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Transplanted Memories of the Heart

Louis A. Palivos

For several decades, reports have been published by scientists that heart and other organ recipients, acquire the personality characteristics of their donors. These characteristics include the following four areas: A) changes in preferences, B) changes in emotions/temperament, C) changes in identity, and D) memories from the donor's life.¹ This article will review some of these characteristic changes in donor recipient patients and also attempt to connect the heart, in particular, with Orthodox Patristic Theology.



Candace Pert, author of, *"Molecules of Emotion: Why you feel the way you feel,"* states that through cellular receptors there exists the possibility of physiological connections between memories, organs, and the mind.

Paul Pearshall, M.D., a psycho-neuro-immunologist and author of, *"The Heart's Code,"* after researching 150 heart and other organ transplant recipients, proposes that the cells of living tissues have the capacity to remember.

The case that was reported by Dr. Pearshall, that convinced me that there is memory transference, was the case involving an eight-year-old girl who received the heart of a ten-year-old girl who was murdered. After the transplant, the recipient had horrifying nightmares of a man murdering her. The girl's images were so specific that the police were notified. The police, using the description that the girl gave, were able to find the murderer. Based on the evidence that the recipient gave, the murderer was convicted. The factual evidence consisted of time, weapon, place, clothes he wore, and what the donor said to the murderer before she was killed.

Clair Sylvia, a woman who received a heart-lung transplant, wrote a book about her experiences. In her book, *"A change of Heart: A Memoir,"* she describes her experiences after surgery: particular changes like cravings for beer and chicken nuggets. These were favorites of her donor. She was drawn to cool colors, not bright red as she used to before the operation. She also became more impetuous and aggressive, that was uncharacteristic of her but was similar characteristic to her donor.

Researchers documented changes of ten heart transplant recipients, that seemed to support, the parallel changes between the donors and the recipients, such as, "food, music, art, sexual, recreational, and career preferences, as well as, specific instances of perceptions of names and sensory experiences related to the donors." Following are ten cases that these researchers have documented:

1. Recipient is an 18-year-old girl who is able to finish phrases and songs that she did not know before the surgery. The donor was an 18-year-old boy who was a musician and liked music.
2. Recipient is a 7-month-old boy who latter was 6 years old, and ran up to an individual in church and called out the unknown person as, "Daddy." The donor was a 16-month-old boy. The recipient called out to the donor's father in

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Why Donald Trump lost



Let the 2020 election bury the mistaken notion once and for all that the 2016 election was a historical accident, an American aberration.

Donald Trump won more than 70 million votes, the second highest total in American history. Nationally, he has more than a 47% share of his vote, and looks to have won 24 states, including his beloved Florida and Texas.

He has an extraordinary hold over large swathes of this country, a visceral connection that among thousands of supporters has brought a near cult-like devotion. After four years in the White House, his supporters studied the fine print of his presidency and clicked enthusiastically on the terms and conditions of his presidency.

Any analysis of his political weakness in 2020 also has to acknowledge his political strength. However, he was defeated, becoming one of only four incumbents in the modern era not to get another four years. Also he has become the first president to lose the popular vote in consecutive elections.

Donald Trump won the presidency in 2016 partly because he was a norm-busting political outsider who was prepared to say what had previously been unsayable.

But Donald Trump also lost the presidency in 2020 partly because he was a norm-busting political outsider who was prepared to say what had previously been unsayable.

Though much of the Trump base might well have voted for him if he had shot someone on Fifth Avenue, his infamous boast from four years ago, others who supported him four years ago were put off by his aggressive behaviour.

Many found the manner in which he defied so many norms off-putting and often offensive

This was especially true in the suburbs. Joe Biden improved on Hillary Clinton's performance in 373 suburban counties, helping him claw back the Rust Belt states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, and enabling him to gain Georgia and Arizona. Donald Trump has a particular problem with suburban women.

We witnessed again in the 2020 presidential election what we had seen in the 2018 mid-term election - more highly-educated Republicans, some of whom had voted for Trump four years ago prepared to give him a chance, thought his presidency was too unpresidential. Though they understood

