

national hellenic FREE PRESS

VOL. 44

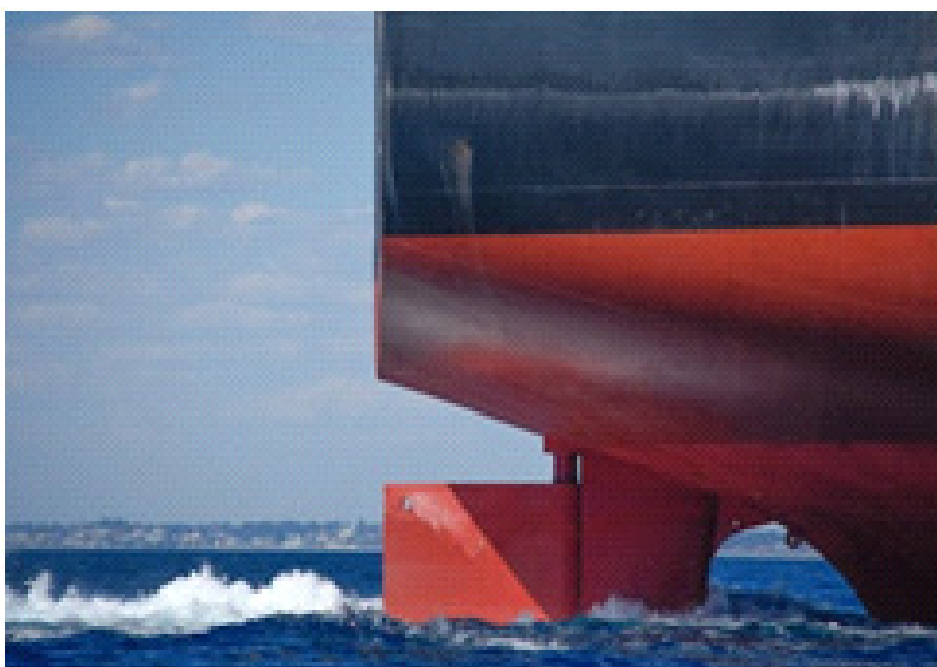
NO. 413

CHICAGO, IL.

SEPTEMBER, 2020

The Rudder

Louis A. Palivos



shutterstock.com • 1182085651

What is the Rudder in the Orthodox Church? Do the contents of the Rudder apply today to the Orthodox Church? Does the Orthodox Church obey the contents of the Rudder? What does the Rudder say should happen to those that do not obey the contents of the Rudder? This article will advance the sad reality that the Orthodox Church is shifting away its obedience by both the clergy and laity from the Rudder.

The Rudder was compiled by Hieromonach Agapius and mostly written by Nicodemus the monk, around 1790 A.D. The Rudder is directed to, “THE METAPHORICAL SHIP OF THE ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS OR ALL THE SACRED AND DIVINE CANONS OF THE HOLY AND RENOWNED APOSTLES OF THE HOLY COUNCILS, ECUMENICAL, AS WELL AS, REGIONAL AND OF INDIVIDUAL DEVINE FATHERS.”¹

Nicodemus compiled and wrote for more than three years the contents of the Rudder, as follows: 1) the 85 Canons of the Holy Apostles, 2) the 7 Ecumenical Councils, 3) the Canons of the various regional Councils, 4) the Canons of the 16 Holy Fathers, 5) instructions on marriage, 6) forms of letters, and 7) index of topics.

The Rudder contains interpretation of the Canons that are cross-referenced with other Canons and parts of the Rudder. In English, the Rudder contains 1,084 pages and in Greek 790 pages.

Should the Rudder Canons be followed today generally by all Christians, and specifically by all Orthodox Christians? Yes! The contents in the Rudder were written by God bearing and God fearing Fathers. Therefore, the Holy Spirit empowered them to write the con-

[Continued p.2\)](#)

HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Greets the 45th Clergy-Laity Congress Keynote of Archbishop Elpidophoros



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros Homily for the Great Vespers of the Dormition.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew sent virtual greetings to the 45th Clergy-Laity Congress, as it commenced its work for the first time in a virtual setting. His All-Holiness greeted the over 1,100 Delegates, in part, with the following exhortation (video may be found at <https://youtu.be/SyOECc-1LI>).

“With the assent of God, the Giver of all good things, the 45th Clergy-Laity Congress of this great Eparchy of our Ecumenical Throne, the united Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, takes place for the first time virtually, as a result of the difficult circumstances that the pandemic of the novel coronavirus Covid-19 continue to create. As we convey the commendation of the Mother Church and our Patriarchal blessing to all of you, we congratulate you for continuing this beautiful tradition, which, for many decades now, has strengthened the good witness of the Church in light of the demands and challenges of the times, thereby securing the broad participation of the people of God in the Church affairs, the exchange of opinions in a spirit of love and concord, as well as the reaching of decisions beneficial for the mission of the Church.”

