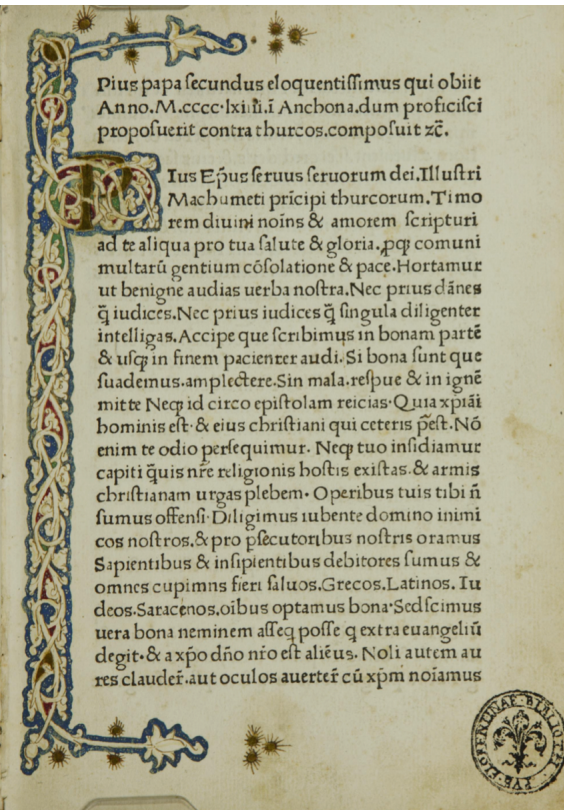


Pius II ad Mahumetem II



“Pius Episcopus servus servorum dei: Illustri Mahumeti principi thurcorum....”

“Pius Bishop servant of the servants of God to the illustrious Mohammed Prince of the Turks....”

This letter, in latin and 104 pages long, was written by Pope Pius II to Sultan Mehmed II around 1461.

In it Pius II offered the Sultan the crown of the Holy Roman Empire if he converted to Christianity.

According to historians the letter was not actually delivered and no reply is available.

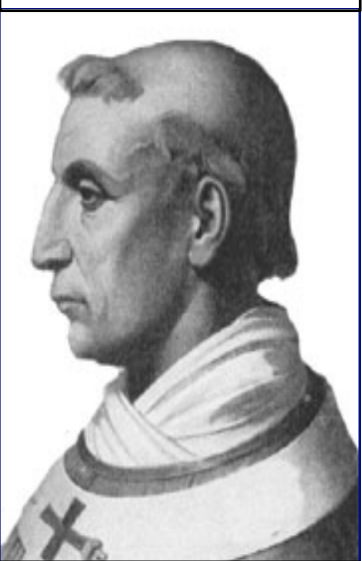
Pius II, Enea Silvio Piccolomini, had built his reputation and his rise to power with delicate diplomatic missions among European sovereigns.

<https://archive.org/details/ita-bnc-in1-00000493-001>

Pius II ad Mahumetem II



Constantine XI



Nicholas V

In the summer of 1452 the Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI Palaiologos, worried by the aggressive preparations of the Turks, wrote to the Pope Nicholas V asking for the Catholic Powers to come to help. He promised the implementation of the Union between the Greek and the Roman Churches which he approved on 12 December 1452 despite great local opposition. The Western Powers were busy fighting each other and did not respond. When the Turks attacked some limited help came only from the maritime republics of Venice and Genoa who had commercial interests in the East. After the fall of the Imperial Capital the Pope called for a crusade to recover it but with the same result.

Pius II ad Mahumetem II



Mehmet II by Gentile Bellini



Pius II by Pinturicchio

The Eastern Roman Empire had survived almost a thousand years to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD.

It fell on 29 May 1453 when Sultan Mehmed II, the Conqueror, at the age of 21 years, conquered its capital Constantinople (later Byzantium) that called itself the **Second Rome**.

After the conquest the *Hagia Sophia* was converted into a mosque, but under the Ottoman *millet* system, the Greek Orthodox Church survived and remained

independent with the Patriarch of Constantinople at its head.

As a result the Ottoman occupation saved the Greek Orthodox Church from a forced reunification with Rome.

With the fall of the **Second Rome, Muscovy** became the main political center of Eastern Christian Orthodoxy and starting in 1510 claimed to be the **Third Rome**.

The title **Czar** derives from the name of (Gaius Julius) **Caesar**.

The Western World After 1453

Civilization	Spiritual Center	Political/Military Area of Control
Western Catholic Christianity	Rome (First Rome)	Western Europe
Islam	Istanbul (former Constantinople, Byzantium, Second Rome)	Turkey, the Middle East, North Africa
Eastern Orthodox Christianity	Moscow (Third Rome)	Russia

