

IS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST PROJECT TEMPORARILY FROZEN?

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On November 6, 2003 President George W. Bush delivered a major speech announcing the beginning of the Greater Middle East (GME) concept initiative. He declared that since “sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe,” the United States had adopted a “new policy, a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East”¹ to be pursued in countries including those with governments allied and cooperating with the United States.

The stated goal of the project is promotion and advancement of economic freedom, democracy, and prosperity in the region in the vast territory from Turkey to Sudan, and from Pakistan to Morocco, as the alternative to the spread of religious extremism. In essence, the project aims to shift the direction of negative trends developing in the region, by sending them into the course of global positive processes leading to a secure and prosperous world order.

Since the implementation of the program in 2003, the strategy was based on the Theory of Suppression of Cycles by John Boyd². In 2008 the GME project was substantially modified due to serious shortcomings in the original strategy manifested by the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The revised project draft drew on a theory never before implemented on this scale of geopolitical transformations, the Theory of Controlled Chaos³ by Zbigniew Brzezinski and Steven Mann. The

¹ “Remarks by the President at the 20th Anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy,” speech delivered on November 6, 2003; www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/11/20031106-3.html.

² The theory of suppression of cycles by John Boyd is a universal model of competitive activities in a war and other conflicts. (OODA: observation – orientation – decision – action).

³ The Theory of Controlled Chaos (TCC):

strategy was supplemented by a number of heuristic methods as a component of reflexive management⁴.

Until recently, the application of the strategy functioned reasonably well (e.g. Egypt, Tunisia), but in anticipation of the final stage of the timeline, a series of negative events transpired that led to the situation analogical to “zugzwang”⁵ compounded by “zeitnot”⁶. Although analysis of these events as individual occurrences leads to a conclusion of their insignificance in the greater project; the aggregation of the events over time reveals the fact that they occur during all of the critical geographical focus points of the project (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, etc.) and their repercussions may destroy the unfinished project. – As a spring flood sweeps the unfinished bridge. Thus, the existence of these events is cause for concern for the core health of the project.

What causes the zugzwang-zeitnot condition? The discord arises from either a chain of haphazard events caused by poor-quality work of the project implementers, or calculated interference of opponents to the project. If the latter, who in the world is able to organize such a diversion? Only Russia, China, Iran, and an unknown fourth entity⁷ combining their capabilities are able to derail GME initiatives with such effect. We will further address the hypothesis of poor project execution;

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- Chaos is a higher degree of order, where the organizing links are unsystematic and accidental, as the alternative to cause-effect relations (i.e. chaos is a constant, and stability is temporary).
 - The Theory of Chaos studies complex non-linear dynamic systems.
 - The Theory of Controlled Chaos is the systematic structuring of non-linear changes and bifurcations enabling one to identify paradoxes of social and political developments and to influence them.

⁴ Heuristic methods as a component of reflexive management:

- Heuristic methods provide identification, processing and ordering of the system of regularities, as well as mechanisms and methodological tools of anticipation (forestalling) of events.
- The reflexive management uses methods of imposing certain tactics of behavior on **the manageable** by passing him logically arrayed grounds, which he takes into account and forms his “solution”, predefined by **the manager**.

⁵ Zugzwang is a situation (e.g. in chess), where the player has to make a move, but any next move puts him in a significantly weaker position.

⁶ Zeitnot is a lack of time for decision-making.

⁷ The unknown fourth entity – some dissimilar actors, for whom the implementation of GME project undoubtedly means direct losses, or deprives them of their self-determined outlooks for a long period of time. The strategy is unable to take into account their real potential and develop a mechanism of neutralization, as these actors do not explicitly become apparent and usually act in confidence, masquerading under the guise of allies.

however the hypothesis of combined disruption should not be discarded, as the intentional interference is likely to persist in the future.

From these observations, we can state that the Greater Middle East project based on the Theory of Controlled Chaos (TCC) is becoming unmanageable and a growing numbers of experts come to the conclusion that current dynamics of the situation do not rule out the catastrophic scenario of a nuclear war.