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- church.
- 3. Recipient is a 25-year-old male who is very sensual. He likes to hug, carries a purse, loves museums, and landscapes. The donor was a 24-year-old lady who was sensual, loved landscape paintings, and was gay.
 - 4. Recipient is a 47-year-old male who now loves classical music. The donor was a 17-year-old male who loved to play violin and enjoyed classical music.
 - 5. Recipient is 29-year-old women who dislikes meat. Prior to the transplant, she thought she was gay, but not afterwards. After the surgery, she threw away gay political books. Furthermore, she would feel pressure on her chest/heart area. The donor was a 19-year-old woman who was, “Man-crazy” and died due to the impact of a car on her chest in a car accident.
 - 6. Recipient is a 47-year-old man who is giddy, gets hungry but dislikes food. The donor was a 14-year-old girl who would skip meals and had a silly giggle.
 - 7. Recipient is a 9-year-old boy who is afraid of water and feels that the donor was very sad. The donor was a 3-year-old girl who drowned at her mother’s boy-friends house.
 - 8. Recipient is a 19-year-old woman who wants to be on Broadway, be a nurse, or a doctor. The donor was a 19-year-old woman who wanted to be an actress but also wanted to follow in her father’s footsteps and become a doctor.
 - 9. Recipient is a 5-year-old boy who gave the donor the name Timmy. The donor was a 3-year-old boy and his family called him, “Tim” and his actual name was Thomas.
 - 10. Recipient is a 56-year-old male who dreams of flashes of light in his face and his suddenly, his face would get red hot. Before the flash, he gets a flash of Jesus. The donor was a 34-year-old police officer who was shot in the face. The killer has long hair, deep eyes, a beard and a calm look like some pictures of Jesus.

These researchers have concluded that, “The findings for heart transplants appear more robust and more strongly associated with the donor’s history.”²

Now, I will discuss how Holy Scripture and how the Holy Fathers understand the human heart both physically and spiritually.

The Lord Jesus Christ stated in his Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” Matt. 5:8. He also stated that, “Out of the heart comes evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, and blasphemes. These are what defiles a person.” Matt. 15:18-19.

So what is the heart? According to the Holy Fathers, God is revealed in the heart and it is there that man comes to know Him.

St. Theophan the Recluse says the heart is the innermost part of man and is spirit. This is where our self-awareness, our conscious, and our idea of God resides. The heart is both a bodily organ and the center of our being.³

St. Paul articulates the human problem as follows:

For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Rom. 7:15-20 This problem is understood by the Holy Fathers to be caused by original sin in the memory of the heart. Original sin causes the heart to be dark-

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ened, cloudy, unwise, unenergized, faulty and to be unconscious of God’s memory. The result is that thoughts, passions and the environment confuse the heart in man to move away from God. Thus, healing is the purification and illumination of the heart.

The Holy Fathers, through their experiences, understand that there are two memories: one for the human body’s cells to function and another for the human memory of the heart in which God resides. These memories of the heart stopped functioning because of the fall of Adam and Eve.

According to Orthodox Patristic Fathers, humans need healing, as follows: The purification from the passions of the soul and of the body, the illumination of man’s heart with the uncreated grace of the Holy Spirit and God’s gift to man of *Theosis* to have a vision of God.⁴ t. Paul understood this in his experience, as follows: Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom. 8:26-27.

Therefore, man needs to purify his passions of the soul and body; he needs to be Illuminated, according to St. Paul and the Holy Fathers, by the Holy Spirit to reside in man’s heart, so that man becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you which you have from God.” I Cor. 6:19. *Theosis* is God’s gift to man to be able to “see” God! The Patriarchs, the Prophets and the Apostles had *Theosis*.

Man has a physical heart that has memory but he also has a spiritual heart that has memory. In the spiritual heart, by the uncreated grace of God, God is both revealed and lives in the heart in those persons who synergistically seek God. God’s uncreated grace works in man’s heart and man is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Analogous in the Orthodox Liturgy about Holy Communion, when the priests prays, “The lamb of God is broken and distributed, broken, but not divided, always eaten, yet never consumed, but sanctifying those who partake,” are human cells that have memory to repair broken tissue, renew the body but not be consumed.

Heart transplanted memories help us to understand the memory transfer of the memories from the donor to the recipient. The Holy Scripture and the Holy Fathers, in their experiences, help us to understand the memory transferred from Almighty God and the Holy Spirit to the heart of man that resides in man’s heart by God’s uncreated grace.

How awesome is Almighty God’s uncreated grace residing in our hearts!

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Daily Covid death toll hits new high at
108, as intubations also rise to 522



Greece’s death toll from the novel coronavirus shot up by 108 fatalities to 1,527 on Saturday, marking a new record for the country as it struggles to contain the second wave of the pandemic.

The number of patients on ventilators in intensive care also rose to a new high on Saturday, hitting 522 from 519 the day before, putting an additional strain on a public health system that is already starting to buckle from the rising number of admissions and intubations.

On the upside, the National Organization for Public Health (EODY) reported a smaller number of new infections on Saturday, at 2,311 from Friday’s 2,581 and Thursday’s 3,227.

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he would be unconventional, many found the manner in which he defied so many customs and behavioural norms off-putting and often offensive.

They were put off by his aggressiveness. His stoking of racial tensions. His use of racist language in tweets maligning people of colour. His failure, on occasions, to adequately condemn white supremacy. His trashing of America's traditional allies and his admiration for authoritarian strongmen, such as Vladimir Putin.