His All-Holiness noted most eloquently the necessity for the Church’s engagement with the world:

“The contemporary world and its culture is not some ‘sinful Nineveh,’ whose punishment and destruction by God are desired by those overcome by the ‘Jonah syndrome,’ who believe they are the ‘chosen ones’ in the “‘household of the father,’ but have no connection to the contemporary reality, no sensitivity for the adventures of human freedom, and no sharing in the pain of the victims

[Continued p. 2\)](#)

NATIONAL HELLENIC
FREE PRESS

PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
CHRIS MERENTITIS DR. LOUIS PALIVOS

THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Greets the
45th Clergy-Laity Congress
Keynote of Archbishop Elpidophoros

(Continued from p. 1)

of violence, injustice, and discrimination. Our objective should be a Christian witness and action *in the world*, which implies engagement and not disengagement, *praxis* and not just *theoria*, acceptance and not just rejection, dialogue and not just barren disputation.”

In his Keynote Address, focused on the theme of the Congress, “... the greatest of these is love” (I Corinthians 13:13, Archbishop Elpidophoros stated (video may be found at <https://youtu.be/6VpUCTY8pb8>)

“So we commence, Beloved in the Lord, with the *one* virtue, the *one* grace, the *one* charisma that is truly needful – Αγάπη! Everything we want to do in the life of our Εκκλησία is only justified, and indeed, is only perfected, by love. ... Imagine a world where instead of objectifying and opposing others, we simply loved them, and allowed the transformative love of God to fill their hearts. This, my beloved friends, is faith in action, because we continue to believe that we can become better people, even our best selves in Christ. ... In the Light of Christ, the future is always bright. Even in the midst of a global pandemic that has changed our world and our societies, we have found ways to live our life as ἐν ἐξομῳ. We have been called out, called out to lives of service and mission to one another and to the

The Rudder

Louis A. Palivos

(from p. 1)

tents to the Christian Church and the Christian Church should obey the instructions not by force, but by volition to help Believers toward salvation.

However, there are hierarchs who openly state, as two have stated to me, that the Canons in the Rudder are outdated, too strict, and partly non-applicable today. I took issue with their statements and argued that the contents of the Rudder were inspired by the Holy Spirit and apply today. Further, others state that the Rudder is sadistic, puritanical, ascetic or traumatic.

When I was in my twenties and lost, God’s hand guided me to an individual at 1956 Henderson Street, Chicago, Illinois. He gifted the Rudder to me. I do not know his name, but hope that one day we will meet in heaven. As I began to read the Rudder in English, I began to get a deeper and a fuller understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit and of what consti-

The Rudder

Louis A. Palivos

tutes Holy Tradition.

After all these years, 40 plus, I more fully appreciate the Rudder, which really is the Rudder for living a Christian life. Just like a giant ship is guided by its rudder, so a Christian’s life is guided by The Rudder. The Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit, or any spiritual person in Their Stead is the Captain controlling the rudder in our life. As St. Paisios stated, “Sometimes we are guided to go left, sometimes we are guided to go right, and sometimes we are guided to go straight.”² The captain guides the ship using the rudder to land and the Holy Spirit guides the Believer using the Rudder to the Kingdom of God. I can attest to this guidance!

The purpose of the Rudder is to guide specifically the Orthodox Christian and generally all Christians to repentance, illumination, and *Theosis*.

To make this article shorter, I shall quote a few statements from the Rudder, and see what the Rudder states about the Holy Theotokos, Holy Communion, and the Bishops, relevant to our times.

The Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, from ancient times was called, “The Ever Virgin Theotokos;” her name must be venerated; icons must not be painted showing her in child birth exhibiting pain, as she gave birth to a unique person, the Lord Jesus Christ, unlike any other human in history; she was human, therefore not born sinless, unlike the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception; Mary had no pardonable sin; the Third Ecumenical Council adopted the name Theotokos; the teaching of Nestorian that Mary gave birth to two sons, the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin were refuted and he was anesthetized; she was a virgin before giving birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, remained a virgin after giving birth, and remained a virgin until her repose; she had a natural death; she was bodily translated to heaven; and the name Theotokos means either the mother of God or giving birth to Christ the Son of God.

As far as Holy Communion, the Rudder contains many worthy considerations, such as: during Pascha the faithful should partake of communion every day; attending liturgy and not partaking in communion is grounds for excommunication; the common cup should serve no other purpose; Solomon’s prophecy in the Old Testament that “come eat my bread and drink my wine,” Prov. 9.5, is fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ stating “Take, eat, this is my body and drink this is my blood of the New Covenant” Matt. 26:26-30; Christians should commune daily; denied to those who have killed; priest must use hot water; priest and people commune at the same time; wafers not to be used; Believers should prostrate themselves before partaking; except communion as coming from the Savior’s side, hence it is warm; lay men can give to the dying; and denied to Bishops who fail to convert all non-Orthodox.

In so far as Bishops, the Rudder has many instructions. Here are a few examples: “Let any Bishops or Presbyter or Deacon that merely joins in prayer with heretics be suspended, but if he has permitted them to perform any service as a Clergymen, let him be deposed, from the office.” The Apostles 85 Canons, Canon XLV. So, why haven’t any Bishops been deposed who pray in inter-faith prayer meetings?

The 6th Ecumenical Council, Canon XII, does not allow a Bishop to have a wife. However, the Holy Scripture states, “A Bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife.” I Tim. 3.1. The erudite, Bishop Kallistos Ware conceded in an open forum to a question I asked, “which is proper to follow, the Holy Scripture or Canon XII?” He stated, “we should go back to obeying Holy Scripture.”

