

Luis Liendo Espinoza

Road to World War IV

Failure of the Iran-first doctrine



After years of endless talk, 16 years of war, hundreds of thousands dead, entire countries devastated, the bunch of analysts, advisers and their lobby partners, who present themselves as spearheading the effort to counter the Iranian regime and radical Islam, won't hesitate a second to defend their delusional plans and will find creative ways to downplay their absolute failure. Criticism will be rejected by hinting to semi-secret plans, plotted by factions, inside the circles of military and political power, who present themselves as the center of power itself. The strategic defeats, so we learn, are just a kind of cover-up, behind lies a road-map of such scale a common man and woman can't cope with. Therefore their *raison d'être* can't be understood. But we have to trust.

* The idiocy of current policy in one photo: Iraqi Hezbollah faction is armed with US main-battle tank M1 Abrams.
https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2015/01/hezbollah_brigades_c.php

The "Grand Strategy" (Institute for the Study of War) depicts itself as a comprehensive and professional plan to maintain Western strength and interests in the Middle East, while countering Iranian regime and radical Islam. In fact it is an expensive PR-show by Western factions based on four pillars:

- a) Arm and support Sunni states and proxies to fight Iranian militias, Iran's strategic ally Assad and counter Iranian influence.
- b) Ignore all facts that suggest that this plan is flawed from the start or that the plan is simply not working.
- c) Denounce everyone as pawn of Iran, who hints on errors of this plan or doesn't fit in this megalomaniac painting. Don't hesitate to spread lethal disinformation about several actors in the Middle East (i.e. Kurds).
- d) Promote this idea till the last breath in order to get paid and interviewed as long as possible.

The basic principles of this scheme are sound and clear: Iran is as Shia force in war with the Sunni Arab states. The greater the objective danger by Iran, the more the Sunni Arab states will understand that Israel is not their main enemy but could be their ally against Iran. The issue with this doctrine were not the propositions, but the reckless and dogmatic application of this assumptions to that bizarre extent, that the Iran-first doctrine became a popular tool to simulate determination and awareness, while at the same time hiding and belittling the overall failure of the efforts to counter Shia Jihad and appeasing Sunni extremism. In other words: in an ironic twist of history it became a helpful tool to sabotage efforts to fight Iran.

A powerless desire to save one's own reputation, amateurish incompetence to deal with criticism, an obvious lack of knowledge regarding history, the dynamics of totalitarian mobilization and the terror tactics of Iranian regime and Sunni extremism, caused these so-called experts and the like-minded politicians to escape reality for the sake of their own panel-big mouth-parallel universe. In the end it was only subjective overall denial, which could guarantee this odd transformation. The weaker the roots of the *Grand strategy* became in reality, the less critical content it had to deliver, the more it became an exercise in self-suggestion and conformism. The notion of stable, calculable Sunni moderate forces was therefore just hammered in the brains of the audience, who took it as granted as the devout Christian the transubstantiation at the mess. As it was reiterated relentlessly by senior officials and senior analysts, the societal herd-instinct forced the base to reproduce and elaborate this non-sense.

Therefore Erdogan was praised by the Anti-Defamation League for his outstanding qualities as politician and world leader,¹ therefore pro-Israel Anti-Germans, who non-stop produce lengthy papers denouncing Islam and demanding highest standards for criticism supported Syrian rebels, i.e. Sharia for Syria, and spread dumb propaganda against YPG.² Therefore think tanks and analysts were absolutely cool with Ahrar al-Sham (Al-Qaida-faction), which publicly brainwashes children in their jihad-schools,³ but condemned Kurdish YPG as totalitarian. The lessons of the Afghanistan war, when USA supported jihadists via Pakistani intelligence to counter Soviet Union and thus helped to create a safe haven and training center for global Sunni jihad were ignored. The bloody Iran-Iraq war,

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courage_to_Care_Award

² <https://www.mena-watch.com/mena-analysen-beitraege/syrien-kurdische-kraefte-kooperieren-mit-hisbollah/>

³ In July 2015 Ahrar al Sham head of foreign relation gave an Interview for Washington Post, virtually recruiting Jihadists via US mainstream media. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-deadly-consequences-of-mislabeling-syrias-revolutionaries/2015/07/10/6dec139e-266e-11e5-aae2-6c4f59b050aa_story.html?postshare=4391436603910433&utm_term=.d6fc08fc625a; Ahrar al Sham school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luXe6ntHS68>

when USA sided for years with genocidal Saddam Hussein in order to counter Iran and the Soviet Union only to have him turned against strategic US interests (which resulted in the 1990 Gulf-war) was barely mentioned.