His strange boasts about being "a very stable genius" and the like. His promotion of conspiracy theories. His use of a lingua franca that sometimes made him sound more like a crime boss, such as when he described his former lawyer Michael Cohen, who reached a plea deal with federal prosecutors, as "a rat". Then there was what critics derided as his creeping authoritarianism, seen after the election in his refusal to accept the result.

A telling moment for me during this campaign came in Pittsburgh, when I chatted with Chuck Howenstein on the stoop of his terraced home. A Trump supporter in 2016, he voted for Joe Biden.

"People are tired," he told me. "They want to see normalcy back in this country. They want to see decency. They want to see this hatred stop. They want to see this country united. And that together is going to bring Joe Biden the presidency."

A political problem for Trump was that he failed to expand his support beyond his core Trump base. Nor did he try hard to do so. In 2016, he won 30 states and often governed as if he was the president solely of conservative, red America. The most deliberately divisive president of the past 100 years, he made little attempt to woo blue America, the 20 states that voted for Hillary Clinton.

After four exhausting years, many voters simply wanted a presidency they could have on in the background - an occupant of the White House who would behave in a more conventional manner. They had tired of the infantile name-calling, the ugly language and the ceaseless confrontation. They wanted a return to some kind of normalcy.

But the 2020 election was not a re-run of the 2016 election. This time he was the incumbent, not the insurgent. He had a record to defend, including his mishandling of a coronavirus outbreak which by Election Day had killed more than 230,000 Americans. In this age of negative partisanship, where politics is often driven by loathing of the opposition, he was not pitted against a hate figure like Hillary Clinton.

Joe Biden was hard to demonise, which is partly why the Democratic establishment was so keen to have him as its presidential nominee. This 77-year-old centrist also did the job he was hired to do, which was to claw back white working class voters in the Rust Belt.

The question of why Trump lost the presidency turns also on a more interesting and arguable question - when did he lose the presidency?

Was it in the immediate aftermath of his victory in 2016, when people who had voted for Trump partly as a protest vote against the Washington political establishment instantly had misgivings? After all, many of those voters never expected him to win.

Was it in the first 24 hours of his presidency, when he delivered his "American Carnage" inaugural address - which portrayed the country as a near dystopia of shuttered factories, left-behind workers and wealth "ripped" from middle class homes - before he ranted about the crowd size and vowed to continue using Twitter? By sundown of his first full day in charge, it had become clear that Donald Trump would seek to change the presidency more than the presidency changed him.

Was it more cumulative, the snowball effect of so many scandals, so many slurs, so much staff turn-over, and so much chaos?

Or was it as a result of the coronavirus, the biggest crisis that engulfed his presidency? Before the virus arrived on these shores, Trump's political vital signs were strong. He had survived his impeachment trial. His approval ratings matched the highest level it had been - 49%. He could boast a strong economy and the advantage of incumbency: the twin factors that usually secure a sitting president a second term. Often presidential elections turn on a simple question: is the country better off now than it was four years ago? After Covid hit, and the economic crisis that followed, it became almost impossible to make that case.

But it is wrong to say that the Trump presidency was inevitably doomed by the coronavirus. Presidents often emerge from national convulsions stronger. Crises can often bring out greatness. That was true for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose rescuing of America from the Great Depression made him political unassailable. George W Bush's initial response to the attacks of September 11th also boosted his popularity, and helped him win a second term. So it was by no means preordained that Covid would finish Donald Trump. It was his botched handling of the crisis that contributed to his fall.

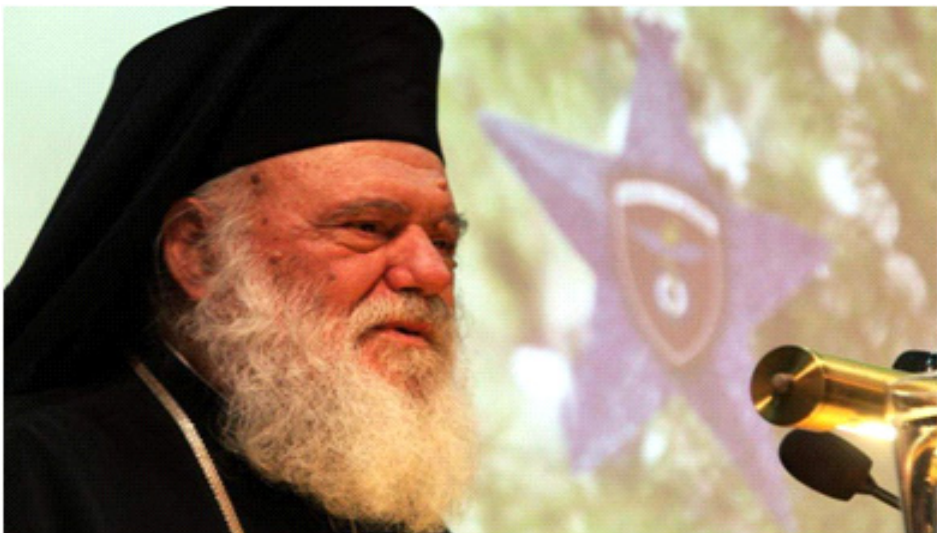
Still, again it is worth remembering that Donald Trump remained politically viable up until the end, despite the country experiencing its worst public health crisis in more than a 100 years, its biggest economic crisis since the 1930s and also its most widespread racial turbulence since the late 1960s.