1492 Columbus discovers America.

1517 Martin Luther and the Ninety Five Theses:
Protestant Reformation

1534 Henry VIII and the Act of Supremacy:
English Reformation

The World Today

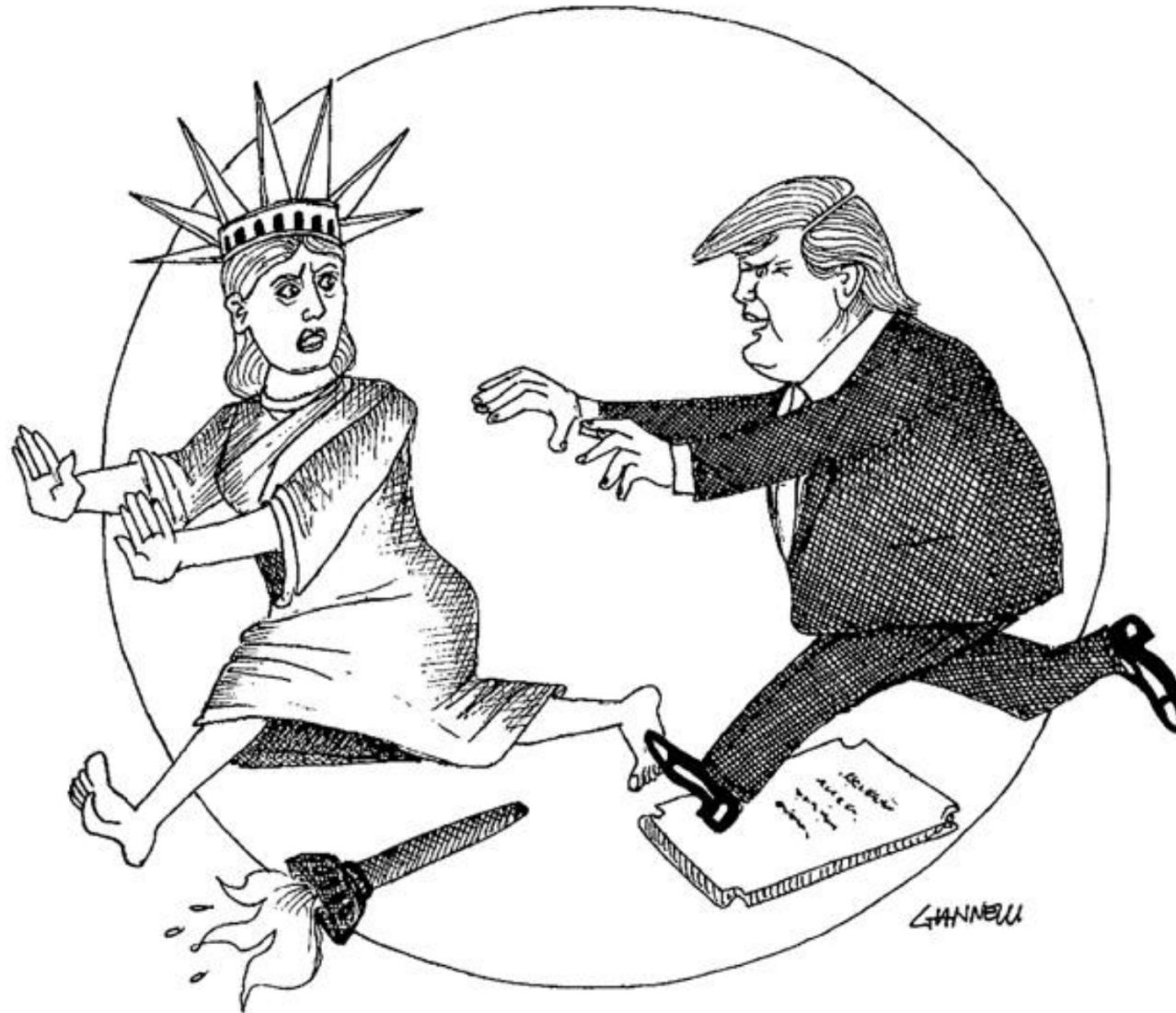


US (same cartoon of 2014)



Kal - The Economist - May 31st 2014

US: the Future?



Giannelli, Il Corriere, 161011.

