that with the idea that English language is somehow so universal that it exists above cultural biases – something paraded by sudden internationalisation of names contrary to not only own but also everyone else's tradition – and you are faced with a behemoth that will create a scientific nomenclature that is utterly untranslatable and which forces scientists to abandon all hope that they would ever be able to find a consistent way to talk about their topics of expertise in own languages. Instead, English language has made sure to entrench itself as the language of science once and forever – and only a complete break with last 50 years of terminological ruination brought by America can now fix that. Proceed with caution!

pottery corner

I am going to snow tomorrow,
Until life is there nevermore
I, who whirled with the snowflakes of sorrow
Ere the sun sullied skies like a sore.
And my fall harbingers chaos, insanity, discord and gore.

I shall sneak into slumbering minds
I shall silently slide in, unbidden
I shall teach them the dance of my bride
Her glacial folly, forbidden
I shall freeze their fluttering hopes
I shall drown their dreams in despair
And in snow I shall then entomb them
Til world is frozen and fair.

by Polandball



FOR GENIUSES ONLY
88% FAILS THIS TEST

FIND IGOR



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[putin_allah.jpg](#)

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fun fact chechens and dagestanis catch russians and keep them as slaves in sheep farms and brick factories, and russian police help them catch and return runaway slaves. when investigative journalists film the farms chechens beat the slaves right on camera until they say they don't want to leave

and yazidi kurds do the same in actual european russia, they simply kidnap random people from bus stops and sell them into slavery. in some regions like kaliningrad people are afraid to go outside because of slave raiders like it's the 10th century

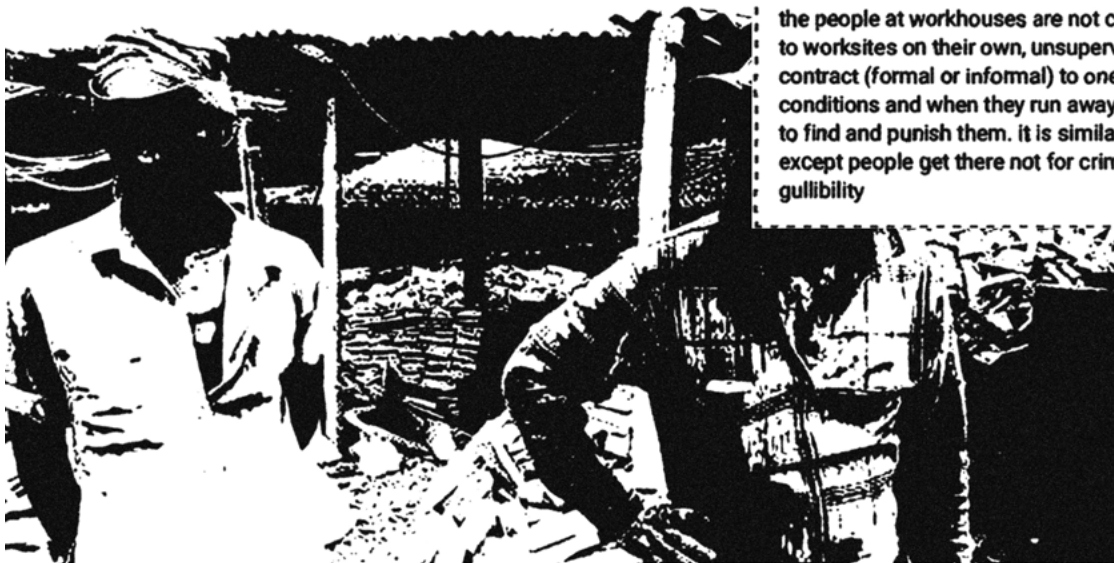


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in mainland russia they're more like indentured servants than serfs or chattel slaves (as in dagestan). calling them serfs is not a good analogy because historical serfs had a much higher social status and better welfare, they had houses, families, business ventures and so on. in contrast these people live in squalid barracks and do hard labor for little if any compensation

the people at workhouses are not chained and often they travel to worksites on their own, unsupervised, but they are bound by contract (formal or informal) to onerous employment conditions and when they run away, the employers take steps to find and punish them. it is similar to a private penal colony, except people get there not for crimes but for desperation or gullibility



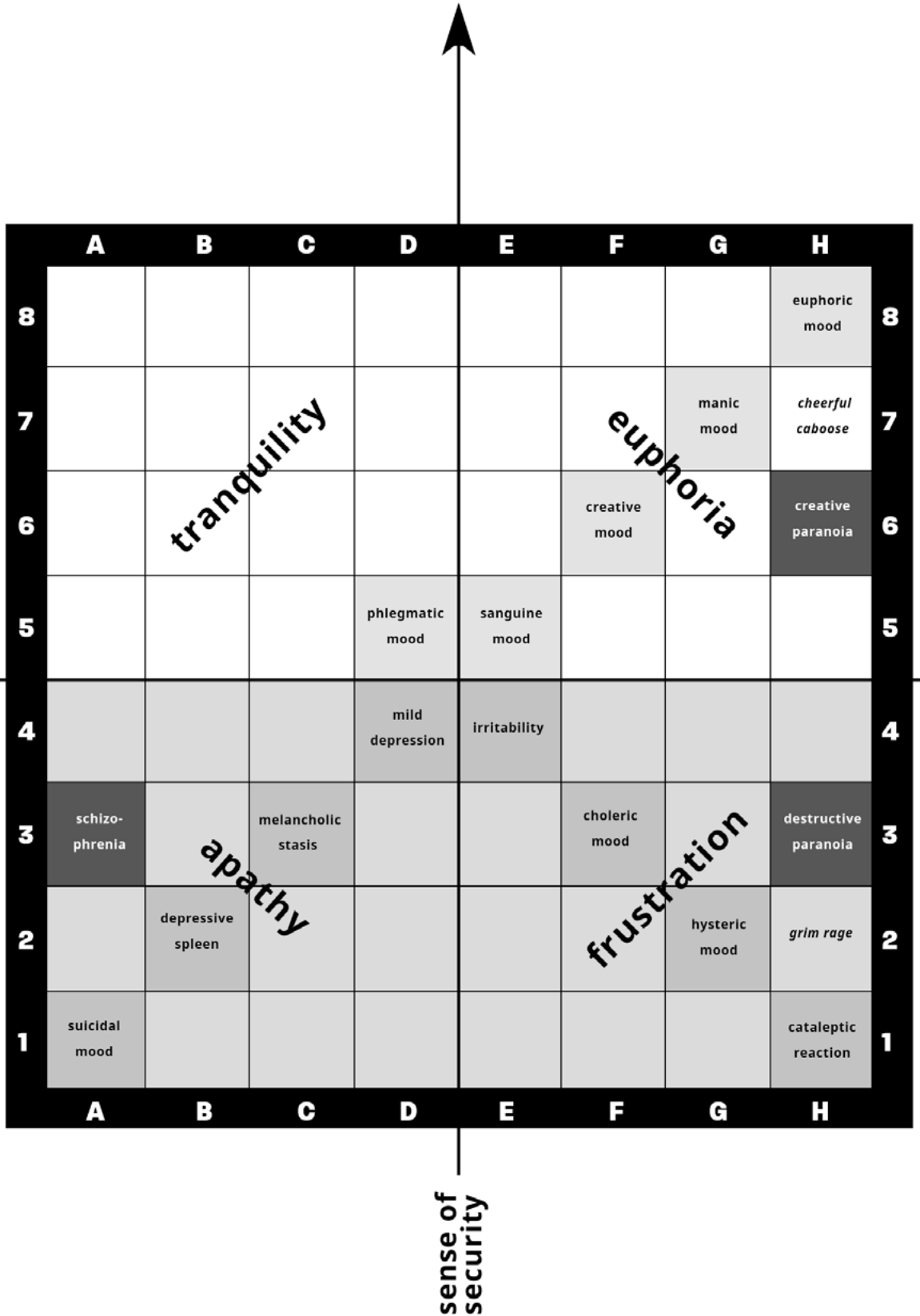


Юлька, это ты






emotional
agitation



Security Theory in the Form of a Coordinate System

by Adam Wiśniewski-Snerg
translated by Polandball

Unlike the Psychoanalytics (which emphasizes sexual motives), the Theory of Security assumes that all attitudes in human behavior, every manifestation of his mental or physical activity, can be explained in a simple and natural way, ascribing to him an action under the influence of only one motive: the desire for an increase in security. Not the desire for the permanent absence of danger: as is almost universally believed, but precisely for an increase in security, for this has many levels. This desire gives direction to reactions under the pressure of hunger and fear and the sexual instinct, it stimulates or suppresses the striving for one's own power, and so it stands at the head of those secondary drives which have been erroneously recognized as the independent and primary engines of life. Insecurity always accompanies us - also at times when we do not feel any immediate danger.



The level of security, which is a function of the effectiveness of action assessed subjectively, is therefore decisive for a person's well-being and their attitude towards their environment, in addition to the amount of emotional agitation. A diagram of all moods to which people are subjected is conveniently presented in a rectangular coordinate system, where on the horizontal axis we can gradate the amount of emotional agitation, starting from extreme stagnation until equally extreme agitation, while on the vertical axis - the sense of security, starting from states of insecurity. The levels of stagnation and threat (as opposed to agitation and security) have negative signs. If we express the intensity of each of the four discussed feelings on scales ranging from moderate through considerable and great to extreme (four always counting from the center of the system), we obtain eight ranges on each of the two axes, which on the plane gives sixty-four squares of a chessboard of the entire field of moods. The first quarter of this chessboard (the area in its upper right corner) - is the field of euphoria, and the other three (counting clockwise) - are the fields of frustration, apathy, and finally - tranquility.

In the squares lying on both diagonals of the chessboard are located mental states through which - at least in short-term experience - almost every person passes. The diagonal of the calm field crosses only the middle square **D5** of the chessboard because the feeling of stagnation cannot create a mood of great security. The deficiency of emotional agitation in him creates a phlegmatic mood. Here we speak of cheerful heaviness and coldness in social contacts, of weak and short-lived emotional reactions.

When the increase in agitation leads us to subjectively effective activity, we pass successively through the four squares lying on the diagonal of the euphoria field (from **E5** to **H8**). In the first one, we experience a sanguine mood (slight animation and a feeling of moderate security); in the next one, where the feeling of animation and security is already considerable, we experience a creative mood in the form of passion controlled by the intellect; further on, in the feeling of great animation and security at the same time, a manic mood appears, leading to an indiscriminate trance (for example, to graphomania, for which - in the absence of a reflexive brake - it is not quality but the quantity that counts), and in the fourth quadrant, with a sense of extreme agitation and great security - an ecstatic mood, an enduring state of fanatical elation or even pleasant hallucinations. In the field of euphoria we are optimistic. During social interactions, we feel good. Our emotional reactions are strong and short-lived.

When the effect of an increase in agitation is a subjectively ineffective activity, a person has a sense of increasing danger. We classify his mental state in the four squares on the diagonal of the frustration field (**E4** to **H1**), ranging from mild irritability through choleric mood (neurosis in the active phase) and hysterical mood (rage or panic) to cataleptic reaction (periodic numbness of various parts of the body). This is a field of continued stubborn activity despite the disappointment experienced. Emotional reactions here are strong and prolonged. They are dominated by tension, fear, and feelings of hostility. Both in the first and second quadrant of the whole field of moods, a person is characterized by activity that is generally proportional to the amount of stimulation. If, however, he experiences emotional inhibition as a result of too much failure, he exhibits passivity and a periodic lack of initiative. The places for the four degrees of this mental state are found in the squares on the diagonal of the apathy field (from **D4** to **A1**), ranging from mild depression through melancholic stasis (neurosis in the passive phase) and depressive splinter to the helpless

anguish of a suicidal mood. Such a person is sullen and unsocial. He is pervaded by pessimism, anxiety emanating from an indeterminate source, and guilt. His emotional reactions are weak and prolonged.

