

THE CONTINENT OF MASTERS DECISION-MAKING POWERS OVER EUROPE

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Abstract: Europe has been ruled in the past centuries from different centers depending on the dominant power, from within or outside the continent, from: Rome, Venice, Madrid, Paris, London, Vienna, Berlin and finally from Moscow and Washington. Now with the formation of the European Union, it seemed that the center was established in Brussels, but this city is far from having decision-making power, often: Berlin, Frankfurt, Washington, Paris or more recently: Istanbul, Beijing, Warsaw, Cairo, Jerusalem or Dubai are getting better rated, Brussels being only the scene in which the decisions already established in other centers are presented, without reaching a central leadership dominated by a single state.

Key words: spheres of influence, domination, decision-making centers, great powers, alliance

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INTRODUCTION

For many years the heart of Europe was represented by Greece, followed by the Roman Empire that dominated the southern part of the continent. In time, the Great Migration that brought the main linguistic groups and peoples we know today, led to the endangerment of the Romans, splitting into the Western Roman Empire that dominated Western Europe and the Eastern Roman Empire or later Byzantine Empire, which represents the eastern part (Mășu, 2014). But migration continued to bring many different peoples, then forming over three quarters of today's Europe, remaining authentic only: Italy, Spain and Portugal (from the Roman Empire), Romania from Dacia, Greece, Albania or Armenia, while The French are only semi-new, appearing after the

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migration of the Franks on the territory of Gaul, which was a Roman province. The rest of the states: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, etc. were born from the migration of Slavs, Hungary and Finland were established from the migrations of the Ugro-Phoenicians, Denmark, Sweden, Norway or Iceland are the heirs of the Vikings, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Austria and so on appeared from their German ancestors, while the Turkish states: Turkey and Azerbaijan were kept in contact with Europe with Asia.

During all this time, it was not the case for a single power to dominate the whole continent, or for the other states to want it, leaving them selves submissive. After a difficult period in which the territorial appearance of the newly formed states following migration was difficult, only Venice and Genoa made the prestige of Europe, followed by Bruges in Belgium, or the Holy Roman Empire, a confederation as emblem of the former Roman Empire (northern half of present-day Italy) and the newly emerged German peoples (current states: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic or eastern France) (Kissinger, 2015; Attali, 2016). Nor did the emergence of Western European imperial powers favor the emergence of a single dominator over the entire continent of Europe, such as Spain, Portugal, France, England, the Netherlands and finally Belgium, Denmark or Italy in the west and the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire (Tsarist) in the east they held only small areas of influence even though outside Europe, together, they accumulated more than 80% of the world's territory for several hundred years. The Islamist world was dominated by the Ottoman Empire, the Slavic world was dominated by the Russian Empire (a short time sharing this trophy with the union of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania), the Vikings were represented by Denmark in places along with Sweden or Norway and the Latin world well represented, dominated global influence with the help of: Spain, Portugal, France and later Italy. But the German peoples, very populous and influential, were flanked to the south by the Latin world, to the southeast by the Ottomans, to the east by the Russians and to the north by the Danes (Vikings). This is how the numerous riots and escape attempts appeared.

The freer British among the Germans, located on an ocean island, managed to go out into the world by building the largest empire in human history, overcoming the old title held by the Mongol empire. The Dutch, in turn, with too little territory and population, tried to seize territory around the globe, but eventually became the largest naval power, attracting the formation of the new empire of Belgium (Latin-German). But the German provinces in central Europe, heavily populated, flanked on all sides, took the path of industrialization, leaving the ranks mainly Austria, Prussia or Bavaria. After Prussia united most of the provinces giving birth to Germany and Austria expanded the Habsburg Empire (Austrian or Austro-Hungarian), the thirst for domination and escape led them to the First World War, after which Austria lost its empire, and Germany continued its desire to dominate all the "evil" states that had immobilized it for so many centuries (France, The Netherlands, England, Poland, Denmark, Russia and so on), together with two much weaker allies and with their own interests (Italy and Japan) triggered what World War II did. After that, even ruined, Europe could not be dominated by a single power.

