

Obama's Bought-and-Paid-For Agent

by Dean Andromidas

Dec. 8—In the early hours of November 24 a Turkish F16 jet fighter shot down a Russian Su-24 along the Syrian-Turkish border, making Turkey the first NATO country to have shot down a Russian warplane since the founding of the military alliance more than six decades ago. The idea that Turkey itself could have made such a decision that could have led to a major confrontation between the world's most powerful nuclear powers as a full member of the integrated military alliance, is too absurd to even consider.

There can be no other conclusion than that the decision was made in consultation with President Barack Obama. This should surprise no one because Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been a full partner of Obama and his British imperial masters in the launching of not just a Thirty-Years-War policy in Southwest Asia, but a policy that will lead, if not stopped, to a thermonuclear confrontation between the United States and Russia that will devastate this planet.

The shooting-down of the Russian warplane was yet another insanely dangerous and provocative attempt to stop President Vladimir Putin's initiative to put together an international alliance, with the door wide open for cooperation with the United States, to destroy the Islamic State and other extremists that have been financed and supported by the so-called Sunni Alliance, i.e. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Gulf States, and Turkey, at the behest of their British masters.

Calling it a "stab in the back," Putin said it all in his first response, where he charged that

Turkey has been buying oil pumped out of Syrian oil fields by the Islamic State on an "industrial scale." He declared:

This explains the significant funding the terrorists are receiving. Now they (Turkey) are stabbing us in the back by hitting our planes that are fighting terrorism. This is happening despite the agreement we have signed with our American partners to prevent air incidents, and, as you know, Turkey is among those who are supposed to be fighting terrorism within the American coalition.

If ISIS is making so much money—we are talking about tens or maybe even hundreds of millions, possibly billions of dollars—in oil



President Obama's first overseas trip as President took him to the UK, Strasbourg, Prague, and Ankara, Turkey. Here he addresses the Turkish Grand National Assembly on April 6, 2009.

trade—and they are supported by the armed forces of an entire state, it is clear why they are being so daring and impudent, why they are killing people in such gruesome ways, why they are committing terrorist attacks all over the world, including in the heart of Europe.

Do they wish to make NATO serve ISIS? I know that every state has its regional interests, and we always respect those. However, we will never turn a blind eye to such crimes as the one that was committed today.

On December 2 Putin kept his promise and a panel of top Russian General Staff Officers gave a powerful briefing to the media detailing Turkey’s role in this illegal oil trade. (See documentation)

Erdogan: Obama’s Full Partner in Genocide

Make no mistake, Erdogan is just a front man for Obama and the British. Erdogan represents the pro-Muslim Brotherhood faction in the Turkish Islamist political movement. The partnership started when Obama, during his first overseas state visit, went to Turkey in April 2009, and extolled the great historic partnership of the two countries. That trip was soon followed by Obama’s trip to Saudi Arabia and Egypt in June 2009. In August of 2010 Obama signed Presidential Directive 11 calling for a study on how the United States should collaborate with the Muslim Brotherhood as “progressive and moderate Islamists.”

This “collaboration” was, in fact, to carry out the policy of “regime change” that led directly to the overthrow of the Libyan government of Muammar Qaddafi, the launching of war against the Bashar al-Assad government of Syria, and the backing of the Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohamed Morsi in Egypt. These bloody operations were all carried out by the “Sunni Alliance.”



Vadim Savitsky, Vadim Grishankin

The panel at the Dec. 2 media briefing on ISIS-Turkey oil smuggling, held by the Russian National Centre for State Defense Control.

Erdogan was an ideal choice for Obama to pair with. His ruling Justice and Development Party, allegedly a “moderate Islamic” party, held an absolute majority in the Turkish Parliament supposedly based on “democratizing” Turkey, and taming its military which had led military governments, one in the 1960s, and the other in the 1980s. Then-foreign minister, now Prime Minister, Ahmed Davutoglu had his “zero problems” policy with neighboring countries, including Syria.

But after joining Obama and the British policy of launching the plot to overthrow Assad, Erdogan began to show his true Muslim Brotherhood colors. Despite warnings from the Turkish opposition and saner elements of his own party, Erdogan threw his support behind the British policy to overthrow Assad by means of deploying an army of Sunni terrorist mercenaries drawn from all over the Arab world, Russia, and Central Asia, an army which has now morphed into the Islamic State.

When Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi became president of Egypt, Erdogan threw his full support behind him. When the Egyptian people removed Morsi from the Presidency (after the latter tried to bring Egypt into the war against Assad), Erdogan broke relations with Egypt and denounced Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi as a “dictator.” This too

was under the orders of Obama, who has refused to fully back al-Sisi's presidency. Obama was a full supporter of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood's takeover of the most populous and politically important Muslim country in the Middle East. Shortly after Morsi took power in 2012, Obama extended an invitation to him for an official visit, only to cancel it when it became too hot an issue during the U.S. presidential election campaign.

