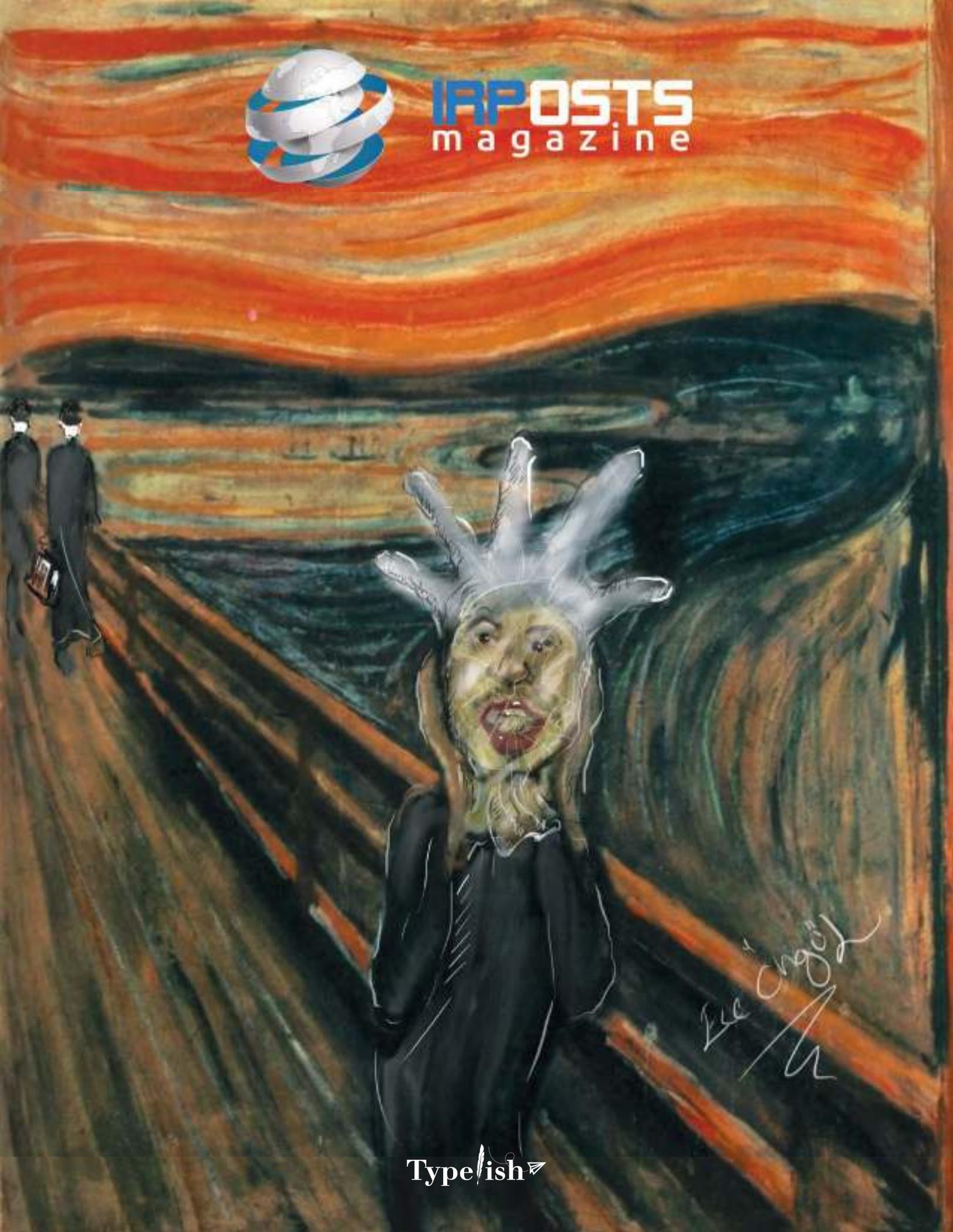




IRPOSTS
magazine



Type/ish

CONTENTS



On the cover

Due to the corona virus there is preposterous panic on the streets. Confused people are wear gloves on their heads and be exposed to a danger getting in a quandary.

Volume 14.

April 2020

Editor in Chief

Berkay Bulut

Editor

Yağmur Taşdemir

Social Media Coordinators

Elif Bakar

Selen Ceylan

Design

RGBear

Ece Öngül

IRPosts Magazine - ISSN 2667-7830

AMERICA

03 Democracy in Today

by Mustafa Mert Koç

04 Trump's Plan and Beyond

by Can Abanoz

05 Donald Trump's Impeachment Trial

by Mert Erol

ASIA

06 Quarantine For All

by Dilara Soy

07 Wrestling For The Oil

by Berkay Bulut

EUROPE

08 What is the Next?

by Ceren Güler

10 You Shall Not Pass

by Yağmur Taşdemir

12 The "Change" in Irish Elections and Uncertainties

by Ahsen Sevnur Yıldırım

13 Germany's Syrian Refugee Policy

by Kemal Kısa

MIDDLE EAST

14 The Country Where The War Is Not Over: Libya

by Burkan Yıldırım

POLAR ZONE

15 A New Trade Center: Arctic Silk Road

by Elif Bakar



DEMOCRACY IN TODAY

By Mustafa Mert Koç



Democracy provides rights and authorities to people directly. The history of democracy is based on very old ages. We first saw the democracy in Athens which was a city-state in 500s B.C. However, democracy is divided into two phases. The first one is direct democracy which was existed in Athens and the second one is a representative democracy. In other words, it is the current democracy. Human-beings always need to have democracy. Revolutions and even wars made for it. The democracy of today can be explained as “constitutional democracy” or “liberal democracy”. Although democracy has been experienced for two thousand years, it has gained new momentum after the 17th century thanks to liberalism. Liberalism brought to the innovation to democracy. Thus, the state began to be understood as a political form and it could not interfere with the economy and freedoms. Liberal democracy becomes the target of some criticisms because it gives extreme freedom to the economy and it protects capital owners. Liberalism, with its size centred on the free market economy, evokes a state system which is indifferent to the industrial revolution, wild capitalism and the misery of people, it needed to be reinterpreted with the concepts of “pluralist democracy”. The idea of “constitutional Democracy” has been put forward by some thinkers.



First of all, the democracy which emerged in Athens was a direct democracy. In a direct democracy, all people had the rights to make decisions on political matters and all people could participate in the court directly. They are responsible in courts because there were no judges. Citizens created laws and they enforced the laws. Also, they acted like juries. However, it can be said that even if it seems a very effective and feasible, the direct democracy is not very effective. This is because slaves, foreigners and women were excluded from democracy. In a direct democracy, power is only in people’s hands. If these people are selfish, democracy becomes anarchical which is bad for the government. In the present world, it is not possible to implement direct democracy. The level of education has to be very high, and the population must be low. Almost all states in the world, except Switzerland, are governed by representative democracy. In this type of democracy, all people who are citizens have the right to vote. People elect some people in order to defend or protect their rights. There is a separation of powers. Briefly, democracy provides some equalities, rights, and liberties for people.