Much of red America, and much of a conservative movement he came to dominate, will yearn for his return. He will continue to be the dominant figure in the conservative movement for years to come. Trumpism could end up having the same transformative effect on American conservatism as Reaganism.

The outgoing president will remain a deeply polarizing figure, and could run again in 2024. These disunited states have not suddenly become united again, not least because so many Americans will harbour such different emotions about Trump, ranging from devotion to abject hate.

The country surely has not heard or seen the last of the most unorthodox president in its history.

Archbishop Ieronymos admitted to hospital with coronavirus



Greece's Archbishop Ieronymos was admitted to the augmented care unit of the Athens' Evangelismos Hospital on Thursday morning after testing positive for the coronavirus, according to information.

The 82-year-old Ieronymos is showing mild symptoms and the admission to the augmented care unit was done for precautionary reasons, broadcaster Skai reported. His spokesperson, Haris Konidaris, said the Archbishop does not have any particular health issues and that on Wednesday he developed a fever of 37.7. "I participate personally as a shepherd in the ordeal that concerns thousands of our brothers in our country and millions throughout the world," the Archbishop told his close associates shortly before his admission to hospital.

The Archbishop of Albania, Anastasios, is also being treated for Covid-19 in the same hospital, after being airlifted to Greece last week. Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias expressed his "warm wishes for a speedy recovery" in a tweet on Thursday. The Archbishop had initially tested negative in both rapid antigen and molecular tests (PCR) conducted after a meeting of the Holy Synod on November 6.

On November 11 it was announced that Ieronymos and the members of the Holy Synod were instructed to self-isolate after a senior cleric from the Holy Synod tested positive for the virus. He was diagnosed as positive on Monday (Nov. 16).

Ieronymos met with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the former's office on November 14.



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Tom Ellis TOM ELLIS

The US on the Aegean and SYRIZA's reaction

Several references in the US State Department's report to Congress concerning the situation in the Aegean are indicative of the challenges that could crop up in the context of any effort to normalize Greek-Turkish relations. They are even more critical at a time when one can't exactly accuse the foreign policy establishment in Washington of having "pro-Turkish fixations."

The report states that Greece is claiming airspace that extends 10 nautical miles and territorial waters of up to 6 nm, when international law stipulates that a country's airspace corresponds to its territorial waters. Hence, it continues, the US recognizes up to 6 nm airspace. It adds that although Greece currently claims up to 6 nm territorial waters in the Aegean, "Greece and its neighbors have not agreed on boundary delimitation in those areas where their lawful maritime entitlements overlap," hence the US does not have a clear view on the issue.

The US has consistently urged – most recently in comments by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that were repeated in a letter to Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias – Greece and Turkey to "resolve outstanding bilateral maritime boundary issues peacefully and in accordance with international law." America's support for the principle of peaceful resolution is always welcome and it is on this that the Greek side – regardless of who was in power – has relied for decades.

However, if – either under the threat of sanctions or as a result of the mediation efforts of powerful countries like the US or Germany – Ankara stops making threats and we move on to the stage of exploratory talks, the above US positions (by no means new) would not facilitate the work of any Greek government. For the US, the absence

of a maritime border agreement means that there is "no clarity" on the extent of Greece's territorial waters and corresponding airspace.

The issue is very sensitive and has to be handled with the appropriate seriousness. In this context, Greece's main opposition party would be well advised to avoid statements accusing the State Department of "adopting Turkish positions on the sovereignty of Greek islands." Apart from being over the top and unfair to the government, such statements are also damaging to the country.

There is no merit to SYRIZA's claims that "if, just a few weeks after Pompeo's visit to Greece, these are the US positions, then New Democracy managed in a very short time to cancel important steps in Greek-American relations that were taken during the years of SYRIZA's administration in the interest of the country." Such comments are unconscionable.

Sure, important steps were made under SYRIZA. Just the fact that a left-wing government acknowledged the importance of a pragmatic foreign policy and

friendly relations with the superpower was a great leap forward and helped the country.

The current government has continued in the same direction and deepened these good relations. Is it that hard for all to be objective? And to behave responsibly on issues of national security?

The positions outlined by the State Department are part of a reality that Greece will have to deal with in the future – no matter who is in government.