Logistics for Terror

For more than three years Turkey has been the major logistics base for all the anti-Assad terror groups operating in Syria, including the Free Syrian Army, the al-Nusra Front, and the Islamic State. Thousands of Islamic mercenaries transit through Turkey, after arriving at Istanbul airport, and are allowed to make an unhindered passage across the Syrian border. Anti-Assad fighters freely cross the border for 'R-and-R' inside Turkey, and are even given medical care in Turkish hospitals. Several of the Paris terrorists and suicide bombers made these crossings back and forth for training in Syria to fight Assad.

This activity has not come without a price for the Turkish people as well. Not only is Turkey flooded with over two million Syrian refugees, who are literally being pushed out into the Mediterranean to Europe in

Erdogan's campaign to blackmail the Europeans into supporting him, but violence and terror has overflowed into Turkey itself.

Support for the Syrian terrorist opposition ran counter to every historic tenet of Turkish foreign policy not to get sucked into Middle East intrigues and wars. Sane Turkish policy-makers knew that it would blow back into Turkey, which it did. Turkey, especially in the regions along the border it shares with Syria, has the same mosaic of religious groups, Muslim sects, and ethnic minorities as in Syria. In fact, the cross-border populations are closely related to one another with extended families living on both sides of the border. The launching of sectarian war led by so-called "Sunnis" has destabilized Turkey itself.

The Syrian war has sparked once again a conflict with the Turkish Kurdish population, which is located in the border region and accounts for more than 25% of the Turkish population. A so-called peace process aimed at ending the insurgency led by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) collapsed. On the other side of the border, the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) continues to fight against the Islamic State. Under Erdogan's orders, the Turkish army and security forces have been attacking both the PKK and the Syrian PYD.

While Turkish security forces are being killed

Davutoglu and The Muslim Brotherhood

Dec. 7—A leading strategic analyst in Malaysia who has known Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu personally for a long time, told *EIR* that Davutoglu has been a Muslim Brotherhood asset for many years, as has President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He said that in a meeting he had with Davutoglu in 2011, Davutoglu remarked that Iran, a traditional target of the Brotherhood, was becoming a serious problem; that for the first time in 1,000 years Iran was attempting to restore the old Persian Empire; and thus it had to be countered. Davutoglu

also told him that President Bashar al-Assad in Syria was suppressing the Muslim Brotherhood and also had to be countered—long before the current uprising got started.

Davutoglu also intervened in Malaysian politics during the meeting of the G20 last month in Turkey, complaining to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak about the conviction of Anwar Ibrahim, who has been a long-time representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in Malaysia (as well as an agent of Al Gore and Paul Wolfowitz in the destabilization of that country).

The source said he himself has been attacked by the friends of Turkey and the Brotherhood in Malaysia and elsewhere, because they are unhappy with his writings attacking Turkey's war provocations on behalf of the British and Obama.

every day, the Islamic State (IS) has been attacking the Turkish-Kurdish and other Turkish minorities with terror attacks inside Turkey itself. The most devastating attack Oct. 10, when two IS suicide bombers blew themselves up in front of the main railway station in the Turkish capital of Ankara during an election rally of the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). More than 100 people were killed.

Erdogan's Caliphate of Corruption and Fear

After more than a decade in power, first as Prime Minister and now as President, Erdogan has developed delusions of establishing a new Ottoman Caliphate. He has already abandoned Turkey's old presidential residence which was good enough for Ataturk, the Turkish Republic's great founder, for a 1,000 room palace modeled after an Ottoman palace; it cost no less than \$600 million. He receives official guests with a presidential honor guard dressed up in historic costumes worn by Ottoman soldiers over the past centuries. His state visitors get a photo-op of themselves sitting with the "great leader" on golden decorated thrones.

More important is the fact that Erdogan has transformed the Turkish Presidency, which by the Turkish constitution is traditionally ceremonial, into an executive position by placing his personal protégé, Ahmed Davutoglu, as prime minister. Now that his party has once again won an absolute majority in the Parliament, Erdogan hopes to change the constitution and become officially an Executive President, if not a new sultan.

Nonetheless, Erdogan's new caliphate is nothing but a sham based on corruption and fear, in which he rakes in billions of dollars as chief facilitator for the wars that are raging in the region. It is an empire of massive smuggling, graft, and corruption maintained by authoritarian rule.

Erdogan controls this corrupt apparatus through his family. His son Balil sits on the board of the education foundation Türkiye Gençlik ve Egitime Hizmet Vakfi (TÜRGEV) which, according to Turkish media sources,



Wikimedia Commons

Turkish President Erdogan's new Presidential compound in Ankara, Turkey.

serves as a conduit for illegal payments.