Having delineated the directions that lead to the three short-term extreme states of ecstasy, catalepsy, and helpless anguish, it is worth asking about the places for chronic disorders with the characteristics of psychosis. The schizophrenic has a sense of great stagnation, so he pigeonholes himself into square **A3** of the chessboard, where, despite the considerable danger - for fear of feeling even worse - he remains passive sometimes to the point of stupor. Myth-making obsession as constructive paranoia occupies square **H6**, while persecutory obsession as destructive paranoia occupies square **H3**. Periodic fluctuation is also possible between these two manic psychoses. Among the paranoids it is also easy to recognize two characteristic (because more extreme) types: the cheerful caboose who lives constantly in a mood of great security (**H7**) and the grim rage who constantly brawls in a sense of great danger (**H2**). Both are characterized by racing thoughts and morbid excitement.

Adam Wiśniewski-Snerg (born January 1, 1937 in Płock, died August 23, 1995 in Warsaw) was a Polish science fiction writer. A self-taught savant with no higher education but a passion for physics, he has spent his life developing idiosyncratic theories about the nature of reality. His prose is an exposition of these theories. An outsider during his lifetime, he gained cult status inside polish sci-fi circles. His *Robot* was recently published in the Penguin Books series.

Source of the text and archive of other writings of Snerg (in polish):

<http://snerg.lh2.pl/index.html>



The Woman is the Resting Place of the Warrior

by José Luis Ontiveros
translated by Galiciaball

In memory of Otto Weininger

1. Around a Gynecocratic Neologism

Thomas De Quincey's book, *On Murder Considered as one of the Fine Arts*, for a time caused scandal and apprehension among the *good consciences*; today, in the neomatriarchal, lunar, teluric, materialist, chthonic and „pragmatic” society we live in, it's in vogue to wail about the murder of women, who have become, in the age of Kali-Yuga, or Age of Iron, succubes, abyssal powers enemy of any heroic solar tendency, to alert stubbornly about their soon to come extermination due to acts of violence that are generally blamed on men.

In this sense, uxoricide --death given by a husband to his wife-- is something moreso exceptional, there are no Othellos, Desdemonas or Iagos, however, an irresistible wave of violence grows, which is primed in the poor defenseless women, objects of outrage, cowardice and the vindictive purpose of a *barbaric horde* of unscrupulous men, who seek in their elimination a type of catharsis that could be considered, -as communism was by the Roman Galilee Church- „intrinsically perverse”, or product of sexual deviations or psychopathic obsessions, generally associated by a type of *Freudianism vulgaris* with revenge against the mother or, failing that, a trauma of marginalization and disdain suffered in childhood, which could be attributed to the lack of the *ancestral father* figure.

The fact is remarkable since the word homicide, -which should understand according to the semantics the murder of both genders-, according to the definition given by the *Larousse* dictionary, which is the one I now have at hand, given the unforgivable lightness —*anti-gynecocratic*— with which I treat such a chilling and condemnable subject, since it would not escape the classification of *hominids* as living primate mammals that include modern man, that said criminal act comes from Latin *homicida*: „said of the person who voluntarily causes the death of another.”

But the neologism *femicide* embodies in itself a typology of the so-called feminine liberation, under the aegis of the *Tyrant Clitoris*, the only despot who possesses a Lilliputian scepter, which does not make it any less attractive, in this regard we only have to remember the lubricious images of the Marquis de Sade, intertwined fragmentarily, in his very long speeches of anti-Christian morality, when he refers to the satisfaction obtained by a privileged female holder of a long clitoris- with which she sodomized her brothers, in the monastery, where the nuns gave themselves to orgiastic rites, which made his description particularly exciting.

Why has the man who, according to Provençal tradition, forged courtly love and the cult of the lady, in the Gnostic sense of *Sophia*, lost his chivalry, and instead privileged brutality in dealing with what Goethe qualifies as the „eternal feminine”, who „elevates us to the highest” ...? What has happened in that transfiguration that was achieved through a loving mysticism, -an *unitio*-, in which the body, the soul and the spirit communed in a close erotic and celestial relationship ...?

2. Crisis Of Female Liberation

Since Molière wrote his magnificent theatrical satire *The Wise Women* until the renowned misogyny of Schopenhauer, and especially of Nietzsche, the ethnocentric Western culture and the development of *capitalist usurocracy*, expressed by Engels in his work *The transformation of the monkey into man by work*, a title that should be the other way around to be exact, instead of a form of *Marxian Calvinism*, as is the case with this contribution of Engels to servile labor, women fell into the trap of the industrial revolution and this effect was deepened with cutting-edge technologies and bourgeois-democratic egalitarianism. She entered the competitiveness of the productive apparatus, believing that her homologation with the properly virile tasks gave her an imprint of intelligence and audacity, until she reached aberrations such as: female boxers, female bullfighters, female soccer players and intellectual prostitutes.

There was no longer a field in which femininity was protected, the home, the family, -in its meaning of patriarchal unity-, protected by the Lares, and the Numens, the value of the Vestals and the sacred fire, -in patrician Rome-, their exaltation as Valkyries, in Norse mythology, and *Tezamiques*, in the Aztec epic tradition, which obtained the war-

rior qualification, if they died in childbirth, accompanying the fallen combatants with honor on the battlefield, in the struggles to maintain the light and radiant power of the Sun, a symbol that marked the formation of what could be described as *Aztec Paideia* or *Toltecayolt*, in which destiny was outlined from birth, since the boys' umbilical cord was buried in the space of the sacred war (*Xochicayolt*), and that of the girls under the stove.

Thus, women have ended up shedding their own aura and the veneration that their devotion, fervor and dedication deserved, instead of which the purpose arose to supplant the leadership of man, in a gradual usurpation of the mission of the man in which he had a deep and irrefutable responsibility since he was feminized, not in a connotation of mannerism or of *homerotic camaraderie*, a Spartan and samurai practice (which is antipodal with respect to the institutional rise of the gay's faggotry), but in a much deeper meaning: the adoption of practical values, of success, of the accumulation of material goods, of social selfishness, of greed, becoming servants and slaves of small and teeming matriarchs of all stripes.

Man sheathed the sword of the Spirit and began to change diapers with the greatest decorum „perfumed” by the smell of shit. The very sexual act, -it is already very anachronistic to talk about making love-, lost the ontological meaning of the penetration of the Spirit into the soul, of the spear that plunges into the heart, of the luminous sword that enters the humid cave, to become a simple act of hedonistic coupling.

This way, the women adopted man's criteria regarding the prosaic, thus enumerating the collectible phalluses, in a subversive nymphomaniac investment, which from the underground became the new promiscuous sexuality of prostitutes fond of their domestic whorehouse and their stream of sordid and infrahuman experiences.

Female lovers are no longer such, but rather *dominatrices* of the inferior tendencies, of a devirilized, pacifist, docile, invertebrate, amorphous man - given to the *soft energies* and the *sliding neo-narcissism* of a mediocre life -, without superior principles or ends, cowardly denier of the existence of death and its consecration as a way of salvation and warfare. Purely transitory life in which the dimension of the sacred has been extirpated and the belief in an eternal abode beyond the Sun.

That is why the true freedom of women is only protected by Islam, despite the fact that for *occidentophilic* women, the fact that the Muslim organic society keeps the forms of courtesy and the hierarchical sense of virile power, is an oppression, it actually maintains the scope of the feminine, not counting the value of Sufism as a precedent of courtly love and its very marked influence on Spanish mysticism and its erotic-theological metaphors of the highest literary height in the Spanish language.

3. Post-Modern Destruction of the Christian Nuclear Family

All these factors have led the western idolatrous society, which is posited as a universal paradigm and planetary secular religion, to a type of purely superficial, mercantile relationship, based on utilitarian interest, consumerism and a neo-primitive form of hedonism, which affects the familial center, already degraded by *the Christian-democratic equalitarianism*, in which man abdicates from the beginning of all anagogic value, submitting to the tyrannical impositions of matriarchs, who do not need to be well-endowed, who can have scrawny legs, but who nevertheless will assert their dominance, with measured calculation, unbridled ambition and an attitude prone to rejecting and exchanging the male at the slightest fault he incurs, according to her implacable and apodictic judgment, corresponding to the new postmodern code of *feminist-gynecocratic hegemony*.

This malaise, which is the product of an advanced and irreversible decomposition in the couple, thus denying polygamy, which is typical of man, is eroding the monogamous anti-organic Christian structure, to the point that breakups, betrayals and divorces proliferate uncontrollably, since there is no sustenance based on shared values, based on a conception of the world.

In such a way that in the most decadent societies, the birth rate is unswervingly falling, as prophesied by Louis-Ferdinand Céline, regarding the extinction of the cretinous white race. Their softening and their itching to achieve a „status“ of life in any way make their own offspring an unbearable hindrance, or else, they make of the fathers, maids of the neomatriarchs, in charge of vicariously carrying out feminine activities, which is at the same time accompanied by the law of servile labor, as an indispensable condition for social functionality and materialistic self-esteem.

These elements contribute to foment a blind violence led by Nemesis, for an unconscious compensation of revenge and settling of accounts, which is manifested in what is euphemismly called “intrafamily violence”, which is only an expression of a disruption of the virile mission, displaced, devalued and humiliated as a collective and *politically correct* custom.

Man seems to be enduring the new tyranny, but deep down there is a rebellion that suddenly explodes, not with „*creative violence*” (Sorel, Mussolini), but with a small and petty domestic violence, which inevitably leads him to the annihilation of the symbol of usurpation, -what is classified as *femicide*-, and which is generally preceded by beatings, floggings and psychological harassment. The woman, transformed into a dominatrix, provokes a reaction of macho brutality, since the transcendent, ordering, patriarchal and cosmic virility has been lost, and largely because of the man himself, unable to make the heroic sense and the dominion over indomitable pleasure resurface in his being.

It is clear that the monogamous, *Christian-Galilean-Democratic* nuclear family is in a process of irremediable accelerated entropy. A spurious and egalitarian form of relationship, determined by anti-values, has been exhausted. The woman cannot admire in the man the virtues of the warrior and the creator, she sees in him an ape of God, or a servant of the Devil, and paradoxically, she becomes a monkey of man, of the „last man” to whom Nietzsche refers to: „he who is so despicable that he is unable to despise himself.” This petty man even in vices, mired in the everyday filth of his life, suddenly resorts, unexpectedly, to animal force, in which his desperate search for compensation is hilarious, and at the same time, dramatic.

There is not in him an internal resurrection, a concentration of the *will of power*, a palingenesis that purifies and elevates him from prostration. Anesthetized, sleepwalking, helpless, he goes through life brandishing the dagger, which one fateful night he plunges into his own soul. *The femicide*, in the vast majority of cases, is a confession of an intimate devirilization, and only exceptionally an art for superior spirits, who can engender from the blood the aesthetics of death, or the sacrificial devotion to *Santa Muerte* for love. This clearly indicates that the current civilization is incurable, so with Ezra Pound, we only ask: „a new civilization.”



