

A NEW REGIONAL ORGANIZATION MODEL (SOUTHWEST ASIA UNION)*

Mustafa ÖZTÜRK**

Introduction

Since nothing is reasonless in nature, nothing is reasonless or coincidental in history. Historical events are the sum of the previous events and are the reasons of the following ones. Therefore, the organizations seen during history are both the results of previous events and one of the reasons of the following ones. These organizations -such as other historical events- are formed within the political, economic and socio-cultural conditions of the time.

Everything is brought out by an obligation or a need. Historical improvements are brought out by obligations and innovations are brought out by needs. Organizations established during history are brought out by these obligations. Without referring to ancient times, we can witness first international organizations of the modern world by the 19th century, following the Industrialization Reform. Because of the new energy sources brought out by industrialization, goods and services purchased in unit time is raised, economic and trade rates are increased and far distances became shorter. Besides, military forces of the commonwealths are increased too. In such conditions, it was impossible for minor commonwealths to survive alone. For that reason, 19th century is a period of organizations and formation of blocks afterwards. City governments of Italy and members of German Confederation have formed their beings by founding their National Organizations. There has been formation of blocks known in Europe during the second half of the century. Technological progress in Europe, brought out as a natural result of the industrialization, has a parallelism with the French Revolution has arrogate the way that it provoked and encouraged the ethnic and religious facts to the political history of the world. In such circumstances, there has been an idea that major organizations by means of ethnic and religious communities must have been established. For that

* This article is presented at the *Uluslararası Kuzey Doğu Akdeniz Sempozyumu* held by Gazi University on April, 12th, 2005, as a communiqué. It is also published on the second episode of electronic magazine, www.jeopolsar.com, of which editor is Prof. Dr. Osman Metin Öztürk. This article is the revised and expanded version of the mentioned article. Thanks to Nilüfer Gazioglu for translating this article to English.

** Prof. Dr., Firat University, Faculty of Science and Literature - ELAZIG

reason 19th century is a century that *Pan* Ideology is developed. *Pan-Slavism, Pan-Germanism, Pan-Turkism, Pan-Islamism* winds are the popular ideas of the time. These ideologies have constructed the ideological and cultural basis of formation of blocks with the power that came out of superior military forces brought by the technological developments.

On 20th century, humanity has witnessed two great World Wars. Especially the formation of blocks and polarizations after the World War-II are the continuous progress of the 19th century tradition. In cold war period, these formations of blocks have survived depending on ideological basis.

However, economic, political and cultural organizations have found on several parts of the world. European Union, of which ideological basis is formed a very long time ago, is one of the most important of these organizations. Saint Simon, who imagined the European Union of today by 1816, has claimed that Europe has got common cultural background and there must have been a community having a Parliament and common capital city. It seems that this dream of Saint Simon has come true by today.

Economical and political conditions of the countries and the level that superior military forces have reached closed up the countries inevitably and forced them to establish a regional cooperation. Countries having geographical or cultural common background were obliged to combine their benefits and powers. It is impossible for a government today to carry on its national being alone and isolated from the rest of the world. Regional military, political and economic communities such as EU, NATO, CENTO, SEATO and Warsaw Pact, have formed by this obligation. In addition, other communities such as NAFTA, formed by USA and Canada as associate members and by Mexico as exceptional status member, and PAFTA, formed by Japan, South Korea, Singapore and some other Pacifica countries were established.

Arabic spoken countries were gathered around Arabic Union as a political and economic organization. It is expected that a new community establishment named Shanghai Quintet will be handled under the leadership of Russia, China and India with the attendance of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Because of these facts and mentioned obligations, it is extremely important to form a community in our region which is lacking by every means, for the steadiness, security, common development of the region and for the favour of the balances in the world.

I. Establishment Justifications of the Southwest Asia Union

In Southwest Asia of which geographical borders are mentioned below, there have been a domination of England, France and Russia especially after The Ottoman Empire has collapsed after the World War-I and there has been a serious lack of political authority in the region. But this domination did not take long and the commonwealths of the region gained their independence gradually. While England and France fell back, they have left an unsolved problem between each two countries in the region. Countries of the region were obliged to take place at the political and ideological camps of the USA and Soviet Union, due to the conditions of Cold War period after World War-II. In the process up to today, our region is dominated by the powers out of the region. For the fact that there were no strong political will and authority in the region, countries of the region have adopt the attitude to carry on their being with the non-regional powers that they feel close to. But this attitude is invalid today. There has been no country in history that could have carried on its independence by the asylum, justice and courtesy of other countries.

After the Soviet Union has collapsed short time ago, there has been a general lack of political authority in Central Asia, Caucasian and Middle East. Non-regional imperialist forces took place in this emptied space once again. They develop new sharing and domination plans on the region under several names. In this context, projects such as Globalisation, need of Democracy, Greater Middle East Initiative is put forth. It is obvious that none of these projects are different than one other and all of them aim to locate the non-regional superior global forces to the region. Nevertheless, these facts are hidden from the nations of the region by the local compradors. Local compradors go too far and indoctrinate the public opinion that the only way of being civilized and democratic is to take part on those projects or to act with these forces. They never accept that there may be ideas or facts other than what they impose.

That is why our region is being the target of imperialism by ideal, political and economic means. The centre of world politics and balances is our region today. There is no other region that attracts and affects the world politics. Israel-Palestine, occupancy of Iraq, occupancy of Afghanistan, establishment of fake Kurdish Government, Cyprus case, Armenian case, Energy corridors, and threats to Iran are some of these events.

Because of these facts, countries of the region must fill the lack of political authority caused by the collapse of Ottoman Empire and Soviet

Union, by establishing their own union. Otherwise, they can not survive from being the target and dependency of imperialism. This union will let the nations of the region to share the sources of their region and thus the underdevelopment and poverty of the region will be disappeared. That is how both the regional and the global underdevelopment will be disappeared. On the other hand, such a union will bring a balance to the world politics and will help to establish a much fair order which depends upon interaction policy.