At first Russia through the USSR and the United States had partial control, but the harsh interventions in Budapest in 1956 or Prague in 1968 did not make Russia the master of the eastern part, here there is a continuous flanking of Greece and Turkey in the south, Romania or Poland continued to reject Russian pressure and Yugoslavia did not even want to hear about its membership in the communist bloc (Mazower, 2019). In the western part, the US with financial support provided by the Marshall Plan, often politically conditioned, did not have control in France, D.R. Germany or Italy, these remaining powers in conditions of neutrality (Steil, 2018). After the fall of communism and the split of the USSR, the United States hoped to dominate power in Europe as a bigger brother, but that did not happen. Now, through the enlargement of the U.E., through the customs, monetary, political, and so on union and the attempt to form a single bloc, they gave hopes to Germany and France that by this they will easily dominate the whole of Europe, but the exit of Great Britain from the union, the surrender of influence, the “troubles” created by Poland that does not accept submission, Russia’s return to hegemony, the rapid turn to Islamic culture and Turkey’s economic miracle, or Italy’s attachment to the pro-China idea of the New Silk Road rejects any chance of Europe it becomes subject to a single dominant power.

THE 7 INFLUENTIAL POWERS OVER EUROPE

1. Germany (and the German community from: Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Romania, Luxembourg, Belgium and so on) with major influence on Central and Eastern Europe;
2. Italy with influence over the Mediterranean and the Balkans;
3. Great Britain with influence on the seas and oceans surrounding Europe;
4. France with influence on the continental mass;
5. Russia with influence over the Eastern European half;
6. Turkey represents the Islamist population in Europe;
7. US with influence over Europe through state corridors: Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Croatia, United Kingdom, Kosovo;

Although there are apparently agreements between some of these powers and obedience from others, they are only periodic, and the individual character always appears. There have been numerous trends in coagulation between: France and Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia, Turkey and Russia, Germany and Turkey, the USA and the United Kingdom or the USA and Turkey, but none of them has been lasting.

It was considered until recently that the France-Germany tandem would dominate the European Union and with it the entire eastern flank waiting to be part of this union, until the regular alliances Russia-Turkey, USA-Poland and Great Britain's exit from the union gave the plans Franco-German overhead. Then Germany declared itself the master of Europe, here being the most influential city on the center of the continent in Berlin, the financial capital and the E.U. banking headquarters in Frankfurt, as well as the most dynamic city in Munich, and Italy, which is one of the decision-making powers, had handed over its economic administration to the Germans, seeming to capitulate, until it first signed the Chinese New Silk Road project in 2019 and Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, confusing German plans. In 2015, the USA came to Central Europe with the Three Seas Initiative project

(Baltic Sea, Adriatic Sea and Black Sea, including Poland, Croatia, Romania and 9 other connecting states), where it gathered its former allies, but German pressure on Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Croatia or Russian pressure on Hungary, Serbia or Bulgaria made this project discontinuous (Frankopan, 2019; Friedman, 2015; Sayle, 2019).

At the moment the balance of power between the 7 influences exists, seeing against them, without being able to consider that most decisions are dictated only by a single power, whether it is: Paris, London, Berlin, Frankfurt, Brussels, Rome, Vienna, Moscow, Istanbul or Washington. Dangerous alliances that carried Europe into the arms of foreign powers seem to be only periodic and have the role of pulling European powers out of times of crisis, so alliances of Russia, Turkey or Italy with China or alliances of France, Britain, Spain or Germany with the US had only a nuance of periodicity.



Figure 1. Decision-making powers over Europe

Source: original ideas of the author and data processed after: Krastev, 2017; Barro, 2020; Carpenter, 2019; Pomeranz, 2001.

Table 1. States with decision-making power over Europe

Source: original ideas of the author and data processed after: Hobson, 2004; Chomsky, 2019; Bulatov et al., 2019; Suciui et al., 2010; Glenny, 2020; Ramet and Hassenstab, 2019; Abulafia, 2014; Vlad et al., 2010.