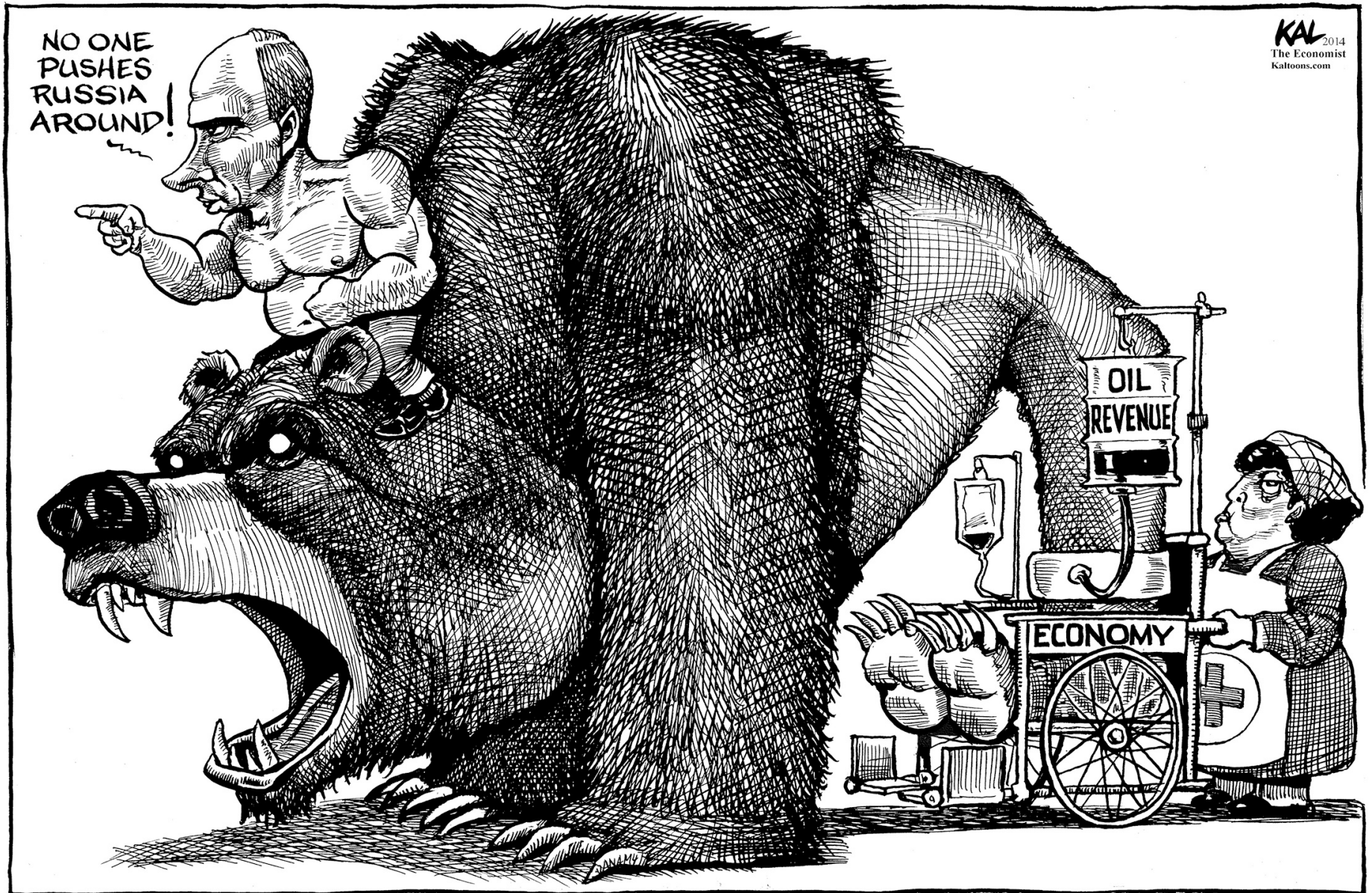
http://www.corriere.it/foto-gallery/la-vignetta/16_ottobre_01/vignetta-giannelli-ottobre-2016-4c0268b0-879c-11e6-bf16-41bc56635276.shtml

Caesar (Czar) of the Third Rome



Kal August 22nd 2015

Russia as a Superpower



The North Korea Nuclear Test



Kal, September 17th 2016

The South China Sea Controversy



Europe (same cartoon of 2014)

That sinking feeling (again)



Same strong
leadership:

Germany

France

Italy

(Brexit now
Included)

The Economist 140830

Brexit: Assessments and Forecasts

“For although they could have held even Britain, the Romans scorned to do so, because they saw that there was nothing at all to fear from the Britons (for they are not strong enough to cross over and attack us), and that no corresponding advantage was to be gained by taking and holding their country. (II.5.8)”

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Strabo/2E1*.html

Brexit: Assessments and Forecasts

Στράβων
(c. 63 BC – c. 24 AC),
ΓΕΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΩΝ.
Strabo was a Greek
geographer, philosopher,
and historian who lived
in Asia Minor during the
critical transitional period
of the Roman Republic
into the Roman Empire.



http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Strabo/2E1*.html

After the JCPOA

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Nuclear Deal between Iran and the P5+1



<https://platosguns.com/2015/09/26/what-axis-of-evil-irans-president-makes-nice-in-new-york/>