“Two Bishops cannot co-exist in one region.” What happens with multiple Bishops from various Orthodox jurisdictions? “Bishops are to convert heretics in their regions.” Do Bishops obey these Canons? The Rudder has the answer!

Since Covid-19 is a pandemic, it is wise to consider the words in the Rudder, “The sick patients from the plague should not commune from the common cup but from a separate cup which is not consumed by the priest and is washed with vinegar. The vinegar afterwards is poured into a vessel (ὑψόφωγνῆ) that contains soil.”³

The Fathers wisely state that guiding the penitent should be done based on two principles: *accuracy and economy*, so as to guide the person to break the passions of the soul and of the flesh. Harsh words like heretic, anathematize, defrock and excommunicate must be used with extreme discernment. We should avoid being judgmental so as to help a person to repentance, illumination and *Theosis*.

In closing, the Rudder properly understood gives each Christian in general and the Orthodox Christian in particular, guidance to a deeper and fuller understanding of Holy Tradition, not to judge anyone that is disobedient, but to discern and to guide Believers toward repentance, holiness, and *Theosis*.

1. *The Rudder*, Published by the Orthodox Christian Educational society. 1956 Henderson Street, Chicago, Ill., 1957.
2. Proskynitis.blog.gr/2012/11/blog-post_4153.html
3. Parthenios of Athens, Old Calender, “the sick from the plague do not commune from the common holy cup,” Eklesia on Line, March 12, 2020.

Tom Ellis TOM ELLIS

Greece’s alliances and its military buildup



Faced with Turkey’s aggressive behavior in the Aegean and East Med, Greece is forging bilateral and multilateral partnerships that are not restricted to the field of diplomacy but also entail defense procurements. The significant upgrade of the country’s armed forces announced recently is part of this framework and a necessary development that needs to be carried out with the speed that the situation demands – but also complete transparency.

Bolstering our defenses to the degree needed is no small task. The extent of the upgrade required by Greece has grown exponentially in recent months as a result of tensions in the East Mediterranean. The country needs more frigates and submarines, both new ones and upgraded older ones. It needs more modern jets and helicopters. All this comes with a hefty price tag.

Some bitter experience with defense procurements in the past should serve as a warning. The government must ensure that everything proceeds in the appropriate manner and according to set procedures, and the opposition must maintain strict oversight. At the same time, consensus must be built over this sensitive issue in the years ahead, with a constructive stance by all parties. Greece faces important choices as it seeks weapons, technology and know-how from major Western powers.

Following the experience of the past, the main suppliers are the US, France and Germany. Greece’s procurement cooperation with all three is deep and enduring. All three produce the weapons systems that form the backbone of the Hellenic Armed Forces. In the air it has agreements with America to upgrade its fleet of F-16s, while there might be interest in Greece’s participation down the line in the F-35 program. The US also supplies Greece’s naval and ground forces. From France, the Mirage jet is the weapon that stands out, and now there is an agreement for the purchase of Rafales, and while there are no final decisions and no agreements, French frigates seem to come into play every so often.

Although the public discourse on weapons tends to focus on US and French weaponry, the Hellenic Armed Forces have a large number of tanks purchased from Germany, which is also the case with submarines, with the most modern of them spearheading the Aegean defense.

There will be an effort to maintain some balance in the procurement process, although it will not be possible to make everyone as happy as they might hope. In any case, it is essential to listen to the defense officials who will be using the new material. They know the nation’s defense needs. Just as we listened to the experts on the pandemic, so we need to listen to the military officials when it comes to defense procurements.

There are significant economic interests at play and a lot of pressure will be felt as a result. The government must tread cautiously and transparently; it must listen to the experts and maximize its benefits, both at the economic level and in terms of strategic support.

Lastly, the country also needs to invest in bolstering and restructuring its own defense industry, a goal that will be better served if there is cross-party support that will allow for meaningful long-term planning. There is no reason why at least the three main parties, which have governing experience, cannot agree on this, especially given that such a move would be a national effort unlinked to any one party that would be carried out over several years.

Giannis Antetokounmpo wins second straight NBA MVP award

Giannis Antetokounmpo’s historic year earned him a historic awards sweep. A person with knowledge of the situation says the Milwaukee forward is the NBA’s Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season. The 25-year-old Antetokounmpo becomes just the third player in league history to win MVP and Defensive Player of the Year in the same season, joining only Hall of Famers Michael Jordan and Hakeem Olajuwon.

Antetokounmpo’s numbers this season were unprecedented, with averages of 29.5 points, 13.6 rebounds and 5.6 assists per game. Nobody had ever averaged those numbers over a full season; Wilt Chamberlain

and Elgin Baylor both had seasons where they topped Antetokounmpo’s averages for points and rebounds, though both fell just shy of matching his assist average.

And the numbers weren’t inflated by big minutes, either. Antetokounmpo was fifth in the NBA in scoring, second in the league in rebounding but only 71st in minutes per game. He led the Bucks to the NBA’s best record this season, before Milwaukee were ousted from the playoffs by Miami in the Eastern Conference semi-finals.

“Giannis, in our minds, has done more than enough to deserve back-to-back MVPs,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said when the team was in the NBA’s restart bubble at Walt Disney World this summer. “What he does for us on both ends of the floor, what he does every night, the way he sets the bar for us, culturewise, work ethicwise ... he’s an incredible teammate, plays unselfishly, does everything. And I think that’s kind of what the MVP is, so we certainly feel like he’s very deserving.”