No.	Decision-making powers on Europe	Surfaces of influence	The origin of power
1	Germany	European Union Central Europe German community	Economic power, raw material processing trade, multinational companies
2	Italy	Mediterranean Sea Balkan Peninsula	Historical, Mediterranean power
3	Great Britain	The seas and oceans that surround Europe	Maritime power, world decision-making power
4	France	Continental mass of Europe	European, institutional-administrative power
5	Russia	Eastern European half	Continental, military, Eurasian, agricultural and raw material exporting power
6	Turkey	Turkish community of 15 million, from: Germany, France, Holland, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and so on. Islamic states: Kosovo, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strategic, Islamic, transit power
7	United States	The NATO bloc Great Britain Tri-seas: Poland, Romania, Croatia, Czech Republic	Old world power, strategic world power, military, western and democratic
8	Spain	Southwestern Europe	Latin American power
9	Poland	Visegrad Group, Romania, Lithuania, Western Ukraine and Belarus, the Slavic world in the European Union	Central-continental power, confluence of the great powers
10	China	In the first part: Eastern and Southern Europe: Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Hungary and so on, with influences on the whole of Europe and the growing communities of ethnic Chinese.	New world power, financing and building power
11	Sweden	Northern Europe	Nordic power, high standardization
12	Egypt	The Arab world in the cities of Europe with 7-10 million: Paris, London, Brussels, Barcelona, Marseille, Athens, Vienna, Stockholm, Berlin, Amsterdam and so on.	Arab, strategic, civilizational-ancient and cultural power
13	Other European countries with individual aspirations: Hungary, Czech Republic, Greece	These states are often directed towards Asia, seeking their own alliances and not complying with E.U. requirements.	Confluence powers
14	Other non-European countries with influence over Europe: Japan (and South Korea), Israel,	- Japan with Asian tigers; - Israel or the rich states of the Persian Gulf have some economic influence; - Latin America has come to influence the Iberian Peninsula, Spain and the American community; - India will become increasingly	Technological powers Tourist, religious and cultural powers Agricultural powers

	<p>Brazil (and Spanish Latin America), India, the Arab World (Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Maghreb and so on), Iran (and the Shiite community), Nigeria (and Sub-Saharan Africa)</p>	<p>economically influential, with a sphere of influence in the UK and perhaps Italy, Portugal, Greece, historical partners and a closer relationship with the rrom-gypsies community; - the Shiite Muslim, Sunni or Persian world culturally imposes on the growing Muslim community in Europe over 47 million (23 million in the European Union); - The population of sub-Saharan Africa, often Christian, will migrate in increasing numbers to Europe, most likely represented by Nigeria.</p>	<p>Demographic strength</p> <p>Religious powers and hydrocarbons</p> <p>New demographic power, future emigration power</p>
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THE FUTURE NEW POWERS OVER EUROPE

8. Spain could become a center in the future without being ruled by France or Italy, with the main influence within the E.U. on the 450 million Spanish speakers worldwide (plus almost 4 million from Latin America throughout Europe), especially since they represent the great mass of migration to Europe but also the USA (with over 50 million speakers this could be in the future the second national language after English) (Baten, 2016; Neğüt and Rusu, 2012). But for now, Spain seems to be happy with the representation that France and Italy offer it in Europe and does not want an individual statement yet, although at times such as the Iraq war (when it joined the United Kingdom and the United States) it has shown some removal from unanimous European decisions.

9. Poland, like Romania, is restricted between the direct interests of Germany and Russia, so the two emerging states remained loyal to US interests in Europe, being abandoned by Turkey which reaffirmed its position as an individual leader with its own interests with the miracle economic growth from recent decades. Even if the United States remains influential in Central and Eastern Europe, loyal states may move toward some independence. Poland wants an individual statement together with its own allies such as: Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and maybe Greece and Croatia. These countries being disadvantaged between the individual alliances of Germany, Russia and Turkey but also between them there are multiple affinities such as agreements: Hungary-Russia, Serbia-Russia, Austria-Germany, Russia-Italy, Russia-Germany or Turkey-Russia.

10. China. Britain, Germany and France relied for a time on a tacit alliance with China to recover their economies, followed by Russia, which found support in Asian power following Western economic sanctions following the military invasion of Crimea, Lugansk and Donetsk, coming out economically to the detriment of Ukraine, which at the time turned its hopes on the European Union, which was later absorbed by the Chinese economy. It was followed by Turkey and plots in this segment: Poland, Greece, Serbia or Italy (Bertonha, 2009; Reilly, 2021). It is becoming more and more likely that in the not too distant future China will have an influence on the continent that is economically and decisively equivalent to the USA (but less military). These could create in Central and Eastern Europe a bifurcation of the spheres of power of: USA (with allies: Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Georgia), China (Greece, Ukraine, Serbia, Italy), Germany (Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia), Turkey (Bosnia, Albania, Kosovo) and Russia (Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia,

Belarus, Greece, Bulgaria, Armenia) and France and Great Britain, which will flirt somewhat with Romania, Poland and Greece, being observers.

