

Interview N. Lygeros

“Vaccine, historical geopolitics, Ukraine, Germany, Macedonian issue”

What I want to say is that while we thought that the subject was over and done with and there is no pressure, there continues a pressure for a simple reason, it is a system which with regards to arms, it is not compatible with what we have in NATO. So because we discuss this subject for NATO and also for the European Union in general, we must be careful because we have tectonic plates which engage in the region. It is very important to take our stance pro Ukraine because we know what she has been through with the issue of Crimea, Donbus, what Russia has done in the region and how she plays after the Euromaiden. Since we were already positive since 2008, this course must continue. Because it is known that in the meantime Ukraine has had many contacts with NATO, she has participated in many missions, we know that Russia does not want at all to think that Ukraine could be in NATO but on the other side we know that the issue of Ukraine has influenced Sweden and Finland which were more neutral in the past. They see that Russia acts aggressively also in their regions. Don't forget that Finland has also occupied territories which Russia occupies without a problem as we mentioned also for Germany with the issues of Kaliningrad and so on. So it is good to keep it in mind because as you know we sometimes project onto others that no one can understand us about the occupied territories, about the population exchanges, that we must explain to everyone and sometimes we don't even know their history. So regarding the issue of Ukraine that lives something similar to Cyprus, being a refugee within your own country, those who live in Crimea, where do they go now? They are again in Ukraine but they are refugees within their country. So this must also become clear because, as we say and you said it right about Greece, what are Menedez's positions and what does he say about Turkey. We also must say at one point that Ukraine is a fine European country that belongs to the European continent, which has diachronic links. Let us not forget her relation to the Greek revolution, the Ipsilandi's family, where were they from? Where is the grave? Isn't it in Kiev? So we must have this in mind to understand that we have diachronic relations with Ukraine. The same goes with Europe's part because there is an interpretation error when it comes to the ideology, especially in Greece. There are many who think that we are pro Ukraine because we are against Russia and this is not correct. Russia is a country that goes up to the Far East. It is not a Russia which thinks it is, by nature, only European. When you border with China and Mongolia it is reasonable. On the other hand, to have a special relation with Russia, this is something good. To have a relation which is European, it can't be because of the size of Russia. Joining the European Union with Russia together this would be a Eurorussia. It wouldn't be something else and you can't do it with Russia's part. We have seen it with the Soviet Union's era when they attempted to make fifteen countries be together. Russia always had the upper hand and this is what's unbelievable about this case, that the successor of the Soviet Union is considered to be Russian only. The other states, the other fourteen we don't consider them successors. I was recently studies nuclear information. All of the nuclear warheads it had in Kazakhstan were delivered to Russia in '95 while all the nuclear tests-experiments that took place on behalf of the Soviet Union occurred in Kazakhstan. They detonated more that 500 bombs

in the region but Kazakhstan was left without any nuclear warhead. So this is interesting if you think about it, that is, they have only been subjected to experiments and explosions but finally they don't have nuclear arms. On the other hand, what I was saying about the issue of Ukraine, especially because of Filiki Eteria, we know from the beginning and not only from this, the entire Black Sea, on both sides, has greek elements. I don't mean only the region of Pontus and the region of Crimea and this is what we sometimes forget, while for example a dictator like Erdogan has no problem saying that it is there, where Tatars live and they have common races with the Turks so the Turkish president wants to have an opinion even on Crimea. So if we look a little better into the history and not only the classical one but also the religious, remember what had happened with the issue of Ukraine with regards to the church and its autocephaly, where our Patriarch was very firm on the issue and was not afraid of what the Russian was saying. When I see this overall, I understand that if we let these cases go and we say that we don't care about the issue of Ukraine, why do we want them to care about the issue of Cyprus and the occupied territories when we speak of the size, 37% of Cyprus? And when we see what happens in the regions of Europe, the Eastern Europe, which from the beginning were problematic because it is no new thing, we have the tendency to look at what happened after '45. We see only the issue of Germany which we consider it to be clear but I discover now that we have many people who have no idea because they have a very mixed approach and perhaps mistaken at the level of strategy. Let's say if you talk to a Greek about Germany, they think that this is something monolithic. It is interesting to ask him what happened after '45, how is the regime dissolved while Hitler wanted to destroy everything? Fortunately they didn't destroy everything. Germany was divided in four parts not only in two. So we had an influence from France, England, America and of course the Soviet Union. We remember mostly East and West Germany, I imagine that you have the same in your mind. That though is after '49, it isn't between 45 and 49. It is then that Bonn is brought to us, and then we look at Berlin. An observation I would like to make to see the analogy in depth with the issue of Ukraine: I ask, when we had Berlin which was with East and West with the wall, wasn't it inside East Germany? Without the support of America would Berlin have been able to survive? If Kennedy hadn't said "Ich bin ein Berliner", would there be a West Berlin? And something else, when we look at the Morgenthau Plan, you know him, it is the renowned intellectual and expert also in economics. We know him more from the issues concerning the genocide because as you remember he was ambassador of Constantinople. Every time, in every broadcast I will speak of Constantinople to remind to people that we must go. This same man who was born in 1891 and died 1967 is the same man who will make the proposal Morgenthau so that Germany is separated in two regions. In reality, in three because he had thought of a third region which would have been international. Finally the scenario of two Germanies was accepted, the East and West. One more thing I want to tell you on this is that Germany too had suddenly population movement of Germans from other regions, who where in Czechoslovakia, in Austro-Hungary, in Poland. Now, in Greece we would have said that 13.000 Germans were displaced violently. And all these Germans had to go either in West Germany or East Germany considering that they could only go there. Do you remember the trick the Soviet Union had done with Poland, when supposedly they would have liberated them? They waited for the nazi regime to kill all Polish people and was not in rush to liberate Poland. They did it, supposedly, only after the nazis had finished and this is because they wanted to make a connecting link as the