Jordan won both the MVP and Defensive Player in 1987-88 and Olajuwon won both in 1993-94. Antetokounmpo came close to joining the club last season by winning MVP and finishing second in the Defensive Player balloting.

A handful of others have also been first and second in those categories in the same year. Kawhi Leonard was second in the MVP race and won Defensive Player in 2015-16, just as Dwight Howard was in 2010-11 and Alonzo Mourning in 1998-99. LeBron James won MVP and was second in Defensive Player voting in 2008-09 and 2012-13, and Shaquille O’Neal did so in 1999-2000.

Antetokounmpo also becomes the 14th player with multiple MVP awards and the second international player in that club, joining Canada’s Steve Nash.

He becomes the 12th player to win back-to-back MVPs after Stephen Curry, James, Nash, Tim Duncan, Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Moses Malone, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell.



Residential Services

Commercial Services

Emergency Flood Services

Since 1999

DIAMAN

services

Αναλαμβάνουμε επιτόπου οικολογικούς καθαρισμούς:

ΧΑΛΙΩΝ • ΤΑΠΕΤΣΑΡΙΩΝ & ΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΤΙΚΩΝ ΧΑΛΙΩΝ

Ειδικευόμαστε επίσης σε:

- POWER WASHING
- TILE & GROUT CLEANING
- FLOOD RESTORATION

ΚΑΛΕΣΤΕ ΜΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΜΙΑ ΔΩΡΕΑΝ ΕΚΤΙΜΗΣΗ

847 - 366 - 9054

www.DIAMANSERVICESOFCHICAGO.COM

IAN BREMMER America has never seen a presidential race like this

US President Donald Trump arrives to deliver remarks on judicial appointments at the White House in Washington, on Wednesday. [Reuters]

For most of the summer, former US vice president Joe Biden has maintained a sizable polling lead over incumbent Donald Trump in the race for the presidency. In recent weeks though, the polls have tightened.



Some of that has to do with an improving health situation in the US from the pandemic (particularly around mortality rates); some of that has to do with the inevitable economic rebound that comes from restarting a national economy that ground to a standstill in spring; and some of that has to do with renewed discord over social injustice.

Despite all that, Biden would still be the comfortable favorite to win the election on November

3 based on the polling... if it was going to be a fair election. But it won't be. That makes it essentially a toss-up. America has never seen a presidential race like this.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives, in ways big and small. It will also disrupt the way the US goes to vote, and how those votes get counted. With less than two months to go, polling places are gearing up for the logistical challenges that come with longer voting lines and social distancing measures that will need to be put in place.

Fifty states carrying out what is effectively 50 separate elections – a legacy of the US Electoral College – to choose the next US president has always been a Herculean feat. Even in less polarized political climates, past elections have been marred by charges of voter suppression, election administration mistakes, and foreign interference. Similar accusations will be flying around in both the runup and aftermath of the November 3 elections.

But what's different this time

around is that these calls will be amplified by the sitting president of the US, who will add fuel to the fire in a bid to tip the scales in his favor. For Trump, claiming that the election is rigged isn't an excuse – it's a campaign strategy.

Never before in modern American history has the US had a sitting president actively trying to delegitimize the outcome of a US election for the sake of his own political prospects. Maybe the most egregious and direct assault Trump has launched of late has been against mail-in voting, which is expected to reach unprecedented levels in the midst of a pandemic.

Trump has admitted that he doesn't want to fund the US Postal Service for fear that mail-in votes will be used for widespread voter fraud despite no evidence that's the case. A survey published in August by Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape shows that more than one in three registered voters intend to vote by mail in this election cycle, and those voting for Biden are more than twice as likely as Trump voters to go that route. You better believe Trump has seen that polling data, which helps explain his recent call to his supporters in North Carolina to vote

twice (which is unambiguously illegal) in an attempt to prove that mail-in votes can't be trusted.

Fairness isn't just about the reality of making sure that every vote cast is free of undue influence and is counted accurately; it's about the broad perception of fairness as well. And with Trump's intention to cast any election outcome that doesn't result in him being declared the winner as suspect, it's looking like we've passed the tipping point.

If the election is in any way close, the losing side will feel like they've been robbed. And that's a dangerous place for US democracy to be right now. The last few months have shown that Americans from both sides of the political aisle are ready to take to the streets for what they believe is right; when it comes to something as essential to the functioning of democracy as casting ballots, the potential for widespread political violence is real.

We just don't know how successful these attempts at rigging will ultimately be for Trump's re-election chances; based on currently polling, he increasingly feels he has little to lose. But America has plenty to lose, most of all its faith in democracy.



Founded by Peter Parthenis Sr. in 1974 and still family-owned today, Grecian Delight Foods is proud of its rich Greek heritage. We manufacture and market top quality authentic Greek and specialty Mediterranean foods for the foodservice and retail industries. From the best gyro meats to Greek yogurt, hummus and fine pastries, people rely on Grecian Delight Foods' commitment to provide superior products made from the finest ingredients.

