

# Kanal İstanbul hem Türkiye'nin hem de Rusya'nın Yararına

EDITORIAL

## A tonic for the mind

Literature has no boundaries, no limits. Its value is that it reaches the skies, touching people's minds, hearts and souls with a lifespan as perennial as grass.

Although it may sound somewhat presumptuous, literature is not confined to words or language alone. For it transcends the page, with the ability to be a volcano spewing out words as fast as a comet in the moment, and soothing as the wind meandering over a placid lake the next. It is a tonic for the mind.

Of course, some, such as Scottish novelist Irvine Welsh, do not see it that way, as can be evidenced from his furthest reaction to Bob Dylan becoming a Nobel laureate, calling the decision an "ill-conceived, aesthetically challenged award from the rancid prostitutes of Seattle, slobbering hippies."

But why not Dylan?

For nearly 60 years he has been a poet, a musician and a dreamer, and generation after generation have been made drunk by his rhymed, seduced by his message of peace and calm.

Dylan has proved that it does not take 1,000 pages of dense, fraught prose to reach a masterpiece. If message, spirit and tone can be expressed in just a few words, then so be it.

Dylan has done this for decades, since he woke the youths of the '60s and '70s, who longed for someone to take their minds to somewhere new and bold, knocking on heaven's door.

Hopefully this award will, as Dylan has, tear down some walls, and change people's perceptions of literature for good.

HARUN YAHYA

## Turkey, Russia will gain from Canal Istanbul

Preparatory works are about to be completed on a new canal, one of the most ambitious projects of the 21st century. This new project will be announced and it goes on to render the following months, this new project will probably become one of the most discussed topics. Although the topic of economic cooperation aspects, its impact is actually far more reaching. The project is of particular interest not only for Turkey, but also for Russia and the countries of the region. For this reason it will be crucial to clearly mention its significance throughout history, this one-of-a-kind waterway separates two continents, Europe and Asia while connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara. Its shores carry to the present the fascinating traces, rich history and cultural heritage of 1,000-year-old civilisations. It has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. The construction of Canal Istanbul will directly affect the influence of the Bosphorus in anyway, yet it will put Turkey in a more central position as a passageway.

For the first time ever introduced to the public in 2011 by the then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as an "ambitious, crazy and magnificent project." During the last year, Erdogan stated that a centuries-old dream would be realized with this canal that will become the second stage of Istanbul. He outlined the scope of the project saying "the project I am about to reveal is a multi-dimensional project, this will be a project in urban planning, family, residential, cultural, social and economic aspects. A major undertaking, the construction is planned to be completed in 15-20 years. The canal, which is planned to be 1500 meters wide, will connect the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara for the first time. The construction that is aimed to be built in 15-20 years will allow passage for even large ships. The cost will be about 10 billion dollars.

Since its announcement day, disparate comments were made on the Russian press

and media regarding this project. Some dubbed it "unnecessary" while some others thought it "irrelevant" or perceived it as a threat to Russian interests and some others as a comparable alternative. So, how is the Canal Istanbul actually affecting the Turkish-Russian relations? The only way to answer this question is by analyzing its economic, economic and military dimensions of the project.

Any disruption in Bosphorus traffic would directly harm the Russian economy

Fear of all, with regard to the safety of Istanbul, a new canal is not a luxury on the contrary, it is a necessity. International maritime transportation in the Bosphorus is a very important trade route. It is found times that of the Panama Canal, and three times that of the Suez Canal. But most importantly, the tanker passing through the Bosphorus carry 100 million tons of petroleum per year as well as oil, gas and other petroleum products. In other words, the Bosphorus is a very important trade route for the petroleum pipeline of the world. Furthermore, the tanker and the tonnage of the ships carrying hazardous cargo increases with every passing year. The local vessels and commercial ships that carry about 2 million passengers per day further congest traffic in the Bosphorus.

There are several factors that render the Bosphorus a challenging route for transport. Its narrow and irregular geography, sharp bends, variable and strong currents, shallow waters, and seasonal ice, all of these factors make it the most populated city of the world. The safety of the Bosphorus means the safety of Russia. The Bosphorus is a vitally important trade route for Russia; it is a gateway enabling the distribution of Russian goods and services to the world. If the Bosphorus closes or becomes a source for conflict, it will be a major economic disaster, as it happened in the past, in Turkey or Russia. Another environmental

might threaten the Black Sea will have a disastrous impact on both countries.

Oil and natural gas trade are the lifeblood of the Russian economy and these resources are mainly distributed to the world markets from the Black Sea ports. Any disruption in the Bosphorus traffic would directly harm the Russian economy. The only way to avoid this is by taking an alternative route. The only way to avoid this is by taking an alternative route. The only way to avoid this is by taking an alternative route.

However, this is completely an unfounded fear. The Marmara Convention will impose severe restrictions on the passage of the warships of countries that have no access on the Black Sea. Thanks to this convention, both countries retain their position as the two greatest military and political powers of the region, thus ensuring a balance of power that helps preserve the peace and safety in the region.