Disappointing outcomes arise from the practical application of TCC rather than the fundamentals of the strategy. The lack of criticism of the theory and its use in this matter supports its general acceptance as a sound basis for strategy. When synthesized in a practical application such as this, Mann's warning that its cognitive complexity limits understanding and thus execution are demonstrated by the following:

1. The strategy applying this theory cannot account for the human element, i.e. limits of ability and error. – Not every pilot is able to manage a spaceship.
2. Even application of the most modern technical means does not guarantee success for more than one or two years as the management of the process is based not on trivial linear mathematical models but the creation of a single global multi-vector structure rendering an outcome not based on conventional transformation principles. Project outcomes are a result of guided bifurcations.

Experience of past nine years (since 2003) revealed:

- The ill-timed deployment of “ideological viruses”⁸ during the active phase of the strategy beyond the early implementation has resulted in their ineffectiveness. The phases proved to be too short-lived (2-3 years) and bounded their success.

⁸ According to the postulates from the TCC by Steven Mann – to redirect the negative inversion processes, it is sufficient to make relatively small efforts in the form of implemented ideologies (which he identifies with computer

- When using individuals as the basic unit of global structure⁹ the required effectiveness has not always been achieved, as the required critical mass of recipients, 20% or more is not always created.
- During the strategy implementation, the multilevel organizations with tasks ranging from management to groundwork are often not adequately flexible when selecting an algorithm or a method of effect.

There are concrete observations of the GME project implementation:

- There is a lack of coherence of senior officials at the highest political levels, both in the United States and with partners-stakeholders in the GME project.
- The United States is reevaluating the effectiveness and potential of the GME program with respect to the means and resources it dedicates to the project but it has been ignoring the growing resistance from disloyal states and transnational organizations.

Of course, there is a need for more detailed and rigorous analyses based on information from primary sources unavailable to the public, but some preliminary conclusions can be drawn:

- The overall safety of the global community throughout the world is at risk unless the U.S.¹⁰ continues to assert itself as the sole superpower and make sufficient efforts to preserve the main parameters corresponding to this status in the following fields: economy, military and technological superiority, and political influence.

viruses), with properties of the virus to self-production. However, as it turned out in practice these “ideological-viruses” are short-lived (1-2 years), not always and everywhere took root, and most importantly they considerably “mutated” which created the opposite effect.

⁹ To achieve the level of global criticality Steven Mann was suggesting using the mechanism of change of communication links (domains, tribes, family, clan...) through the atomization of society and giving the individual a dominant role.

¹⁰ Why the USA? After the collapse of the Soviet Union, international organizations are no longer able to perform their functions in corpore, and the US is the only entity who is still interested and most importantly has the necessary potential to maintain peace and prevent global catastrophic threats for all humanity which is an axiom that doesn't require confirmation.

- Implementing the GME is a key link to accomplishing this task in the near future, thus elevating it to a level of a priority global issue.
- Limitations should not be placed on the project timeline, particularly on project completion dates (currently 2013).
- The TCC strategy currently in use for the GME project implementation continues to be the most successful approach, however the problem formulation, in ongoing planning should be compacted to 1.5-2 year stages (instead of 4-5 year stages, 2003 – 2008 – 2013).
- Combinations of state-leveraged means at multiple levels and methods of approach are effective and successful only when the overall level of such efforts spread across critical locations reaches a proper level of saturation that is manifold beyond opponents. In the last year these levels have not been attained. This compels the U.S. government more often to switch to the “manual” operational management. The requisite increase of attention and resources distracts the U.S. government from equally important issues of global and economic security. These considerations are also a strong argument in favor of 1.5-2 years’ gradual or incremental strategy planning.

In this emerging situation it is quite difficult to find an expert who is aware of the essence of the global process taking place in the Middle East and is also questioning the need for successful completion of the GME project as a key element to global security. It is already clear that “the unfinished bridge” begins to break down and it already creates a real threat for the security of the region, and especially for Israel. In the near future, in the case of forced disengagement of US, the rest of the world and notably the Caucasus and Europe will face a deadly threat in the face of a “new Porte”, whose spectre is blowing ominously over the region. Curiously, neither Russia nor China is willing to acknowledge it.

There is still an opportunity, however difficult, for the U.S. to persuade impatient and ambitious “partners” involved in the GME project implementation to forestall their desires for self-interested dominance in the project and thus the region. These partners are inspired by a currently “favorable” situation as they see it to assert their influence in a manner beyond the GME project. This is ill-timed and unacceptably risky as the consequences of continuing on this path are dire.