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NEWS FROM GREECE

PM blames young people's nightlife for spread of virus



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said that young adults hanging out in bars are primarily responsible for the transmission of the coronavirus in Greece.

“We tried many plans but they were

betrayed by the behavior of some people,” he told lawmakers in Parliament opening a debate about the government measures to contain the virus.

“We know today what were the sources of the outbreaks. We are saying this to explain to society that these behaviors create a public health problem for everyone. The main source for the spread was the entertainment of young people.”

He said reistating a lockdown “was not an easy choice” because apart from implementation, the measures also need to be adapted.

Mitsotakis admitted that tougher restrictions should have been taken a week ago in Thessaloniki to avoid the rampant spread of the virus.

“We could have imposed the use of face masks everywhere earlier, limit the evening entertainment earlier, take measures in Thessaloniki earlier,” he said.

He also defended the government’s decision to reopen to tourism in July without compulsory testing for all arrivals, arguing that if health authorities had conducted PCR test on all arrivals Greece would have ended up with 10-20% of the tourism it actually had.

He insisted that the jump in infections “is not linked” to the opening of tourism this summer. “Countries that remained completely closed, such as Israel, saw a second outbreak of the coronavirus in September. Cyprus has had stricter procedures and is being hit just as hard,” he said.

Mitsotakis also said that Greece may get the new Covid-19 vaccines

Greek food products on show in China

Greek food and drink companies presented more than 100 products at the 3rd China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 5-10.



Enterprise Greece, which was in charge of organizing the Greek exhibitors, said in a statement on Thursday that besides presenting Greek exporters’ products to the Chinese market, it organized a winetasting event for Greek Master

Class wines with internationally renowned wine educator Fongyee Walker.

Doctors in northern Greece warn hospitals at breaking point

Medical workers wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) take care of a patient at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Giorgos Papanikolaou General Hospital, during the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic in Thessaloniki, on Wednesday. [Alexandros Avramidis/ Reuters]

A surge in coronavirus infections in Greece's northern city of Thessaloniki is pushing the hospital system to its limits, doctors at a medical facility say, as the second wave of the pandemic takes a toll.

Last week Greece ordered a nationwide three-week lockdown, its second this year, in a bid to stop the spread of Covid-19 and the resulting burden on hospitals, particularly in Thessaloniki.

The city appeared to have contained the virus but in just one month, its success story has turned into a serious crisis. Thessaloniki's mayor has blamed the surge on complacency among the population, with almost every family having one infected person.

"The hospital system is already at its limits," said Vassilis Voutsas, 50, a medical doctor who works at the Covid intensive care unit at Thessaloniki's Papanikolaou Hospital, operating almost at full capacity.

"My fear is that the number of patients will be so big that we won't be able to treat them all."

On Wednesday Greece registered 2,752 new cases, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to 63,321. There were 43 Covid-related deaths, raising the total to 909.

Greece has fared substantially better during the pandemic than other European countries, including neighbouring Italy where more than 40,000 people have died of Covid-19.

Despite having roughly half the population of metropolitan Athens, Thessaloniki has in recent days been recording more new cases than the Greek capital. On Thursday, Thessaloniki confirmed 777 new coronavirus cases, compared to 635 in Athens.

Doctor Georgia Vassiliadou, who works in the intensive care unit of the same hospital, says the number of patients has increased fivefold.

"We hope that it won't get worse but we are prepared: We will not be leaving from here, we won't be going home," she told Reuters.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told Parliament on Thursday that a vaccine may be available in Greece as early as January. But both doctors were guardedly optimistic on the vaccines front.

"I am cautious as to when it will get here, how effective it will be and what part of the population will be vaccinated in time," Voutsas said. [Reuters]

Obama offers piece of the puzzle in Greek debt crisis



Apart from providing key insights into a special (in many respects) presidency, Barack Obama’s memoir contains some very interesting references to the Greek debt crisis and the way in which the major European powers chose to deal with the situation.

The former US president had also during his tenure criticized Berlin as well as Paris for their insistence on fiscal austerity (particularly in the early stages of the crisis), at a time when all indications pointed to the need of implementing an expansionary policy.

In his memoir, “A Promised Land,” which was released on Tuesday, Obama writes: “I noticed that they rarely mentioned that German and French banks were some of Greece’s biggest lenders, or that much of Greeks’ accumulated debt had been racked up buying German and French exports – facts that might have made clear to voters why saving the Greeks from default amounted to saving their own banks and industries.”

It is important to have in mind that his criticism is not part of some personal confrontation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel or former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. After all, Obama in the same book praises Merkel’s personality and leadership qualities.

However, referring to German and French calls for austerity, Obama notes: “Maybe they worried that such an admission would turn voter attention away from failures of successive Greek governments and toward the failures of those German or French officials charged with supervising bank lending practices.”