Negotiating the JCPOA



Kal May 9th 2015

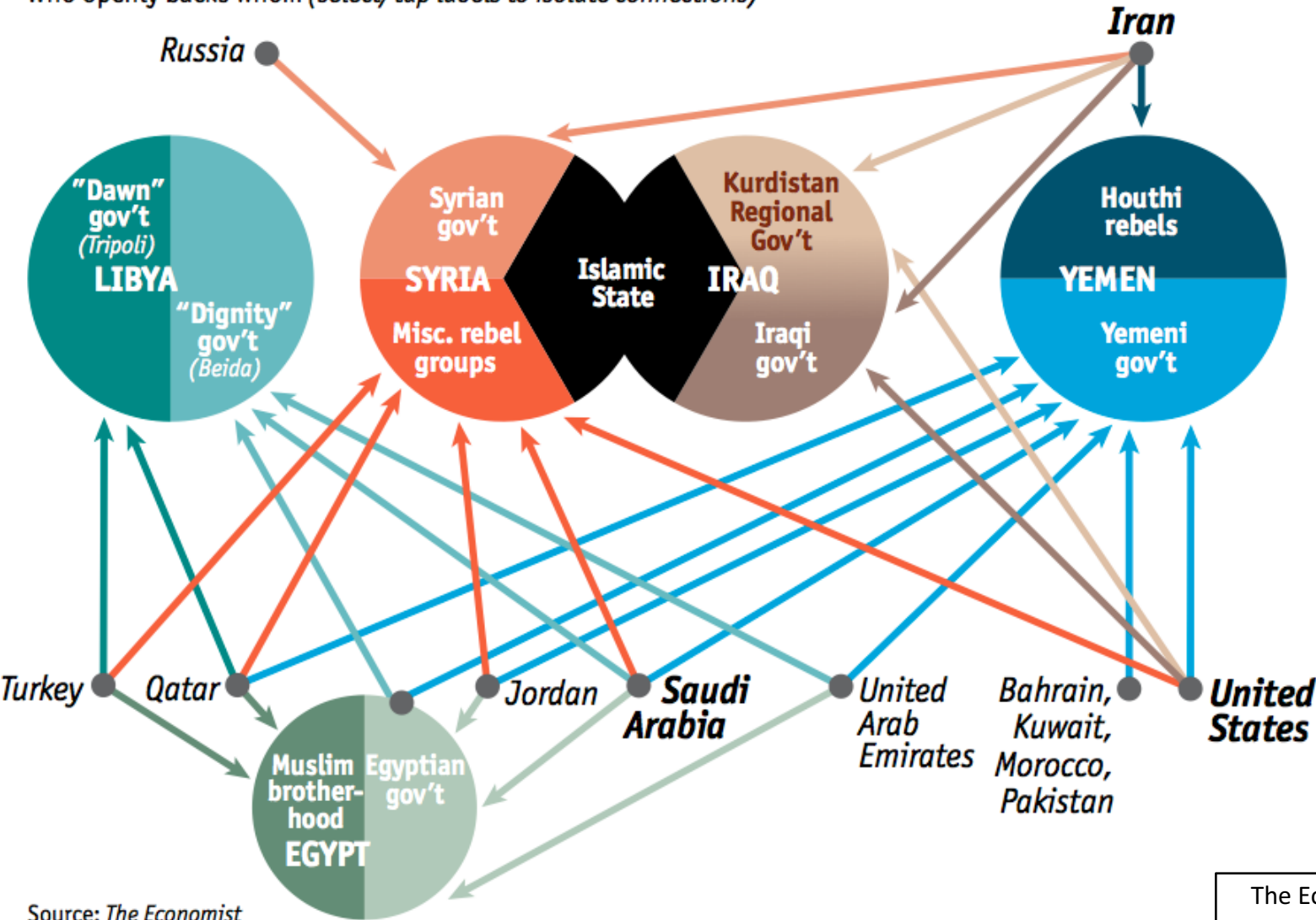
The New Middle East



The Middle East Explained

The main political rifts in the Middle East

Who openly backs whom (select/tap labels to isolate connections)



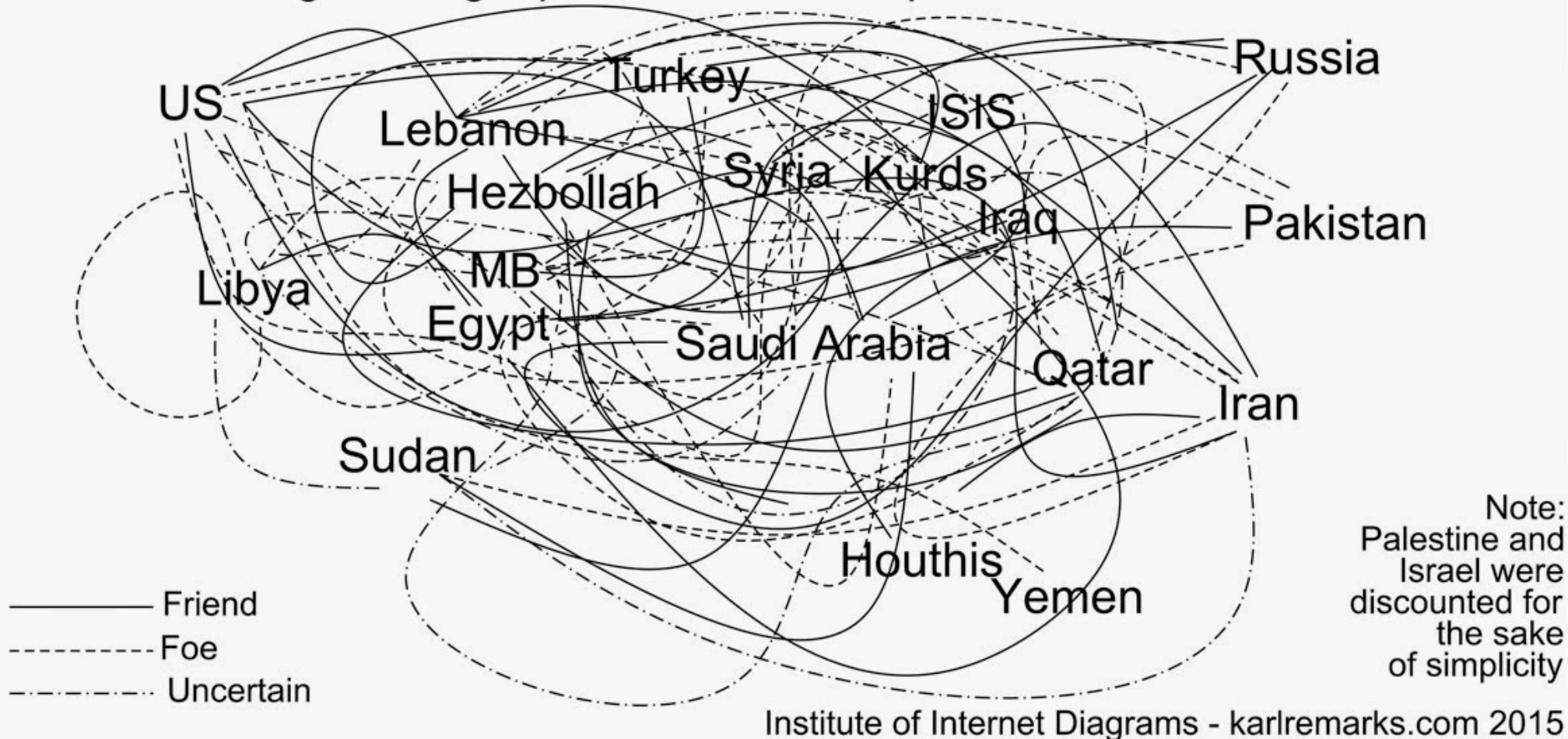
A serious attempt by the Economist to explain the situation in the Middle East graphically. (July 2015)