Berlin Treaty would have stated, with the East Germany. I want you to think the following, since we are very close to June 6th: If the Americans had had the same strategy as the Soviet Union in 1944 and they also delayed the 6th of June, the big day, the D-day and they waited for the nazis to first destroy France completely. Do you remember the movie *Diplomacy* where we have the high officer, German, who has received order to blow up everything that is historical in Paris and finally he doesn't do it because he says it is against civilization? Otherwise in Paris that so many Greeks adore, there would be nothing to see if he had executed the order. Imagine now if the Americans had done the same and after, I insist on this, as we don't see clearly, is that if it wasn't for the Americans in '49, how would the NATO have been established? Because if you look at the dates, we are talking about the end of '45, '49 is NATO, '49 are the two Germanies and at the same time they integrate these elements to defend the territories and in essence to have a rescue from West Berlin. At the same time we have the Marshall Plan which will work until '52 and will allow Germany to maintain a balance in West Germany in '57, with the connections made by Adenauer and Schuman and in relation to De Gaulle to create the first core which will lead us to the Treaty of Rome of '57 for the creation of the European Union. When I see this now in short, without the intervention of America, would it possible to have a balance in Germany when she is cut in two, when she is destroyed everywhere and to finally manage to be what we call the core in the European Union? No. So we should have this also in mind, because when we see what is going on in NATO and we call it simply a discussion in NATO, it is very important because we don't see its depth. The depth is that NATO exists since '49. When you say debts were granted to Germany' you must know that Germany continued to pay for WWI until 2010. And it has not yet paid for the debts she owes for WWII. Because very simply back then the nazi regime had decided not to pay anything from the debt it had, and what happened for Germany who was the successor state? It had to pay also for the percentage the nazi regime hadn't paid. For this reason it had to reach up to 2010 to pay simply for what she owed for WWI. For Germany to owe us we have to ask her. Have you ever seen a requisition that has reached Germany or have you seen only requisitions that have stopped at the Greek Parliament? In relation to Germany of course I believe that she owes us money, she owes us compensations, she owes us also the debt. The issue is that there must be people who know how to seriously make claims, rightfully and not ideologically and not only to grab some bribes from various brands. When we finish this procedure, one more thing we must have in mind when we seriously speak of Cyprus's liberation, is that for Germany, West and East, to reunite they had to have 12 years of austerity. This can amount to zero through the EEZ. So in reality the natural gas which will be produced through the EEZ is what will secure that we have a balance even in the framework of the liberation of the island. Something that some people do not seriously look at, that is they don't have a strategic course. Think that the occupied territories are liberated in some way, I'm saying randomly, like the Baltic countries that acceded to the European Union. How do we find a balance, in how many years to we get through? We have estimated this. I have had discussions with professors from the AUEB (Athens University of Economics and Business) and it is 12 years. That is 12 years without EEZ. If you include the EEZ and include the reserves we already have and then those we will discover, then we enter into an entirely different framework and this is very significant because it proves that everything we do for the natural gas, the hydrocarbons and the EEZ , we don't do it because we are interested in the money they make, as we are not interested in