Southwest Asia, which we named as a new organization model, lacks such a union. That is why this area has become the market and target of the countries which have fulfilled their industrial and technological needs. Political and economic balances and calculations of the world are based on dominating this area. For the fact that there is no powerful political union in the area, each of the countries located in the region has obliged to take part close to a regional power or a powerful government. There seems to be disorganization in the area on political and economic basis. This fact makes things easier for imperialist countries. For the reasons we have summarized, there is a need for a new organization.

II. Southwest Asia Union (SAU)

1. Name of the Regional Organization

First of all, the name of this *Union* must be taken into consideration. There may be other ideas regarding the name of the community. One of them is *Middle East Union*. As known, the name “Middle East” is western oriented and is appropriate to the west. We did not prefer to use this name for the thought that giving a name depending on western consideration would be inappropriate for a community claiming to organize its own union. For the fact that the majority living in the region is Muslim, this community might have been given the name *Islam Union*. This name refers to a direct cultural discrimination/distinction. We did not prefer to use this name either, for the fact that there are non-Muslim countries in the region and there is a remarkable population which is Christian, Jewish or belonging to other religions. That is why we preferred to use the name Southwest Asia in reference to geographical conditions.

As a result of the progress and justifications mentioned above, similar projects have been offered by scholars other than us. Anıl Çeçen has offered a similar project. Anıl Çeçen has offered a project in his work *Turkey's B*

*Plan*¹, under the name of *Central Commonwealths Union* in which Turkey, Syria, Iran and Azerbaijan would be the founder. Çeçen, depending on the same justifications and anxieties, mentions that a new organization is necessary in Ottoman geography. But the project that Çeçen offered is much limited than the project we offer. The borders we mention in our project are the extreme borders.

2. Borders of the Southwest Asia Union

The borders of the mentioned union starts from Turkistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, consisting the whole Iran and Caucasian, and Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and whole Arabian Peninsula known as the Middle East. Of course Cyprus is an indispensable part of this union. Egypt, even though it is located on Africa, and Pakistan, even though it is not located on Western Asia, is inside to this union.

This union we offer should not be considered as Eurasian Union. Eurasia is more Russian oriented. SAU is *Turkey, Iran, Syria* and *Egypt* oriented. The geography that we mention is very different from the Russian geography characteristically. It is never witnessed that nations living in two different geographies have a unity during history. That is why Russia may not be an associate member of the union but an exceptional status member.

In these circumstances, the borders of the union span from Central Asia to Black Sea, Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf. That is how it includes the most important seas, roads and waterways of the world.

Southwest Asia Union is the neighbour to a basin having huge population and economy such as European Union, Russia, China and India. If the conditions are available and they are willing, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Balkan Countries, Russia, China and India may be the member countries with exceptional status.

There are two countries in this geography having different cultural background; *Israel* and *Armenia*. Both countries belong to this geography. In fact, economic and political benefits of these countries are in this union. But under today's conjuncture it is impossible that these two countries are accepted to the union. On the contrary, by the help of this union, Israel and Armenia will be prevented of dominating the region as the extensions and representatives of the Western world.

¹ Anıl Çeçen, *Türkiye'nin B Planı*, Toplumsal Dönüşüm Yay., İstanbul, 2006

3. Reasons that Make the Establishment of the Southwest Asia Union Easier

a. Geographical Unity

As known, history and geography can not be considered separately. The most important fact that rules the destiny of nations is geography. Nations live the destiny that their geography shapes. That is why it is impossible to ignore geographical reasons while considering a union.

When the geography of the mentioned union is taken into consideration, a geographical union and unity can be seen. There are no huge natural obstacles separating this geography such as great seas and oceans. On the contrary, there are no major distinctions between Turkistan and Iran geographies and Anatolia, Syria and Iraq geographies. Furthermore, there are two major masses in the area, Iran and Anatolia, and the powers dominating these masses have always been a regional power.

Anatolian geography must not be considered within today's political borders. Anatolia has a very important characteristic. Powers that provide the unity of Anatolia, meaning powers that dominate the whole Anatolia can dominate the Caucasian, Balqans, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East in a short time. Let us take the expansion process of the Ottoman Empire as an example: Ottoman Empire would not have been a worldwide empire without dominating the whole Anatolia. But in the first quarter of 16th century and afterwards, Ottoman Empire has become a worldwide empire after Qanunî has linked the eastern cities to the commonwealth and Ottoman Empire could reach up to Tabriz, Baghdad, Red Sea, Ethiopia and India.

Likewise, geography of Iran has similar characteristics. Powers dominating Iran has controlled whole Turkistan during history and dominated an area from Caucasian up to Basra Gulf and to Iraq, Syria, Palestine and even to Egypt, and to areas up to Anatolia. As can be seen in the Persian and Seljuk maps below, the powers dominating Iran has dominated the mentioned areas².

In the south, Egypt has an important position. The effect area of Egypt is Southeast Mediterranean, Hedjaz and up to North Africa. Dominating a

² For further information regarding historical geography of Anatolia and Iran, refer to Mustafa Öztürk, *Tarih Felsefesi*, Elazığ, 1999, p. 53-55, 56-57. For borders of Ottoman regyme refer to Mustafa Öztürk, "Osmanlı Mîri Rejiminin Misâk-ı Millî ile Münasebeti", Genelkurmay ATASE, *Beşinci Askeri Tarih Semineri Bildirileri I*, (October, 23rd-25th, 1995, Istanbul), Ankara, 1996, p. 186-192

strategically important area like Suez Canal and Red Sea increases the importance of Egypt. When the historical geography of Egypt is taken into consideration, it is seen that Egypt has dominated the mentioned areas.