Secondly, in constitutional democracies, there are some basic principles such as “The Supremacy of the Constitution”, “Rule of Law”, “Human Rights”, and “Separation of Powers”. According to the principle of supremacy of the constitution, the political structure is shaped in accordance with the constitutional principles and norms. The principle of the rule of law takes its legitimacy from the law. The state of law serves the principle of equality of individuals by ensuring the impartiality of the state. The language of every human in society is equal before the law. Their religion, race and the idea are not important. This is also the basic argument of human rights. The state is not a sacred structure, nor is not an above-the-law. Also, it is not a non-donated institution.

Thirdly, the states in which democracy exists, peace and prosperity levels will always be high. Democracy is necessary not only for the protection of human rights but also for the freedom of the citizens. Furthermore, there is an important thesis which democratic peace theory has claimed. According to the democratic peace theory, if states rule as a democratic state, there will not be a conflict between the states. In this way, democratic states will not fight each other and they will share norms and culture. Thus, it prevents aggression between the states. However, the non-democratic states may have constant conflict and civil war. For example, the Middle East, which is the heart of the events, is related to the lack of democracy. Without democracy, people do not have freedom. Democracy gives people freedom of thought. Development and progress cannot be expected from a state, in which freedom of thought, equality, justice, and

human rights and democracy do not exist. As a result, the principle of “secularism” in modern democracy means that the state is neutral in the face of religious beliefs existing in society. From this concept, it can be understood to save religious insights from the domination of the state. The principle of secularism is to protect the state from the interference of the religion rather than purge the state from religion. So, secularism is not break up from religion it is the freedom for religion. Also, secularism is to guarantee the freedom of religion and conscience by ensuring that education and training are free. In this respect, secularism is the guarantee of the freedom of religion and conscience. So, secularism is the umbrella of religion. Of course, this includes not only one religion but also all religions and beliefs.



TRUMP’S PLAN AND BEYOND

By Can Abanoz

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing for more than 100 years, based on the history of religions and has recently taken on a new dimension with the unilaterally declared “peace plan” of the US President Donald Trump. This plan, which Trump offers within the framework of the strategy of “ending endless wars”, consists of various political and economic conditions, especially for the benefit of the Israeli side. The new Israeli settlements in the West Bank occupied after the Six-Days War in 1967 and the plan which was announced on January, 28 after the process that started with the recognition of Jerusalem as a capital by the US as well as the speech of Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the opening of 30% of the West Bank to the settlement by Israel were remarkable. The Palestinian Authority absolutely rejected this plan, which was announced by Palestine without inviting any representative. Also, the content of the plan imposes a wide range of tasks on the Palestinian side like disarmament of the Gaza Strip, recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, making Palestinian administration not part of any international organization without Israel’s consent, not to sue Israeli or US citizens before applying to any international criminal court or international justice body, no claims of imprisonment or martyrdom compensation, suspension if paid, and spending that budget for humanitarian or welfare programs. After all these, they explained some criteria for recognizing Palestine. According to these criteria, the USA accepted that only 70% of the West Bank is under Palestinian authority. However, it offered less than the population and settlement distribution designed in the peace plans made before and after 1967, by reducing its presence in the territory in other regions and planning the migration of the inhabitants to the West Bank. There are certain conditions of Israel’s recognition of Palestine as a separate state such as the transition of Palestine into a fair, constitutional, libertarian and secular system; disarmament of the public; having Palestine’s en-

tire security responsibility; establishment of financial institutions that are transparent, independent and devastating and suitable for integration into the international economic market; removal of anti-Israel discourses from textbooks and notes in schools. After the presentation of the current plan, the echoes in the region and around the world were mostly against the plan. The European Union saw the plan against international law, the Arab League countries did not accept the plan and predicted that it would not end the current conflict. Moreover, Turkey considers this plan as a plan that stole Palestinian lands as a whole while Qatar and United Arab Emirates announced their supports for the plan. China and Russia commented on the international legal dimension and cited that the plan was not in line with the two-state solution set out in the previous United Nations resolutions.

One of the interesting reactions to the current plan was mentioned in an analysis published in the Foreign Policy Magazine on February, 11. Yehuda Shaul said that the plan and the Droubles Plan published by the World Zionist Organization in 1979 have many similarities, especially the land distribution and settlements were exactly stolen from this plan, stating that Trump could not make any progress in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with such a plan. Within the framework of the responses, the plan is invalid from the beginning and it is nearly impossible to implement it. Especially, because the Palestinian authority is neglected and no opinion is taken, and the assignments are mostly given to the Palestinian side, rather than any step back from Israel while designing or explaining this plan is revealing the injustice in the plan and non-compliance with previous UN resolutions. It may also be beneficial to consider that such unilateral plans and agreements increase tension within the framework of history and lead to much greater deadlock than the solution.

DONALD TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

By Mert Erol

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir

In the previous months, the United States had a crucial period for its diplomatic life. A criminal investigation was launched against President Donald Trump on the grounds that he had violated the law because he wanted from the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to open a corruption investigation against Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. As a result of these claims, in the American Senate, Trump was charged with "malfeasance" and "block the functioning of Congress". However, before the result, it is important to talk about how this process worked, how President Trump and his team managed this process, and how the result affected the US presidential election, which will begin on November 3, 2020.



What is dismissal process?



In the USA, the dismissal is the sending public official to the Senate to be tried if the official is found guilty in the House of Representatives that s/he has committed a serious crime. It is one of the few ways to be dropped off the US President from

the White House without election. The US Constitution states that if a President is accused and sentenced for bribery, betrayal or other high crime and misdemeanours, he will be dismissed. "The sole power of empowerment" is organized by the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the Congress. A simple majority is required here that is, more than half of Congress members have to vote to influence the President. Then, the case begins to be heard by the Senate, the upper chamber of the Congress, where two-thirds majority is needed. Here, if 67 out of 100 members vote for the dismissal, the president of the USA is dismissed. However, it is important to understand that the accusation does not automatically mean that a president will be dismissed.

This process is experienced for the 4th time in the history of the USA.



Andrew JOHNSON, Richard NIXON, Bill CLINTON and Donald Trump.



Management of the process

In fact, it can be said that this process is the beginning of an extremely important event since we see that polarization has reached the extreme in the USA. It is un-

derstood from the attitude of the Republicans that ignored the evidence put in front of them during the entire investigation process and saying "No" without any loss in the vote of the House of Representatives. It is obvious that the Republican Party has started to gain a new identity. The party and its members very seriously and quickly compare Trump's dismissal to the "crucifixion" of Jesus Christ.

The party is bringing a new dimension to itself regarding Trump as the "greatest president ever"; adopting Trump's racist, sexist, populist, authoritarian, unfamiliar incidents while rejecting the undesirable news as "false news" together with its representatives who had relations with "white supremacy" movements; showing Democrat Party as "socialist", "extreme leftist", "a threat to the national security of the USA". D. Trump, on the other hand, has gained more power by calling this whole process as "witch-hunting". In this context, the results of the 2020 presidential elections have critical significance at the situation of the US community has today. It is understood that the dismissal voting in the House of Representatives did not negatively affect the popularity of Trump, and even from the results of a Gallup opinion poll, it slightly increased his popularity.