Canal Istanbul is a project that will bring considerable benefit both for Turkey and Russia as well as the global world trade. Moreover, it is a fresh opportunity for Turkey improving the bilateral relations between the two nations. As long as both sides, the global balances will shift in their favor. Of course, power balances are merely a means to strengthen bilateral relations. What is essential is the perpetual trust and friendship between the two countries. Being societies linked by unbreakable bonds of friendship, trade relations will always bring prosperity and economic development.

Harun Yahya is a retired Turkish cabinet member, writer and opinion shaper. He wrote the commentary for THE DAILY STAR.



ZHANG MONAN

## Tapping Sino-European investment potential, now

Global economic growth, says the International Monetary Fund, has been "too slow for too long."

A major reason has been sharply declining growth in developed countries. In 2015, the world economy grew by 1.7 percent, the lowest since the 2009 crisis.

With trade alone unable to sustain global growth, it is time to look for new sources of investment.

As it stands, there is no real global-level investment framework. But the G-20 recently approved the "Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policy Frameworks," a document that provides a common framework for investment policies. It is particularly valuable for China and the European Union, as they attempt to negotiate a bilateral investment treaty.

The EU has been a member of the G-20 since 2009. It has been a member of the G-20 since 2009. It has been a member of the G-20 since 2009.

NABIL FAHMY

## The U.S. election and a perplexed world watching

The Republican Party's candidate for the first choice. Even though the polls show election, more than a few prominent Republicans refuse to endorse him and open without party endorsement. He won by the narrow margin.

On the other hand, the current Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, is clearly an establishment choice. Her record as Secretary of State and as a senator is well known. She has a strong record of service to the world.

Trump and Sanders phenomenon suggest that American voters are uncomfortable with traditional political choices. According to recent polls, Trump and Clinton are running with 23 percent of each other, and both have historically high unfavorable ratings. Regardless of who wins, Americans will most likely elect their most preferred candidate.

Because they dislike the alternatives, they are looking for a change in policy alternatives and more on their own terms. They are looking for a change in policy alternatives and more on their own terms.

A second main objective for China is to protect and develop global value chains, which foster trade and investment through economic integration.

The construction of these value chains has transformed global trade from a zero-sum game to a totalization for mutual benefit.

Yet some political forces in Europe (as well as the United States) are still speaking out against international economic integration. They are still speaking out against international economic integration.

Russia's administration, and we continue to pay a heavy price for the disastrous 2003 invasion of Iraq. But just as few people still applaud President Barack Obama, whose foreign policy achievements in the region fell far short of the lofty standards set for him in his first year, Clinton's record in his subsequent speech in Cairo in June 2009.

The next president will also have vast opportunities to leverage new technologies for the benefit of all people. But, like security, technological and economic progress is sustainable only with the active involvement of major international stakeholders such as the U.S., which

has the largest economy and strongest military.

World leaders attending the 70th session of the U.N. General Assembly will have an opportunity to assign themselves with Trump and Clinton, and with the candidates' most senior advisers, along with the country's president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. I have personally met both candidates, and I predict that foreign leaders will leave the stage less alarmed, but still uncomfortable.

For confidence, trust and respect, donors and members of the international community must continue to focus on short-term crisis management of each other, rather than on long-term. On what it should do the global perspective that Trump's "America first" approach is obnoxious competition with an untested international leadership role and would lead the U.S. into a policy of isolationism.

Neither approach is bold or inclusive enough to carry a global vision, and would lead the U.S. into a policy of isolationism.

THE DAILY STAR

Kanal İstanbul, hem Türkiye hem Rusya hem de dünya ticaretinin çok kazançlı çıkacağı bir proje. Ayrıca Türkiye ve Rusya arasındaki ikili ilişkileri daha da geliştirmek ve güçlendirmek adına yeni bir fırsat. İki ülke birlikte hareket ettikleri, birlikte enerji kaynaklarını ve ticaret yollarını kontrol ettikleri takdirde, küresel dengeler her ikisinin lehine değişecektir. Elbette güç dengeleri, ikili ilişkileri güçlendirmek için sadece birer vesiledir. Asıl olan her zaman için iki ülkenin dostluğu ve kardeşliğidir. Dostluk duygusunun tepmez derilmez bir şekilde inşa edildiği toplumlarda, ticari ilişkiler de her zaman bereket getirecek, yeni projeler daha bu dostluğa katkı sağlayacaktır.

1952 yılında kurulan İngilizce günlük gazete olan *The Daily Star* çok kısa bir süre içinde geniş bir okuyucu kitlesine ulaştı ve *Orta Doğu'nun en önde gelen gazetesi* oldu. *The Daily Star*'ın internet sitesi ise en büyük haber kaynağı olarak kabul edilmektedir. *The Daily Star* gazetesi Harun Yahya'nın "Kanal İstanbul hem Türkiye'nin hem de Rusya'nın Yararına" başlıklı makalesini yayınladı.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Opinion/Commentary/2016/Oct-15/376508-turkey-russia-will-gain-from-canal-istanbul.ashx>

<http://www.harunyahya.org/tr/Articles/232336/Kanal-Istanbul-hem-Turkiye%E2%80%99nin-hem-de-Rusya%E2%80%99nin-Yararina>

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