So, there are three great geographic areas within Southwest Asia Union borders which have a huge hinterland and of extremely high strategic importance. These are Anatolia, Iran and Egypt. The domination circles of these three geographies are crossed to each other. By the combination of domination circles of Anatolia, Iran and Egypt, this geographic union appears itself.

As geography does not differ, Anatolia, Iran and Egypt geographies are able to establish that historical/geographical union. But as the conditions differ today, this union will not be a kind of domination upon others but it will be a union depending on the two-way benefits and cooperation.

b. Historical Unity

Parallel to that geographical unity, the history of the area has been combined from ancient times. In antiquity times, Persians have passed Anatolia and reached the narrow seas and Greece. They have moved along from Mesopotamia to Eastern Mediterranean and up to Egypt and Yemen. Ancient Egyptians have reached the Anatolian borders. Hittites have reached Damascus. Alexander, who is a non-regional power, has afforded a political unity in that geography. Likewise, Abbasid Commonwealth has dominated in the same geography for a long time having Syria, Iraq as centre from North Africa up to Khorasan and China borders. Seljuk Sultanate has dominated from Transoxiana up to Iran, Caucasian a great part of Anatolia, Syria, Palestine and Yemen.

Ottomans have altered these historical and geographical possibilities to domination and have carried on their rule from Caspian Sea to Middle Europe and from Crimean to Yemen and Ethiopia up to 20th century.

Some historians call the 16th century as *Turkish Century*. This period was really a Turkish Century. But that was not only related with the grandeur of Ottoman Empire. There were Safavids in Iran, in the east of Ottoman Empire and there were Mughals dominating the whole India up to 1858. Therefore Turkish domination –though named as separate political communities- was available from Middle Europe to India, from Crimean to Ethiopia and up to Middle and North Africa.

Great powers have dominated the Southwest Asia during history. As can be seen on the maps, Persian, Sassanid, Abbasid, Seljuk and Ottoman-

Safavid dominations all represent that union. Our region has never been fragmented into such small peaces during history. Only in Iraq-Syria, new governments named Iraq, Syria, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon has been established. That is a non-returning point. It is not possible to think that the region will be ruled under one political structure. So depending on the circumstances of the new era, new cooperations can be improved.

This long historical process and union has established a very important cultural and economic unity. Islam and several points of view to Islam have constructed the most important cultural bonds in the region. That is how Islam is the cultural basis of SAU. All Muslims are tolerant to all comments of Islam. Unlike western civilizations, different sects and cultural backgrounds are not considered as different religions in Islamic point of view. A Sunni may worship in a Shi'i mosque and obey to the Shi'i imam. A Shafi may obey a Hanafi or Maliki imam and worship behind him. As there is no central spiritual religious structure in Islam like Papacy and Patriarchy; there is no obligation among Muslims to belong to a mosque or a clergy. There is a common unity among Muslims in terms of belief, worshipping, ethic and daily life. For these reasons, religion is the most important common fact of the Union.

No languages other than Turkish, Arabic and Farsi have been commonly used in this wide geography. Local and minority languages have survived by Turk-Islam tolerance. Turkish, Arabic and Farsi population and culture is dominant in this geography. The sub elements of these great cultures are the natural and main elements of the Union. The sub elements of these cultures must be accepted not as a separation point but as cultural wealth. Sure, there are minorities among SAU countries. But these minorities will never be used as a separation or provocation element unlike they are used by western world this way for centuries. A minority in one country will be an instrument and will build a bridge to other countries. This approach is what exactly the world needs today. It is necessary to give up the corrupted instrument of 19th and 20th century imperialism such as protecting national benefits by provoking and prompting different religious and ethnic elements and it is necessary to be open to a new policy in which the minorities function as a constructive, uniting and key instrument.

There has been a great cultural interaction in historical periods and it became usual for scholars to move from Baghdad madrasahs to Buhkara, from Samarkand to Damascus, from Aleppo to Tabriz and from Macca to Istanbul, Bursa and Qonya in order to give or get education. Turkish, Arabic and Parsi are spoken widely in SAU. Various dialects of these languages and

some minority languages are also spoken. Furthermore, these languages are known almost in each country of the region and have been in relation with each other and have some common words and idioms. So, the region is familiar to these languages.

Parallel to this, there has been a common culture. It is possible to come across with same elements in written or verbal national works, such as *Siyasatnâme* and *Pand-nâme*. It is very hard to detect which nation the literal elements and motives belong to. All nations living in this geography maintain Nasraddin Hodja, Yunus Emre, Mavlâna, and Hodja Ahmad Yasavî. Yusuf and Zuleyha, Kerem and Ashı, Leyla and Mecnun and Koroghlu are the stories that all the nations living in this geography are fond of even today. On the other hand, family structure, kitchen culture, apparel, all characteristics regarding cultural focusing from birth to death (birth, marriage, death), and daily life is exactly the same.

There is a union in the economic life at this geography. Silk and Spice Roads that we very well know from very old centuries, have linked this geography together by means of economy. Egypt-Istanbul, Aleppo-Istanbul, Aleppo-Tabriz-Baghdad, Baghdad-Tabriz-Esfahan, Tabriz-Samarqand-Buhkara trade roads are well known in history. The coffee of Yemen was drunk in Istanbul and the silk of Bursa is sold in Egypt Bazaars. The Indian spices were the most wanted goods everywhere.

It is possible to give further examples regarding political, economic and cultural unity. But we believe that such short examples are sufficient for this article.

III. Establishment Process of SAU

This union is a political, economic, cultural and military union which is consisted by the wills of the countries we have mentioned above. In today's circumstances, the establisher countries of this union will be *Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan* and *Syria*. As summarised above, the historical and cultural heritage will give birth to the establishment of this union.

It is not expected that the establishment process will take a long time. The first and most important necessity for establishment process is the will shown on the subject. The idea and will union among leaders and intellectuals of the countries of the region will be sufficient to establish the mentioned Union.