INDIAN
the
SATIRIST

Zeus Cross-Examined

by Lucian of Samosata

From: *The Works of Lucian of Samosata.*

Translated by Fowler, H W and F G.

Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1905.

Cyniscus I am not going to trouble you with requests for a fortune or a throne; you get prayers enough of that sort from other people, and from your habit of convenient deafness I gather that you experience a difficulty in answering them. But there is one thing I should like, which would cost you no trouble to grant.

Zeus Well, Cyniscus? You shall not be disappointed, if your expectations are as reasonable as you say.

Cyniscus I want to ask you a plain question.

Zeus Such a modest petition is soon granted; ask what you will.

Cyniscus Well then: you know your Homer and Hesiod, of course? Is it all true that they sing of Destiny and the Fates — that whatever they spin for a man at his birth must inevitably come about?

Zeus Unquestionably. Nothing is independent of their control. From their spindle hangs the life of all created things; whose end is predetermined even from the moment of their birth; and that law knows no change.

Cyniscus Then when Homer says, for instance, in another place,

Lest unto Hell thou go, outstripping Fate,

he is talking nonsense, of course?

Zeus Absolute nonsense. Such a thing is impossible: the law of the Fates, the thread of Destiny, is over all. No; so long as the poets are under the inspiration of the Muses, they speak truth: but once let those Goddesses leave them to their own devices, and they make blunders and contradict themselves. Nor can we blame them: they are but men; how should they know truth, when the divinity whose mouthpieces they were is departed from them?

- Cyniscus That point is settled, then. But there is another thing I want to know. There are three Fates, are there not,— Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropus?
- Zeus Quite so.
- Cyniscus But one also hears a great deal about Destiny and Fortune. Who are they, and what is the extent of their power? Is it equal to that of the Fates? or greater perhaps? People are always talking about the insuperable might of Fortune and Destiny.
- Zeus It is not proper, Cyniscus, that you should know all. But what made you ask me about the Fates?
- Cyniscus Ah, you must tell me one thing more first. Do the Fates also control you Gods? Do you depend from their thread?
- Zeus We do. Why do you smile?
- Cyniscus I was thinking of that bit in Homer, where he makes you address the Gods in council, and threaten to suspend all the world from a golden cord. You said, you know, that you would let the cord down from Heaven, and all the Gods together, if they liked, might take hold of it and try to pull you down, and they would never do it: whereas you, if you had a mind to it, could easily pull them up,
- And Earth and Sea withal.*
- I listened to that passage with shuddering reverence; I was much impressed with the idea of your strength. Yet now I understand that you and your cord and your threats all depend from a mere cobweb. It seems to me Clotho should be the one to boast: she has you dangling from her distaff, like a sprat at the end of a fishing-line.
- Zeus I do not catch the drift of your questions.
- Cyniscus Come, I will speak my mind; and in the name of Destiny and the Fates take not my candour amiss. If the case stands thus, if the Fates are mistresses of all, and their decisions unalterable, then why do men sacrifice to you, and bring hecatombs, and pray for good at your hands? If our prayers can neither save us from evil nor procure us any boon from Heaven, I fail to see what we get for our trouble.

- Zeus These are nice questions! I see how it is,— you have been with the sophists; accursed race! who would deny us all concern in human affairs. Yes, these are just the points they raise, impiously seeking to pervert mankind from the way of sacrifice and prayer: it is all thrown away, forsooth! the Gods take no thought for mankind; they have no power on the earth.— Ah well; they will be sorry for it some day.
- Cyniscus Now, by Clotho's own spindle, my questions are free from all sophistic taint. How it has come about, I know not; but one word has brought up another, and the end of it is — there is no use in sacrifice. Let us begin again. I will put you a few more questions; answer me frankly, but think before you speak, this time.
- Zeus Well; if you have the time to waste on such tomfoolery.
- Cyniscus Everything proceeds from the Fates, you say?
- Zeus Yes.
- Cyniscus And is it in your power to unspin what they have spun?
- Zeus It is not.
- Cyniscus Shall I proceed, or is the inference clear?
- Zeus Oh, clear enough. But you seem to think that people sacrifice to us from ulterior motives; that they are driving a bargain with us, buying blessings, as it were: not at all; it is a disinterested testimony to our superior merit.
- Cyniscus There you are, then. As you say, sacrifice answers no useful purpose; it is just our good-natured way of acknowledging your superiority. And mind you, if we had a sophist here, he would want to know all about that superiority. You are our fellow slaves, he would say; if the Fates are our mistresses, they are also yours. Your immortality will not serve you; that only makes things worse. We mortals, after all, are liberated by death: but for you there is no end to the evil; that long thread of yours means eternal servitude.
- Zeus But this eternity is an eternity of happiness; the life of Gods is one round of blessings.

- Cyniscus Not all Gods' lives. Even in Heaven there are distinctions, not to say mismanagement. You are happy, of course: you are king, and you can haul up earth and sea as it were a bucket from the well. But look at Hephaestus: a cripple; a common blacksmith. Look at Prometheus: he gets nailed up on Caucasus. And I need not remind you that your own father lies fettered in Tartarus at this hour. It seems, too, that Gods are liable to fall in love; and to receive wounds; nay, they may even have to take service with mortal men; witness your brother Posidon, and Apollo, servants to Laomedon and to Admetus. I see no great happiness in all this; some of you I dare say have a very pleasant time of it, but not so others. I might have added, that you are subject to robbery like the rest of us; your temples get plundered, and the richest of you becomes a pauper in the twinkling of an eye. To more than one of you it has even happened to be melted down, if he was a gold or a silver God. All destiny, of course.
- Zeus Take care, Cyniscus: you are going too far. You will repent of this one day.
- Cyniscus Spare your threats: you know that nothing can happen to me, except what Fate has settled first. I notice, for instance, that even temple-robbers do not always get punished; most of them, indeed, slip through your hands. Not destined to be caught, I suppose.
- Zeus I knew it! you are one of those who would abolish Providence.
- Cyniscus You seem to be very much afraid of these gentlemen, for some reason. Not one word can I say, but you must think I picked it up from them. Oblige me by answering another question; I could desire no better authority than yours. What is this Providence? Is she a Fate too? or some greater, a mistress of the Fates?
- Zeus I have already told you that there are things which it is not proper for you to know. You said you were only going to ask me one question, instead of which you go on quibbling without end. I see what it is you are at: you want to make out that we Gods take no thought for human affairs.
- Cyniscus It is nothing to do with me: it was you who said just now that the Fates ordained everything. Have you thought better of it? Are you going to retract what you said? Are the Gods going to push Destiny aside and make a bid for government?

- Zeus Not at all; but the Fates work through us.
- Cyniscus I see: you are their servants, their underlings. But that comes to the same thing: it is still they who design; you are only their tools, their instruments.
- Zeus How do you make that out?
- Cyniscus I suppose it is pretty much the same as with a carpenter's adze and drill: they do assist him in his work, but no one would describe them as the workmen; we do not say that a ship has been turned out by such and such an adze, or by such and such a drill; we name the shipwright. In the same way, Destiny and the Fates are the universal shipwrights, and you are their drills and adzes; and it seems to me that instead of paying their respects and their sacrifices to you, men ought to sacrifice to Destiny, and implore her favours; though even that would not meet the case, because I take it that things are settled once and for all, and that the Fates themselves are not at liberty to chop and change. If some one gave the spindle a turn in the wrong direction, and undid all Clotho's work, Atropus would have something to say on the subject.
- Zeus So! You would deprive even the Fates of honour? You seem determined to reduce all to one level. Well, we Gods have at least one claim on you: we do prophesy and foretell what the Fates have disposed.
- Cyniscus Now even granting that you do, what is the use of knowing what one has to expect, when one can by no possibility take any precautions? Are you going to tell me that a man who finds out that he is to die by a steel point can escape the doom by shutting himself up? Not he. Fate will take him out hunting, and there will be his steel: Adrastus will hurl his spear at the boar, miss the brute, and get Croesus's son;
- Fate's inflexible law directs his aim. The full absurdity of the thing is seen in the case of Laius:
- Seek not for offspring in the Gods' despite; Beget a child, and thou begett'st thy slayer.*
- Was not this advice superfluous, seeing that the end must come? Accordingly we find that the oracle does not deter Laius from begetting a son, nor that son from being his slayer.



In this moment, I am euphoric. Not because of any phony god's blessing. But because, I am enlightened by my intelligence.

tips pileus

On the whole, I cannot see that your prophecies entitle you to reward, even setting aside the obscurity of the oracles, which are generally contrived to cut both ways. You omitted to mention, for instance, whether Croesus —‘the Halys crossed’— should destroy his own or Cyrus’s mighty realm.’ It might be either, so far as the oracle goes.

Zeus Apollo was angry with Croesus. When Croesus boiled that lamb and tortoise together in the cauldron, he was making trial of Apollo.

Cyniscus Gods ought not to be angry. After all, I suppose it was fated that the Lydian should misinterpret that oracle; his case only serves to illustrate that general ignorance of the future, which Destiny has appointed for mankind. At that rate, your prophetic power too seems to be in her hands.

Zeus You leave us nothing, then? We exercise no control, we are not entitled to sacrifice, we are very drills and adzes. But you may well despise me: why do I sit here listening to all this, with my thunder-bolt beneath my arm?

Cyniscus Nay, smite, if the thunder-bolt is my destiny. I shall think none the worse of you; I shall know it is all Clotho’s doing; I will not even blame the bolt that wounds me.

And by the way — talking of thunder-bolts — there is one thing I will ask you and Destiny to explain; you can answer for her. Why is it that you leave all the pirates and temple-robbers and ruffians and perjurers to themselves, and direct your shafts (as you are always doing) against an oak-tree or a stone or a harmless mast, or even an honest, God-fearing traveller? ... No answer? Is this one of the things it is not proper for me to know?

Zeus It is, Cyniscus. You are a meddling fellow; I don’t know where you picked up all these ideas.

Cyniscus Well, I suppose I must not ask you all (Providence and Destiny and you) why honest Phocion died in utter poverty and destitution, like Aristides before him, while those two unwhipped puppies, Callias and Alcibiades, and the ruffian Midias, and that Aeginetan libertine Charops, who starved his own mother to death, were all rolling in money? nor again why Socrates was handed over to the Eleven instead of Meletus? nor yet why the effeminate Sardanapalus was a

king, and one high-minded Persian after another went to the cross for refusing to countenance his doings?

I say nothing of our own days, in which villains and money-grubbers prosper, and honest men are oppressed with want and sickness and a thousand distresses, and can hardly call their souls their own.

- Zeus Surely you know, Cyniscus, what punishments await the evil-doers after death, and how happy will be the lot of the righteous?
- Cyniscus Ah, to be sure: Hades — Tityus — Tantalus. Whether there is such a place as Hades, I shall be able to satisfy myself when I die. In the meantime, I had rather live a pleasant life here, and have a score or so of vultures at my liver when I am dead, than thirst like Tantalus in this world, on the chance of drinking with the heroes in the Isles of the Blest, and reclining in the fields of Elysium.
- Zeus What! you doubt that there are punishments and rewards to come? You doubt of that judgement-seat before which every soul is arraigned?
- Cyniscus I have heard mention of a judge in that connexion; one Minos, a Cretan. Ah, yes, tell me about him: they say he is your son?
- Zeus And what of him?
- Cyniscus Whom does he punish in particular?
- Zeus Whom but the wicked? Murderers, for instance, and temple-robbers.
- Cyniscus And whom does he send to dwell with the heroes?
- Zeus Good men and God-fearing, who have led virtuous lives.
- Cyniscus Why?
- Zeus Because they deserve punishment and reward respectively.
- Cyniscus Suppose a man commits a crime accidentally: does he punish him just the same?
- Zeus Certainly not.