Grecian Delight Foods is always looking for candidates who strengthen our ability to grow and maintain the high standards of our customers. Our success is based on superior performance, competitive strategies, professional integrity, quality products and our people. We remain steeped in Greek tradition and encourage you to inquire about career opportunities. Please email your resume to jadelman@greciandelight.com

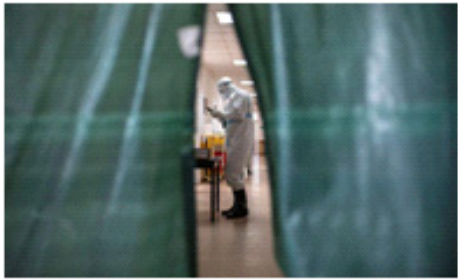
Ask for Grecian Delight Foods at your favorite Chicago restaurants and grocery stores!



**GYROS • HUMMUS • SPREADS • GREEK YOGURT • PITA • FLATBREADS
SHAWARMA • FALAFEL • MOUSAKA • PASTICHIO • BAKLAVA • AND MORE
847-364-1010 • www.greciandelight.com**

NEWS FROM GREECE

Lockdown possible if virus infections continue to rise, expert says



A new lockdown is a real possibility if new coronavirus infections continue to increase at the current rate, a professor of medicine at the University of Athens who sits on the expert committee advising the Greek government said on Thursday.

“Never say never with lockdowns. If necessary, it will be done, if the situation with the pandemic continues, especially in Attica, we will undoubtedly go into the lockdown,” Dr Nikos Sypsas told television channel ANT1 and pointed to the rising number of intubations.

“The next step, if the [current] measures do not work, is to restrict the movement of citizens,” he continued, noting that this restriction may be weekly.

Sypsas said the committee will monitor the situation over the next 10 days or two weeks to see if the current measures to stop the virus from spreading have worked.

“If the upward trend continues, we may resort to the extreme measure,” he added.

He also urged citizens to uphold the health and social distancing rules religiously. “This is no time to be relaxed. Things are getting serious.”

Mitsotakis tells funds in London to invest in Greek future

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Thursday called on foreign funds to invest in Greece’s future, as he told the 15th annual Greek Roadshow in London about the government’s recent and future policy measures.



Regarding his government’s future initiatives, Mitsotakis told investors about a proposal for a shift in auxiliary pensions to the pay-as-you-earn system, to be published this year, as well as the auction of 5G-friendly radio spectrum bands this fall, the continuing shift of the state mechanism to digital applications, the upcoming sale of a 49%

stake in grid manager DEDDIE, and the participation of all four systemic banks in the Hercules asset protection scheme.

The PM’s chief economic adviser Alex Patelis also said that by end-September, the Bank of Greece will have submitted its proposal to the government regarding a bad bank for nonperforming loans, “which we shall examine carefully,” he pledged.

Zaev says Greece can rely on North Macedonia



Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is talking with North Macedonia’s Premier Zoran Zaev during a working lunch in Athens, on Wednesday 16 September 2020. [Prime Minister’s office]

North Macedonia’s visiting Prime Minister Zoran Zaev assured Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou on Wednesday that Greece can rely on North Macedonia.

The visit to Athens, the first for the North Macedonia PM, was to symbolize the end of a “cold war” between the two Balkan neighbors over their decades-long name dispute.

Zaev, who combined his visit with his attendance of the Economist Conference, is reportedly in line with the European stance toward Ankara regarding the recent escalation between Greece and Turkey over maritime rights in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Sakellaropoulou reaffirmed Greek support for the European course of North Macedonia, while also emphasizing that the Prespes Agreement must be implemented in its entirety to further deepen bilateral relations. Stressing his commitment to the deal, Zaev said Greece is a strategic partner.

He also discussed bilateral ties and economic cooperation with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during a dinner hosted in his honor.

Ireland imposes quarantine on travelers from Greece



The Irish government on Thursday tightened its Covid-19

travel restrictions by imposing quarantines on travelers from major holiday markets Italy and Greece, angering the country’s dominant airlines Ryanair and Aer Lingus.

The latter said it was concerned by the fact the government had repeatedly indicated in recent weeks that it planned to adopt a more liberal European Commission proposal, but instead cut back the number of countries exempt from quarantine.

Ryanair, which is taking a case to the Irish High Court challenging the legality of the quarantine rules, said the aviation and tourism sectors “cannot afford any further delays or indecision.”

Ireland had initially waived quarantine for travelers from countries with lower Covid-19 rates, but as its 14-day infection rate surged to above 50 cases per 100,000, the government said only places half that rate would be exempt.

The new “Green List,” which goes into effect on Monday, allows travelers arriving from just seven countries to avoid quarantine: Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. [Reuters]

Turkey pushing its own envelope

The latest unfortunate episode of Turkish diplomacy stemmed from the signing of an agreement in mid-August between Israel and the United Arab Emirates – and brokered by the United States – for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Ankara expressed its strongest opposition to the agreement, annoying the United States and earning itself the ridicule of the Arab world. It was laughable for Turkey, which had recognized Israel in 1949 and has an embassy there, to appear irked by a similar move by the UAE, which, what’s more, was able to secure from Israel a commitment to suspend its West Bank annexation plans.

Overall, an assessment of the accomplishments of Turkish diplomacy in recent months is nothing short of disappointing: It triggered an anti-Turkish rally in the East Mediterranean over a gas pipeline project, EastMed, which is unlikely to ever come to fruition; its intervention in Libya put it on a collision course with France, and Paris is now leading a campaign against Turkey with evident military implications; Turkey was further alienated by the United States following its decision to receive the leadership of Hamas in Ankara and to issue some its members with passports even though the West has labeled it a terrorist organization; Turkey and its relationship with the European Union is the top item on the agenda of the European Council summit later this month.