On the other hand, the disorganisations at the region and common threats of the USA and EU to the region are considered as the facts to speed

up the establishment of the union. For the fact that there is no common will in the region and that there is no political authority which each of the region countries can depend on, regional conflicts and occupancies afterwards may start. As per today each region country is obliged either to submit its being to a powerful government or to submit to the threats and occupancies of the occupancy forces. That is why the countries of the region have to establish their union on common historical and cultural basis without losing time.

1. Establishment and Expansion Process of SAU

Countries which can be the leader of SAU regarding the geographical position and historical mission are *Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Syria* and *Egypt*. Each of these countries has a superiority and function. Egypt may be kept secondary for the time being. Thus the establisher countries in the first step will be *Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan* and *Syria*. We have ordered the establishment of SAU to grades due to its expansion process:

I. Grade: Establishment Grade: Establishment of the Union with Turkey -including Northern Cyprus-, Iran, Azerbaijan and Syria leaderships.

II. Grade: First Expansion Era: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Georgia will be the associate members in this era.

III. Grade: Second Expansion Era: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Hedjaz, Yemen and Gulf countries will be inside the Union.

IV. Grade: Tunis, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Pakistan will have an exceptional status membership.

V. Grade: Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania will have prior trade country status. (Even though Bulgaria and Romania are the members of EU, it is expected that EU will not be of long durability and all Balkan countries including Greece will be assumed as the gates of SAU to Europe.)

VI. Grade: In establishment and expansion process, countries will have all kinds of relations with each other and with non-region countries depending on equality and mutual basis.

In fact, a large infrastructure for establishment and development of the Union is also ready. There are two-way relations among countries of the region on political, economic and cultural basis. Ideological winds of the Cold War period is now replaced by good neighbourhood relations. Strong conflicting winds between Turkey and Syria is now replaced by friendly relationships open to wide cooperation by all means. Despite all of the

provocations and prompts of the western world, the cold winds between Turkey and Iran is now replaced by common sense. Those positive progresses are available among all countries of the region.

On the other hand, there have been several improvements on economic fields. Though they were built with the outside assistance, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and, Kirkuk-Yumurtalık petrol lines are important steps on economic field. When Kazak and Turkmen petrol is expected to be bond to those lines, it is obvious how an important progress is fulfilled. Petrol and gas lines between Asian Turkish Republics are important elements in order to establish the union.

There are more common elements among SAU countries than the differences. Serious unsolved problems among the countries of the region are on minimum level and they are not unsolvable. For example, there have been no wars between Turkey and Iran after 1639, and the borders have not been changed. After the declaration of Turkish Republic, one of the important projects of Atatürk was *Sadabad Pact*. It is well-known that Atatürk has aimed to maintain to Ottoman Middle East geography and to establish an Ankara centred confederation³. There are no serious conflicts and wars between the other countries of the region. Although cold winds have blown between Syria and Iraq once upon a time, there has not been a war. Likewise, there is no serious conflict between Egypt-Syria and Egypt-Saudi Arabia. On the contrary, Egypt and Syria have united for a short time under the name of United Arabic Republic.

There are similar good relations between Turkish States in Asia. Anyway, there can be no conflicts or competitions among them for the fact that they were dominated in the Soviet Union system. In fact, the basis of Turkish Union idea belongs up to 19th century. In the idea atmosphere of 19th century, *Pan-Turkism* idea was discussed at intellectual centres such as Kazan, and was handed out to large communities and other parts of the Turk world and Ottoman intellectuals. At the beginning of the 20th century, Pan-Turkism idea was remarkably supported by Ottoman intellectuals and communities were established for the sake of this idea and even the ideal basis of *Committee of Union and Progress* (İttihat ve Terakki Partisi) was established. Even though the Turkism idea has lost its priority by the suppression of Soviet Union at two world war period and after cold war

³ For further information regarding the developments in Middle East and Turkey's Middle East Policy in the first half of the 20th century, refer to Mustafa Albayrak, "Türkiye'nin Orta Doğu Politikaları (1920-1960)", *Fırat Üniversitesi Orta Doğu Araştırmaları Merkezi Orta Doğu Araştırmaları Dergisi III/2*, Elazığ, 2005, p. 1-63

period, this idea has never faded away. After Soviet Union collapsed, the idea of Turkish Union has reappeared. After Asian Turkish Republics have gained their independence, there have been remarkable developments between Turkey and Turkish States in Asia. There have been very important developments in the fields of trade, industry, education and culture. Educational cooperation between Universities is settled, associate Universities are established and student and educator exchange programs are applied; these positive developments are outlast in every aspect. These developments are advocated loudly. As a matter of fact, the “*Turkish Union*” idea of Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan President, has been attracted by a great mass of people. It is obvious that there has been an experience, idea and will of a union both in Central Asia and in Middle East and it is not left on a romantic level.

There are a lot of availabilities about air line corridors. In a close date, Batumi Airport has gained a status of domestic line for Turkish Airlines flights. This means that citizens located in and near Artvin city can fly from Istanbul to Batumi and can fly back to Turkey in a simple process. One of the most important targets of the Union is such applications. This example can be applied in many destinations. Especially this approach can be widened among Turkish States in Asia.

Baghdad and Hedjaz railways, which are cultural heritage, must be reappeared. The official name of Syria Railways is still Hedjaz Railways General Management today. These railways must be repaired in order to carry human and goods from Haydarpaşa (Istanbul) to Madina. Economic cooperation brings about political cooperation. On the other hand, with a railway extension project by Kars to Tbilisi and up to Turkish States in Asia, bounds of Turkish States in Asia to Anatolia will be further than romanticism and passengers will be carried from Samarqand and Buhkara to Istanbul. Water sources of the region can be shared rationally and fairly such as petrol lines. Water pipelines starting from Atatürk Dam can be extended up to Hedjaz. Thus, wars for water sceneries that the western world is imagining for the future will be prevented.