Source: *The Economist*

The Economist 150731

The Middle East Explained

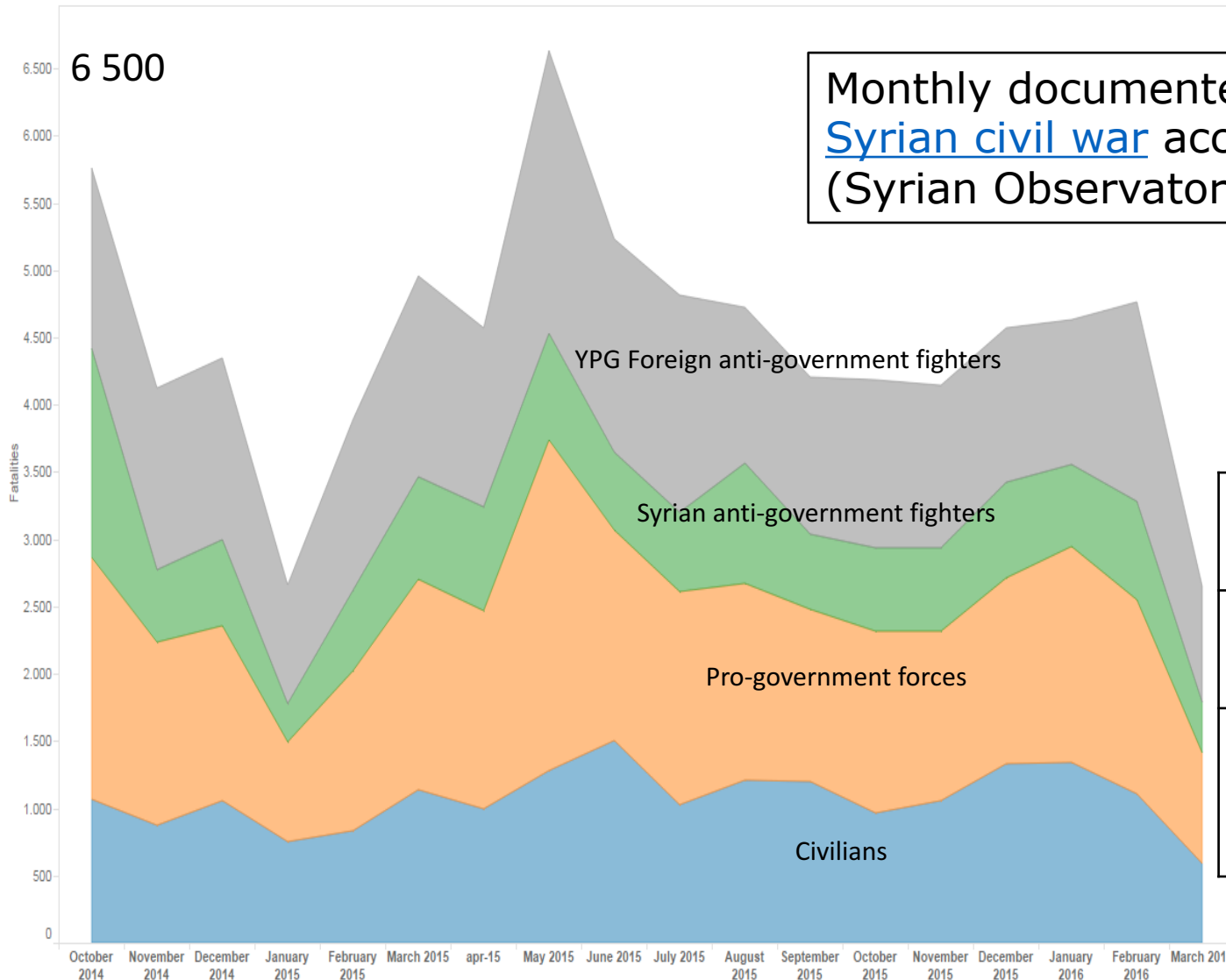
Diagram of geopolitical relationships in the Middle East



- Haizam Amirah-Fernández. Senior Analyst, Mediterranean & Arab World. Real Instituto Elcano - <https://twitter.com/HaizamAmirah>
- http://www.karlremarks.com/2015_03_01_archive.html

Casualties of the Syrian Civil War

Month



Monthly documented fatalities in the [Syrian civil war](#) according to [SOHR](#) (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights)