Cyniscus Similarly, if a man involuntarily performed a good action, he would not reward him?

Zeus No.

Cyniscus Then there is no one for him to reward or punish.

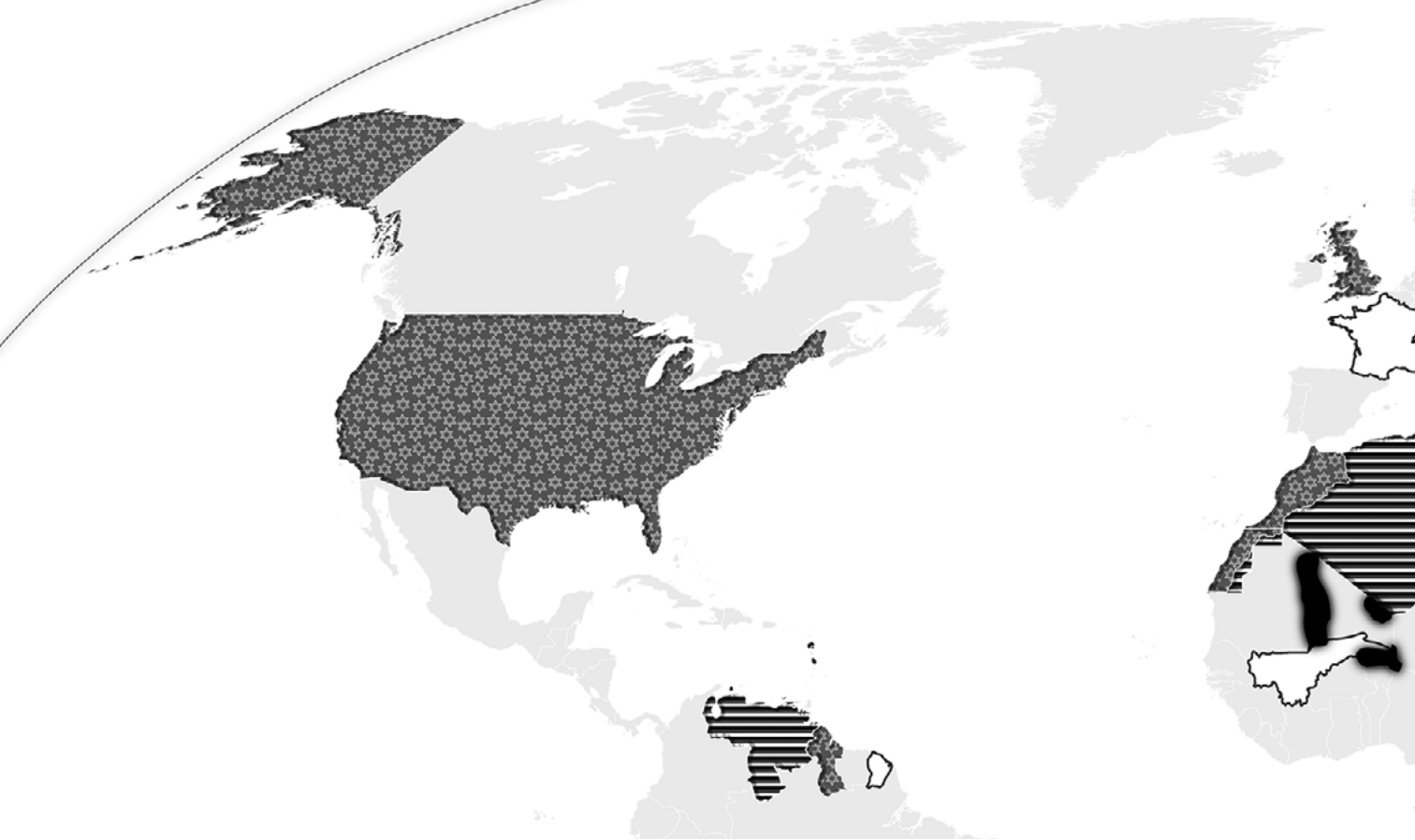
Zeus How so?

Cyniscus Why, we men do nothing of our own free will: we are obeying an irresistible impulse,— that is, if there is any truth in what we settled just now, about Fate's being the cause of everything. Does a man commit a murder? Fate is the murderess. Does he rob a temple? He has her instructions for it. So if there is going to be any justice in Minos's sentences, he will punish Destiny, not Sisyphus; Fate, not Tantalus. What harm did these men do? They only obeyed orders.

Zeus I am not going to speak to you any more. You are an unscrupulous man; a sophist. I shall go away and leave you to yourself.

Cyniscus I wanted to ask you where the Fates lived; and how they managed to attend to all the details of such a vast mass of business, just those three. I do not envy them their lot; they must have a busy time of it, with so much on their hands. Their destiny, apparently, is no better than other people's. I would not exchange with them, if I had the choice; I had rather be poorer than I am, than sit before such a spindleful, watching every thread.— But never mind, if you would rather not answer. Your previous replies have quite cleared up my doubts about Destiny and Providence; and for the rest, I expect I was not destined to hear it.





World Med Alliance

by Onionball

The world is a mess. Heatenings are heatening. Tension is rising. A m  le is about and it is hard to follow who is on whose side. The following is an attempt to encompass the Medieterrean and Middle Eastern powers, their alliances, their goals and their actions.

Due to the magnitude it does not cover each power and each country's entire political history but rather the relevant parts and it assumes the reader has some familiarty about important events. This can be read as a way to familiarise oneself with the current conflicts and possible initiation of World War 3, and give an insight and explanation to leaders' decisions. This is not a fully objective survey although no one of the involved parties can be fully objective, the readers are welcome to point out bias.

May you have an educating reading experience!



Anglo-Semitic

USA, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UK, Morocco, Cabinet of Yemen (internationally recognized Yemen), Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Guyana and Somaliland (unrecognized)

Russo-Persian

Russia (and Crimea), Iran, Iraq, Assad's Syria, Lebanon (Hezbollah), Supreme Council of Yemen, Algeria, Venezuela, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Gaza Strip (Hamas)

Gatekeepers

France, Italy, Austria, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Mali

Neo Ottomans

Turkey, Pakistan, Tunisia, Government of National Accord of Libya, Qatar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Azerbaijan

Afro-asiatics

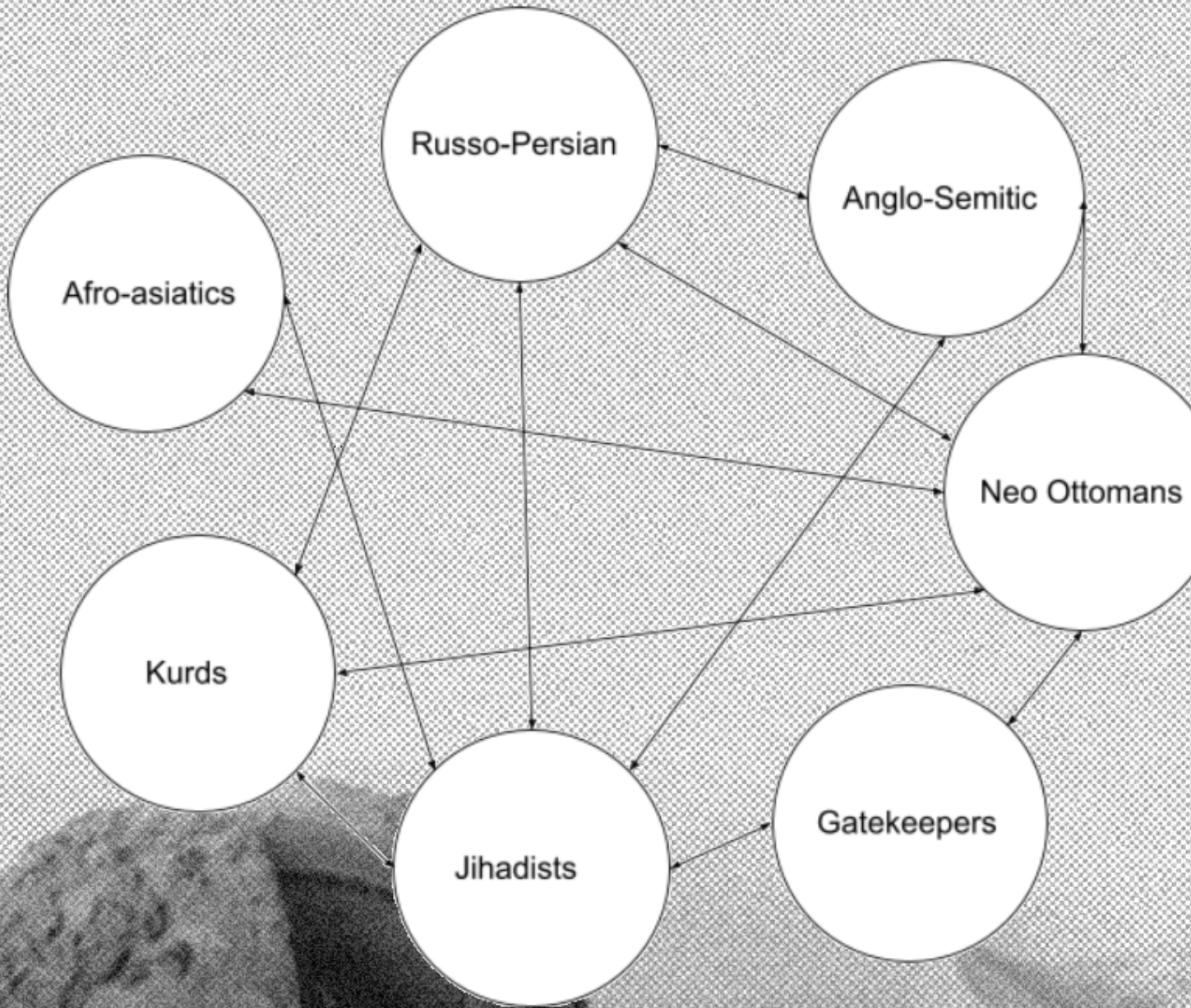
Egypt, Sudan, House of Representatives of Libya

Jihadists

Controlled territories in Sinai, Afghanistan, Yemen, West Africa and East Africa

Kurds

Syrian and Iraqi Kurdistan (controlled territories)



Gatekeepers

Iranian-Israeli/Saudi proxy war

United States - The United States have been the strongest ally of Israeli/Saudi Arabia in this conflict and the strongest country. It both supported the Kurds and pressured Iran to stop its nuclear program. It had a role in arming syrian rebels and bombing several locations of Daesh/Assad/Iran. Under Trump, USA mostly sanctioned and tried iso-lating Iran, withdrawing from the deal with it. It brought the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco into the alliance (Sudan cannot be considered directly hostile to Iran though) which denies Iran's access and support of arab countries. Operation Gideon was an attempt to oust Maduro, president of Venezuela, which failed. President Biden's cabinet is supporting the Kurds and seems willing to invade Syria. It also tries negotiating for a new nuclear deal, with little success so far. Biden also made it clear he will not be an "unquestionable ally" of Gulf states and announced withdrawal from Yemen.