THE RESULT OF THE PROCESS

It is obvious that the whole process has strengthened the power of President Trump. The President of the USA, Donald Trump, was cleared of two dismissive articles against him in the voting in the Senate. During the first vote on the charge of "misconduct", 48 senators voted for Trump to be "guilty" while 52 senators voted "not guilty". In the second vote for the dismissal titled "to prevent the functioning of the Congress", 47 senators voted Trump

6 AMERICA

“guilty” while 53 senators voted “not guilty”. So, Trump became the third president in the US history to be acquitted in the Senate after Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton.

The period after the process



On the laundering of President Donald Trump, the White House states “President Trump is pleased to leave behind the last part of this embarrassing behaviour of the Democrats, and also looks

forward to working for the American people in 2020 and beyond. “ While President Trump is preparing for the 2020 elections as the only and stronger candidate of the Republicans, he is now being thought as the president for the next election since Democrats have not yet come up with a reliable and enthusiastic leader against Trump. It is not hard to

foresee that Trump will not pursue any risky domestic and foreign policies until the elections. It seems that Trump is very satisfied with his current situation and will not want to lose it. On the Democrats side, 7 candidates stand out; however, according to the US media, none of them have any serious chances against Trump.



QUARANTINE FOR ALL

by Dilara Soy

This year, in January 30th, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak as a public health emergency. Today over 3000 people died due to the virus called COVID-19 in various places. Authorities in the United States, Italy, Nepal, France, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan and many others confirmed cases. This means that the situation not only concerns China anymore.

If we go back to the beginning, China officially alerted the WHO last year on December 31st about the critical situation that broke out in Wuhan, central Hubei province. Specifically at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in the city later got closed on January the 1st. After experts made their researches, they identified the new virus which was belonging to the Corona virus family as COVID-19. Also, the common cold belongs to the same family; that’s why some symptoms are similar. Plus, it can spread very easily. This could happen through the air if somebody infected sneezes or through close interaction with an infected person. It can be transferred also by touching a surface they touch which would make any public place a potential carrier.

Therefore, the response of the Chinese government was pretty quick. A lockdown of nearly 60 million people in Hubei, a strict

quarantine and travel restrictions for hundreds of millions of citizens and foreigners were imposed.¹



The restrictions started with the harsh censorship by suppressing information. Even punishments were designed to cut the spread of rumours. China’s aggressive lobbying of the World Health Organization not to declare the outbreak a global health emergency is seen as evidence.²

With the sudden increase of patients, many people got turned away without any treatment. So, people in need didn’t have access to necessary health care. Besides, the shutdown of public transfers made it even more difficult for people to reach hospitals. Lat-

1- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/07/world/asia/china-coronavirus-cost.html>

2- “Here Are Seven Ways the Coronavirus Affects Human Rights.” Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/02/explainer-seven-ways-the-coronavirus-affects-human-rights/.

er on, with the situation going more critical attempts of sharing information via social media increased. This was not welcomed at all and ended up in harassment. Concurrently, the urgency of the virus was underrated and cover stories started to emerge. However, all this information suppressing and fake news just made the situation worse and less controllable by leading to radical decisions.

Another big problem was that the people from Wuhan, even those without symptoms, have been rejected from society and even had their personal information leaked online in China, according to media reports.³

This xenophobic attitude also showed itself around the world where Chinese people weren't accepted at hotels, restaurants etc. Additionally, for safety, borders were closed and quarantine measures were taken. However, for the sake of the people, precautions need to be taken in a proper way, not preventing people from healthcare and guidance or making feel locked up.

All in all, this sudden emergency situation shows how our lives can change in a second and how we just can hope that the governments have back up plans and reminds us how important electing proper people as the decision makers.

3- "Here Are Seven Ways the Coronavirus Affects Human Rights." Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/02/explainer-seven-ways-the-coronavirus-affects-human-rights/.

WRESTLING FOR THE OIL

By Berkay Bulut

While the world markets are shaking with the corona virus panic, the world's leading central banks and governments continue to take steps to revive the economies that are ringing alarm bells. In addition to all this panic, gloves are off in the oil market between Russia and Saudi Arabia. Industrial production slowed down due to quarantine in China, where production chains are tied all over the world. Due to travel bans, air transport started to put downward pressure on oil prices. After that, the Union of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to decrease production to prevent the prices from falling further. However, to be effective in this step, Russia, which has a strong voice in the global arena with its increasing production in recent years, had to be convinced. On the other hand, Russian officials wanted to lower oil prices without fully seeing the economic effects of the corona virus. Therefore, they refused to reduce production. In response, Saudi Arabia, strongest member of the OPEC, retaliated and increased its daily production by one million barrels. Oil prices also fell more than 30 per cent in a week, and the Russian currency, the Ruble, also rapidly declined. On the other side, Russian public oil monopoly Rosneft plans to respond to Saudi Arabia in the same way and increase production in April. Rosneft official said the company is ready for any scenario. Experts state that Rosneft can increase oil production by about 300 thousand barrels / day in a week. The Russian Ministry of Finance states that they can withstand low oil prices for 6-10 years. Prices fell to the lowest level in the last four years due to the fact that Saudi Arabia and Russia could not decide to make additional cuts in crude oil production. Saudi Arabia applied the same strategy that it used in 1980s in order to prevent Russian aggressive policies in both Ukraine and Syria during the period of the former president of the US Barack Obama. However, at that time, due to the huge deficit in the Saudi

Arabian budget, it could not withstand the decline in oil revenues and had to act in a coordinated manner, instead of competing with Russia. As a result OPEC + was established in 2017 with the agreement of 14 OPEC member countries and 10 non-member countries. **OPEC+ Changed the Balances**



Although this new format, which does not include the USA and China, requires 24 countries to act in a coordinated manner regarding production quotas, it was actually the result of the balance policies between Saudi Arabia and Russia. It became harder to protect the fragile balance between Russia and OPEC countries because of the corona virus causing declining request of oil. Moscow took a new step to turn the balances in its favour by using the outbreak. Russia does not seem to be bothered by this situation for now. If things go as Russia wants, it will be able to repel American Shale Oil producers in the European market due to their high costs. Saudi Arabia, which has difficulty in closing the ever-growing budget deficit with falling

oil revenues, will have to approach Russia again by making more concessions this time if it does not get the support from the USA.



Of course, the essential thing here is how long both sides can continue this restitution. Sofya Donets, the chief Russia economist at Renaissance Capital and a former senior Russian central bank officer stated that "Russia is better positioned to survive this crisis" based on Russia's budget because for last five years, it has tightened its budget consolidating \$550 billion in its reserves. According to the officials, if it is needed, this situation will help to overcome oil prices between \$25 and \$30 per a barrel for 10 years. The biggest advantage of Saudi Arabia is that it has the lowest production cost in the world together with Kuwait. The cost of oil production per a barrel by country was USA \$23, Russia \$19 and Saudi Arabia nearly \$9 in 2019. However, even before the crisis, Saudi Arabia was calculating that this year it would have a budget deficit of around \$50 billion, or 6.5 per cent of its national income. It is certain that this will increase even more. So, the only way they can stand against Russia will be the support from the USA. In short, it can be said that in spite of the virus, even if the oil market is hit hard, it will not collapse. However, the profit margin will decrease compared to the global average export cost.

WHAT IS THE NEXT?

