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Theses on International Financial Cooperation and Geopolitical Strategies in Southern Europe and in the Eastern Mediterranean

1. In full accordance with the Marxist theory it is impossible to understand the political processes in the Mediterranean without the Internationalist approach - taking into account the Globalist Neoliberal globalisation.
2. In this connection a logical, methodological and even philosophical problem arises - if the Neo-liberal globalisation is an integral, inseparable, unified feature of modern global capitalism, or we can separate some of “good” components of globalisation and can preserve them while rejecting and discarding the obvious “bad” features of the Imperialist globalisation, its ideology, worldview, philosophy, generated by the global hegemony of international financial capital. The thesis of possibility of "isolation" or "separability" of certain "good" features of the modern world order from the whole set of features of the new world unipolar order is spread in the left circles, especially in Europe, with arguments about globalization.
3. The famous Indian Marxist political economist Prabhat Patnaik argues that just like no one can get rid of neoliberalism, preserving modern capitalism, no one can get rid of modern capitalism, while preserving modern globalization. Together, they constitute an indissoluble unity that ensures the dominance of world oligarchs¹. Can we separate the indivisible? Can we preserve this modern globalization, while overthrowing the unjust capitalist world order? Please, kindly let me leave this problem to answer to the Greek Marxists who are famous in the whole World for their Marxist analysis capacities and experience the neoliberal globalism directly. In the end even the word “dialectics” is of the Greek origin.
4. The Mediterranean trade routes have always been a very important element of global trade and the imperialist globalisation has only increased its importance. The competition of the control of these

¹ Prabhat Patnaik. Misconceptions about Neo-Liberalism. Peoples Democracy.
http://peoplesdemocracy.in/2015/0517_pd/misconceptions-about-neo-liberalism

routes is very high and the Greek trade capital is one of the strongest participants of this struggle.

5. The role of natural gas in the world energy balance is constantly growing and the previously separated regional gas markets are beginning to merge into a single global gas market, both through the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the construction of new gas pipelines. Until now the gas market has been geographically segmented: for example, market prices for gas in 2014 in the US were about \$ 100 per 1,000 cubic meters that were significantly lower than in Europe about \$ 400 in Germany and, especially, for example in Japan (about 700 dollars)² or China.
6. One may say that at least since 2008 a global conflict has begun for the redistribution of the world and, above all, the European and Asian gas market. The world's largest financial and industrial groups are trying to radically change the very internal structure of the gas market in all its elements. This above all suggests plans to oust Russian Gazprom from its positions.
7. A special role in this conflict is played by the United States. They have turned into a net exporter of gas, and their banks have financed very expensive projects for the construction of terminals for liquefying and de-liquefying of natural gas.
8. The stakes in this game are very large, and the strategy is planned for decades ahead. This conflict is likely to take many years.
9. Among other things, the Third Energy Package of the EU was implemented, which allows to cancel long-term contracts concluded with Gazprom, under the guarantees of which loans were taken for the construction of pipelines. It does not seem to be pure coincidence that final implementation of the Third Energy Package almost exactly coincided with the beginning of the bombing of Libya by the NATO, where Colonel Gaddafi had decided to take an independent position intensively invested in the liquefaction and de-liquefaction of natural gas.
10. Gazprom's competitors are the North American and West European energy monopolies and financial structures. It was they

² Konstantin Gastev. Iranian Gas is not a competitor for Gasprom.
https://www.pravda.ru/economics/materials/gas/23-04-2014/1205461-iran_gaz-0/

who lobbied the Third energy package, which actually made any investment in any pipeline projects extremely risky, as there could be a sharp increase in interest rates on loans. Banking sanctions were added.