Russia - The Russian federation has good relations with Assad and Syria has a strategic location in the mediterranean and oil fields. Russia helped Assad crush rebels and retake territory, fighting jihadists, rebels and kurds when needed. Russia also provides aid to Iran and is part of the Russia-Syria-Iran-Iraq coalition. Russia sees the region as its own and Iran a path to accomplish dominance and counter western influence. Russia is not an official enemy of Israel but it launched cyber attacks against it and is limiting Israeli airstrikes on Syria.

The United Kingdom - The UK is a long time ally of Israel and aids Saudi war against the Houthis. The UK also launched Operation Shader against ISIS in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia. It coordinates with the Syrian Democratic Forces. The UK and Iran seized each other's ships. The UK also has interests in better trade deals with non european countries as it has left the EU. The UK has

added Hezbollah and Hamas to the list of terrorist organizations and is fighting them financially. PM Johnson is pushing for a tougher deal with Iran.

Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia is a monarchy ruled by the Saud House. It is an oil exporting kingdom that has the second largest oil reserves in the world. Saudi war with Iran is over hegemony. It seeks to establish a Sunni-Arab dominance over a Shiite-Persian dominance in the middle east. The main areas of conflict are Syria, Yemen and the gulf itself. The persian gulf is important for its exit to the sea and transport of oil tankers. Saudi wants the gulf to be free of Iranian influence and open for western operations. Saudi is leading a coalition in Yemen to aid the government against (Iranian supported) Houthi rebels (who are Zaidi, a Shiite sect) and is suffering rockets at the mainland and attacks in the gulf. Saudi Arabia holds two of the most important sites of Shia and Sunni Islam, Mecca and Medina, and there is tension about the visits of Shiites in them. Saudi Arabia supposedly finances the People's Mujahedin of Iran and Jaish ul-Adl (previously known as Jundallah), terrorist groups that act against the Iranian regime. Saudi Arabia promotes Wahabbism, which is a more radical form of Islam, although officially they don't support terrorism. Wahabbism is a purer form of Islam subservient to the king, according to Saudis.

Iran - Iran is the largest and strongest Shiite country in the world. It is a militant theocracy that wishes to extend its influence over the middle east. It seeks to become an anti western force that justifies its imperial ambitions by anti colonialism and anti americanism. It finances and trains Hezbollah, which controls Lebanon, and Hamas, which controls Gaza Strip. It has strong ties with Assad and sends many forces to keep the Alaouites, whose belief is syncretic and affiliated with Shia Islam, in power. They also aid the Yazidi (another Shia sect) Houthis in Yemen. Iran relations with its Balochi

population are poor and Saudi Arabia supports separatist Jaish ul-Adl, a terrorist organization composed of Sunni Balochis. Iran has a nuclear program and ballistic capabilities. It is trying to attain nuclear weapons to become a global power that can threaten in a nuclear attack if invaded. Iran is engaged in a cyber war and is rumoured to be responsible for the group BlackShadow, who has been leaking information of Israelis from Israeli companies. It is enriching Uranium in increasingly higher percentages.

Iraq - Iraq is a majorly Shia republic, with Sunnis being a significant minority over 40%. A fifth of its population are Kurds and it has Turkoman, Chaldean and Assyrians minorities. Iraq has oil fields and it relies on its oil almost exclusively. Iraq has been invaded by the United States to remove Saddam Hussein from power. The removal of Saddam Hussein gave rise to Shiite Iran and Shiite forces in the government. There have been civil wars and jihadist uprisings (Daesh and Al Qaida) and the Kurds have managed to control a sizeable part of Iraq. Iraq aligns itself with Iran and Russia. Iraq keeps threatening Kuwait (after invading it in the 1980s) and is persecuting the largest Sunni political party. The United States have recently attacked pro Iranian militias in Iraq and were shot rockets at as a response.

Israel - Israel is a Jewish country and as such feels threatened by surrounding Arabs (mainly muslim). It is occupying the West Bank and blockading Gaza Strip, in which millions of Palestinians live. Israel has annexed the Golan Heights (which were recognized as part of Syria) and has a heavy military presence in it. Israel had a war in Lebanon against Hezbollah (an ally of Iran) and tensions are rising again. Israel believes Iran poses an existential threat and with Trump's support has made alliances with several Sunni states to thwart Iran. It is also involved in assassinations

of scientists and officers in Iran. Israel has been targeting Iranian oil ships bound to Syria since 2019, in the Gulf and the Mediterranean. Israel has had several wars in Gaza fighting against Iran's ally, Hamas. Israel operates in Syria and Lebanon to stop shipping of arms to Iran's allies and target enemy militants and bases. Israel had good relations with Iran under the Shah because of anti Arab interests and it aided him initiating a nuclear program. Israel itself has nukes and a Samson Option of mass destruction if invaded. It is seen as a colonial western power in the middle east.

Palestine - Palestine is a state unrecognized by the western world and having limited control over its territory. It encompasses the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Gaza Strip is controlled by Hamas, an ally of Iran, sponsored and trained by Iran's officers. Hamas executes attacks from time to time against Israel and is based in its southern border. Hamas' goal is liberation of all Palestine. Fatah (PLO) is a nonviolent movement that controls the West Bank and is also seeking independence. It is the recognized representing body of Palestinians in Palestine and Palestinian refugees and its activity is diplomatic. The Fatah controls the West Bank through the Israeli military, which prefers it to Hamas. The Palestinian forces cooperate with the IDF identifying militants. The Fatah is favoured by Turkey and can be considered part of the Neo Ottoman Alliance. It claims Al-Quds, East Jerusalem, including the Dome of the Rock and Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall but has no real influence in them. Suicide attacks are prevalent in Palestine and praised as acts of Shahids.

Lebanon - Lebanon is a split country with roughly a third of the population being Sunni, a third Shia and a third Christian. The country is gripped by Hezbollah, an ally of Iran, and it aids Assad's forces in Syria and seeks to hinder Israel. Hezbollah is engaged fully in the Syrian war and it is criticized

for its involvement by Lebanese. It is also involved in terrorist attacks in Latin America and attacks against US marines. Hezbollah has been accused of being responsible for the explosion in Beirut (August 2020) by storing ammonium nitrate carelessly.

Jordan - Jordan is a monarchy and most its population are Palestinian refugees and recently Syrian refugees. It is afraid of Iran and wishes USA and Israel to fight it. Jordan has close ties with Saudi Arabia. Iran has an intelligence network inside the country. Assad's militias are right at Jordan's border. The Jordanian ruling family are Hashemites, descendants of Muhammad and they were promised Syria, Iraq and Arabia by the British but revolutions by national parties caused them to lose Syria and Iraq. The kingdom of Arabia was lost due to British support of Ibn Saud. The Hashemites still think of themselves as the rightful rulers of these lands but their power is very limited and they face harsh opposition from within.

Afghanistan - Afghanistan is ruled by the Afghan Government, part of the Anglo-Semitic alliance, and the Taliban, officially an enemy. The Taliban receives money from funders in the Arab world. The invasion to Afghanistan was supposed to eliminate the organization but that failed and there are still attacks on the government. The Taliban is still considered a terrorist organization by several countries but there was a plan of the USA and the UK to pay Taliban warriors to switch sides. Russia and Iran are believed to be helping the Taliban to weaken the Afghani regime.

Pakistan - Pakistan is majorly Sunni and has a Shia minority. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia finance their religious institutions and push for their ideologies in the country. Pakistan is afraid Iran will try to recruit its Shia population to fight for it. Pakistan has also recognized the Taliban, an enemy of Iran.

Yemen - Yemen is currently in a civil war, between the government, supported by the Anglo-Semitic alliance, and the Houthi rebels (Shia Zaidi), supported by the Russo-Persian alliance. The Supreme Council of Yemen is the unrecognized body which controls a western part of Yemen and fights against the Cabinet of Yemen. The Houthis are a Shia sect while the Cabinet of Yemen is mostly Sunni. The regions correspond to North and South Yemen. South Yemen being the region control by the recognized government of Yemen, and North Yemen the one controlled by Houthis. Iran aids the Houthi rebels while Saudi fights against them. Until recently the United States designated the Houthis as terrorists. Yemen hosts a large number of Jihadists and they managed to control pieces of the country. Qatar gave financial aid and intelligence to the Houthis. Hezbollah are fighting alongside the Houthis, while Sudan, Morocco and France sent forces to help the government. The Turkish navy is present in the territorial waters of Yemen and Somalia, it supports Islamist groups from Aden and wants to lengthen the chaos to further its influence. The UAE supports the Southern Transitional Council which controls parts of southern Yemen, mainly Aden, and wishes to secede. The control of the island of Socotra and Aden are important for naval supremacy.

Sudan - Sudan is an African-arab country that was divided into Sunni Sudan and a Christian/Traditional African South Sudan after a civil war. Sudan deploys the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary force, in Yemen, against the Houthis and under the Saudi coalition. They stationed 40,000 men to fight for the Cabinet of Yemen. Sudan has recently normalized relations with Israel, after being close to Iran and allowing activity of Hamas and Hezbollah on its territory.

Kurds - Kurds are a nation whose region Kurdistan is split between Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. Most of them are Sunni, with a significant minority of Shiites and a minority of other beliefs such as Yazidi, Christian and Yarsan. Kurds fight for independence in Syria and Iraq

and they faced Assad's forces and the Iranian allies as well as Turkey, who wishes to suppress them. They are somewhat aided by the Anglo-Semitic Alliance with training and arms and they face Jihadists together. The Kurds have controlled a sizeable part of Kurdistan for several years now.

United Arab Emirates - The United Arab Emirates are a union of seven Emirs who rule their respective Emirates as autonomies. Its' oil reserves are the seventh largest in the world. Almost 90% of the population are foreign workers, mostly from southern asia, and very few attain citizenship. Most of the citizens are Sunni and a minority are Shia. Iran has threatened to close the Straits of Hormuz, which would cut the country from exporting. Emirati forces are deployed in Yemen. The United Arab Emirates have taken over the island of Socotra to the south of Yemen (whose natives are not arab but a unique ethnicity) and annexed it to build a military base. The UAE supports the Southern Transitional Council in Yemen which seeks to partition the country, currently the organization cooperates with the Saudi coalition against the Houthis. The UAE are funding the Kurds in Syria.

Bahrain - An oil-exporting monarchy affiliated with Saudi Arabia that signed a peace treaty with Israel. It is a gulf state that fears Iran because of its proximity. 70% of the population is muslim and it has a majority of Shia muslims (65% of muslims) and a minority of Sunnis (35% of muslims). The country also has a Christian minority (14%) and above half of the citizens are not native Bahraini. The ruling family is Sunni and so is most of the elite. There is a tiny Jewish community that is very involved in the country's politics. The protestors in 2011 were almost all Shia and Iran is accused of facilitating them in order to install a proxy state. Saudi Arabia heavily supports Bahrain.

Kuwait - Kuwait is an Islamic monarchy and officially an ally of USA but still hostile to Israel. 2/3 of its citizens are Sunni and the rest are Shiite. It has

a large population of foreign workers, from Egypt and India. The number of non-citizens is twice the number of citizens. Its' oil reserves are the sixth largest in the world. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are in dispute over two islands and the majority of Shiite Kuwaiti citizens are Iranian.