According to Ahval, a website critical of the Turkish government, Ankara’s diplomatic paranoia is illustrated by the announcements of

its Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued after August 25. In 14 of the 27 announcements made since then, it made accusations about or issued warnings to another country, most notably France, with Greece and Cyprus hot on its heels. The Turkish Foreign Ministry, however, does not even spare Russia (for meeting with Kurdish representatives and for its treatment of Tatars), the United States (for condemning the meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Hamas leadership), Norway and Sweden (for disrespecting the Quran), Austria, Serbia etc.

A similar excess of zeal is also evident in the declarations of President Erdogan. His rhetoric – always somewhat problematic – has exceeded every acceptable limit in recent weeks. We should not underestimate him; he is one of the most capable heads of state in the world right now. He has emerged victorious from a series of very serious clashes with systems and interests and has escaped traps that would have vanquished many other leaders. Today he is counting on his country’s geopolitical importance to the West, his personal relationship with US President Donald Trump, his strange alliance with Russia and President Vladimir Putin and on money from Qatar.

The worst thing for Erdogan is that there is no one in his inner circle to question his actions, much less oppose him. Even the once moderate Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has surpassed Defense Minister Hulusi Akar in excessive rhetoric. He obviously hopes this is the way to become one of Erdogan’s daily interlocutors. Erdogan’s diplomacy and rhetoric are indicative of the situation, but Turkey’s military operations expose its Achilles’ heel. It is maintaining two active fronts, in Syria and Libya, while keeping troops and carrying out operations in Iraq. Its recent mobilization in the Eastern Mediterranean, meanwhile, is much like another front. With the exception of the United States and perhaps Russia and France, no other country today could hold three fronts at once.

Maintaining this military presence comes at enormous economic cost. On August 11 and 26, in fact, the Turkish state had to proceed with emergency borrowing of over 5 billion euros to support the country’s defense bill – and this is while the Defense Ministry’s 2020 budget was already set at 16.5 billion euros.

Turkey is clearly pushing its own envelope, testing its own limits, by following the mine-riddled path of Erdogan’s neo-Ottoman fixations. The Turkish president knows that if he loses his grip on power, he won’t simply go home – investigations are bound to be launched into the incredible wealth amassed by himself and members of his family. He remembers the fate that befell former prime minister Adnan Menderes, who was hanged. It is such thoughts that are pushing him to more extreme choices. What we need to realize is that it is just a matter of time before the Erdogan system comes tumbling down, with everything that this may entail for the region.

Turkey says conditions conducive to launching talks with Greece



Turkey believes conditions are conducive to restarting talks with fellow NATO member Greece after Ankara’s Oruc Reis seismic survey vessel left contested waters in the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkish Presidential Spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Thursday.

Turkey and Greece have been locked in a bitter dispute over conflicting claims on the extent of their continental shelves and exploration for potential energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean. Tensions flared last month when Turkey sent the Oruc Reis to contested waters also claimed by Greece and Cyprus.

On Sunday, the Oruc Reis returned to Turkey’s southern province of Antalya for what Ankara called “routine maintenance,” a move Greece called a positive first step in easing tensions. The two countries began talks at NATO to avoid military accidents in the region, after a small naval collision last month.

Speaking at an online panel, Kalin said the Oruc Reis’ return to Antalya was an opportunity to advance talks and this “should not be squandered,” adding that Ankara hopes this will be “reflected positively” at a European Union summit on September 24-25.

“We want to see a new page turned in the relations between Turkey and Greece, but also in relations between Turkey and the EU,” Kalin said.

“We are hopeful, we believe the climate is conducive to that at the moment and we have, I think, reached an understanding with regards to which steps we need to be taking over the next few weeks to resume these talks,” he said.

On Wednesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the Oruc Reis’ maintenance may take “a few weeks,” according to the Energy ministry, but added the vessel will resume its operations afterwards. [Reuters]

Contact with Turkey re-started over East Med crisis

Greece says it has resumed high-level political contacts with Turkey to try and de-escalate a dispute over offshore energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Stelios Petsas, the Greek government spokesman, said direct contacts had restarted after Turkey pulled back a survey vessel at the weekend from an area where it disputes Greece’s right to exploit natural gas.

The discussions, he said, were taking place between aides to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Allies of the two NATO members have warned that the stand-off and rival military build-ups in the area had increased the risk of military confrontation. [AP]

Covid death toll, intubations and new cases continue alarming rise



The National Organization for Public Health’s (EODY) daily bulletin on Thursday painted a bleak picture of the course of the coronavirus pandemic in Greece, with the death toll, intubations and new cases continuing to climb.

According to EODY, nine Covid-19 died in the 24-hour period from its last report on Wednesday, taking the total death toll to 325, while the number of patients in intensive care – an indicator of the pressure on the Greek health system – rose to 69 from 67 the previous day.

New infections also showed no sign of abating, coming to 359 on Thursday from 312 the day before, taking the total to 14,400. Of the new cases, just 36 were imported and 21 linked to known outbreaks, indicating a high rate of community transmission.

