

Why the Trilateral Coalition among Greece, Israel and Cyprus should strengthen its bonds with India?

Dr. Alexander Th. Drivas (PhD)

(International Relations and international security analyst)

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Every bilateral relationship takes place in a specific momentum. Time matters in International Relations Theory because the structure of the world order affects the relations among states. There is not a single doubt that we are living in a multipolar system which provides opportunities. On the other hand, every blessing has its discontents and the threats that appear in this type of international system are also abundant. The main blessing that appears in such a multipolar structure is that many powers can strengthen their bonds, even if they are located in different regions. Greece and India have their opportunity to connect two different regions that have one in common; They are critical regions for the stability of the world.

It's all about security first.

The liberal approach in International Relations Theory & Practice, presented its erratic view regarding the world politics. But why? Because the liberal scholars excluded the eternal wisdom of Realism in international relations. It is not the economy and trade relations which are shaping the world. The world is shaped by hard politics and security. In other words, security is the prerequisite for fair and free trade and not vice-versa. An excellent paradigm of this kind of prioritization, is the current US-China split regarding their trade relations. Many analysts and politicians,

were claiming that the trade interdependence between the US and China, will normalize not only their bonds, but also, the international politics in general. The strategic competition between the two states proved those scholars wrong. This is essential in order to deeply understand the reasons why Greece and India should further expand (and deepen) their relations.

First and foremost, both Greece and India share a common view about the world. They are peaceful voices in international politics. They embrace the positive evolution of international relations rather than the violent change of them. But it is not only about values. Moreover, both countries have to counter malicious and aggressive powers around them. Regarding India, the geographic blessing that it holds, could be transformed into a geopolitical nightmare if anyone examines the struggle between New Delhi and Pakistan. For Greece, the serious problem is Turkey. And this analogy could bring the two states closer if we take into consideration the fact that Turkey and Pakistan have a strategic alliance between them. This kind of strategic alliance has already shown its malicious characteristics during the current war between India and Pakistan. To cut the long story short, Greece and India have the *strategic thinking of Kautilya and Thucydides* who supported the idea of the importance of external balance (as a tactic) in order to counter aggressive states or aggressive alliances. It is the security itself that dictates to India and Greece to embrace the idea of having a security-military knot.

The new security architecture and the new supply chains.

When it comes to security, it is essential to add that trade is an inseparable component. The logic of expanding the navy is strongly correlated with its scope; To fortify that the international trade will be secure, open and fair. The power that disagrees with such an idea, is China. Beijing is another problem for India. But the Chinese economic influence which is implemented by using “debt-traps”, provokes concerns not only to India but also, to the EU. Setting the record straight, India has to face a reality of encirclement because China and Pakistan have upgraded their strategic relationship. These threats against India, have not only a military aspect, but also, an economic one. The notorious China-Pakistan Corridor, which is a part of the

One Belt-One Road project, is also something that provokes the feeling of insecurity to India. On the other hand, Greece has made the terrible mistake to be a part of the OBOR and of the Eastern-European branch of OBOR (the so-called China 16+1). India and the EU, they both desire to change the supply chains which derive from China and with the aid of G7, they boost the India-Middle East Corridor. This commercial and geopolitical project named as IMEC, is an ambitious commercial corridor that aspires to connect India and the Middle East, (it aspires to make Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Israel as hubs) with the vast market of the EU. Greece is making his effort to persuade India that after Israel and Cyprus, is the critical gateway for India's services and products. But the major problem is that COSCO in Piraeus, which is the biggest harbor in Greece. The good news is that Greece has also other important harbors (e.g. Port of Alexandroupolis, or the Port of Thessaloniki) which can serve and execute the trade plans of both India and the EU.

It is not only about the IMEC.

Greece, Israel and Cyprus have been working together for 15 years. This trilateral alliance which has various aspects and forms (security, energy, economy, e.t.c) consists the pillar of stability in the Greater Middle East. Fortunately, there are ongoing conversations about the participation of India in this successful trilateral. New Delhi will be benefited with such a participation because it will achieve to augment its geostrategic footprint not only in the Middle East, but also, in Africa too. India's strategic priority is to secure the vital for its interests, Indian Ocean passes through the regions of Eastern Africa and MENA (Middle East & North Africa). ***For New Delhi, joining the coalition among Greece, Cyprus and Israel is not only a geoeconomic imperative but also, it presents an extraordinary opportunity to counter the malicious axis among China, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey.***