By Ceren Güler

What happens after Brexit?



Although throughout the centuries European people wanted to unite, in the twentieth century this will of uniting could take the form of a union. Moreover, taking the formal name of "union" happened in 1992 with the Treaty of Maastricht. European Union is a unique form of union among twenty-seven European countries. It allows free movement of goods, people, capital and services. EU members do not pay extra charges for their goods and also their products are not subject to any checks. EU citizens could live, study and work in any member state. To summarize, member countries have many advantages. However, we cannot ignore the disadvantages because the EU is a supranational organization. When a country becomes a member, it has to share its power as a state with the EU. From the beginning, many countries including the

United Kingdom wanted to be a part of this Union. European Economic Community was the first name of today's EU. The Treaty of Rome, the founding treaty of European Economic Community, concluded between six states which are France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, West Germany and Belgium. The United Kingdom was not among the founding members of it. Enlargement was among the aims of this community. The first countries which wanted to be a part of this community were Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the UK. In 1961, the story of the UK for being a member had started. However, in 1963 and 1967 their membership was vetoed by the French president Charles de Gaulle. He believed British people had hostility towards any idea of European unity. When de Gaulle left his position of presidency, it was a new chance for the British. Finally in 1973, Denmark, the UK and Ireland could be members. Norwegian people were the ones who did not want the entry with a referendum. All in all, British people tried three times in order to be a member. However, only two years af-

ter becoming a member, in 1975, they made a referendum and asked British citizens whether they should stay or leave. Thus, it will not be wrong to say that British people were not that much enthusiastic about staying in the EU and de Gaulle was right since the beginning. When we look at the history of British entrance to the Union, we can say that they really wanted and struggled for being a member. But what changed later? Today, the UK became the first country which wanted to exit from the Union. The process was known as “Brexit which means “British exit”. They also struggled for leaving -as in entering- and finally did it in 2020. **How did it start?**

As I said before, the first referendum held in 1975. The United Kingdom had inconstancy throughout its membership in the EU about staying or leaving. A public vote called as referendum was held in June 2016. 52% of the UK citizens voted for leaving. The Brexit process officially started after that date. After the referendum, May government had many difficulties with the parliament about Brexit. In 12 December 2019, there was an election which is also called second referendum in the UK. The motto of Boris Johnson's party was “Brexit in any way”. After the election, Johnson made an agreement with the EU and on 29 January there was no obstacle for leaving anymore. **What happened in 31 January 2020?**

British people finally left the EU! Since 31 January 2020, the UK is not a member of the EU anymore. Some British people called that date as “The day of Independence”. The EU was a threat for their independence for them. However, we should not forget 48% of the UK citizen who did not want this exit. They were sorry for the lost advantages of being a member. **What will happen in the UK now?**



Actually the answer of this question is really uncertain. Nobody knows what will happen because this is the first time in the EU history that a country leaves the Union. It is surprising that although there are some countries waiting for being a member for a long time, a country really struggled for leaving. I mean today Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey are candidate countries which wish to be a member one day, but 52% of the UK citizens are giving parties for leaving the Union. In my opinion, British people will not live the best life without EU membership. On the contrary, everything really will be really hard for them. It is a kind of creating a new country. They have to reorganize everything. Leaving the EU is about people, services, goods and capital.

Even the smallest thing that does not come to our minds right now will be reorganized. For instance, in a football match the UK can only have three foreign football players, so eight of the players were either the UK citizens or the EU citizens. There was no difference between the UK citizens and the other EU member citizens. They were all the same. However, now the UK which has many EU citizens as football players will have to put these players in the “foreign players” section. This is just a little detail about reorganizing. Until the end of 2020, EU law will continue to be applied in the UK. However, till that date the UK has to do many things. The UK has to make an agreement with the UK about trade, agriculture, education, fishery, security, refugees and so on. Is it really possible to do these within nine months? Let's say they could make the agreement. Is it possible to ratify it in 27 member states until the end of 2020? What about if they cannot reach an agreement till the end of 2020? Moreover, the UK has to do another regulation which will take place of EU regulation until the end of 2020. Brexit also affected the economy of the UK. They paid the cost of leaving and most probably will continue to pay. The question of “what will happen?” does not only concern the UK's foreign relations. There is another question: “Will the United Kingdom continue to be ‘united?’” because Scots and Irish people mostly did not want to leave the EU. So, can they leave the UK? To conclude, there are many questions about Brexit right now. In order to answer all of these, we have to wait and see. However, I can clearly say that this leaving will be harder for the UK than the EU. Moreover, I believe that these costs of leaving will strengthen the relations of other member states with the EU. There were some questions about whether the UK's leaving will be an example for other member states to leave or not. Now, the situation in the UK made clear that no member state would want to do it.

YOU SHALL NOT PASS

By Yağmur Taşdemir

In no uncertain terms, the subject of the article is not a movie analysis or Gandalf scene from *The Lord of the Rings*. Rather than a movie everyone enjoys, it's a 'real' issue that the world is content with just being silent by playing three monkeys! You shall not pass originally is "a slogan used to express determination to defend a position against an enemy". However, in this case, there is a hostile attitude rather than defence against the so called "enemy". "I moved to Greece from Evros River, and then I was captured there. Greek police took us into a building and beat up. They did not feed us for 2 days. They confiscated everything on us and forced us to go to the Turkish border saying they would kill us if we came again." Sukhbir Singht, 23. "I moved to Greece from Turkey border, I was there captured the Greek police. They beat me, forcibly brought back to Turkey from the river. They called us 'terrorists' and gave electricity to my neck with an electroshock device. They said they would kill us if we came again. They confiscated our phones and cashes. Then, they robbed the clothes on many of my friends leaving without clothes in cold weather and rain." Sukh Preet, 23.



These are the words of the refugees attempting to cross into Greece from Turkey border illegally in the previous days. After Turkey opened its doors, thousands of refugees flooded to Greece-Turkey border. Through the Evros River, the refugees were trying to reach Lesbos Island in Greece by boats. After many boats

tried to reach the island, Greek coast guard units started to block them. Refugee boats in Lesbos Island could not land for a long time due to the blocking of the locals. The group gathered at the port shouted at the refugees in the boats and an extreme rightist group battered a journalist who was recording these images and threw his camera into the sea. Ironically, the people in Lesbos Island were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016 for their tolerance towards refugees. On the other side, the refugee group, mostly Syrian, trying to enter Greece, was not taken into the country from the Aegean shores. Refugees were allegedly abandoned to their fate by sending them back over the Evros River by "pushing back" method forcing them into the boats. In news made by the BBC, it was stated that a group of refugees were put on vehicles without license plates by masked people. The journalist asked the Greek government that is this a normal procedure and Athens responded to the question as "It is a normal procedure for the country to try to protect its borders, that is all I have to say." Unfortunately, as a result of this scandal called as normal (!) by Greek government, the Syrian refugee Ahmed Abu Emad, who tried to cross the border, was killed by the fire opened by the Greek security forces. On the other hand, a lifeless body of a child was found off the coast of Lesbos. It is impossible not to stop and think at this point. How many more babies' bodies have to be washed up onto a shore? How many more mothers need to shriek? When will we learn, regardless of religion, language or race, to live together with human values as "human"?



