

Reshaping Global Geopolitics and Energy Landscape after the US Elections



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1. Overview: The New US Policies
2. Geopolitical Developments Expected
3. Changes in the Energy Landscape & Environmental Aspects
4. Critical Questions
5. References

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Η έντυπη, ηλεκτρονική και, γενικά, η κατά οποιονδήποτε τρόπο αναπαραγωγή, δημοσίευση ή χρησιμοποίηση όλου ή μέρους του υλικού του παρόντος έργου, καθώς και η ανάρτησή του σε ιστότοπους ή πλατφόρμες ηλεκτρονικής δικτύωσης απαγορεύεται χωρίς την έγγραφη έγκριση του κατόχου των πνευματικών δικαιωμάτων του έργου.

1. Overview: The new U.S. policies

US Elections: Undoubtedly, this is an event of high criticality for the world system.

On the grounds of (a) the pre-election statements and (b) the facts of the previous presidency of Mr. D. Trump, the key aspects of the new policies of the US are expected to be reshaped as follows:

- “America First”: priority to unilateralism and reduction of US contribution in multilateral agreements.
- Tariffs & Trade: renegotiation, or escalation of tariffs by raising disputes with China, EU, or other major economies (+60% for Chinese products; +20% for products imported from other countries).
- Military Engagement: Reduction of US global military presence.
- Reconsideration of the relations with the UN and international trade agreements.
- Technology & Cybersecurity: priority to the technological decoupling from China, extension of business at the Earth’s space, and controlling of supply chains by developing systems of AI and cybersecurity.
- Relations with Adversaries: it is likely a closer approach of the US with Russia for reducing sanctions and arms control agreements – North Korea: a new round of negotiations with North Korea’s leadership should be expected.
- War affairs: reconsideration and/or reshaping the US role and contribution as regards to Middle East and Ukraine’s conflicts.
- Immigration: stricter immigration policies influencing labor markets and economic ties with neighboring countries.

2. Geopolitical Developments Expected

Russia–Ukraine War:

- Reduction of the U.S. military aid to Ukraine, to force a diplomatic solution for the war termination.
- This shift might force European allies to assume a greater role in supporting Ukraine.

Middle East:

- Paying attention to handling, or lowering the intention of, the conflict in the way.
- Maintaining the hardline stance against Iran.
- Diplomatic actions to investigate the socio-geographic options for an independent Kurdish state.

China:

- Intensification of the commercial and geopolitical competition.
- Discouraging China's strategy regarding Taiwan's independence and political stability.

Indo-Pacific Strategy:

- Rewarming of the cooperation lines with India, probably in the context e.g. of the "Rebalancing to Asia" initiative.
- Reforming the regional stability and counter-China coalitions.

NATO & European Allies: tension to allies for increasing the military contributions & costs.

3. Changes in the Energy Landscape & Environmental aspects

Fossil Fuels:

- Resource nationalism by giving emphasis and priority to domestic oil and gas production, including the reopening of federal lands and offshore areas for exploration
- Extending LNG exports and global influence of the U.S. energy economy

Regulatory Rollbacks:

- Potential extensions of the lifespans of coal and natural gas plants
- Rolling back of emission limits on power plants and fuel efficiency standards

Climate and Environment:

- Rollback of U.S. commitments to international climate agreements (e.g. Paris Agreement, COP21: 2015)
- Reduced focus on green energy initiatives

Reconsideration of the Renewable Energy perspectives:

- Pausing or halting offshore wind energy and new projects of renewable energy production

Strategies for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) and Minerals:

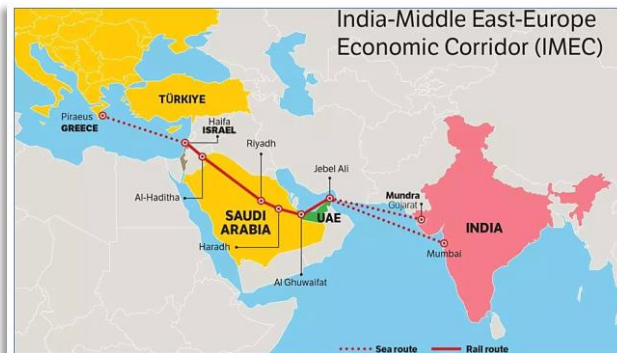
- Emphasis on domestic mining of critical minerals
- Reduction of dependence on China for resources like lithium and other rare earths

Energy Security:

- Utilization of LNG exports as a tool for geopolitical influence, particularly in Asia and Europe

4. Critical Questions

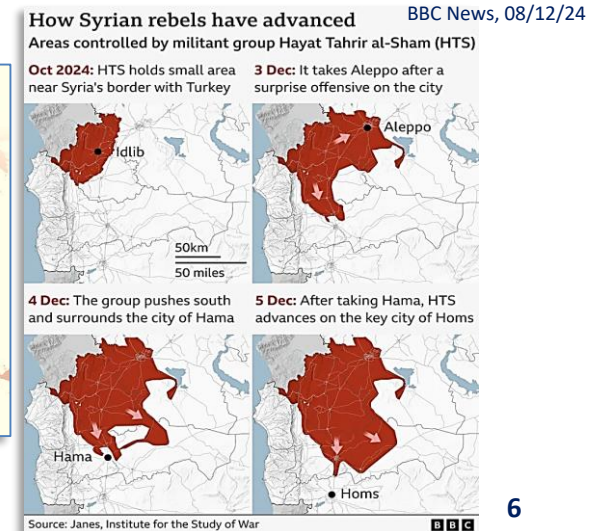
- Russia–Ukraine War: Is Russia and Ukraine ready to discuss a diplomatic solution?
- Middle East: Is Israel in favor of accepting a solution for a Palestinian state in its territory?
- Taiwan’s choke point: Is a new war break up in the South Pacific region possible?
- IMEC: Is there any solid basis for implementing this initiative? Should the US still support IMEC as a BRI’s competitor?
- LNG: Is the US capacity for LNG supply enough to cover the energy demand of the EU?
- EU policies: are the EU “green energy” policies/deals appropriate to face the changes in the EU energy balance caused by the Russia-Ukraine war?
- How can, the Arabic Oil Monarchies, react to the new “package” of US policies?
- Is the establishment of an independent Kurdish state a likely scenario within the Middle East geopolitical complex (from 'lab to land')?
- Are there any border changes expected (a new “Yalta agreement”?) after the recent “blitzkrieg” of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)?



India-Middle East-Europe (IMEC) – Key Players: India, Arabic, Western (EE) & African Countries (11.09.2023) Source: <https://www.nextias.com/ca/current-affairs/11-09-2023>



Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) – Key Player(s): People’s Republic of China (2013) - (Source: MERICS BRI database)



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Thank you for your attention!