It is not just Obama’s ethos that emerges from the book, the writer’s commitment to the principles of democracy and social justice, and his concern about America’s domestic division. Nor is it just his totally different approach toward America’s allies and partners and Washington’s role in the world, which are all inevitably very interesting.

It is also Obama’s specific references to Greece and the management of the financial crisis that are of particular interest to us.

Coming from the world’s most powerful man during the period in question – Obama took over power in 2009 and handed off the presidency to Donald Trump in 2017 – these insights are highly revealing and make up a crucial piece of the puzzle in explaining the Greek crisis; not only for future historians, but also for European officials now overseeing the bloc’s financial affairs.

Alexis Papachelas

Acting smart, at a crucial crossroads



The pandemic will at some point be over. And so will the fuss over this year’s anniversary of Greece’s 1973 student uprising at the Athens Polytechnic. It has after all become a part of the national furniture. Turkey, on the other hand, is here to stay. It will continue to be around, pushing for a Finlandization of the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean.

A nation which has no clear sense of priorities will not get very far. Nor will a nation that is plagued by division and strong passions without any sense of restraint.

We stand at a crucial crossroads. Turkey has strengthened its military capability, its ability to carry out hybrid warfare, and it has increased the use of mercenaries to substitute its own troops. Developments in the recent war between Azerbaijan and Armenia should serve as a wake-up call and mobilize us immediately.

The choice is clear: We will either turn into a state that naively waits for the help of the Europeans or the Americans when things get tough, or we will get ourselves together and set clear objectives in order to make serious progress.

Certainly we must sort out our priorities. We are not a member of the G7 – we aren’t able to buy Rafale and F-35 fighter jets and large numbers of frigates and upgrade the military systems we already own all at the same time. Each of the country’s partners – in inverted commas or not – and every private company has the right to sell what they want to sell. That said, our military leadership is aware of the country’s actual needs and together with the government, which is seriously dealing with the issue at the highest level, they can hammer out a responsible policy and move ahead fast. With full transparency, but fast.

After all, the point is not to solve the accumulated problems but to make real leaps. We need to finally set up a domestic defense industry, connect the country’s technical universities with the Ministry of Defense, pursue co-productions with local allies such as the United Arab Emirates and Israel, and, of course, start thinking smart, outside of the box.

Because it’s OK to make large and expensive defense procurements, but, as the case of Armenia demonstrated, you must also urgently find a solution for the Turkish drones. If we want to afford the luxury of pointless squabbling about the past, we must first make sure that we survive as a nation into the future.



Since the law governing unmanned aircraft systems was enacted in 2016, interest in drone pilot degrees has grown, with hundreds training to become pilots at Greece’s 15 certified schools. Still, school owners say the local market is not mature enough to take full advantage of the capabilities of drones.

Health expert says hard lockdown needed to contain virus



Greece needs a hard lockdown similar to that imposed in the Chinese province of Wuhan – where the coronavirus pandemic is thought to have originated – if it hopes to stop widespread transmission of the virus, one of the government’s public health advisers said on Friday.

“The situation is very alarming. We expected a reduction last week, yet infections persist,” Athens University microbiology professor Alkiviadis Vatopoulos, who sits on the committee advising the Greek government on its handling of the pandemic, told Skai television after Greek health authorities reported 3,227 cases on Thursday and 3,209 the day before that.

“One of the characteristics of the epidemic, dating back to August, is that it is spread out across Greece. I think we need to become stricter. The lockdown needs to become stricter, as in China,” said Vatopoulos, arguing that current restrictions – which include a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew and an authorization system restricting public movement – are insufficient to contain the virus.

“In Wuhan, people were only allowed to leave their house once a week to go shopping at the supermarket. This is what we need to do in Greece: shut down businesses and operate as though every day is a Sunday. A Wuhan-style lockdown for two weeks could ease the situation and stop the spread of the virus,” the expert said.

“If we go on as we are, we will mourn victims who had no reason to die, in the sense that they will not be able to get hospital treatment,” Vatopoulos warned, pointing to concerns about the public health system’s ability to cope with rising admissions.

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Remote learning for kindergarten and elementary school pupils started on Thursday with problems, with parents complaining that children were unable to access the system and missed most of the lesson. Others reported connection issues or said that the network was slow. The Education Ministry conceded there were sporadic problems due to network overload, noting, however, that about 47,000 departments corresponding to 700,000 kindergarten and primary school pupils were connected – including all primary school pupils. There were reportedly no problems at private schools, which about 40,000 children attend.



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What Biden's victory means for rest of world

After days of uncertainty, Joe Biden has won the US presidential election. During Donald Trump's four years in office, America's relationship with the world changed profoundly. This article will explain how news of Mr Biden's victory is being received and what it could mean for key US relationships.

Joe Biden's victory offers another challenge for the Chinese system.