Iran, Iran, Iran: this was the empty and obligatory formula, no further questions. The same ignorance which downplayed Iran's conventional power (compared to Iran nuclear), now was eager to downplay ISIS compared to Iranian threat. While hundreds of thousands became victims of mass-murder, torture and terror by ISIS and other Sunni jihadists, ISIS-threat was dismissed as media-hysteria and propaganda, only serving Iran. Under the guidance of some poorly informed propagandists - disguised as reasonable professionals - the people in the Middle East should unite against Iran, by ignoring the butchers of their own families by Sunni Jihad. The perfect recipe for defeat: Instead of synthesizing the isolated antifascist factions confronting Sunni and Shia Jihad, they were pitted against each other. Therefore the jihadification of the Syrian rebels was ignored and the AKP/Muslimbrotherhood grip on Syria got the silent blessing of the Anti-Iran camp. The only entity capable and willing to fight Iranian threat (and therefore worthy of Western, antifascist support) had to be the Syrian rebellion. No matter how useless and self-destructive they acted, no matter their cooperation with Al-Qaida (army) and ISIS, nothing could scare their supporters in the West or give them a cause to rethink their *Grand strategy*. While the experts, analysts and politicians sat at the panel with Western-styled Syrian exile-opposition, who had little to zero influence in Syria, the real power lies in the hand of Turkish backed jihadists and several Al-Qaida factions. In the FSA parallel universe, rebels under the military command of the Syrian revolution were fighting the fascist Assad-regime. In reality the *Army of Conquest* was made up i.a. of Al-Nusra, Ahrar al Sham, Jund Al-Aqsa and Sham Legion (factions of Al-Qaida, Muslimbrotherhood).⁴ In the real world liberation meant jihad indoctrination for youth and children and Sharia instead of freedom. Anyway, the FSA-apologists didn't care as long as it fit their expert-narrative, so they just kept going to demand to topple Assad, though everybody already knew, there was no chance without risking US-Russia war, the only option was just more bloodshed.

Finally it became impossible to hide that Iran was winning on all fronts and the Syrian jihadists were in no shape to fight Iran and Russia at once. Serious doubts arose of Turkey's role in this conflict. For years Turkey had benefited from its alleged role as stable front-state against Iran. Turkish regime was free to murder and oppress opposition and Kurds as it pleased. Now even the dumbest analysts began to realize that something was wrong with Turkey, though antifascists and Kurds had warned them already years ago. Turkish-Russian-Iranian cooperation revealed what was written on the wall times ago: Turkey, the alleged cornerstone of the *Grand Strategy*, turned in a lunatic, jihadist regime, who plotted against US' and Israeli interests in the Middle East.⁵ The perfect time for a serious reassessment one would think, but instead the gang of wicked analysts and their allies just started another PR-show in order to prolong the Sunni Arab card: The Arab Sunni offensive against Iran. Now, it was said, Arab states would start the real war against Iran, gloves are off. Of course no one would go after Iran itself. As it happened without any success in Syria and Yemen another proxy war would be launched, this time against Iran-ally Qatar. Its alliance with Iran, its support for terror organizations (including Hezbollah and Muslimbrotherhood) and its propaganda via Al-Jazeera had to stop, otherwise severe punishment via Saudi-Arabia and allied Arab states was imminent. But the diplomatic armchair charge against Qatar soon got bogged down in the minefield of contradicting