UN and International Law

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants Felipe González Morales, in his written statement, made the call to stop the human rights violations against refugees on the border with Turkey and Greece. In his statement, Morales said that Greece pushing back refugees violated the “mass deportation ban” and “the principle of non-refoulement” saying “I am very concerned about the reported pushbacks of asylum seekers and migrants, which constitutes a violation of the prohibition of collective expulsions and the principle of non-refoulement.” He underlined that the news of attacks and violence against refugees by Greek security officers and unidentified armed persons are also “alarming”. The Special Rapporteur reported that he got in touch with the Greek government because of the concerns about situation of refugees in Turkey-Greece border informing the institutions in Turkey and the European Union. Morales, who also reacted to Greek Prime Minister Kiriakos Mitsotakis’s statement about Greece will stop asylum applications for a month, said: “Greece should immediately reverse its decision on the suspension of asylum application which has no legal basis in international human rights law. The right to individual assessment is the cornerstone of human rights and refugee protection. It cannot be put on hold. Greece has the responsibility to ensure that migrants and those assisting them are protected from threats and attacks. The authorities should condemn promptly and ensure accountability for any such acts.” The UN expert also stated his concerns about the brutal attitude towards the journalists, humanitarian workers and human rights defenders in the Greek Aegean Sea.

On the other hand, according to international law and international agreements on refugees, every person who does not feel safe and leaves their country because of war and similar fears has the right to seek refuge in another country. Besides, the Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”. According to the CEAS (Common European Asylum System), which is shaping the EU’s immigration policy and still working on it, “to those who

flee because they face serious threats of persecution and harm in their home country and need international protection should be given asylum”.

Why Turkey Opened Its Borders?

Turkey, which has opened its doors approximately 4 million Syrian refugees while hosting thousands of them in its border camps since the beginning of the Syrian War, is not preventing those who tries to go to the Europe by land and sea in the last periods. However, with the recent developments in the Syrian city of Idlib, Turkey was confronted with a new wave of immigration. 2 million civilians lived in Idlib under the heavy attacks of Assad’s regime and Russia relied on the Turkish border. While Turkey has been warning the international community about new migration wave for a long time, European countries keep their doors close to migrants. For this reason, Turkey which cannot afford the new migration wave decided not to prevent migrants wishing to go to the European countries. In addition, Turkey ac-



cuses of the European Union about not to comply with the commitment on migrants because 6 billion euros that was promised for migrants in the commitment has not been transferred to Turkey. Furthermore, Turkey did not take support of European countries in its project to create a safe zone in Syria for refugees. In the lights of all these developments, while the humanitarian crisis continues in Idlib, where 4 million civilians struggled to survive, Europe is facing a new wave of migration.

For Greece side, Turkish attitude is against the international law. In an interview, Nikos Dendias –politician of the Conservative new Democracy Party in Greece- accused Turkey of clashing with the international law. For these accusations, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu responded on Twitter: “Look who’s lecturing us on international law! They’re shamelessly throwing tear gas bombs on thousands of innocents piled at their gates. We don’t have an obligation to stop people leaving our country but Greece has the duty to treat them as human beings!” On the other hand, Greek media tries to show the situation as the result of Erdoğan’s failure in Syria and the economy saying “To assist in distracting the Turkish population of his failures in Syria and the economy, Erdoğan has fully utilized Turkish media to assist in the propaganda campaign.” However, it is obvious that whether its a coverage propaganda or not, Turkish government did not attempt to deport refugees, but opened its doors for those who wishes to left the country which is not a violation against international law or human rights. Taking into consideration that not only Turkish media but also many others have the violation videos and photos of refugees, it would be nonsense to describe this situation as the Turkish media making false news.

However, there is a much more important issue that we have overlooked in all these discussions. As a result of all these conflicts, the border became a blood-



bath which is not a solution to Syrian refugee crisis. In fact, how quickly Greek forgot history and do not tolerate others suffering. Were they not taking refuge in Syria when Germany and Italy invaded Greece during the Second World War? Was thousands of Greek welcomed with stones and slings when they took refuge in camps in Syria? While Syrian government welcomed their ancestors during a bloody war, is this Greek response for their kindness: Killing unarmed people in front of their families or sinking boats with innocent children inside? So what about the kids who survived this incredible violence and their physical and mental scars? All these events will affect not only one generation but also many generations that will come after them. This means that you push the people who will live in the same land together with you and your children to be the bully of the future. Are the countries in question ready for such brutality? Unfortunately, when the victim is not you, it's easy to despise and hurt others.

THE “CHANGE” IN IRISH ELECTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

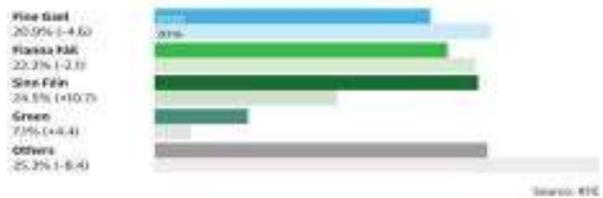
by Ahsen Sevnur Yıldırım

Ireland went to the polls on February 8 and the outcome was pretty shocking. Sinn Féin which is the former political wing of IRA won the general elections and this is a very new thing in Ireland's political history for almost half-century. Will this mean “change” in Ireland like it was promised during the election talks by Sinn Féin?

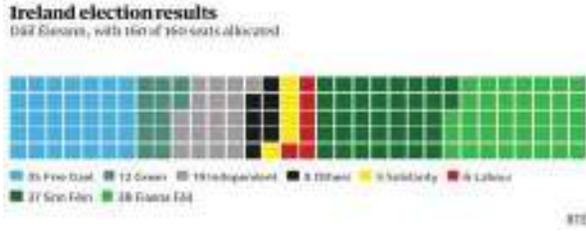


In the general elections, Sinn Féin has taken the majority votes by 24.5%, followed by Fianna Fáil with 22.2%, Fine Gael with 20.9%, Green Party with 7.1% and others with 25.3%. According to some, this is a historic change in Ireland's history but what is the reason behind that? The country has been monopolised by the coalitions of centre-right wing parties more than 30 years now and Sinn Féin as a left-wing party and the former political wing of IRA (Irish Republican Army) brought this to an end. Some people are afraid to see the results of this Sinn Féin government because of the Troubles which was a bloody era in Irish history caused by IRA's terrorist activities. In 2016 elections, distribution of the votes was pretty different. Fine Gael has taken the majority of the votes by 25.5%, followed by Fianna Fáil with 24.3%, and Sinn Féin with 13.8% of the vote. In comparison to 2016 elections, Sinn Féin has increased its votes by 10.7% and this is significant change in 2020 elections.