Sirian total population: 22.85 million (2013)

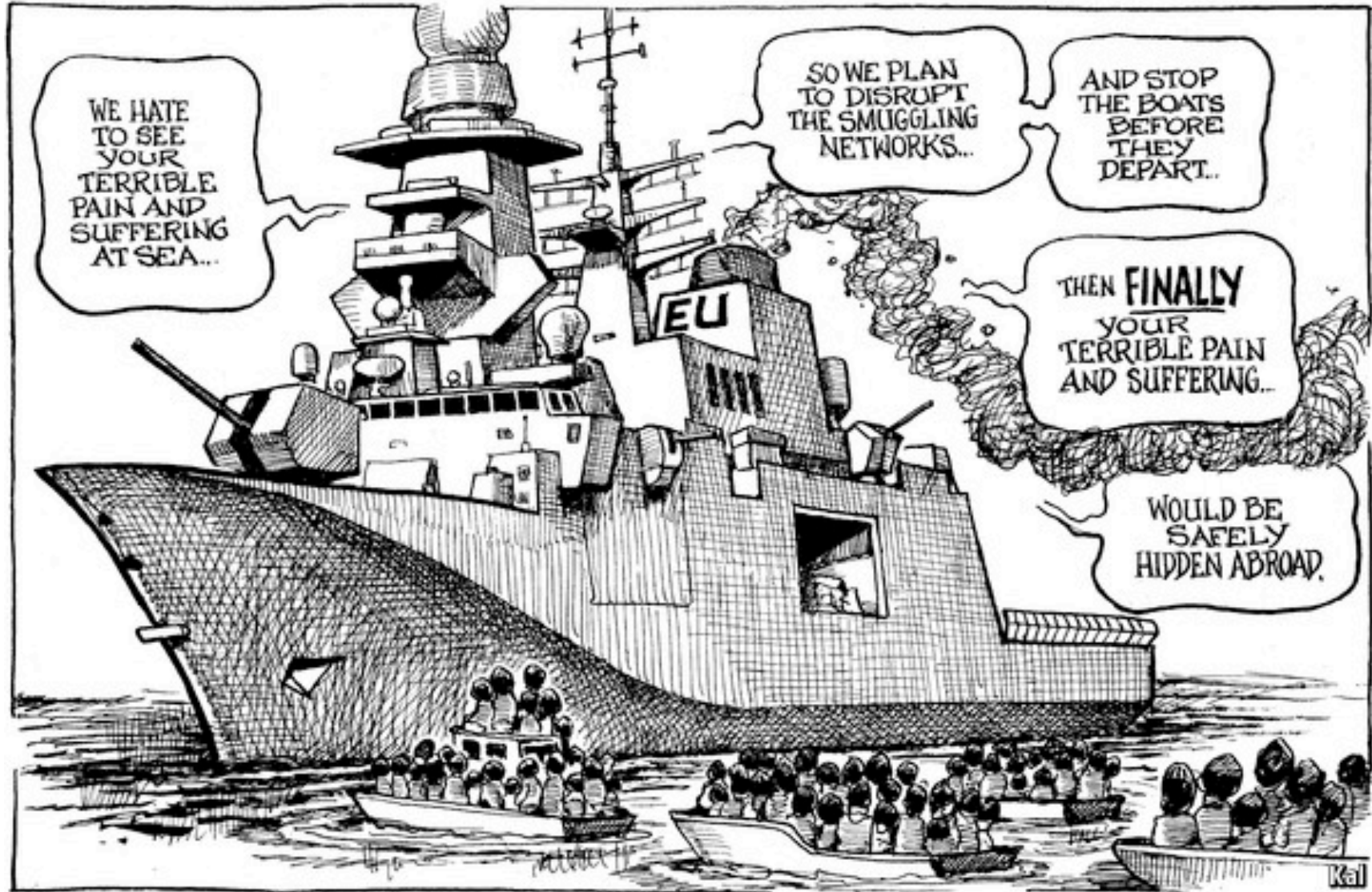
4,812,993 refugees (registered, March 2016)^[1]

More than 6 millions internally displaced population (UN estimate, March 2016)^[2]