Qatar - Qatar was blockaded by the Saudi coalition because of its relations with Iran and harboring political refugees from their countries. Turkey supplies food and aid to Qatar and has recruited it to its own alliance. Qatar has also close ties with Hamas, an ally of Iran. Qatar waged a propaganda war against Saudi Arabia with its news channel, Al Jazeera. Qatar has also supported the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Al Nusra in Syria, the Houthis in Yemen and the Government of National Accord in Libya. It gave aid and intelligence to these organizations. In January Qatar signed the AlUla declaration agreement with other Gulf States but has yet to fulfill it.

Egypt - Egypt lies in both Africa and Asia (Sinai). It borders Israel and Gaza strip, which Hamas controls. Despite wars with Israel, Egypt cooperates with Israel against Hamas and Sinai jihadists. It is a mediator between Israel and Palestine. Egypt has good relations with Saudi Arabia and they're receiving investments and donations by Saudis and Gulf states. Egypt had an Islamist President but he was removed from office by ElSisi. It can be said to be neutral in the conflict.

Turkey - Turkey is a republic and supposedly a NATO ally. It is openly fighting Assad's forces in Syria and Turkey the Sunnis in Yemen. Both Iran and Turkey are fighting the Kurds but Iran is afraid Erdogan will try to expand into the turkic areas of Iran. The Persian Pipeline plan was announced to transfer Iranian natural gas to Europe, through Turkey. This will bolster Iran's economy and make Europe less hostile towards it. Both countries have close trading



relations and it is unlikely they will engage in open conflict. Turkey supports Fatah (PLO) in the West Bank and has criticized Israel's treatment of Palestinians on many occasions. They too have strong economic relations and are unlikely to war.

Algeria - Algeria is a Sunni republic with a small population of Christians and Ibadis. Its' oil company is the largest in Africa. Algeria supports the Polisario Front of the Western Sahara and provided them with food, arms and training. It has strong relations with Russia and it opposes the groups fighting against Assad in Syria and refuses to support the Cabinet of Yemen against Houthis. Algeria supports Palestinian struggle for independence from Israel

Morocco - Morocco is Sunni monarchy. It used to have good relations with Israel prior to the Second Intifada. It has renewed its relations with Israel due to american pressure and recognition of the Western Sahara as part of Morocco by the USA. Many Israeli jews are of Moroccan descent and Israelis see Morocco favourably. Morocco is in good relations with Saudi Arabia and was part of the Saudi coalition in Yemen. Morocco struggles to maintain control over the Western Sahara. Its main population are Berber and many of them fled to Algeria. The Polisario Front is revolting against Morocco to control the region. Iran supports the Polisario Front and they are heavily supported by Algeria. Morocco is supported by USA, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The area is a mostly a desert and non-berbers depend entirely on desalination facilities.

Venezuela - Venezuela is a Latin American republic that opposes American dominance. The current President Maduro is accused of having faked elections is recognized by Russia and Iran. USA, France, Israel and most of the Latin American countries recognize Juan Gerardo, opposition leader. USA tried

replacing Maduro with the opposition leader but failed. Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world and natural gas reserves. Iran sent oil tankers to aid Venezuela, whose economy is collapsing. The USA has sanctioned Venezuela, USA, UK and Portugal have seized assets worth six billion dollars and the Venezuelan economy is crashing.

Guyana - The Republic of Guyana is an English speaking mixed country in Latin America. The country has a border dispute with Venezuela. Venezuela detained Guyanese ships in a disputed EEZ. Oil was discovered near the Guyanese coast, which Venezuela lay claim to. The USA has agreed to patrol in Guyanese territorial waters to safeguard the oil.

Turkish-Russian proxy war

Turkey - Turkey is a Republic with Islamic elements, Erdogan is its leader for the last 17 years. Most of the population are Sunni Turks, with a christian minority and a Kurd minority. Turkey doesn't acknowledge Kurds' ethnicity and tries to turkify them. Turkish Kurdistan is being heavily suppressed and the PKK, Kurdish independence party, is designated a terrorist organization. Turkey also shares a border with Syria, and is housing a lot of Syrian refugees and helps them cross the way to Europe. Erdogan, the Turkish president, sees himself as the new sultan. He fights over Middle Eastern dominance with Putin. Turkey aided Azerbaijan to retake Qarabag, is suffering aerial and maritime violations by Russian forces in Syria and fighting directly in Libya, including providing the GNA with tanks and rifles. Secular Turkey turned Hagia Sophia into a museum in 1935 and Erdogan remade it to a mosque, an act that drew criticism from Orthodox and Catholic nations.

Russia - Russia is a federation that has been ruled by Putin since 2000. He suppresses opposition and uses heavy propaganda and fraud to remain in power. Russia had Islamic uprisings (involving jihadists) in the (Muslim) Chechnya and Dagestan republics of the Russian Federation that were pacified. Russia has a lot of native turkic peoples in its regions and 10% of Russian citizens are muslim. There is a large diaspora of armenians as well. Russia invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea, an annexation that gave it a reach into the Black Sea, which Turkey shares. Russia is allied with Armenia but it refused to help it secure Nagorno-Karabakh claiming it defies international borders (and ignoring the Collective Security Treaty Organization). Russia has stationed itself as a “peacekeeping” force in Azeri Qarabag. Russia aids Assad’s militias in Syria and had clashed with Turkish aircraft and soldiers many times. Russian mercenaries group Wagner Group, backed by Putin, are fighting on the House of Representatives side. Russia has designated the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization.

Iran - Iran is a Shiite Theocracy whose majority Persian (slightly over 60%). It has an Azeri minority which constitutes 15%, a Kurd minority which constitutes 10%, a Turkmen minority that constitutes 2, an Arab minority that constitutes 2%, a Balochi minority that constitutes 2% and Larestani and others constitute the rest. 10% of the population are Sunni, mainly Larestani, Arab, Kurd and Balochi, and they are persecuted by the authorities for their beliefs. The Sunni population is growing much faster than the Shiite population, and Shiite Azeris, Kurds and Balochis may pose a threat if faced with Azerbaijan, Kurd Rebels or Balochi Jihadists. Iran borders the Turkic countries of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and opposes the Turkic influence. Iran is a close ally of Assad and wishes Syria to be Shia-led. Iran tries to enforce movement in the Gulf but faces Amer-

ican and Arab opposition. It supported Armenia, against Shiite Azerbaijan in the Qarabag war, and supporting the House of Representatives in Libya, supplying them with anti-tank missiles.

Armenia - Armenia is an orthodox country that has sided with Russia and Iran due to hostility by Turkics, primarily the Armenian Holocaust. It annexed the majority armenian Nagorno-Karabakh and lost a war with Azerbaijan over it. Russia supplied arms to Armenia. Dozens of Kurds and Syrian Armenians as well as mercenaries fought for Armenia.

Azerbaijan - Azerbaijan is a Shiite Turkic state with ties to both Turkey and Israel. In the Nagorno-Karabakh war, Azerbaijan deployed Israeli drones against Armenian targets. Turkey recruited hundreds of Syrians and Libyans, including jihadists, to fight for Azerbaijan. Turkey has armed Azerbaijan and is accused of initiating the conflict and planning and coordinating military operations. Azerbaijan has neutral relations with Russia and Russia serves as a peacekeeping force in Karabakh. Azerbaijan supports Israel’s normalization with Arab states and Azerbaijan serves as a base from which to launch aerial strikes against Iran.

Egypt - Egypt sided with Russia and Iran in Libya. Egypt borders Libya and has a great interest in its civil war. It supports the House of Representatives of Libya to fight jihadists, who made 45,000 Egyptians leave the country after an execution of 21 Copts. Egypt wants a stable government in Libya and cooperation against jihadists. The House of Representatives called for a military intervention by Egypt but the Egyptian army has conducted airstrikes in 2015 and 2017 against ISIL and since remains vigilant within its borders. Egypt also wants to secure an EEZ, exclusive economic zone in the mediterranean, and needs the agreement of Libya.

Sudan - Sudan uses the Rapid Support Forces, who are comprised of veterans who fought in Darfur, in Libya to aid the House of Representatives of Libya. The UAE is also funding the RSF.

Libya - The House of Representatives (HOR) of Libya formed in 2014 after the 2014 Libyan elections, which had only an 18% turnout. Haftar is the commander of the HOR's army. The parties that lost formed the Government of National Accord, ruled by the Muslim Brotherhood, supported by Turkey. The Government of National Accord refused to disperse after losing, wanted to install Sharia law and impose it. The HOR is based in Toburk, while the GNA is based in Tripoli, the de jure capital of Libya. Egypt and UAE support the HOR. The Tuareg tribe in Libya fight for the GNA, while Warfalla tribe support the HOR and other tribes being mostly neutral, with some serving in the Hafar's army and some are jihadists. Libya has several oil refineries, oil storages, gas pipelines and gas fields and foreign powers are interested in them. The area is also vital for the Mediterranean Sea EEZ. A peace was negotiated and the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), who has representatives from all of Libya, was formed. Supervised elections are due December 2021. Turkey and Qatar are the main benefactors of the GNA. They provide arms, training and funding. Turkey provided drones and armed vehicles and has transported mercenaries from Syria to Libya. Turkey signed maritime borders' changes with the GNA, which other countries deem illegal. Russia is supporting the House of Representatives and uses the Wagner mercenaries, Assad militiamen mercenaries and sent jets. Iran gave Haftar anti-tank missiles. There is also jihadist activity by Daesh in Libya, who fight mostly against the HOR and Americans.

Tunisia - Tunisia is a Sunni republic whose population is slightly more than 11 million. It has accepted 2 million Libyan refugees. It supports

the GNA as an ally of Turkey. Turkey helped Tunisia financially and a quarter of Tunisian citizens are of Turkic descent. 2500 Tunisian fighters for Daesh were transferred into Libya to fight for GNA. Tunisia exempted Turkish goods from tax and the unrestricted flow of Turkish goods has damaged the Tunisian market and strengthened the Islamists in Tunisia.

Algeria - Algeria is officially neutral in the Second Libyan Civil War and promotes compromise and dialogue. It maintains good relations with both Iran and Turkey. Algeria strongly supports Palestine against Israel and opposes Emirati and Moroccan normalization. Both Algeria and Russia do not recognize the Western Sahara as part of Morocco.

Cyprus - Northern Cyprus was occupied by Turkey and Northern Cyprus is an unrecognized state. It is mainly Turkic and Sunni while the rest of the country is Orthodox and Greek. Turkey has stationed soldiers in Northern Cyprus. Oil and gas fields were found between Cyprus and Israel, and Turkey, via Northern Cyprus claims them. Israel and Cyprus cooperate militarily and share intelligence. Cyprus is also heavily dependent on Russian business and is seen as a close partner of it in the EU.

Qatar - Qatar supports the GNA in Libya and has security cooperation and training agreements with it. Qatar has a base in Libya and it is providing arms and funds to the GNA. Qatar supports the new "interim government" and the blockade the Gulf states have imposed on it was lifted. Qatar has tried instilling the narrative the HOR is illegitimate and Haftar s a renegade warlord. Qatar supports the Muslim Brotherhood, together with Turkey and there are several thousands Turkish soldiers stationed in Qatar. Qatar has large natural gas reserves and Turkey wants to import it to free itself of Russian gas. Qatar is funding, providing





intelligence to the Houthis and propagating their cause in order to sabotage the Saudi coalition efforts in Yemen and prepare the grounds for a Turkish invasion of northern Yemen.