How vote share changed
First preferred votes, 2016 vs 2020



How did this “change” happen in the elections? During the election campaign, Sinn Féin promised the “change” in Ireland by focusing on issues like homelessness, healthcare system, the environment which were not included in the election manifestos of the other two big parties. The former governors were not focusing on these issues and this is quite significant change for the Irish people. According to party leader of Sinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald, people want “change” and this was the key to success. However, this is not enough for Sinn Féin to form a government alone. In Ireland, 80 seats in parliament are required to form a government which all of the parties are pretty far from this number of seats and this necessitates of a coalition. Sinn Féin has won the general elections however could not win the majority seats in the parliament. Fianna Fáil has won the majority seats by 38 seats, Sinn Féin has taken 37 seats, followed by Fine Gael by 35 seats. The results are so closed to each other but what is surprising that the left-wing party won the elections for the first time in very long time. These results show that there will be a coalition needed to form the government however both right-wing parties Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil already announced that they are not going to form a coalition with the centre-left wing party Sinn Féin.



Sinn Féin has two options to form a coalition, whether form the coalition with one of the right-wing parties Fianna Fáil or Fine Gael or form the coalition with smaller parties or independent candidates. Both sides have already announced that there will be no grand coalition among Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Sinn Féin. Now, there is only one option left forming the government with smaller parties and independent candidates. However, this is not as easy as it sounds

since they are willing to form the coalition with each other. In the worst-case scenario, negotiations will come to nothing and the government cannot be formed which means people will vote for one more time. In the best-case scenario, the government will be formed one way or another. Nevertheless, even in the best-case scenario, there are some hinky points. In the possible Sinn Féin coalition government, there were some rhetorics of party leader McDonald about unity referendum in Ireland which is planning to take place in 2025 to reunite North Ireland to the Republic. After the Brexit, this is quite questionable. What is going to happen in this situation and how Brexit going to affect Ireland? To sum up, Ireland's 2020 elections had a surprising result and the result came with uncertainties together. Will the parties' compromise to form a grand coalition or will there be one more election? Will Sinn Féin bring "change" to the country if they can be successful to form the coalition like they were successful in the election? Will Sinn Féin coalition be dreadful to Ireland if it's the connection to IRA taken into consideration? We will play the waiting game.

GERMANY'S SYRIAN REFUGEE POLICY

By Kemal Kısa

Translated by: Utku Cenani Yıldırım

The issue of immigration and refugee -especially in the context of Syrian refugees- has become one of the most important problems that European countries must face in terms of the point that reached today. So that this topic has become an internal policy material and has become a necessary part of the election campaigns of these countries. However, as a result of this crisis, Europe has never been able to pass test properly and has trapped under this grand burden. Even if Germany, which we can consider the locomotive country and leader of the EU, accepts more refugees than other European countries and tries to solve this problem, it is difficult to say that Germany has overcome this crisis because of several reasons.

"The founding philosophy of the German Constitution is grounded on ethnic-based citizenship. Due to this racially based nationalist perspective, people who had to migrate from different countries and whose ethnic origins were German and were given the country's doors and also citizenship, while non-Germans were not granted citizenship for a long time and were not given the right to vote. Although it has a large immigrant population for many years, Germany has abstained from accepting that it is a country of immigration in its official discourse and legislating appropriate law according to that. Yet, such an acceptance like this would collapse Germany's ethno cultural nation-state model and generate cracks in its union." In fact, it would be wrong to evaluate this situation only in the context of the founding philosophy of the German Constitution, the history or culture of Germany, because for the first time the establishment of the Westphalia system in Europe, in other words, with the transition to the nation-states system, because of the nature of the system, the states have had a homogeneous nation, , and education system and strictly drawn boundaries or efforts in this direction. Therefore, refugees or immigrants can threaten this homogeneous structure mentioned in the "nation-state" system. The panic and fear experienced by Germany and other European states are occurred due to this reason. "Examining Germany's experience with immigrants and discussing the process will be of great value for understanding today's situation. The five major migration waves experienced by Germany after the Second World War have transformed and changed the country itself in many ways.

These migration waves are:

- (i) The immigration of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe after the Second World War,
- (ii) Labour migration accepted to the country via the Guest Labour (Gastarbeiter) agreement with several countries for the reconstruction of Germany,

1- Mehmet Ateş, Suriyeli Mülteciler Bağlamında Almanya'nın Göç ve Entegrasyon Politikası, Bitirme Projesi, Danışman: Yrd. Doç. Dr. Feride Aslı Jorgenson, Bamberg, Almanya, 2018

- (iii) The migration that occurred as a result of family reunification, which took place as a result of the permanent stay of guest workers,
- (iv) The migration from East Germany to the West as a result of fall of The Berlin Wall after the end of the Cold War,
- (v) The great migration to Germany as a result of the civil war in Syria.⁴²

As a result of all these experiences, Germany has passed a more successful test compared to other European countries, but as we have mentioned before, it has not been able to overcome the problem completely and produce a permanent solution. It should also bear in mind that all these migration experiences of Germany may have led to the emergence of racist organizations such as Neo-Nazis, and also finding a way out to the problems related to Syrian refugees.



The Idlib Question and Refugees

In the Idlib question, Turkey could not see the support it has expected from European countries against Russia and Assad's uncompromisingly harsh attitude in Idlib even Europe maintained stand against Turkey's military operation which was conducted in Idlib. The EU has thought the question would be resolved by providing a small economic aid and has gave the whole burden on Turkey. At this stage, with the opening of Turkey's border gate, a large number of Syrian refugees amassed at Greece's border. Greece, which is the gate of refugees to Europe, has taken a completely inhuman attitude by taking ruthlessly actions in measures against refugees. Fundamentally, the situation we see here is not only an Idlib issue or problems with

Syrian refugees, but also a "crisis of civilization" that the Western world has entered because the Western world has been exporting liberal values to the world for centuries such as human rights, rule of law, democracy and humanism. However, in the process we have reached, the Western world is in deep contradiction with its own values. Russia, on the other hand, targeted civilians by supporting the Assad regime in Idlib and thus, aimed for exposing the refugee crisis for both Turkey and Europe with the migration of the people who live in there towards the Turkish border. Unlike European Countries and Russia, only Turkey "has been put under its hand" for the solution of this issue and has prevented the targeting of civilians with the Soring Shield operation. The conducted foreign policy of Turkey has been making a lot of effort in order to solve the Syrian refugee issue by using both its diplomatic and military powers.

2- a.g.e
 Prof. Dr. Kemal Inat, Almanya'nın Suriyeli Mültecilere Yönelik Politikası, 13 Ocak 2016 Çarşamba
 3- https://ormer.sakarya.edu.tr/20_3,,50,almanya_nin_suriyeli_multecilere_yonelik_politikasi.html