the money others make with different acts. What interests me is that since there is a tool which can liberate a country that is occupied, how do you manage it. It is the same for the issue of Ukraine. We cannot say that the Ukrainians now have occupied territories. Khrushchev screwed up, we don't really know what had happened in '54. But maybe these things happened afterwards, when Russia wanted again suddenly to have control in the region. Aren't there things happening that relate to Putin? They didn't occur from the beginning. Another thing I want to say is the following: When we have tsarist Russia, whatever the junk was, especially that about the muzhiks that they supposedly didn't exist, I mean the workers, the peasants, that was completely unacceptable and fortunately changes were made. Know that this Russia was very European. This is why we have entire scripts like Dostoyevsky which have whole sentences in French and this is considered normal. With the Soviet Union entering we have two changes, the Soviet Union is no longer Russian, it doesn't even have the word Russia in Soviet Union. And then it's not European, it believes that the Europeans can do their own thing. She suddenly becomes Turkey-friendly and this is the cherry on top for me because always I like it when someone says that they are atheist, supposedly, and they get better along with the Muslims than the Christians. Suddenly they team up and cut up Armenia. Because if you remember well the Soviet Union signs only the Kars treaty in '21 and doesn't sign neither the Sevres treaty nor the Lausanne Treaty because they consider them to be imperialistic. How does this Soviet Union suddenly say then that she would want to step foot in Europe and control Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia and so on. At this point is the issue that we also must mention: we don't discuss the occupied territories in Finland at all. Then we don't discuss the ex-occupied territories of Germany. We don't discuss now the occupied territories of Ukraine. But then we say, who will come to help and liberate the regions of Cyprus. Is everyone with their own occupied territories? No, we must think about the others and work as a network that helps the other to liberate the regions where their ancestors are, where the bones of their people are, that are buried over there. For some they are forgotten but Humanity doesn't forget them. So I say this, I don't forget any of the occupied territories and I say that from the moment we think about Humanity, we look at the rights of Humanity, every time we must help the peoples that have been submitted to genocide. Do you think that I forget the rights of the Assyrians or the Armenians? Isn't what happens now in Artsakh similar? That is, how do the Azeris enter Artsakh when they know it is a region which doesn't belong to them? It was given to them by Stalin himself so that the Armenians couldn't be established while they knew that the population was 95% Armenian. However I have never seen mosques in Artsakh. It would be good to discuss more about what is happening in Ukraine because I think that from 2014 we have this country forgotten while we know that we have historical links. But I do say that what took place with the issue of the autocephaly was a success. It would be good to get on to the next stage because you know this very well, Georgia and Ukraine have very advanced positions with regards to NATO and the issue is simply which balance will be found at this point because it is Russia that doesn't want to hear about any accession for Ukraine at this level. Inside Ukraine there are some that try to say that it's better not to do it while there are those who are proponents and are totally Europeans which is reasonable because Ukraine was always a European country. So there is neither reason not to be NATOean nor European. And I say this for the fact that we don't have to preoccupy ourselves systematically just with Turkey and to see what is happening and if others will say something or not. Because to have an ally you must look also what they do and

if they are in need. Let's avoid saying that Ukraine is the underbelly of Russia and that the Russian will react because it reminds me of Turkey's argument with Cyprus saying that since they have Cyprus as their underbelly, how are they to leave her alone? What is that, the argument of barbarity? When the Russia is in a region where the sun cannot set because of the country's length, the underbelly is half of the earth. I mean to be serious you must understand this: When we look at all of the nuclear reactors, have you seen how they had been placed when they were installed? None of them were in Moscow. They were all near the borders and near other areas. Chernobyl was in Ukraine. In Ukraine the Russians had no problem, the Soviets, to sacrifice Soviets but Ukrainians ones. If the same accident had occurred in Russia things would had been very different. And I say that all these people were sacrificed to save Humanity. Don't forget that all the people that were at the quarries and went to dig under the nuclear reactors, looking especially at the scientific details, there were many that didn't live past their 40's because of all the radiation they got. Did you know that at one point because they wouldn't give them air conditioning, they were digging naked? Did you know that they had no right to machinery because they feared that something may happen to the concrete slab, that it would crack and have a problem with all the nuclear elements getting underground? But these people knew from the beginning that they were going to die and yet they did their job even though they didn't live in the area. What do you think of that? These people, you know should all had received a medal. At least, an Honorary. These people knew from the beginning they were going to die. Gradually we have found their names and don't forget, even the soldiers. They sent the soldiers where there were lead plates and had to remove the graphite. We know these people by name. If it was not for these people, if it was not for the scientist who did the whole work to try and highlight it, who they wanted him to say lies abroad. Don't forget what didn't happen there. Did you know that Germany had sent the Joker there, do you remember the Joker? This was a machine made by Germans to operate against terrorist attacks, which you can in short call a robot. When the Soviets ordered it to have it clean graphite from the roof because it was then nuclear waste and couldn't be transported, they didn't admit it to the Germans. They bought this machine and didn't admit what kind of radiation they had. Do you know how long the machine lasted? Two (2) seconds. Because when it took in all the radiation and all its chips were burned out, the man in charge of the Chernobyl rescue had nothing else left. He said to them 'you did not say the truth even to the Germans and you brought us this machine that we were longing for to remove the wastes'. Finally, who removed the waste? The soldiers, the living robots. So I want to tell you that this is happening again in this region. Not to tell you about the dogmatism of that period, that in Greece the cloud stopped at the borders. This is why if you say thyroid in Greece, you understand that everyone knows something about this issue, as if there is an expertise. Why does this expertise exist? Why were they giving systematically iodine pills to people during that period? So when we know these facts it is good to understand that Kazakhstan which has suffered from all the experiments, same as Ukraine has suffered from Chernobyl, we must remember all these scientists, that may have been part of the Soviet framework but they fought for the truth and fought afterwards for us to also be saved. Because indeed if all this nuclear reactor had spilled, as one of the scenario was, we would have had consequences in all of Europe. It wouldn't have been only local. I wanted to say that I was glad for your reference to the tribute to the miners of Chernobyl on television because indeed these people we have to remember them but not only because we don't like a regime, no. What

touches me, as you very correctly said it, is that the people knew from the beginning that they were going to die and they did it nevertheless to save others they didn't know.