In the mean time, there are also political unions which may ease the establishment of the Union. Islam Conference Organization (ICO) is a major one of these unions. ICO has a strong background among Islam countries and has activities in several fields. In addition, *Arabic Union* is also an important organization. Important upgrades have been made among Arab countries in terms of political, economic, educational and cultural fields. Visa is not necessary between Arab countries. There are customs exceptions

between the countries. There has also been a unity in the field of education by means of two-way acceptance. *Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation* which is established on June 25,1992, having countries of the Black Sea border as main members and having some Balkan countries as supervisors, was an important step in that field. There are local unions established in the region constructed in various times, forms and aims. All of these unions are the elements and experiences that make the establishment of SAU easier. At that point, the only thing to do is to give birth to these unions and cooperative organizations.

Similar applications between Turkey and Turkish States in Asia and exceptional status given in various fields are the facts that make the establishment of the union easier. Furthermore, the traditional authority of Turkey in other region countries' point of view, its historical and cultural mission, its acceptance as a model leader is a high potential unity factor beyond expectations. In short, there is a ready potential for establishment of the union almost in every field and the conditions are quite available.

Science and technology are not secret anymore. It is possible to say that the countries of the region are sufficient to themselves. Science and technology of the modern world, meaning exact sciences, automotive, maritime and navigation, informatics, nuclear and space technology are known and used by the countries of the region. Countries such as Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Syria have scientific and technologic developments in world scale. That is to say, the necessary information and experience is available in SAU countries.

2. Socio-Economic Cultural Structure and Strategy of SAU

SAU is a union which will be established by the free will of region countries. The main aim is to establish political, economic and cultural cooperation among the countries of the region and to share the economic sources in a fair way in order to increase the comfort level. There are no imperialist targets. It is neither against, nor an alternative to any region or government. It is just an organization that the countries of the region gather in order to establish their own union depending on historical and geographical basis.

There will be a common constitution of SAU, which depends on democratic and social rule of law principals. There will be a parliament where each member country is represented. That is how the democracy needed by the region countries will be valid by the free will of the region countries. If democracy will be applied to the region, this must happen by

the free will and common parliament of the region countries. If the regime of some countries has to be changed, countries of the Union shall decide that.

There will be an administration that we may call a soft Confederation. There will be administrative, military, economic, financial, banking, healthcare, maritime and navigation, educational, cultural, occupational, sportive, touristic, press-information branches etc. and each branch can be located at different points of the Union.

Unlike EU, we offer a model depending on the economic cooperation in SAU, instead of a model extremely interfering to the political being of the countries. It is suggested that the interfering and impositioning attitudes which may set forth the competition or nationalism of the countries will be harmful to the Union. Political, economic, military and cultural cooperation on higher levels is preferred. Shortly, there will be no interferences to the traditional structure of the countries. A harmony by time will be more appropriate.

There will be a common currency of the Union member countries and there will not be customs among the members. Union shall establish political, economic and cultural cooperation not only with the member countries but with non-member countries and unions as well. Shortly, the working procedure of the existent unions and their branches will be valid in this Union.

SAU is not an ideological union. When the maps given below are detected, it can be seen that the SAU is depending on the previous geography and historical and cultural borders of the region. The history of the mentioned Union is shaped in this geography. There is no use of being a dreamer. The geography we mentioned and China have never been in a union during history. Likewise, it is not seen or heard that there used to be such a union with Russia. India is a specific continent. There used to be Turkish domination for years, but it has never been witnessed that Anatolia or Iran had a union with India. This union should be offered to the geographies which could combine together in the past. But it does not mean that the great geographies we mentioned above, China, India and Russia, must be expelled or accepted as enemies. On the contrary, these regions are the life sources of SAU as gates to the rest of the world and the best relationships will be established with the neighbouring geographies.

Relations with the southern borders of SAU have as vital importance as the relations with China, India and Russia have. To establish a union consisted of only Turkey, Iran, Caucasian and Central Asia, and to ignore the

southern neighbours, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Hedjaz, will threat the southern borders of the union. This means to leave the south to the domination of west which is extremely unfavourable. The south of the union will be threatened, the ways Mediterranean, Suez and Red Sea will be closed. SAU, of which relation with Mediterranean and Red Sea is blocked, would turn out to be a land union and that means a disconnection with the rest of the world. That is why it is necessary for SAU to include the whole Middle East. On the other hand, Arab countries have always been either members or establishers of such unions during history. So, it is appropriate to the geographical and historical conditions to extend the southern borders of SAU up to Yemen and Hedjaz.

SAU will keep its relations with Europe and USA on good levels depending on the mutual basis. The strategy of SAU is not based on enmities but on two-way benefits and good relations. So Europe and USA may be the best trade partners of SAU. But as mentioned above, it is expected that EU will be of short term for the fact that nothing is endless. Besides, when the existent problems within EU are taken into consideration, it is possible that this union will collapse before its common constitution is accepted. SAU has to take this possibility into consideration. That is why the Balqans is at the sphere of interest of SAU. Because the roads, railways, petrol and gas lines of the Balkans are the most important bridges that can connect SAU to Europe.