THE COUNTRY WHERE THE WAR IS NOT OVER: LIBYA

by Burkan Yıldırım

Translated by: Yağmur Taşdemir

The protests that began across Libya on February 15, 2011 turned into a wide-scale rebellion quickly. In response to the intervention of the Gaddafi Administration, the rebel forces supported by the USA and the EU strengthened in a short time and the revolts turned into a civil war. After Gaddafi Administration has a success against the rebels, NATO intervened and provided air support to the

rebels. As a result, the civil war ended on 23 October 2011 when Muammar Gaddafi was captured and killed by lynching and torture. Gaddafi, who is the figure of the father of the Libyans, was again brutally killed by his own people. After the death of Gaddafi, the rebels went into raptures with the victory of the revolution while Libya was on the way to an unknown. Attempts to form a government began with

the end of the civil war, but each time it was unsuccessful. This unstable situation triggered the civil war again and the tribes began to declare autonomy or independence and started to fight again. As a result of long efforts, a government recognized by the United Nations was established. The Sarrac Government would re-unite the country and end the unstable state. However, General Khafter, who es-

caped from Libya during the Gaddafi period and settled in London, returned after Gaddafi's death and stated that he did not recognize the National Consensus Government that Sarrac was leading, and started to gain control in some regions of the country with the forces supporting him. Looking at the map of Libya, it is seen that two thirds of the country is under the control of the General Hafter, cities such as Tripoli, Sirte and Misrata are under the control of the National Consensus Government, and the rest are in the hands of local tribes. After the attacks on the regions where were under the control of General Hafter's National Reconciliation Government, especially Turkey and many other states supported National Reconciliation Government. Turkey has given intensive support with technical and military unmanned aerial vehicles. Again, Turkey made a bilateral agreement with Libya about Mediterranean Exclusive Economic Zone. Especially Greece and Israel and some other countries opposed this agreement which presents advantageous for both Turkey and Libya in Mediterranean showing their supports to General Hafter. On the other hand, General Haftar tried to find a support against Turkey which supported to National Reconciliation Government stating that he will cancel the agreement when the control is established in the region. After the increasing of the conflicts and fall of the Tripoli Government recognized by the UN, the calls for the UN, Turkey and other countries were made calling a ceasefire. Besides, at this time, Turkey and Libya made bilateral military agreements and Turkey tried to be a deterrent over General Hafter. A temporary ceasefire established

with the intervention of Russia and Turkey. Although, it was aimed to make it permanent; while Tripoli Government signed the agreement, General Hafter wanted 2 more days and then declared that he would not be part of the agreement. He laid down the cancelation of the security and cooperation agreements between Libya and Turkey as a condition but Turkey refused to do it. According to the experts, the most essential main actors that triggered Hafter for the war were United Arab Emirates and Egypt governments. In addition, Greece and France were the countries that supported him apparently. Although Russia supported General Hafter, it insisted to solve the issue of Libya through diplomacy. On all these developments, 12 countries and the Libyan Government attended the conference held in Berlin on January 22, 2020. The 55 Articles Libya Peace Plan was signed by all participants, but General Hafter, who did not attend the conference, closed the oil pipelines and ports in Libya at the same time. The decisions generally agreed on in the Conference are the end of the conflict and the efforts of the parties for permanent ceasefire, withdrawal of the batteries and air elements used in the clashes, the establishment of a commission by the UN for ceasefire surveillance, the UN sanction implementation in the case of a ceasefire violation, the implementation of arms embargo to Libya by all the actors, abstention attitude of the parties in the war, the resumption of the political process and the establishment of contacts between the two sides, etc. Although this plan has been signed among the countries participating in the Berlin

Conference, the concerns that the General Hafter has not yet signed the ceasefire agreement keep the concerns fresh. It is obvious that a spark that will reappear at any moment will cause a big fire in Libya. France, which has been supporting Hafter in the past days, announced that General Hafter will sign the agreement, but there has not been any development in this regard. Russia, on the other hand, declared that they and the international community did their best in their last statements, shows that Hafter will be responsible for a conflict environment that will emerge. The National Consensus Government under the leadership of Sarrac has signed this agreement, despite the fact that it is the official government recognized by the UN and most of its territory is in the hands of Hafter, and has shown to the international community that it is not pro-conflict. If a final assessment is required, the international community must stop and persuade General Hafter. After years of civil war, the Tripoli Government, recognized by the UN and established with consensus, takes all steps to prevent the crisis from deepening, while the General Hafter side is funning the flames. Failure to resolve this situation keeps the danger of Libya being dragged into a bloody civil war again. The international community should show its influence and prevent Libya from a possible new civil war. In particular, the United Nations should take an action and prevent this support against countries such as Greece, France, United Arab Emirates, Israel and Egypt which support the General Hafter side in contravention of international law. Otherwise, the war will not come to an end.

A NEW TRADE CENTER: ARCTIC SILK ROAD

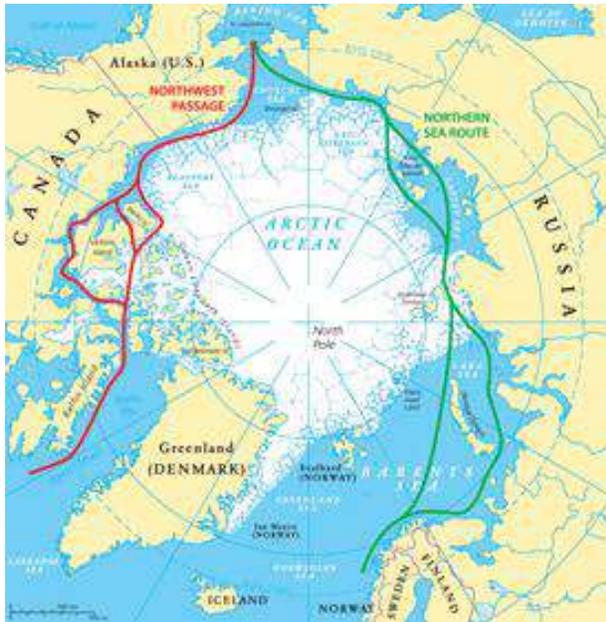
By Elif Bakar

From 2nd century BCE to the 18th century, the Silk Road was a network of trade corridors which had been connected the East Asia and Southeast Asia with South Asia, Persia, Arabian Peninsula, East Africa and Southern Europe. The Silk Road was not only a trade route but also a centre of economic, cultural, political and re-

ligious interactions between the regions. The Polar Silk Road or Blue Economic Passage, just as the ancient Silk Road, is a trade route which connects Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa through a transport and logistics network. The idea of connecting the regions and building the Silk Road under the Economic Belt

and Road Initiative was announced by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Autumn 2013. Although the Polar Silk Road has huge economic impacts of creating new shipping routes in international trade and making the shipping process 15 days shorter from China to Europe, it caused a debate on environmental issues.

6 POLAR ZONE



Creating new shipping routes by the melting ice with ice breakers will largely affect the coastal zone of the Arctic and relevant countries. Also, Chinese researchers stated that the sea level is going to rise and, as a result, 20 million citizens will have to be moved, disregard agricultural issues. The new transport and logistics routes and the environmental issue will bear on the countries which have a membership of the Arctic Council like Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, United States of America and the Russia with 6 participators of Arctic native people. For most of its history, the unfavourable landscapes of Arctic have been deterred human activity by 2030. However it is projected that the Ice Caps will diminish sufficiently to make the oceans navigable in the summer. These persistent changing meteorological conditions reveal not only new shipping routes but also deposits of natural resources that were previously off limits. Russia, Canada, the United States are all gearing up to dominate the area but as the Arctic comes under the geopolitical spotlight, distant China feels obliged to sail North and carve out its own foothold in the polar region. Although the Arctic will remain restricted to navigation construction and hydrocarbon extraction for years to come, the promise of wealth drives international interests in the region. By some estimates the Arctic Seabed contains about 13% of the world's undiscovered crude oil and 30% of its natural gas. Meanwhile new shipping lines will become available for cargo transportation such as the Northern sea route, the Northwest Passage and Transpolar Passage. As powerhouses far and near rush to secure their claims, it is unavoidable that frictions will emerge in terms of governance, sovereignty and navigation.