October 2014

March 2016

Europe and the Refugees



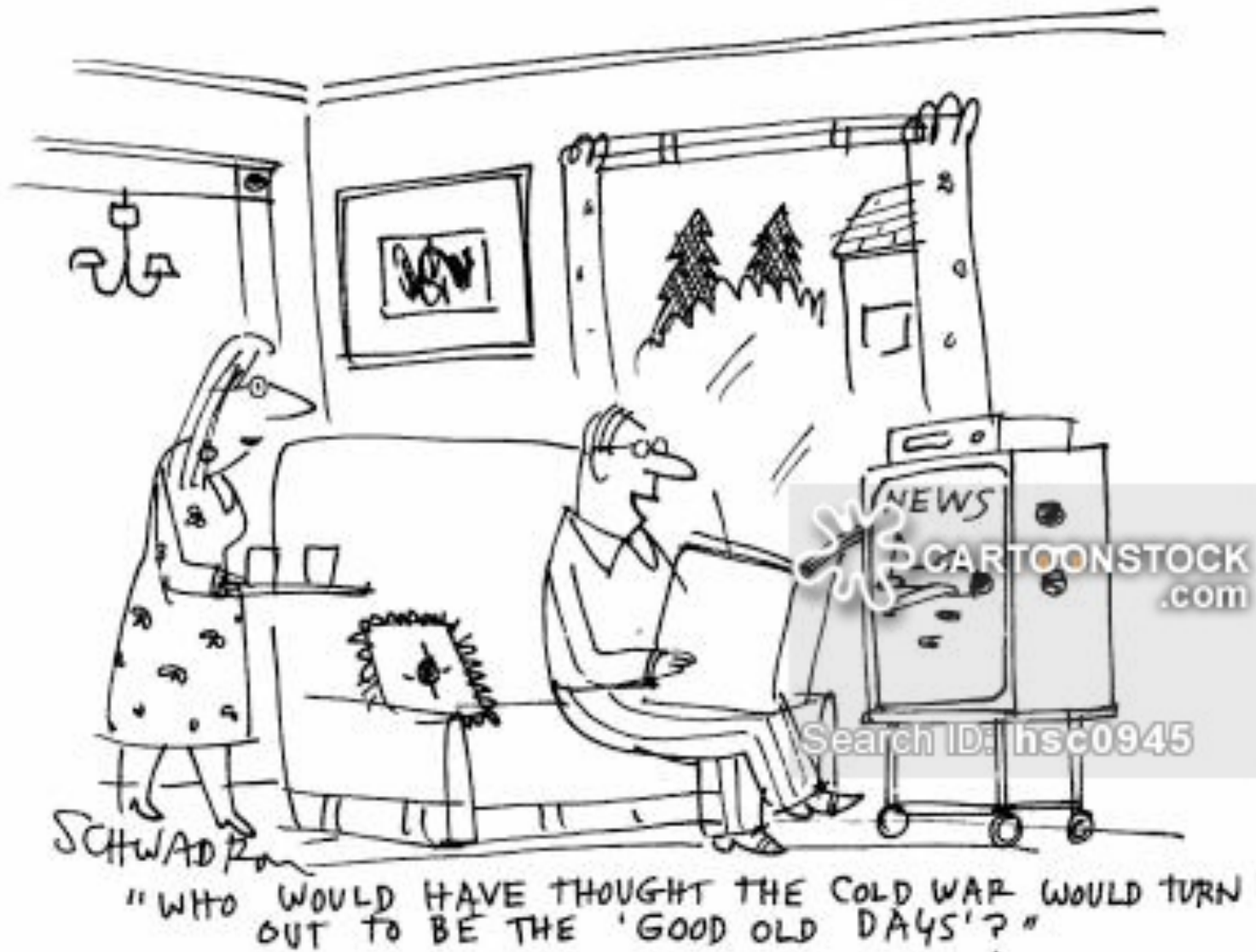
Kal May 23rd 2015

The EU and Turkey

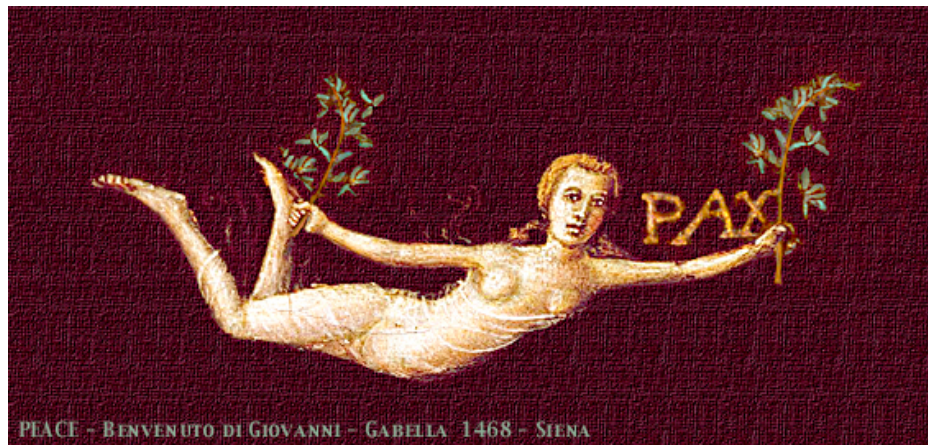


Kal March 12th 2016

Good Old Days



<https://www.cartoonstock.com/cartoonview.asp?catref=hsc0945>



Isodarco

International School on Disarmament
and Research on Conflicts

since 1966

www.isodarco.it

ISODARCO at 50

Of loves and ladies, knights and arms, I sing,
of courtesies, and many a daring feat;

This year is the fifth hundredth anniversary of the publication (1516) of the Orlando Furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando) by Ludovico Ariosto and these are the first two lines of the first English translation (1591) by Sir John Harington (1560–1612).

A courtier at the time of Elizabeth I and James I, a poet and a writer Sir John is more famous for the invention of the “flush toilet” that in his honor sometimes is called “the John”. He wrote a book about his invention “A New Discourse upon a Stale Subject: The Metamorphosis of Ajax” (1596).

ISODARCO at 50

In its first 50 years ISODARCO has produced 52 courses (51 in Italy and one in Germany), one seminar each in Amman and Venice and two in Taipei, and in cooperation with our Chinese colleagues 14 seminars in China. This seminar, co-sponsored also by NTI like the previous two, is the 15th of the series.