11. Now the West began to promote the concept that natural wealth is "the common heritage of mankind". Thus, the sovereignty of the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America over their natural resources is being questioned. Allegedly, "some countries have great natural resources, but they can not effectively dispose of it," and "humanity" is obliged to establish "effective control" over the natural resources of those countries that are not themselves able to master these resources. By "humanity" here is meant, of course, the West³.
12. Syria is the shortest and cheapest way to transport the hydrocarbons of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian region to the Mediterranean - and further to Europe. Geographically, in Iran and Iraq there are two huge oil and gas basins separated by mountains with large hydrocarbon reserves - the so-called "Southern oil and gas" adjacent to the Persian Gulf and "Northern oil and gas" in the Caspian Sea region. The development of the Northern basin, including the construction of pipelines through the territory of Iraq, Syria and Turkey is a very attractive project. And if earlier, apparently, this idea was presented by the French consortium led by Total, later negotiations were held with the Dutch-British Shell, and now the contract for the construction of a gas pipeline through the territory of Syria from Iran, Iraq, the Persian Gulf countries and, possibly, from the Caspian of deposits belongs to Stroytransgaz from Russia the CEO of it is at the same time the Chairman of the Forum of Gas Exporters ("Gas-OPEK").
13. In 2011 the Syrian ruling class broke apart - National bourgeoisie supported Russian and Iranian gas and oil pipelines projects (above all they meant huge profits for national subcontractors) while the Comparador pro-Western bourgeoisie joined the "Arab spring" protests, led them and eventually substituted them.

³ Said Gafurov. Fruits of the "Arab spring" (Плоды «арабской весны»). Literaturnaya Gazeta. No.16 (6459) 23/04/2014/ <http://lgz.ru/article/-16-6459-23-04-2014/plody-arabskoy-vesny/>

Nothing personal - enters Globalisation. (This explains the fantastic amount of high-rank deserters from the Government side).

14. Russia is a classical bonapartiste state nowadays in Marxist terms. The foreign policy of it is rather determined by the competition of the two state owned monopolies - Rosneft and Gazprom. The struggle of the factions of the Russian oligarchy - the party of "pacification" (Gazprom - they need to sell their gas to Europe) and the party of "resistance" (Rosneft - they have no other choice but to resist the Western competition) determines the compromise which forms the foreign policy of Russia.
15. Russian policy in Syria is a remarkable exception - Gazprom has to take a resistance position there - it has created a situation when both factions of the Russian ruling class have common position to take the resistance stance. This explains the uncommon consistency of the Russian foreign policy on Syria.
16. Russia has entered Syria but the role of the Russian air-forces is rather overestimated - there were only three dozens of bombers (Syrian air-forces before the conflict were numbered as 800 and it would have been much cheaper for Russia to supply the Syrian forces with ammunition, planes and instructors). The role of Russian forces was rather political than military - ***not to allow the NATO to repeat in Syria what the NATO had done in Iraq, Libya, Yugoslavia or even Cote d Ivoire***, for example.
17. Then enters Erdogan. His position was determined by the stable confrontation between the two groups of elites-the old, mostly trade and mercantile capital, mainly from Istanbul, closely connected with the Mediterranean trade, and therefore oriented towards integration into the European Union at any cost up to the rejection of national sovereignty against mainly industrial bourgeoisie from Anatolia - the eastern, Asian part of Turkey - oriented towards industrialization and rapid industrial (and agricultural on a modern basis) growth, which provided the political longevity of Erdogan.

18. The rapid economic development, the very "Turkish miracle", when the annual GDP growth was measured in double digits, closely connected with the name of Erdogan (the first half of his reign), practically ended by 2011, stopped by the consequences of the global economic crisis of 2008-2009.
19. Under the growing discontent of the population and business, ***the Turkish leadership tried export its internal problems*** by the adventuristic foreign policy (it had its own deep economic reasons - by 2011, for example, Syria became the main and successful competitor of important branches of Turkish business - textile, food industry, agro-industrial complex in general, and the Turkish capital demanded that Erdogan destroyed the dangerous competitor, which he successfully did)⁴.
20. If we look at the recent history of the European Union we may see that the ***German-French capital constantly needs to expand the territories under its control***. It needs a constant process of expanding the EU with the destruction of production in new territories, on the one hand, and the military-political seizure of new markets, on the other. First, Germany and France (and the small countries of the "old" EU) destroyed production in Southern Europe (of course, in Spain "Seat", and in Italy "Fiat" still exist, but there is almost no exact engineering or machine-building in these countries, as there are no famous Greek shipyards). Then, having seized and digested the economy and production sector of these countries, German capital turned to Eastern Europe. Then, after digesting it, towards the Baltic countries, to the countries of former Yugoslavia.
21. The EU needs to constantly expand, destroying production in new territories and conquering new markets, otherwise it will simply collapse in competition with Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, and even with Russian and American producers. The European capital can not stand for fair competition. The last in this list of countries, destroyed by German-French capital, at the moment is

⁴ Said Gafurov. There is an economic background in Erdogan's hatred of Assad (В ненависти Эрдогана к Асаду есть экономическая подоплека). Vzglyad. <https://vz.ru/world/2015/12/14/783605.html>.