3. General Possibilities of SAU

Financial and spiritual possibilities of SAU, which is in a wide and strategic condition, is much more than expected. It is the wealthiest region of the world due to the Quantity and qualities of natural sources. The chart below will represent a general idea on the subject.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST ASIA UNION COUNTRIES

Name of the Country	Survey (sq km.s)	Population (Millions)	Gross National Product (Billion Dollars)	Petrol Production (Barrels/Day)	People at the age of conscription
Turkey	780.580	70,0	508,7	48.000	16.760.000
Iran	1.648.000	68,0	516,7	3.962.000	15.665.000
Syria	185.180	18,5	60,4	525.000	3.450.000
Iraq	437.072	26,0	89,8	2.250.000	4.900.000
Jordan	92.300	5,7	25,5	40	1.348.000

Lebanon	10.400	3,8	18,8	-	820.000
Egypt	1.001.450	77,5	316,3	740.000	13.340.000
Saudi Arabia	1.960.000	26,4	310,0	9.021.000	6.500.000
Yemen	527.970	20,7	16,2	417.500	2.700.000
UAE	82.880	2,5	63,6	2.335.000	650.000
Qatar	11.437	0,860	19,5	790.000	300.000
Bahrain	665	0,680	13,0	44.000	160.000
Oman	212.460	3,0	38,0	775.000	580.000
Kuwait	17.820	2,3	48,0	2.319.000	700.000
Pakistan	803.940	162,5	347,0	61.000	39.000.000
Azerbaijan	86.600	8,0	30,0	312.800	1.314.000
Georgia	69.700	4,6	14,4	2.000	827.000
Uzbekistan	447.400	26,8	47,5	143.300	6.300.000
Kazakhstan	2.717.000	15,0	118,4	1.200.000	2.400.000
Turkmenistan	488.000	5,0	27,6	162.500	750.000
Kyrgyzstan	198.500	5,0	8,5	2.000	1.190.000
TOTAL	11.779.354	552,84	2637,9	25.110.140	119.654.000

Source: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/is.hotmail

As can be seen in the chart, all possibilities of SAU that we evaluated with basic elements are very satisfactory. Survey is 11.779.354 sq km.s, population is nearly 552 millions. The union, having 2.637,9 billion dollars of national income, is the greatest petrol producer of the world by 25 million barrels per day. On the other hand the region has a high strategic importance having the 80% of world petrol reserves. It seems to be an important power when the military capacity of 120 million people is taken into consideration.

If compared to EU, it can easily be seen that the economy of EU is stable. The members of EU are active in the same working and industrial fields. So, the EU countries do not have much to trade. That is why they need an outside market. Most importantly, *EU is not sufficient to itself by agricultural and petrol products and is always dependent on the rest of the world.*

The enmities and discrepancies at EU is much more than the ones at SAU. Today, 25 countries are the members of EU. As all of the languages spoken on all of the countries are accepted as official languages, over one million pages of translations are being made daily. An article, an interpellation is being translated to all of these languages from Greek to English, from Portuguese to German, from Flemish to Italian.

But as SAU countries are of different levels by means geography and development; internal trade will have a fast development. SAU is sufficient to itself regarding basic needs such as agricultural products, petrol and water. The industrialized USA, EU and Far East countries are dependent to SAU on basic goods, perishable commodities and especially petrol.

IV. Obstacles to the Establishment of SAU

There are of course lots of obstacles to prevent such a wide Union which can alter the balances in the world. We can sort these obstacles as internal and external obstacles.

1. External obstacles

A question may be asked: is it possible to establish a union? Would the USA, EU and Russia let this happen? More importantly, in what degree the administrators and intellectuals of mentioned countries are on the favour of such a union?

It is necessary to mention that USA and EU would never like a union to be established in such an important region. So, not witnessing the real establishment but even imagining such a union would disturb these powers like a nightmare. As it will be mentioned below, this geography is the heart of the world. Its economic capacity is very high. This Union is of worth to increase to be the centre of the world. The anxieties and targets of the western world is focused on this region for these facts. That is why the objection and obstacles of the non-region countries are natural and expected.

USA and EU will strongly object such a union to be established on the region where it is their beneficiary area. It will be accepted as a threat by Europe that such a union is established just next to Europe. The life sources of EU will be passed to the hands and absolute monopoly of SAU. When the world trade data is detected, the prime market that USA and EU sell products is the mentioned SAU countries. So, SAU is a great market for Europe. On the other hand, SAU is the centre and transportation corridor of energy sources of vital value for USA and EU. So, SAU is indispensably important for USA and EU in economic terms. In fact, as will be mentioned below, SAU is not a union established as an objection to any countries. It is open to all kinds of two-way relations with western world. But the western world countries, claiming that they are the centre of civilization and ruler of the world, do not accept that other nations are equal to them and believe that they have the right to rule over others and therefore they are not open to such relations.

Furthermore, it is not appropriate for Europe's strategic targets that the communities they accept as different/others gather for a union. The western world, who colonises all kinds of the sources of the east for the last two hundred years, who orders the east and who creates governments and identities out of tribes, naturally will not accept such a union with whom it will have to establish two-way political and economic relations. That means a psychological defeat for the western world. This psychological collapse will ruin the superiority of the west upon the world in a mean way. This union may be a model to the countries of the world, as the Independence War of Turkey has been a model to the independence ideals of the colonised countries. So there may be some effects of this union which can not be predicted by today. But at the same time, these developments and results that we predict will take the attention of the western world and will bring out a speed up of violation and disjunctive activities of the western world. Even without such a union idea, the destructive and disjunctive provocations and prompts, occupancies and genocides of the western world upon our region is outlasting. It is right to say that "the one who jumps to the sea would not be afraid of the rain". Anyway our region is facing the occupancies and genocides of the western world. The aim of the union is to preserve the national beings of the countries of the region from mentioned occupancies and genocides of the west.

The attitude of Russia will also be negative at first sight because this union will surround the south of Russia. Russia's benefit areas; Central Asia, Black Sea and Caucasian will be the members of the union and this will prevent Russia to reach the south. On the other hand, Kazakhstan, who is an important member of Shanghai Quintet cooperation, may join to SAU. This means that the petrol and gas sources of Central Asia will be on the hand of a union of which Russia is not a member. Shortly, such a union is against the economic and strategic benefits of Russia.

But Russia is not a member of SAU but it will be a prime exceptional member. To exclude Russia is against the strategic benefits of SAU. It is expected that this idea can be accepted by Russia and Russia will support -or not strongly object at least- this union idea.