The region of Attica continues to be in the eye of the storm, reporting 212 of Thursday’s new infections, the vast majority of which are not linked to travel or another known patient.

Healthy Teeth & Gums for Life!

IFANTIS
DENTAL CARE
IMPLANT, COSMETIC, AND ORTHODONTIC FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. JOHN IFANTIS, D.D.S.

Gentle Doctor,
Friendly & Professional Staff,
Relaxing Environment,
Convenient Appt. Times

NEW PATIENT OFFER
\$39 Reg. \$200 Save \$230!
Complete Exam • Personalized Consultation
All Necessary 3D Digital X-Rays
Professional Cleaning*

847.443.8243
9251 WAUKEGAN RD. | MORTON GROVE
WWW.IFANTISDENTALCARE.COM

*Unless certain dental conditions exist. Expires 7/31/18. SaveOnDent

A campaign against reason



Is the face mask yet another manifestation of “the system”? The claim may sound preposterous to infectious diseases experts and most citizens. However, for a large section of society it’s a “truth” worth fighting for, even if it means arguing with friends and neighbors.

It is happening across the globe. In the United States, the mask has become the subject of division between the political supporters and opponents of President Donald Trump. Not wearing a mask has become a symbol of revolt against “the system,” a symbol of freedom from its bonds.

This is not only happening in Missouri or Alabama. It’s also happening closer to home, in the neighborhood cafés and in the village squares. Skepticism is rife about whether the coronavirus actually exists, whether we should don a protective face covering, and whether we should be vaccinated against Covid-19 once a jab does become available.

It’s easy to laugh at the phenomenon. It is also dangerous, because it shows that we fail to realize what is really going on around us. The impact of the coronavirus skeptics is growing with time. The situation is slightly reminiscent of the early stages of Greece’s anti-austerity, anti-systemic wave that peaked in the rallies of “the indignants” in public squares.

It is an explosive mix. No sooner did many of our fellow citizens feel they had finally dug themselves out of their financial despair, than they felt more problems raining down on their heads again. There is something asymmetrical and inexplicable to Covid-19 that is causing stress, insecurity and anger. Meanwhile, social media are fueling anger and altercation. If you add the tensions between Greece and Turkey to this inflammable mix, then you get the perfect recipe for an explosion of indignation and dissent.

SYRIZA is now part of the “system.” The leftist opposition could not adopt the anti-mask campaign. So this time it will be up to others to ride the anti-systemic wave. Greek society is worn down and deeply divided as a result of what happened over the last few years.

Greece went back to a trajectory of reason and responsible management as the rest of the world spectacularly went off track. The country will need a great deal of restraint and solid leadership to survive this latest challenge.

Gaia's Diet

online chat

Κλείσε την online συνεδρία σου με έναν από τους καταρτισμένους διαιτολόγους μας.

www.gaiasdiet.gr
f @gaiasdiet.gr t @GaiasDiet

THE LAW OFFICE OF GEORGE C. XAMPLAS • 25 E WASHINGTON ST, SUITE 700, CHICAGO, IL 60602 • (312) 345-0510

Xamplas

Helping our clients navigate the labyrinth of Greek law

- GREEK REAL ESTATE
- GREEK TAX ISSUES

- GREEK INHERITANCE & WILLS
- IMMIGRATION & PASSPORT

- POWER OF ATTORNEY
- GREEK BUSINESS LAW

www.xamplaslaws.com

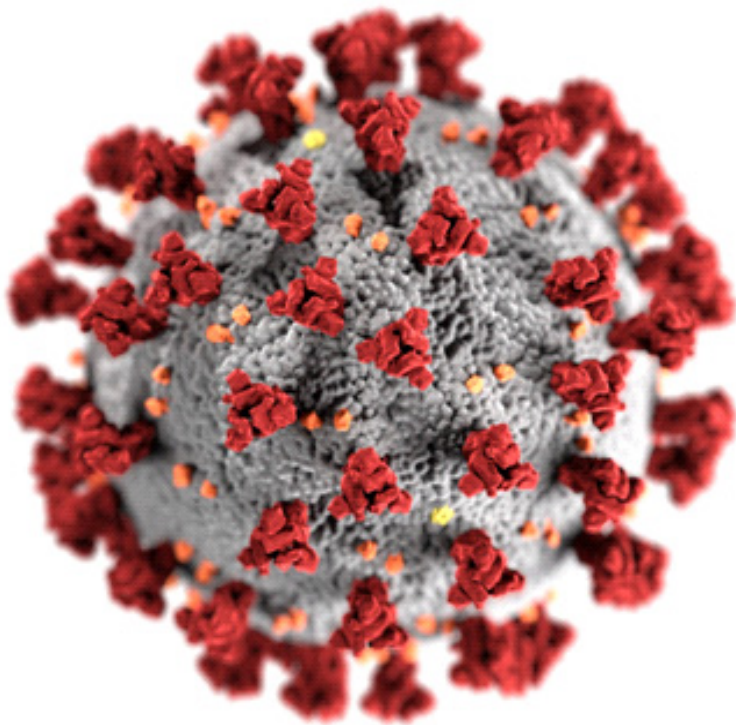
Nikos Konstandaras

9/11 and the pandemic



A woman places flowers in the inscribed names along the edge of the North Pool on the 13th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. [AP]

Nineteen years ago today, when the second plane rammed into the second of the Twin Towers and it was clear that we were witnessing a crime, not an accident, we immediately knew that our lives would change. When, less than a year ago, we started hearing of a new coronavirus that had emerged in a provincial Chinese city, it took us a long time to realize that our world would change even more radically.