⁴ "Turkey notably supported the 'Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room' led by al Qaeda in Syria to seize the city of Idlib in 2015. Turkey included Ahrar al Sham – a Salafi-Jihadist group allied with al Qaeda – in its Operation Euphrates Shield."
<http://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/us-turkey-divide-beyond-raqqa>; Undercover in Idlib:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEsqk826Yj4>

⁵ <https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/266633/turkey-trap-kenneth-r-timmerman>

economic and political interests and was finally knocked out by NATO Sunni ally Turkey. Turkey signed several deals with Qatar and Iran and deployed Turkish-NATO soldiers in Qatar.⁶ The very same country, whose crimes were downplayed and justified by the gang now stabbed its allies in the back. Indeed an appropriate result for the reckless and megalomaniac endeavours by the pro-Turkey/pro-Sunni Anti-Iran camp.

Now Iranian troops and proxies are being deployed from Idlib in the north of Syria to a few miles north of the Israeli border at Mount Hermon. Syria was divided into zones of interest by the members of the Astana-alliance: Russia, Turkey and Iran. The deployment of Iranian troops and proxies with the open support of NATO-member Turkey was another big step for Iran on their road to regional supremacy. The objective is first to contain US/Israeli interest in Syria, then destabilize and finally crush US-allies, when they are weakened enough. Astana was created to establish another power-center for the Middle East, which will eventually replace the US and its allies. Aside of Iranian troops and advisers in Syria, tens of thousands Iranian-commanded militia soldiers operate in Syria and Iraq. Iranian bases are erected all over Syria and the Iranian corridor may soon be established south of SDF-territory. The Obama-Iran-deal brought millions of dollars in the pockets of the terrorist regime, while their nukes are probably developed with help of North-Korea. A decade of Anti-Iran lobbying among Western politicians vanished in a matter of hours, when European politicians rushed to Iran to sign trade-deals after January 2016, when the sanctions were relieved. Due to asymmetrical warfare, missile development and their deployment over a huge area stretching from Iraq, Lebanon, Syria to Gaza and Yemen even the former dismissed Iranian conventional threat became a real headache for the West and Israel in particular.

Of course, the absolute failure of their doctrine didn't bother the leaders and advisers of the Anti-Iran camp. Instead alternating calls to embrace Turkey or Saudi-Arabia in order to halt Iranian Islamic fascism are heard. Indeed it seems there are only two directions in the current world: Either appease Turkey or appease Iran. The global crisis is oscillating like a totally drunk between these two evils, no Odysseus is here to navigate between these lethal threats and every time there is a real chance to repel Iranian influence on the ground (at least for some miles), the sheer weight of the Iranian-Turkey(-Russia) axis dissolves all resistance and the axis proceeds.

When the Kurds stood up for their own rights, despite massive Iranian and Turkish threats, there was the real chance to give international support for Kurdistan and deal a serious blow to Iranian regime. Kurds took a great risk in confronting Iran and Turkey and publicly showing their support for Israel. All they asked for was a democratic referendum in the midst of mass-murder and global war. Finally the world united, but not against Turkey and Iran but against Kurdistan: Arab states, European Union, Germany, Austria, ..., the United Nations Security Council, United Nations General Secretary, Trump-administration, Arab League, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Saudi Arabia and of course the wicked analysts. They all sided with the totalitarian anti-Semitic regimes in Ankara and Tehran. All agreed: The Kurdish referendum for independence is wrong.

Till the end the West will appease Turkey and Iran. Historically appeasement ends when war starts. The "inability to judge" (Arendt) is the *conditio sine qua non* for the rise of totalitarian reign. Totalitarian reign is not just a power structure, or way of government, but also or even more a societal state and an analogous state of mind, which deeply affects non-totalitarian states too. The symptoms of the early stages of a totalitarian mobilization are massive war, global Antisemitism and mass-murder. The final outcome of a fully developed totalitarian reign will be genocide, world war and global Anti-Zionism.

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gulf-qatar-turkey-saudi/turkey-sends-qatar-food-and-soldiers-discusses-gulf-tensions-with-saudi-idUSKBN19D0CX>