On the other hand, Russia has an ideological policy against the west. When the fact that western countries will be prevented to dominate the south of Russia, Caucasian and Middle East by the establishment of this union is taken into consideration, it is rational that Russia may support this project. Instead of the domination of USA on Central Asia and Caucasian,

establishment of such a union consisted of region countries and in which Russia is effective, will be on Russia's benefits.

2. Internal obstacles

Other obstacles to this union are the obstacles caused by the internal dynamics of the region countries. As known, there is no unity between the region countries in terms of political construction. Most countries of the region are ruled by kingdoms, dictators, or authoritarian republics. Instead of secular, social rule of law, there are administration types based on ethnic and religious elements and instead of major national attendance, there is the rule of a king or a minority close to the administration. As a result of the general disorganisation of the region, there is no unity idea and most of the administrations are dependent on a non-region power or union. The educational status of the region countries is below the world scale. The position of women in daily life is as known. The wealth sources were not shared fairly and these sources were not shared with the people of the region. The gaps between people are getting wider.

As the geographic condition and historical background of each country is different, their priorities and preferences will naturally be different. The political, ideological and religious points of view of each one is different than the others, this is natural. Furthermore, each country has an unsolved problem with one other. Countries which were ruled by different ideologies on different geographies on historical and political process there will of course be bonds and obligations to their previous administration types. Let us take Turkish Oriented Nations as an example. Though it is said that Turkey's bonds were corrupted from Central Asia for seventy years, this is not true, this is lacking information. Eastern Turkism and Western Turkism is disconnected for almost a thousand years. The connections with the Eastern Turkism have been lost by 11th century, when Oghuz clans has moved to and around Anatolia. Turk nations have occurred living in two different areas. The process started by the occupancy of Russia to Turkistan on 18th century, has outlast during Soviet era. By 1990's, after Central Asia Turkish States have gained their independence, more than one Turkish States have occurred for the first time after a long time.

The new era has brought out new opportunities. Turkish World could not catch such a chance almost for the last thousand year. This opportunity is a result of the developments in science, technology, access and communications. With the assistance of the developments on scientific fields, long distances have shortened and the immense Asian steps and

mountain ranges seems impossible to be passed have become easy to pass. On the other hand, the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought out new political opportunities parallel to these progresses.

In these circumstances, it will be a mistake to expect the Turkish States in Asia to get rid of their long term relationships with Russia and to have a full independent policy in political, economic and cultural terms. All the infrastructure, railways, petrol and gas lines, factories of Turkish States in Asia belong to the old Soviet system. Educational associations belong to the Russian system and naturally, Russian is the common language of the whole Central Asia, Caucasian, north of Black Sea, Ukraine and Belarus. That is why Russian language, culture and bureaucratic structure is valid in Turkish States in Asia. This is natural and not an obstacle for the Union. With the help of rational, serious and dedicated policies, these conditions can be changed in a short time.

More importantly, in what degree the administrators and intellectuals of mentioned countries are on the favour of for such a union?

In our opinion, the most important obstacle for this Union is the internal objection of each country more than the external obstacles. The objection of the administrators and intellectuals of the countries and the local compradors of western countries is one of the most important obstacles to this Union. So, a remarkable number of the intellectuals of region have been addicted mentally to the western world for long years. In their opinion, the world is consisting of the west and the facts are consisting from the western facts. As an example from Turkey; our people are obliged to make a decision between the USA and EU. According to the local compradors and intellectuals, there are no other facts/choices; something different can not be imagined or even offered. People offering something different are accused of being reactionist, racist, middle age minded, and paranoid. But the same intellectuals and press accept the new dependency plan of the USA -Greater Middle East Initiative- with a great favourable reception, and even expect Turkey to take part in this project next to the USA. They see no disadvantage in accepting all of administrative, political, juristic and economic demands of EU that abrogate our national commonwealth and present the membership to EU as a sign of civilization.

Besides all, Turkey has to be aware and responsible of being a worldwide country. This is the key to the national unity and independence. At the same time, the destiny of the region countries who have left uncivilized and aggrieved and who are under continuous threats is dependent

on Turkey. This is not a point of proudness or exaggeration, but a fact. EU–USA are not the destiny or indispensable for Turkey, they must not be so. Turkey has to survive from being a western courtesy and asylum addicted and continuously humiliated country and has to establish its own Union on its own geography relative to its historical and cultural mission. The unity spirit in the region countries is much higher than expected.

We can say that the suppressions and threats to the region is a reason to reappear this spirit of unity. There are differences within region countries which may be natural. But non-region threats and occupancies oblige the region countries to unite and let these differences go. For these reasons, the international status is very appropriate for the establishment of SAU.

V. The Possibilities that may be Provided by SAU and Result

First of all, such a Union will have a positive effect on the world balances. It will be a serious resistance element to the unipolar dominant global forces. It will help to establish relations in two-way cooperation, trust and benefits instead of one-way dependency policy.

Unless this union is established, it will be difficult for SAU countries to preserve their national independence as they are disorganised in cultural and political terms. Region countries will have to be anxiously in alert for the time a smooth revolution or occupancy.

There have been much political conflicts or feudalist trends in eras and areas that lack a general political authority or unity. When investigated, it can easily be seen that such political conflicts have been witnessed in our country. This Union will solve some problems in our region. Western countries will not be fulfilling their aims on our region. In this context, problems such as *Israel's Arz-ı Mev'ud (promised lands) targets, Armenia's extending dreams, Kurdish case, Minority case* will be melt within the pot of this Union. Mentioned countries will have to be in good relations with SAU. So, to have good relations with this Union which surround them is on their benefit.