According to *The Verge* news website, Balil is a major shareholder of BMZ Group Denizcilik ve Insaat Sanayi Anonim Sirketi, a marine transportation company which transports IS oil.

Erdogan's son-in-law Berat Albayrak has just been named energy minister in the new government. He was head of Çalik Holding, a conglomerate that controls pipelines and other energy infrastructure.

In December 2013 the Financial Crimes and Battle Against Criminal Incomes department of the Istanbul Security Directory detained 47 officials from various ministries as well as the sons of the minister of interior, minister of economy, and minister of environment. They were accused of taking bribes from two Iranian businessman, Reza Zarrab and his controller, the Iranian businessman Babak Zanjani. The latter is now sitting in an Iranian prison for high crimes, including fraud against the Iranian government and running a massive money-laundering operation.

Press reports have also implicated Erdogan's son Balil, who was said to have channeled illegal payments through one of the Islamic charities he controls.

In this stew of corruption surfaced Sheik Yasin al-Qadi, a Saudi "businessman" who had been put on the United Nations Sanctions list for his connections to the al-Qaeda leader, the late Osama Bin Laden. Erdogan himself at a public event called Yasin his good friend.

Yasin is said to serve as a conduit for billions of dollars of Saudi money to be invested in Turkey. Much of this money has gone into huge real estate projects in Istanbul, which has been Erdogan's personal stronghold since the days he was mayor of the city.

Erdogan reacted to charges against him with his customary rage, and had the prosecutors dismissed. He then proceeded to purge no fewer than 350 senior police officers, mostly from the anti-terrorist squads. He charged that the whole case was a plot by the followers of Fethullah Gulen, the head of a moderate Islamic community who has been in exile living in Pennsylvania for decades, to overthrow the government. Members of Gulen's movement, which is said to own the Turkish daily *Today's Zaman*, were in fact original supporters of the AKP, but broke with the party's policy of joining the Sunni Alliance.

Money and Weapons Flows

No sooner was this investigation crushed than a few months later, in January 2014, Turkish gendarmes, acting on an intelligence tip, stopped several trucks *en route* to Syria. According to press reports, they found they were filled with weapons and ammunition obviously headed for anti-Assad terrorists. Sitting next to the drivers were agents of the MIT, the intelligence service attached to the Prime Minister's office.

Erdogan again acted in rage, declaring the trucks were carrying humanitarian aid to Syrian Turkmen. He then ordered the gendarmes arrested, including the general officers and the prosecutor, charging them with a plot to overthrow the government and other wild charges. The affair led to yet another nation-wide purge of the security services.

The case surfaced again last month in the Turkish media when *Cumhuriyet*, one of Turkey's oldest dailies, published copies of documents presented to the court concerning the case, which detailed the amount of ammunition and weapons found on the trucks. In response, the daily's two editors were arrested and charged with espionage. They are currently sitting in prison.

These cases are only the tip of a huge iceberg of corruption which has seen tens of billions of dollars flow into Turkey. The money not only goes to support the fighting in Syria—that has led to 350,000 Syrian deaths and up to 10 million refugees,—but has lined the pockets of AKP officials and Erdogan himself.

The fact that billions of dollars have entered Turkey annually as “unregistered capital inflow,” i.e. black money, has been documented in the leading Turkish daily, *Hurriyet*. The latter linked a rise in the inflow to funding of the AKP election campaign held only a few weeks ago where the AKP once again, contrary to all the polls, received an absolute majority.

Hurriyet showed that while the economy this year has been totally flat, the balance of payments deficit miraculously decreased. In 2014 the current account deficit was \$42 billion. For the first nine months of this year it is only \$25 billion. This drop to \$25 billion came from \$8 billion from known legitimate sources, \$4 billion dollars from reserves, and the rest from “net error and omission” or “unregistered capital inflow.” *Hurriyet* reported that this latter category is understood as “money laundering and foreign currency coming from the crime economy.”

This “unregistered capital inflow,” twice that of the same period last year, is said to be \$13.44 billion. This only accounts for illegal transfers from outside the country and not the billions made on smuggling to and from Syria, which includes oil from IS and Turkish manufactured weapons and ammunition in the other direction.

The Turkish population itself suffers greatly from Erdogan's rule. The country is split down the middle. Half the population supports the AKP's rule by corruption and patronage. But the other half, comprising the republican current and ethnic religious minorities such as the Kurds, have been unable to mount an effective unified opposition that can unseat the AKP from power.

Nonetheless if Obama falls, Erdogan will soon follow.

RUSSIAN GENERALS

Russia Exposes Turkish-IS Oil Trade

Dec. 8—As promised by Putin, the Russian government and top-level military of Russia's General Staff on December 2 gave an extensive briefing to media on this illegal, “industrial-sized” operation through which