You might think Beijing would be glad to see the back of Donald Trump. As China-basher-in-chief he hit them with a trade war, levied a raft of punitive sanctions and badgered and blamed them for the coronavirus pandemic. But some analysts have suggested that the Chinese leadership may now be feeling secretly disappointed. Not because they have any lasting fondness for Mr Trump, but because another four years of him in the White House held out the tantalising prospect of a bigger prize. Divisive at home, isolationist abroad - Mr Trump seemed to Beijing the very embodiment of the long-anticipated and hoped for decline in US power.

It was a message rammed home by the country's Communist Party-controlled TV news bulletins. China might, of course, try to find advantage in Joe Biden's willingness to seek co-operation on big issues like climate change. But he's also promised to work to repair America's alliances, which may prove to be far more effective in constraining China's superpower ambitions than Trump's go-it-alone approach.

Kamala Harris's roots are a source of pride in India but Narendra Modi may get a more frigid reception from Mr Biden than his predecessor.

India has long been an important partner to the US - and the overall direction of travel is unlikely to change under a Biden presidency. India will remain a key ally in America's Indo-Pacific strategy to curtail the rise of China, and in fighting global terrorism. Mr Biden has been far more outspoken. His campaign website called for the restoration of rights for everyone in Kashmir, and criticised the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) - two laws which sparked mass protests.

Incoming Vice-President Kamala Harris - half Indian herself - has also spoken out against some of the Hindu nationalist government's policies. But her Indian roots will spark mass celebration in much of the country. That the daughter of an Indian woman who was born and raised in the city of Chennai will soon be second-in-command at the White House is a moment of immense national pride.

North Korea once described Mr Biden as a "rabid dog" - but now Kim Jong-un will be making careful calculations before trying to provoke the new US president. It's likely Chairman Kim would have preferred another four years of Donald Trump. The leaders' unprecedented meeting and follow-ups made for incredible photo-ops for the history books but very little of substance was signed. Neither side got what they wanted out of these talks: North Korea has continued to build up its nuclear arsenal and the US has continued to enforce strict sanctions. In contrast, Joe Biden has demanded North Korea show that it is willing to abandon its nuclear weapons programme before he holds any meetings with Kim Jong-un. Many analysts believe that unless Mr Biden's team initiates talks with Pyongyang very early on, the days of "fire and fury" may return.

It's likely Chairman Kim would have preferred another four years of Donald Trump. Mr Kim might want to get Washington's attention with a return to long-range missile tests, but he won't want to increase tensions to the point that the already impoverished state would be hit with even more sanctions. South Korea has already warned the North not to go down a provocative path. Seoul may have struggled to deal with Donald Trump at times - but President Moon is keen to put an end to the 70-year war on the Korean peninsula and he praised Mr Trump for having the "courage" to meet with Mr Kim. The South will closely watch for any sign that Mr Biden is willing to do the same.

The US and UK's "special relationship" may face a downgrade with Joe Biden at the helm. They won't be seen as natural allies: Joe Biden, the seasoned Democrat, and Boris Johnson, the bombastic Brexiteer.

In looking at how their future relationship might work, it's worth considering the past. Specifically that seminal year, 2016, when Donald Trump won the White House and the UK voted to leave the EU. Both Joe Biden and his boss at the time, Barack Obama, made no secret they preferred another outcome on Brexit. Remember how Donald Trump once called Boris Johnson "Britain Trump"? Well, Mr Biden seemingly agreed, once reportedly describing the UK prime minister as Mr Trump's "physical and emotional clone". So it's possible Joe Biden may initially be more eager to talk to Brussels, Berlin or Paris than love-bomb London. The "special relationship" could, feasibly, face a downgrade. However, the two men may yet find some common ground.

A more predictable administration may be the "silver lining" for Russia of Mr Biden's win. The Kremlin has an acute sense of hearing. So when Joe Biden recently named Russia as "the biggest threat" to America, they heard that loud and clear in Moscow. The Kremlin also has a long memory. In 2011 Vice-President Biden reportedly said that if he were Mr Putin, he wouldn't run again for president: it would be bad for the country and for himself. President Putin won't have forgotten that. Mr Biden and Mr Putin are not a match made in geo-political heaven. Moscow fears the Biden presidency will mean more pressure and more sanctions from Washington. With a Democrat in the White House, could it be payback time for Russia's alleged intervention in the 2016 US election? Moscow fears the Biden presidency will mean more pressure, more sanctions from Washington.

But for the Kremlin there could be a silver lining. Russian commentators predict a Biden administration will, at least, be more predictable than the Trump team. That might make it easier to reach agreement on pressing issues, like New Start - the crucial US-Russian nuclear arms reduction treaty due to expire next February. Moscow will want to move on from the Trump era and try to build a working relationship with the new White House. There's no guarantee of success.

Germans hope for a return to smooth-sailing with their key ally once Donald

Trump has departed. Germany will breathe a sigh of relief at this result.