France - France is a secular Republic that receives a lot of immigrants from the middle east, most of them Sunnis. Due to the terror attacks on its territory, France has an interest fighting jihadists. The Muslim Brotherhood is gaining a hold in France and the younger generation of migrants is more radical than the older generation. France supported Haftar, despite officially recognizing the GNA. French special forces were sent to help Haftar take two coastal towns in 2017-2018 and they see Haftar as an ally against jihadism. France supplied missiles and weaponry to the HOR and french troops trained the HOR army and they deployed helicopters as part of their special forces.

Italy - Italy used to control Libya and has an utmost interest in stabilizing it. It is close to Libya and a preferred target for migrants. Italy signed a deal with GNA about military training and support. Italy has an interest in stopping migrant flows and establishing a gas pipe from Algeria. Italy did not deny Haftar's legitimacy. Italy has arranged a conference between the GNA and HOR to stabilize Libya and it facilitated the ceasefire. Italy used to be Turkey's arms supplier but joined the sanctions against it due to Turkey attacks against Kurds in Syria.

United Arab Emirates - The UAE has grown farther from Turkey and closer to Russia and Israel due to Trump's policy. They fund Kurd fighters in Syria to create a Kurdish zone bordering Turkey. The UAE has also provided military vehicles. The UAE has several military bases in Libya and Haftar agreed to direct oil reserves to oil companies in the Emirates. The Muslim Brotherhood in the UAE tried to coup the government and

was banned as a terrorist group. The UAE claimed it would recognize the Armenian Holocaust, with only Abu Dhabi recognizing it so far.

Pakistan - Pakistan is a Sunni republic who has a minority of Shia. It holds military exercises with Turkey and NATO both. It does not recognize Armenia. Turkey is building warships for Pakistan and has bought aircraft from it. Pakistan is thought of as a natural recipient for the Muslim Brotherhood's ideology.

Morocco - The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in Western Sahara is recognized by Algeria and Iran while Turkey, Qatar, Albania recognize Moroccan sovereignty. The Polisario Front receives support from Iran and Russia has criticized countries, e.g. USA, who recognize the Western Sahara as part of Morocco. Turkey is "the biggest funder of occupation" due to its trade relations with Morocco. Erdogan has declared he will never recognize the Western Sahara republic.

United Kingdom - The United Kingdom has a growing population of Sunnis. The United Kingdom has congratulated Azerbaijan on retaking Qarabag and is supporting the GNA in Libya. The United Kingdom is opposing Russian influence and accusing it of espionage, poisoning of a political rival and changing worldwide online narratives via armies of bots. The UK has imposed sanctions against Russia for annexing Crimea and the British Chief of the General Staff has said that Russian subversion is a greater threat than Al Qaida or Daesh.

Somalia - Somalia is a Sunni Republic. Somalia has been in civil war for decades. The United States and Turkey are aiding the Somalian government. American soldiers were present until february 2021 and provided training and support, mainly in fighting the jihadists and Turkey has a large military base, estimated to have cost 50 million \$,

in the capital. Iran has a proxy network in the state and it finances and arms Al-Shabab, a terrorist group, to attack US. Iran is using the state to transport weapons to the Houthis in Yemen

Turkish (New) European crisis

Turkey - Turkey is a Sunni republic ruled by Erdogan for almost 20 years. Erdogan has decided to Islamify Turkey and leave the secular past behind. He wants Turkey to become a superpower. Turkey follows the “Blue Homeland” doctrine, which opines that more of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea belong to Turkey and that it should be taken by force. Turkey violated the territorial waters of Greece, Cyprus, had near clashes of pilots in their aerial space and the Turkish army provoked the Greek army at the border many times. Turkey actively pushes migrants toward Greek islands and forward into Europe. Erdogan explicitly threatened Europe with a “millions of refugees” flood if Europe did not support his actions in Syria against the Kurds. There are many Turkish expats and other migrants that support Turkey more than their current states of residence.

Greece - Greece is a secular Hellenic republic. Hellenic peoples ruled Anatolia and Thrace for hundreds of years before the Turks. During World War 1 the Turks massacred Greeks and there was a population exchange to make for a purely Turkish Turkey. In recent years Turkey have worsened its attitude toward Christians, turning the Hagia Sophia into a mosque, destroying churches and accusing Christians of being foreign agents. The Greek borders with Turkey has been threatened by armored vehicles of the Turkish army, by boats led by the Turkish navy, by asylum seekers directed under fire towards Greece by Turkish soldiers, by aircraft and ships regularly violating Greek waters, stationing Syrian rebels, including Daesh members, in Greek islands and drilling in Greek

EEZ. Greece has made alliances with France, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Israel and Egypt to counter Turkish expansionism. Greece is an integral part of Operation IRINI, that enforces the arms embargo on Libya. Including the arms from Turkey to GNA.

France - France called for sanctions against Turkey for its aggressive behaviour. France sent ships and warplanes to the eastern Mediterranean to defend Greek EEZ. France accused Turkey of collaborating with jihadists and has an interest in them not arriving to Europe. France warned Turkey of deploying a research ship that intends to find oil deposits, outside of Turkish EEZ. France sold jets to Greece and signed an agreement for selling frigates. France suffered terrorist attacks over portrayal of Muhammad and Erdogan has led anti-French sentiment and called for boycotting France for its liberal policy and called for “getting rid of” Macron because Macron started acting against jihadists and radicalizing institutions. Outlawing non-national schools (Islamic), supervising religious institutions and combating radical Islam (and justifications for jihad) in universities. France is a part of Operation IRINI. France has a territory in Latin America, French Guiana and it has called the 2018 Venezuelan elections illegitimate. Macron does not recognize Maduro as the President and supports Juan Guaido. France imposed sanctions on Venezuela and a French oil company has evacuated after the sanctions.

Italy - Italy supports Greece's marine claims and wants to stop the immigration flow into Europe. Italy has sent a frigate to guard Cyprus' waters and as an EEZ agreement with Greece. The Italian coast guard is patrolling the areas near Libya to halt migrants' flow. Italy is part of the EastMed pipeline, which is planned to transfer gas from the Levantine sea to Cyprus and Greece and then into Europe. Italy is an integral part of Operation IRINI and the HQs of the operation are in Rome.

Malta - Malta is an island nation in the mediterranean between Sicily and Tripoli. Malta opposes Turkish expansion, and was part of an operation to supply Haftar, HOR's commander, with arms. Malta can host thousands of mercenaries that would have swiftly come to destroy tactical targets in the Libyan coast. Malta used to consider Turkey as the promoter of migrants into its territory, but it now sees it as a way to prevent them from entering Malta (if only to arrive in Italy and France). Malta pulled out of Operation IRINI, that enforces the arms embargo on Libya due to recent policy change about Turkey.

Libya - The Turkish fleet constantly provides aid and arms to the GNA. The Turkey harrasses, hinders and threatens Operation IRINI ships, French, Italian, German and Greek, treating the entirety of the Libyan territorial waters as its own. Turkey signed an EEZ deal with the GNA, ignoring Egyptian, Greek and Israeli marine borders and even includes Greek islands as Turkey's. Turkey wants to own the rights to gas and oil in the east mediterranean and this deal supposedly secures them. The House of Representatives filed a lawsuit to the Court of Appeals in Libya and the Court cancelled the deal.

Egypt - Egypt signed an EEZ deal with Greece as a response to Turkey-GNA EEZ deal. Egypt does not wish for a power that supports its opposition groups (Muslim Brotherhood) to have further naval presence. Egypt and Greece both conducted naval drills. Egypt has military exercises with France, Greece and Arab nations to protect the natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea from any Turkish provocation.

The United States - The USA formed NATO to defend western nations from Soviet/Russian attacks. Despite Turkey being in NATO it has almost clashed with France and Greece, which proves the

irrelevance of NATO. The United States criticized Erdogan's statements and actions, supported the Greece-Egypt EEZ deal. Under Trump's administration the USA pushed out of the mediterranean but Biden has a harsher approach and sanctioned it.

Albania - Albania is a Sunni republic. Albanians had good relations with Turks and there is a large albanian diaspora in Turkey. Turkey invests in Albania and the two countries strengthened their military and economic relations in 2020. Albania borders Greece and has a standing maritime dispute with it. The two countries turned to Hague. Albania has taken very few (in comparison to other european countries and percentage of population) migrants from Syria, Iraq and Africa, despite most of them being Sunni.

Kosovo - Kosovars have fought a war for independence from Serbia, a Slavic country that cooperates militarily with Russia and depends on it. The Sunni republic has limited recognition, and isn't recognized by Russia, Iran, Libya, (Assad's) Syria, Lebanon, Palestine or Greece. Kosovo's population is mainly muslim and Kosovo is a close ally of Turkey. Turkey pushes the Islamist agenda in Kosovo. Kosovo normalized relations with Israel and recognized Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, which drew criticism from Turkey and made it improved Kosovar relations with the USA.

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bosnia and Herzegovina is a federation whose population is divided between Islam and Christianity (with slightly more muslims). Most residents are secular. Bosnia serves as a station from the Middle East to Europe for many migrants. Erdogan pushes Islamism in Bosnia and Herzegovina among Bosniaks. A pro-turkish group UEBD is pushing for support of Turkish actions in Syria within Bosnia. Erdogan finances the Party of Democratic Action, an Bosniak nationalist Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated





party that forms the government. Its' leader, Bakir Izetbegović, is the a member of the House of Peoples who was the President (along with the Croat President and the Serb President) until 2018.

Austria - Austria is mainly secular but has almost a million muslim migrants, most of them Turkish. Austria seeks to stop the migrants' flow into it and has been Sebastian Kurz has opposed Erdogan's blackmail tactics. Austria called for sanctions against Turkey and supported Greek EEZ. Kurz stresses the need to stop illegal immigration and Austrian soldiers reinforced the Greeks at their border with Turkey. He claimed that without external borders, there will be internal borders within the EU and that Turkey's attack on Greece is an attack on the European Union. Kurz also said that Erdogan "abuses refugees and migrants who have lived in Turkey for years, exploits them and uses them as a weapon". Due to terrorist attacks, Austria outlawed Islamism (political Islam) and took actions against Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood on account of them being part of terrorist organizations. Austria has been accused of "racism" by Turkey, who supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Khalifat

Taliban - The Taliban is a jihadist organization fighting in Afghanistan. Taliban used to control 75% of Afghanistan and it is an old jihadist organization willing to implement Sharia law. It began as a movement of Pashtun students (Taliban means "students") opposing the corruption in Afghan government. Once in control they oppressed the Hindi minority, destroyed Hindi monuments and enforced Sharia law. The USA has a long war with it. The Taliban has a lot of Pakistani conscripts. Pakistan provided direct support to the Taliban and allowed it to operate from its soil. Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran are accused of arming and aiding the terrorist group. Thousands of american

soldiers fought the Taliban and within USA there is a aversion to participating in the conflict. A peace agreement was signed in December 2020 but in February 2021 there were already clashes between the Taliban and the Afghan army.

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant - Daesh is active in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Sinai.

Daesh (Dawlah al-Islāmiyah fī 'l-'Irāq wa-sh-Shām) used to control a huge part of Syria and Iraq (Iraq and the Levant) but was reduced by constant attacks by western nations, arab nations and others. It has engaged in a massive propaganda campaign and fought the Russo-Persian coalition, the Anglo-Semitic coalition, the Kurds and other western nations. Many fighters (mostly foreign) have left Syria and Iraq to other countries, to continue their jihad. Daesh executions and methods have been copied worldwide by jihadists.