11. Sweden could draw in a tacit agreement: Finland, Norway, Denmark and perhaps Estonia and Iceland, creating an area of high Development Index with slight influences from Britain, Germany, Poland and Russia in Europe and Canada and Japan abroad, but it is clear that the northern states do not seem to meet the demands of the great European powers in a timely manner, looking for their own alternatives.

12. Egypt. There are some European states very involved in the life of Islamist states, against the background of religious differences and especially historical conflicts there are antipathies between: Spain, Italy and France on the one hand and the Islamist Maghreb states, between the Christian Orthodox states: Greece Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia or Armenia in conflict with Turkey and its Muslim allies: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Cyprus and Azerbaijan and so on., but all European states are looking for economic links with the vast Islamist world around the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Unlike Turkey, which occupies the territories of Armenia and Greece and has always been an invader, Egypt, with 20 million more people, was the good ally of ancient Greece and Italy (Roman Empire), being perceived as a civilized, inspirational nucleus and never as an aggressor state, this role still existing today, having good relations with both the Maghreb and Arabia, as well as with Shiite Islamist Iran or Jewish Israel.

How the Turkish Muslim population in Europe no longer growing (5 million in Germany) and the states Islamized by the Ottoman Empire (Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo) are somewhat in economic drift while the big western cities are increasingly sought after by Arab Muslims, Egypt is most likely to replace the role of Turkey as a representative of Muslims in Europe. Also, the population around the Indian Ocean is growing and the E.U. will move economically towards this perimeter (Diaconescu, 2018), and the union's intention to integrate Turkey and maybe a Kurdistan state, and from here through Iran or what is left of Iraq to have access to the Indian Ocean is starting to be no longer viable, also the integration or alliance with Israel does not give it a coast too extensive on the Red Sea (part of the Indian Ocean) even though this country plans to build its own naval route between the oceans "Suez 2". Instead, collaboration - alliance with Egypt would provide 1900 km of coastline to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal that makes the naval connection with the Mediterranean Sea (Miller, 2020; Abulafia, 2014). Egypt's geopolitical and strategic importance will be overwhelmingly greater than Turkey's importance in the near future (Turkish importance is given mainly by the control of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles that connect the Black Sea-Danube with the Mediterranean Sea, but the canal planned to be built by the Chinese, connecting Morava to Vardar crossing Serbia, Northern Macedonia and Greece, directly between Danube and Aegean Sea, would reduce the Turkish influence on the European Union). Also, the Egyptian civilization was Islamized and Arabized with the sword, and today between 5 and 20% of the population is expected to still tend to be Coptic (the Christian religion present until Islamization), which says a lot about the freedom of Egyptian society. Other possible decisively independent powers with influence over Europe could be the states: Hungary, Czech Republic or Greece, and outside Europe: maybe India, Japan, Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia, regions: Maghreb, Latin America, sub-Saharan African states, among which especially Nigeria, which have slight, complementary influences.

CONCLUSIONS

Continent Europe, though small in size and less and less important in population and economy, has been for centuries a great center of civilization and expansionist power, with European communities existing on all continents in large numbers (dominant on the continents of North and South America, Australia and Oceania) and religion, culture, administration or behavior have spread from here to the rest of the world, with the main inspiration being the "Western world". It's just that this continent, the size of the USA, Canada, China or just over half of Russia, was not dominated by just one great power, here there are always a series of rivalries that led to the outbreak of the first two great world wars of what existed in the world. In the last five centuries there have always been at least 9 powers in Europe alone, these being represented by Turkey (or the Ottoman Empire), Spain, France, Great Britain (England), Austria (along with Hungary), Germany (Prussia to the beginning), Poland (along with Lithuania or the Czech Republic), Russia, Italy (or a province of it: Papal State, Kingdom of Naples, Lombardy, Venice and so on) and a Nordic state represented by Denmark or Sweden, adding to this list and less powers influential but still independent such as Portugal or the Netherlands. What is a single state in other parts of the world, in Europe has represented 9 powers and more countries, and the influence of the US or other states outside the continent that tend to multiply with the demographic and economic problems of the continent, does not leave that this land mass be dominated by a single power.

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