Ukraine. When the European capital manage to digest it to the end, they will soon need to expand to new lands.

22. And Turkey is here in line, almost certainly it is in the shortlist of the following countries, which the European Union claims. Now the EU planners, the people who work out solutions, will **undoubtedly look to Turkey, which is, probably the next candidate for "democratisation"**. Of course, in exchange for the destruction of industry and agriculture, it can still be admitted to the EU markets, provide for visa-free travel and all other minor privileges.
23. Naturally, Erdogan categorically does not perspectives like it. He is a very smart politician tactic and undoubtedly knows that his situation is not much different from Yanukovych's situation and that Europeans can do with Erdogan the same thing they did with Yanukovych. **Yanukovehisation of Erdogan** is a nice term. Of course, Turkey is not Ukraine. But in Turkey the situation for European planners has already been facilitated: **the fifth column already exists there**.
24. This is primarily the old Istanbul commercial capital, which has little to do with the manufacturing sector, but is very much interested in Turkey's accession to the European Union markets. And this Istanbul capital hates Erdogan, who relies on the industrialists of Anatolia.
25. More than this the Anatolian capital that has made Erdogan to be Erdogan, which he is now, in fact, can easily become comprador in nature as well, because production has reached a new stage, when **financial services** (for example, export services, export insurance, banking services, lending, etc.) **begin to play a more important role in their profits than production itself**. And this will make them compradores quickly enough.
26. In addition, Turkey has an important so-called "military" sector of the economy. In Turkey it is not so much purely military production but rather the sector of the pld economy, which has traditionally been controlled by the military from the time of

Ataturk, and in some senses from the times before the First World War. This is primarily heavy and mining industry, to some extent, shipbuilding and similar industries. After the purges against Gulenists that Erdogan arranged after the fail of military coup d'etat, the people of European orientation, ***the traditional supporters of improving relations with Europe, dominate the army.*** And they can very well support those people who want to turn Erdogan into Turkish Yanukovich.

27. Even now according to the polls we see that Erdogan can hardly rely on support of 50% of Turks. Gazi and Taksim stories as well as the hostilities against Kurds show that the people in Turkey are getting more militant.
28. We empirically have noticed that recently the EU (and probably the USA) has drastically increased financing of different types of NGOs in Turkey and flocks of Western human rights defenders, ecologists, feminists, police consultants etc got money to travel across Turkey - which is very much alike situation in the Ukraine before 2014 coup.
29. We may say that Erdogan is not Yanukovich, that he by personal qualities far over-exceeds the overthrown Ukrainian president. But after all, there is the aftermath effect, because Yanukovich, who after the first Maidan managed to organize his supporters, won both the presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine, certainly deserved some respect. And many in 2012-2013 considered it absolutely impossible to overthrow Yanukovych in the same way as it now seems extremely improbable (not to say absolutely impossible) to overthrow Erdogan. ***The EU-USA political machine has showed many times that it knows how to overthrow popular presidents in other countries.***
30. On the other hand, Erdogan has already mastered the sad experience of Yanukovych, the various overthrown Balkan leaders, he is stronger, he has many trumps, one of which is the improvement of relations with Russia. Erdogan, of course, clearly understood that Yanukovych's attempts to sit on two chairs, to be nice to both the European Union and Russia, led him eventually to a shameful collapse.

31. That is, we see that the European Union, on the one hand, has a need to "Ukrainize" Turkey, and on the other, the EU also possesses the opportunity to do so: the fifth column in Istanbul big Turkish oligarchic capital may well repeat with Erdogan the story that Europeans were able to do with Yanukovich.
32. Erdogan needs foreign conflicts to settle his internal situation to defend him against increasing discontent.
33. What should be done under these conditions remains unclear and the Balkan, European and World Left need a lot of discussions on this subject. To raise the questions of practical politics rather than to give answers was the goal of this text.