China

In the South China Sea, the territorial waters are all claimed and disputed. The Arctic Ocean is mostly uncontested as such

Chinese leadership cannot afford to settle as a secondary stakeholder while allowing for other powers to dictate the terms of navigation and resource exploitation so for strategic reasons the country is entering the competition for the Arctic. Yet, there is something unmistakably odd about Chinese pursuit, namely that it does not border the Arctic circle or even have a coastline on the Arctic Ocean. In legal terms, the lack of shorelines deprives a government from making articulate claims to the region. China has sought to bypass its non-literal state by increasing its physical presence in the Arctic Circle. In 1999, the country has launched its first research expedition to the polar region. Five years later, it constructed a large research station at Svalbard Islands while expanding its economic footprint in Iceland and Greenland. Since then, Beijing has been on a role. It has stepped up its scientific involvement in the region by using climate change research to forge closer ties with the Nordic countries. As a result, China is now close to joining the Arctic Council as a permanent observer. Furthermore, at home the Chinese are currently constructing two nuclear-powered icebreakers to add to their growing polar fleet. This Arctic fleet is not just sitting at the docks. Chinese vessels have traversed and surveyed the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route in the previous years.



(China's icebreaker ship)

Finally, in 2019 Beijing revealed its endgame in the Arctic when it released the white paper called Polar Silk Road which links China's projects in the Arctic to its signature One Belt One Road initiative. The white paper also declared the People's Republic of China as a near Arctic state. Never mind that China's most northern settlement is no closer to the Arctic than the German capital. The ambiguity of self-proclaimed identity grants Beijing the ability to refine its role in the North Pole as time and opportunities go by. Still being a non-literal state will restrict the country from accessing the resources and passages at will. So, despite all its efforts to increase its physical presence, China needs a long term partner to achieve its objects in the Arctic. That's why, China is likely to focus on multilateral mechanisms with as many Arctic states as possible in order to bind itself to the North Pole.

Russia

Russia is the partner choice for other countries simply because of its regional importance to the related area. Not only do the Rus-

6 POLAR ZONE

sians have the longest Arctic coastline stretching from Bering Sea in the East to the Bering Sea in the West, but the Northern Sea route sails along its northern coast as well. As ice caps melt Chinese vessels are the best positioned to benefit from Russia's northern sea route ships sailing from Chinese port of Dalian to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, their travel time will be shortened about 10 days. For China, the route is also more secure since it avoids the choke points and supply disruptions associated with the existing shipping lanes in Southeast Asia, not to mention Suez Canal and the Strait Bab-el-Mandeb. Hence, sailing by the northern sea route is not only faster but also eliminates exposure to hazardous seas and choke points. At the same time, however, the vastness of the Arctic and the Russian coastline is a significant security concern for the Kremlin. This is why, in the past, Moscow has opposed Beijing's involvement in the Arctic. For instance, the Russian government refused to issue permissions to Chinese research vessels to enter Russia's economic exclusive zone in the Arctic. Moscow has also opposed Beijing a seat as an observer at the Arctic Council. All these shows that Putin holds suspicions that the Chinese counterpart will eventually want to chip away Russia's sovereignty and sphere of influence in the North Pole. After all, this attitude has changed in recent years. The rubble collapse in 2014 and the Western sanctions of the Ukrainian crisis in the same year have robbed the Russians of their options and resources stretched thinly at home. Putin has come around and has shown willingness to cooperate with his counterpart Xi. So, by allying with China, Russia hopes to gain an access to Chinese funding and construction expertise. As a compromise, Beijing would gain access to the Arctic passages and resources. At least that is the Russian perspective. China sees things differently although President Xi would like to closely cooperate Putin on the Arctic affairs, the short term interests of China lie in the energy sector. Beijing has far shown no appetite for the construction of ports, logistics, facilities and services. The reason for this is because all of it lies in Russian territory. China feels no rush to invest billions in a region only to strengthen Russia's position in the Arctic. Therefore, the policymakers in Beijing believe once they make massive investments to build the Russian Arctic from the ground up the Kremlin will simply abandon the Chinese excluding them from the economic and security decision making. China, being a long-term player, needs an assurance and guarantee that its financial investments will not be in vain. It needs Russia to concede a part of its sovereignty in the Arctic which would give Beijing authentic ability to project power. Russia does not compromise on its security for commercial purposes so that is not going to happen. Consequently, mutual fear and suspicion will remain an obstacle going into the future. Nowhere else can Russia and China find such partners were both stand to gain practical benefits regardless of the competing interests.

Canada

Canada lays its claim to the waters of the Northwest Passage. The Canadian government often downplays the military threat posed by Beijing but military analysts think that it is naive of Ottawa to believe that China will not conduct naval operations in the Arctic. A Chinese icebreak-

er made its way into the Canadian Arctic in August 2017. While Chinese navy actually has more icebreakers in operations than the American or Canadian naval forces, Canada would have to work closely with the US in order to counter Chinese forces in Arctic water. It has been reported that the Chinese are studying submarine technology for deployment in the Arctic waters which could pose a significant threat to both Canada and the US. Canada will need to reciprocate with strategic sophistication and without some of the moralism and ideological hysteria that still confuses discourse between many Western democracies and China. Indeed, according to China's Arctic document, only one position should really create any strategic concern for Canada which is Beijing's understanding of the Northwest Passage as an international strait, this is at odds with Ottawa's long-standing insistence that the waterway constitutes internal Canadian waters under international law.

Possible Solutions

Although the polar Silk Road is a very likable idea by the investors and traders because it is almost completely a profitable situation for trading, the great impact it will have on the Arctic life and its environment in general cannot be ruled out. Although there is no life on the surface of the Arctic, the trait which is the most appealing to the investors, the sea life beneath the ice cannot be ignored. Thus, the biggest concern here is not that the land is being torn apart but what the impacts of men and ships would be on the sea life. This concern brings the most mentioned problem of the polar Silk Road, which is the ballast water problem. Since the Arctic has a very fragile flora and fauna, the ballast water is a threat to the arctic life because it may bring invasive species in or out of the Arctic. Additionally, it may cause the whole structure of the feeding system to change in the Arctic or the destinations the ships are heading. Some solutions for this problem may be provided by ballast water being released under special procedures in ports and by the mandatory sensor technology.



These will send instantaneous data to detect violations of the release of the ballast water and deter the people from making violations.

The possible solutions also bring other problems such as how the deterioration of the environmental balance and possible violations will be prevented as it is not clear which country or countries will have a say in the Polar Silk Road. China is the pioneer but the route is on the Russian waters which may suggest that the region be under Russian jurisdiction. A solution for this problem can only be solved by international agreements which will come upon the finish of the project. The other subject is that the prevention of the possible poor outcomes can only be done by high technology products when it comes to the cause of the problems. These are known for producing high technology products should be put forward for an argument in this case.



IRPOSTS

magazine

irposts.com

[instagram.com/IRPosts](https://www.instagram.com/IRPosts)

[facebook.com/IRPosts](https://www.facebook.com/IRPosts)

twitter.com/IRPostsMagazine