The Covid-19 pandemic overturned everyone's daily habits and multiplied the challenges that humanity faces. In our region, it is affecting the geopolitical dynamics that were set in motion by the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The United States' "war against terror" in response to the 9/11 attacks has contributed to at least 37 million people being forced to leave their homes, according to Brown University's "Cost of War" project made public a few days ago. The wave of refugees and migrants reached Europe, too, affecting societies in many countries and influencing the course of the European Union.

In the United States, fatigue over endless wars and freedom from dependence on Middle East oil have reduced the sole superpower's interest in our region. The proxy wars between Sunni and Shiites in the Muslim world have caused further destabilization. The pandemic, though, threatens not only the victims of war and poverty, but also countries that are protagonists in the post-9/11 developments, as well as those that are far from the front.

The radical change in the daily life of all the planet's inhabitants (working from home, ballooning debt and growing unemployment, greater inequality between the rich and poor, greatly reduced travel, among others) has led to a great drop in energy needs. It is difficult to predict how energy producers such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran will cope, as it is impossible to know how the pandemic will develop, how it will affect the global economy in the long term.

Will Turkey, which seeks to become a leading power in the region, be able to keep on overreaching without further support from Qatar? Will Israel come to an agreement with the Palestinians? Will the United States return to the region? These are just some of the many questions that arise. Uncertainty reigns.

This is the world in which we must chart our course. We need to be aware of this.

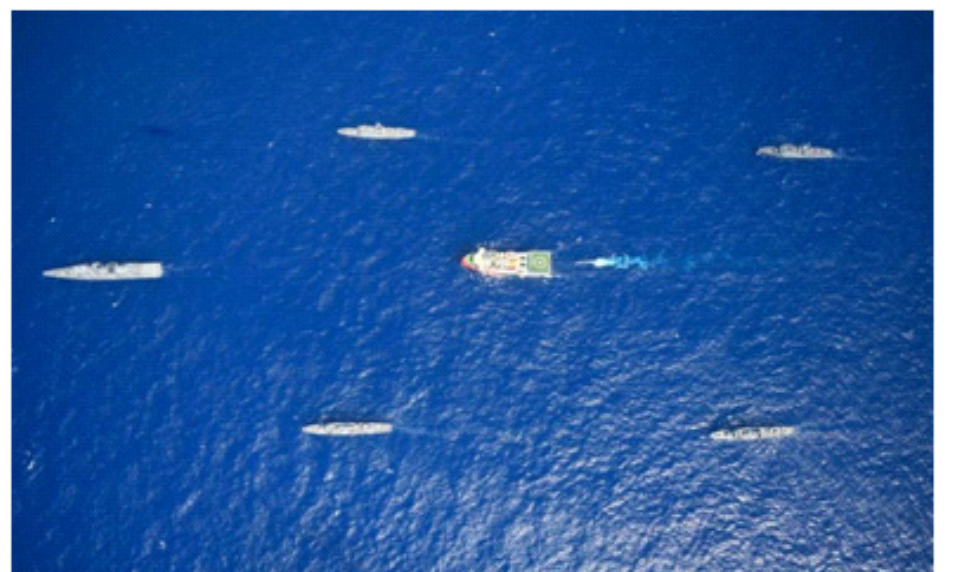
Mitsotakis announces military spending to counter Turkish aggression



Greece will strengthen its armed forces by buying new weapons systems, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced Saturday.

Specifically, Greece will acquire 18 Rafale fighters, a full squadron's strength, to replacing the aging Mirage 2000 planes; 4 new frigates, while refurbishing 4 existing ones; 4 Romeo naval helicopters; anti-tank weapons for the Army; torpedoes for the Navy and guided missile for its Air Force. It will also add 15,000 professional soldiers to its armed forces over the next five years, Mitsotakis said.

The new weapons procurement program comes amid heightened tensions with Turkey over resources in the eastern Mediterranean. Its announcement dominated the first half of Mitsotakis' speech on the grounds of the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF). The trade fair itself has been canceled, due to the coronavirus pandemic, but Mitsotakis delivered the customary speech describing next year's economic policy. The extra spending on defense did not prevent Mitsotakis



from announcing a new €6.8 billion injection into the economy, in the form of payroll and other tax cuts, subsidies and payments of pension cuts restored by the courts.

"A shift in priorities (toward defense spending) does not mean a change in goals," Mitsotakis told a restricted audience of just 50, all wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

"Ankara is now adding to the provocations in the Aegean, the undermining of peace in the entire Mediterranean," Mitsotakis said. "It is threatening the eastern borders of Europe, and it is undermining security in a sensitive crossroads of three continents."

Turkey, which accuses Greece and Cyprus of attempting to infringe on its maritime rights, has been ostensibly conducting search for oil and natural gas in areas also claimed by Greece and Cyprus as part of their exclusive economic zones, although the presence of Turkish Navy vessels nearby actually impedes seismic research. On Friday, Turkey issued a new Navtex, or international maritime safety message, for Sept. 12-Sept. 14 live-fire exercises between its southern coast and northern Cyprus.