Daesh in Libya recruited former Gaddafi loyalists and it has fighters from neighboring african nations. Daesh beheaded christians, attacked embassies, kidnapped journalists and attacked policemen. The USA has targeted it and bombed some of its facilities in airstrikes.

Sinai Daesh has members from the local Bedouin tribes. It has some sympathy as a force opposing the Egyptian government of A-sisi who overthrown Mursi, the Islamist candidate, and it is involved in drug smuggling and human trafficking. Daesh bombed the gas pipeline in Sinai several times and they have managed to kill hundreds of civilians in bombings. Israel conducted airstrikes against Daesh in sinai and allows the Egyptian military a free reign in Sinai, despite a peace treaty between the countries limiting Egyptian military force in the border.

Jihadists inspired by Daesh, or ex-fighters of it, have committed terrorist attacks over Europe in

order to terrorize the populace and impose Sharia law. Suicide bombings, shootings, knife attacks, ramming attacks and more were conducted against European targets on European soil.

Al Qaida - Al Qaida is a Sunni jihdaist organization seeking to spread a strict version of Islam worldwide. Al Qaida operates in Sinai, Maghreb, Mali, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Europe and elsewhere. Al Qaida in Sinai have several affiliated factions, they have managed to attack the Egyptian and Israeli forces several times. Al Qaida is opposed to Daesh and Egypt both.

Al Qaida in the Maghreb, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria, has members from Tuareg clans who are often disregarded by the governments. Al Qaida supported rebels against Gaddafi and offered military aid and training to protesters in Tunisia and Algeria, calling for sharia law to be implemented in Tunisia. Al Murabitun, a Malian branch of Al Qaida in the Maghreb, was established by an afghan jihadist who is a vertan of soviet wars. Al Murabitun is fighting in Mali and has killed hundreds of people. It is composed of Arabs and Tuareg and became Nusrat al-Islam. France deployed over 5000 soldiers to destroy them.

Al Shabaab merged into Al Qaida and it is active in Somalia and Yemen. Al Shabaab is a jihadist group operating in Somalia and Yemen. It has Wahabbi roots and most of its foreign members are from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan. Al Shabaab is using suicide bombings, assassination, kidnapping and it has fought the Ethiopian army as well as the Somali army. Al Shabaab is fighting both Houthis and Saudis in Yemen and has been targeted by the United States although it is rumoured the group had had deals with the Saudi coalition to hold off attacks. It has called for attacks against the UK and USA and broadcasts abroad in Arabic and English. Al-Shabaab means The Youth and

the jihadists often appeal to youth and use kids as human shields. The United States have killed several of its members in drone strikes. Al-Shabaab is opposing neighboring states' intervention and has been aided by officials in Somalia and Qatar.

Al Qaida in Syria is apart from Daesh and it is known as Al-Nusra Front, Jabhat al-Nusra. They have openly fought Daesh (ISIL) after splitting from them in 2013 and becoming affiliated with Al Qaida. This branch is supported by Qatar and Turkey, Saudi Arabia and UAE have financed it to fight Assad and Russia. They target Shiites, Alaouites, Druze and Christians. They are reported to be collaborating with Israel and are considered a group vital in any possible ceasefire. Al Qaida attacked targets in the Golan Heights and launched many attacks and bombings against Assad's loyalists. Al Qaida is fighting alongside the Syrian opposition and has an interest in toppling the secular Alaouite regime.

Al Qaida in Europe in involved in train, airport and mall attacks. It is strong in France and Germany and has migrant fighters from the Middle East and North Africa together with native Chechens and Bosnians.

Boko Haram - Boko Haram is an anti western organization based in Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. Nigeria is its main focus, and the state is divided almost evenly between Christians and Muslims. Boko Haram is a sunni jihadist group made of Hausa tribesmen that repeatedly raids schools, destroys churches and attacks western-influenced institutions. They oppose western thinking and embrace a Quranic approach to life. They conducted numerous attacks and kidnappings and engages in slavery. It tends to massacre men and abduct the women or schoolgirls. Suicide bombings and raids on villages are challenging the Nigerian army.

African conflicts

Egypt - The Nile is Egypt's lifeline. Without the Nile's flow, farmers wouldn't be able to provide food for 100 million people. Ethiopia has decided to build a dam, the Grand Renaissance Dam, a hydroelectric power plant. The filling of the reservoir will slow the downstream flow into Egypt and Egypt wants it to be done more gradually. Ethiopia is violating the 1929 treaty (and the 1959 treaty) that gave Egypt and Sudan rights to the Nile. Egypt sees the dam as an existential threat and Egyptian politicians have raised methods to bomb the dam and support rebels in Ethiopia.

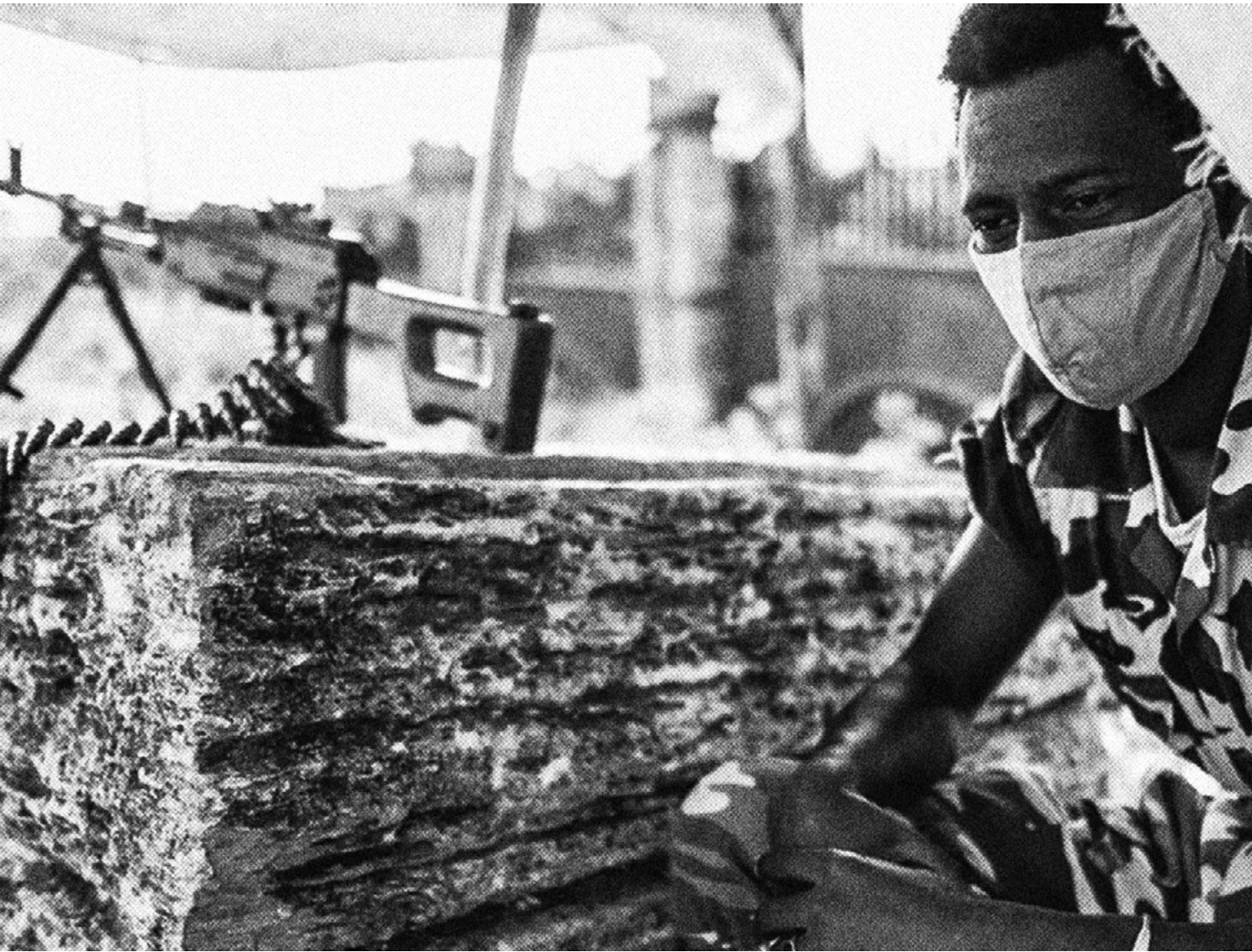
Ethiopia - Ethiopia is a multiethnic republic who is mostly Christian with a large Muslim minority. Most Ethiopians are not connected to the electric grid and Ethiopia is building a dam to generate enough power. Ethiopia has several ethnic conflicts, between Oromo and Somalis (displacing over a million people), between the government and Oromo and Tigray peoples in Metekel, which Amhara and Oromo called an ethnic cleansing, and the Tigray war. The Tigray war is waged between Ethiopia and the Tigray regional government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) became an opposition party in 2018. The TPLF asked the Ethiopian government to hold regional elections in Tigray but it refused. Illegal elections were held and the TPLF won all of the seats. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia refused to recognize the results and banned foreign journalists from entering Tigray. In November 2020 a conflict erupted when the TPLF attacked the Ethiopian Army HQ in Mekelle. A state of emergency was declared and there have been fighting since between TPLF rebels and the army. Sudanese forces have retaken areas taken by Ethiopian militias and even captured military camps inside Ethiopia. Eritrea is bordering the Tigray region and Eritreans troops are aiding the Ethi-

opian army and suppress the revolt. There have been reports of Eritrean massacres of Tigrayans. The United States suspended aid to Ethiopia until it resolves the dam dispute and Trump warned that Egypt may blow the dam. The US and the EU have called for the withdrawal of Eritrean troops.

Sudan - Sudan also lies on the Nile for waters and will be harmed by the decreased flow. In addition to the dam dispute, Sudan has a border dispute with Ethiopia bordering the Tigray region and it has claimed to own land in an area Ethiopia wants to build the dam on. Both countries accused each other of crossing the border into the other's territory and there have been armed clashes. Sudan has explicitly warned Ethiopia of provoking a war. Sudan holds joint military exercises with Egypt and is dependent on it in any large scale war.

Somaliland - Somaliland is an unrecognized state that seceded from Somalia during the Somali civil war. It borders the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and Ethiopia. It is a Sunni republic that is modeled after British Somaliland. The UAE sought to establish a military base in its port Berbera. Egypt has also discussed with Somaliland in order to establish a military base. Somaliland has close relations with the United Kingdom.





FAQ

How can I contribute?

You can write an article, a poem, make pictures or submit something else creative.

Where can I submit something?

Current thread, email or discord.

When is the next deadline?

Generally every two-three weeks, depending on the amount of content. For exact dates see the thread or contact us

Do I choose the pictures for my articles?

You can choose/make them yourself if you wish to, otherwise someone else can decide for you.

Is there a length limit?

Generally we try to keep articles between 700-3.000 words. If necessary or justified by interesting form or content, exceptions are possible.

What topics are suitable?

Alle, since any topic is KC-tier with the right approach.

How do I know if my text is good enough?

As a rough measure see the already existing texts. Some are for assburgers, other are less serious.

What needs to be present is at least an attempt to bring some structure into your text, Runlish, weird stylistic choices and grammar abuse are fine, as long as you reread your text and try to be understandable.

Contact

kohlzine@protonmail.com

kohlchan.net/make/ Workthread