Only 10% of Germans trust President Trump on foreign policy. President Trump is accused of undermining free trade and dismantling the multinational institutions which Germany relies on economically. His spats with China have rattled German exporters and he has a notoriously poor relationship with Chancellor Angela Merkel — it's hard to imagine two leaders more different in ethos and personality.

Despite this, the US is Germany's biggest trading partner and the transatlantic relationship is critical for European security. So the Trump presidency has been a rocky ride. There is an awareness here that major policy differences between Washington and Berlin will not go away under a Biden presidency. But Berlin is looking forward to working with a president who values multilateral co-operation.

A Biden victory could bring Tehran back to the negotiating table.

In the weeks before the US election, President Trump said rather optimistically that once re-elected the first telephone call he received would be from Iran's leaders asking to negotiate. That phone call to Mr Trump - if he had won - was never going to happen. Negotiating with the Trump administration would have been impossible for Iran; it would be too humiliating.

Under President Trump, US sanctions and a policy of maximum pressure have left Iran reeling on the edge of economic collapse. Mr Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal. Worse still, he ordered the killing of General Qasem Soleimani, a close friend of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Taking revenge for his killing remains near the top of the agenda for hardliners. The election of Joe Biden makes entering negotiations with a US administration far easier for Iran. President-Elect Biden does not have the same baggage. He has said he wants to use diplomacy and return to the nuclear deal with Iran.

But Iran's hardliners will not come to the table easily. Millions of Iranians thought differently as they quietly watched the US election unfold on their illegal satellite TV screens, convinced their futures depended on the results and hoping a Biden victory would see sanctions eased.

There are expectations of a reset of much of Donald Trump's Middle East policy. President Trump supercharged the two poles of the Middle East. He sought to reward and consolidate America's traditional regional allies, while isolating its adversaries in Tehran. President-elect Biden will try to rewire US Middle East policy back to the way he left it as Vice-President under Barack Obama: Easing Mr Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran and aiming to re-join the 2015 nuclear deal abandoned by the White House two years ago. That prospect horrifies Israel and Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. One Israeli minister said in response to Mr Biden's likely win that the policy would end with "a violent Israeli-Iranian confrontation, because we will be forced to act". This drive to regional "normalisation" is likely to continue under Mr Biden, but he may try to slow controversial US weapons sales to the Gulf and would likely seek more Israeli concessions. Annexation now seems definitively off the table and Mr Biden will also object to further Israeli settlement building.

But there won't be the "complete U-turn" that one Palestinian official demanded this week. The rhetoric will return to the traditional understanding of a "two-state solution", but the chances of making much progress in the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process look slim.

Hopes are high among activists that the Biden administration will increase pressure on Egypt over human rights, writes Sally Nabil in Cairo.

Egypt's military-backed President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi enjoyed a very good relationship with Donald Trump. It would have been better for him to keep a friend in the White House, but now he will have to start a fresh chapter with Joe Biden. Critics of President Sisi accused the Trump administration of turning a blind eye to his alleged human rights abuses. Egypt receives \$1.3bn in US military aid per year. In 2017, a small tranche of this aid was suspended over human rights concerns but was released the following year. Joe Biden winning the White House is seen as good news by many human rights groups here. "US-Egyptian relations have always been strategic, regardless of who sits in the Oval Office," says Ahmed Sayyed Ahmed, a political analyst. "Partnership will continue, but the Democrats' rhetoric about human rights might not be well received by some Egyptians, who see this as meddling in their country's affairs."

After harsh sanctions, Joe Biden's victory brings relief.

A Biden presidency is exactly what most Cubans have been hoping for. Indeed, the majority of people on the island would happily see almost anyone in the White House other than Donald Trump. His sanctions have brought real hardship and Cubans are exhausted after four years of unrelenting hostility. Joe Biden, on the other hand, revives memories of the recent highpoint in Cuban-US relations under President Obama. In fact, the former vice-president is said to have been instrumental in making the two years of detente possible. The communist-run government in Havana will no doubt continue to say all US presidents are essentially cut from the same cloth.

Justin Trudeau will see an ally in his new neighbour, The Canadian prime minister pledged to deepen ties with the US no matter who won the presidential election - but it's likely relief was felt in Ottawa when it became clear Democrat Joe Biden had clinched victory. Canada's relationship with the US has been rocky under President Trump, though not without its accomplishments. They include the successful renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, along with Mexico. But Justin Trudeau has made clear he felt a political kinship with former President Barack Obama - who endorsed him during the recent Canadian federal election. That feeling of warmth extends to the man who served as Mr Obama's vice-president - Joe Biden. In Mr Biden, Mr Trudeau's Liberal Party will find an ally on issues like climate change and multilateralism. But that doesn't mean there aren't opportunities for friction with his administration.