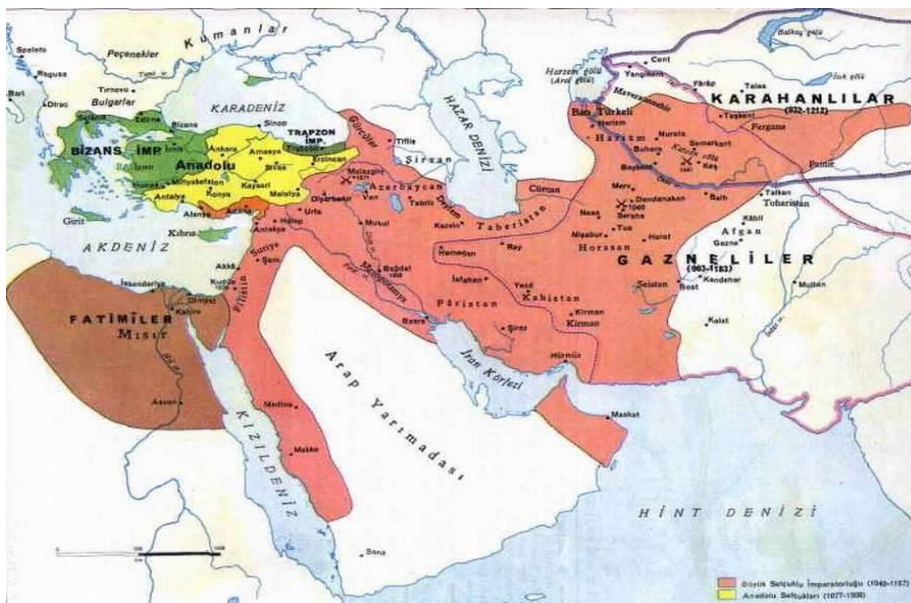
Shortly, plans of the western world to share the region on their will is going to be overcome and an order depending on two-way benefits, good neighbourhood and interaction will be established. The establishment of regional and worldwide peace will be possible only that way. In case of the continuance of existent system depending on the western oriented dependency order, regional and worldwide peace will be under threatens and the world will be thrown to some adventures of which result is unknown.

APPENDIX

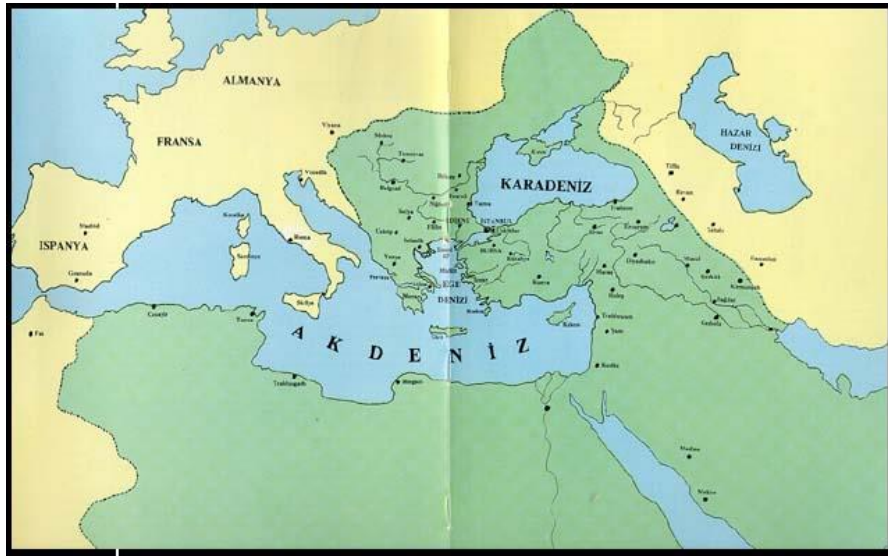
APPENDIX 1: Western Asia on Abbasid Era (8th-9th century)



APPENDIX 2: Western Asia on Seljuk Era (11th-13th centuries)



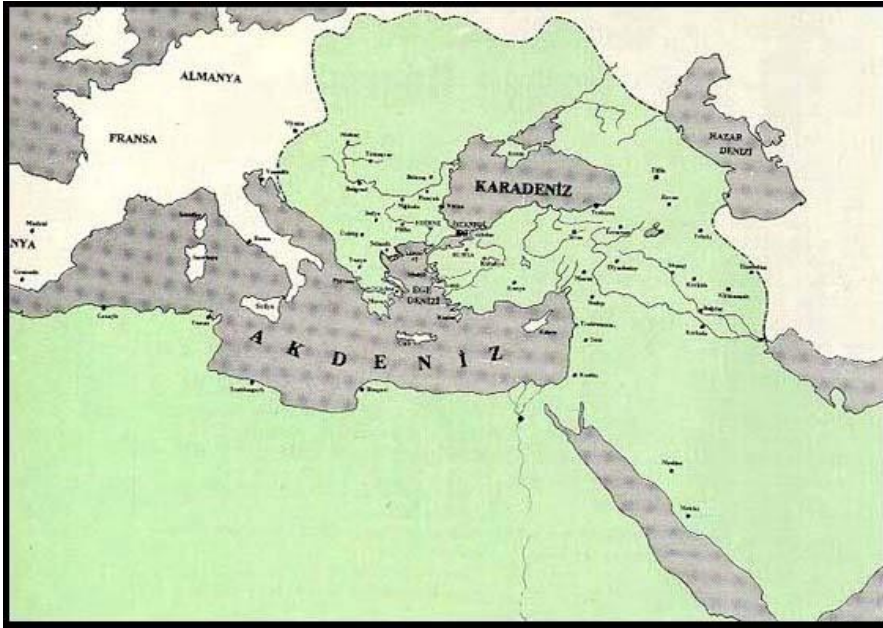
APPENDIX 3: Otoman Empire on Kanuni Era (16th century)



APPENDIX 4: Western Asia Dominated by Ottoman and Safavid Empires on 16th century



APPENDIX 5: Otoman Empire on Murat IV era (17th century)



APPENDIX 6: Otoman Empire on Selim III era (18th century)



APPENDIX 7: Ottoman Empire on Sultan Abdülaziz Era (19th century)