In total about 3000 interested and active lecturers and participants coming from some 80 different countries have attended ISODARCO meetings.

With the broadening of ISODARCO interests it became necessary to involve people with different expertise in the organization of its courses. 27 different Course Directors from Italy, USA, UK, Germany and Canada have collaborated to the organization of the courses.

ISODARCO at 50 1966-2016

The ISODARCO meetings have resulted in the publication of 29 books by UK and USA houses as Macmillan, John Wiley, St. Martin's Press, Dartmouth-Ashgate, Palgrave, Stanford University Press and Bloomsbury. The two volumes on Terrorism (1974 and 1978 Courses) have now been reprinted by Routledge Library Editions.

ISODARCO has also carried out and published an extensive research on political violence in Italy supported financially by the Italian National Research Council.



Topics of ISODARCO Courses

Arms Control and Disarmament: 1966s, 68s, 70s, 72s, 80s, 82s, 84s, 86s, 88w, 88s, 89w, 90w, 91w, 92s, 93s, 94w, 94s, 95w, 95t, 96w, 96s, 97w, 97a, 98w, 99w, 99v, 2000w, 00s, 01w, 02w, 03s, 03t, 05w, 09w, 10w, 11w;

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation: 93w, 14w, 15w, 16w;

International Terrorism: 74s, 78s, 90s, 03w, 04w, 06w, 07w, 08w;

Technological Innovation and Conflicts: 76s, 78s, 90s, 93w, 99s, 02s, 13w, 17w;

Natural Resources and Conflicts: 78s, 82s, 88s, 01s;

Ethnic Conflicts and Refugees: 84s, 95s;

Technology Transfer: 98s

Peace Teaching: 86s;

s=Summer course; w= Winter course; seminars: a= Amman; t= Taipei; v= Venice.

ISODARCO – 30th Winter Course

Director of the School: Carlo Schaerf (ISODARCO, Rome, Italy).

Directors of the Course: Giampiero Giacomello (Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy);

Riccardo Antonini (Technical Scientific Expert, Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, Rome, Italy).

ADVANCED AND CYBER WEAPONS SYSTEMS:

TECHNOLOGY AND ARMS CONTROL

ANDALO (TRENTO) – ITALY, 8-15 JANUARY 2017

Principal Lecturers: Jürgen Altmann, Experimentelle Physik III, Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany; Nadia Arbatova, IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia; Peter Asaro, The New School, New York, NY, USA; Pietro Batacchi, Rivista Italiana Difesa, Chiavari, Italy; Geier Carsten, Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, Germany; Oleg Demidov, PIR Center, Moscow, Russia; Sarah Kreps, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA; Steven Miller, Belfer Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA; Judith Reppy, Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA; Wolfgang Rudischhauser, WMD Non-Proliferation Centre, NATO, Brussels; Frank Sauer, Bundeswehr University Munich, Germany; Noel Sharkey, Emeritus Professor of Robotics and AI, University of Sheffield, UK; Gian Piero Siroli, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Bologna, Italy; Michael Sulmeyer, Cyber Security Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA; Guglielmo Tamburrini, University of Naples "Federico II", Italy; Steve Wright, Leeds Beckett University, UK.

ISODARCO at 50

As an educational institution ISODARCO has never issued any political statement or endorsed any particular political position and all presentations made to ISODARCO are made under the personal responsibility of the speaker and not ISODARCO or the institutions to which the speaker belonged.

Published reports about ISODARCO meetings could present the topic discussed and the opinions expressed during the discussions but without attribution of any specific opinion to any participant.

ISODARCO at 50

Fifty years of ISODARCO continuous activity have been made possible by the financial support provided by major foundations, mainly the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation. We would like to remember also the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Volkswagen Foundation, the Italian National Research Council (CNR), the Universities of Rome "Tor Vergata" and Trento, several local Institutions in the Trentino Region and some individual donors.

Substantial indirect support has been provided by the institutions that have paid for the travel cost of course directors and lecturers or supported the participation of other people.

The several people working for ISODARCO as volunteers provided an essential help without which we would have not survived several difficult times. Most of the times ISODARCO has paid only a part-time secretary.

A letter from President Barack Obama

THE WHITE HOUSE

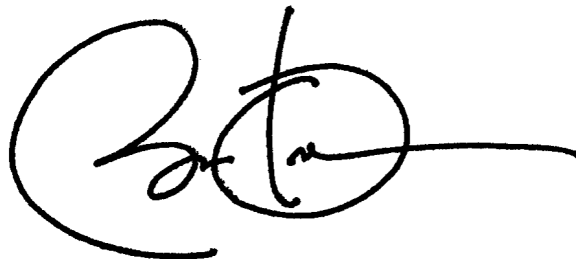
WASHINGTON

June 2, 2016

I send greetings to all those marking the 50th anniversary of the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO).

The task of building a safer future requires people from around the world to engage in peaceful collaboration. For half a century, ISODARCO has brought women and men of different backgrounds and beliefs together to study and discuss pressing security concerns. By identifying problems, engaging in debate, and working in a spirit of common purpose to address issues ranging from the threat of nuclear weapons to conflict in cyberspace and the need for greater international cooperation, you are helping reduce the possibility of catastrophe and contributing to better understanding among peoples and states.

As you reflect on your achievements, I commend you for your efforts and wish you the best for the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barack Obama', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.