Europe is awake? At last there may be a glimpse of hope for that beleaguered nation of ours

The Brexit divorce and the crowning of a people’s president in the United States have pushed the relations between Europe and the English speaking special relationship bloc to a new zone, a zone of frank realisation by the Europeans that was swept under the carpet for decades. Europe has realised that they do not have the unquestionable partner in America anymore. The British opinion of being part of Europe was expressed in the result of the referendum and in the views openly made by countless senior politicians. The recent tour by President Trump confirmed to Europe that it was time for a new era to start. An era of liberated European thinking of the lines drawn by the American intelligence services which effectively runs the Middle East and proper relations with the countries in their part of the world may have arrived. If this is the case, European-Libyan relations will be on top of list for revision due to the current tension and rapidly deteriorating situation in Libya, its consequences on European security and the obvious heavy handed manner with which the Americans excluded Europe from all decision making processes in the Libyan case.

Here a reference is made to the apparent unease of European leaders during President Trump’s visit, and also to the unusually blunt and unambiguous speech by Chancellor Merkel regarding the arrival of the time for Europe to become free of American leadership in defence, and by implication, in international relations. The decision by President Trump to withdraw his country from the Paris Climate Accord added to the developing opinion by Europe that American outlook on international issues is certainly changing. Europeans have to respond to this change in American outlook and priorities must by logic be on the current issues that affect their economy and security. Libya is central to both. It would be impractical for Europe to ignore this issue which touches on everyday lives of all their citizens.

There are wide ranging implications to the developing European recognition of the new reality, but what is relevant here (to us the Libyans) is the prospect of a different future for Libya that could be achieved via the emerging European recognition.

There is a window of opportunity to employ this new reality to both serve Libya and save Europe from the cost of uncontrolled illegal immigration and the terrifying consequences of a potential source of limitless terror from a country with a thousand kilometres of coast line on the other side of the Mediterranean. The economic importance of Libya to Europe is often ignored deliberately to reduce the economic potential to Europe of a stable properly managed state in Libya. Reliance on Russia for the supply of massive a proportion of the required gas and oil has been a source of uncomfortable pressure to Europeans who wish to build a bloc free of uneasy stress from dominant powers in the East or West. Secured,
stable long-term access to Libya’s oil and gas reserves without a third party dictation can alleviate much of the chronic headache without love from Russia.

But (and this is a big but), in order to exploit this transient window of opportunity for the benefit of both parties, Libya’s case and Europe’s interests in this nation, many factors have to materialise all at the same time. Principally, a sincere willingness by the Europeans to be prepared to listen to, and consider a hitherto dismissed narrative. In addition, the enlisting of visionary Libyan nationals uncorrupted by the years’ of mental and political brainwashing during the depressing long years of Gaddafi’s reign.

The depth and the reasons behind the Libyan political chaos need to be understood in their full malice and gravity in order to command sufficient energy and determination to undo the effects on the country and region and begin a new page. The malice with which the current Libyan politics was prepared prior to the Arab Spring movement dismissed not only the interests of the nation (which would be business as usual for the region), but also ignored the potential disastrous fallout on Europe.

There is an even worse aspect to this extraordinary phase in the re-engineering of the country. The awakening of old menace, the tribal fervour; allowing and empowering of Islamist politics; the enlisting of Gulf states to meddle and finance armed militia; the deflection of national attention away from the unique values of adopting the 1951 Constitution at the critical hour of power vacuum and the recruitment of selected reliable Libyan leaders to play scripted roles are examples of how the ground was engineered to nurture the inescapable chaos that was certain to follow. Once the fall out of the chaotic Libya began to materialise on Europe, it provided a handy tool with which pressure could be applied to European countries to impress the fact that this (Libya and neighbouring states) is an exclusive territory not available for European meddling and intervention is not welcomed.

Reconstruction of the Libyan political body concentrated during the 80s and 90s on the opposition groups and was carried out on specific targets in preparation for a post-Gaddafi era. The highly proficient process was so subtle and below any radar, it was perceived to be the act of a friendly partner, but above all found willing subjects in a generation of humiliated Libyans who were denied all degrees of respect by the dictator and failed to find satisfaction in the hardship of the true struggle to oppose Gaddafi in an environment and an era infested by the gigantic rats of international intelligence. The critics of the process of reconstruction of the Libyan political body at the time and at present are labelled as “jealous” losers. Members of this “prepared earlier” body of Libyan politicians effectively took over the country immediately when Gaddafi began to fall. The takeover of the country by people who were basically taught to only listen to specific powers and see only enemies in all critics, continued by all forms of insertion methods into seats of
decision making including elections, till this day. This is the fundamental reason for the events that led to the present hopeless situation in Libya. It is the politics by the incompetent who were made to feel entitled to rule. Very quickly they became over confident and self-justifying of their ideology. But most important of all, infected by the old deadly disease that dogged the region since politics was born, suspicious of the motives of all critics. The chaotic conditions provided a valuable base for excusable unaccountability to the public and a necessary dismissal of the endless hardships people suffer. It is a paradise for autocracy and a gift for foreign intelligence agencies to scheme, experiment and manipulate with ease.

One of the many misunderstandings that always muddied the situation and confused Libyan debates is the culturally driven concept that criticising the practices of politicians is essentially labelling them as dishonourable incompetent or treacherous people with considered intent to harm their nation. This is not always the case. There are very many honourable people who were and are in power and are simply misled. Their fault is to distrust their own and cannot overcome the principle of third world politics: your critic is your enemy.

It is a fact that Libya’s chaos is harming Europe in so many ways that perhaps were impossible to predict a decade ago, then logic dictates an independent thinking Europe would now want to see the fundamental reasons behind the unstoppable lurch in Libya to a failed state and a playground for regional terrorism. See the fundamental reasons according to a Libyan view so far Europe has been instructed to dismiss.

Perhaps one way of articulating this is: Libya’s chaos is typical in being the result of a strategy aimed at destabilising the region. Reacting to events has simply failed to resolve any of the current cases. What is required by Europeans in partnership with uncorrupted nationals is recognition of the existence of the strategy and rejecting its fallacious and malicious premises without the old baggage of inhibitions. This will be a momentous step in the contemporary history of our region. In view of the natural way of how such steps must be triggered, it will be up the Europe to take the initiative. The present wakeup call may be the catalyst.

If the Europeans refuse (as they have done for years) to accept the principal reasons for the inept politics that drove Libya to its present turmoil, they will never ever be able to stop the rot and the long range grave consequences will continue. But the window of opportunity is transient. It will be short-lived because it is not in the interest of regional powerful pressure groups for Europe to become free of American absolute political leadership in the region. Soon the skilled mediation will be thrown into gear to dull the issues and play down the differences in the face of the global Islamic terror the entire civilised world faces.

If (and it is big if) by magical change of atmosphere, the uncorrupted Libyan section of politicians found a way to persuade the Europeans to listen and reconsider and
convince them of calamitous results of intentional American policies in Libya, it
would not be unethical exploitation of unfortunate opportunity, but rather making
use of a fleeting chance to take first steps to correct so much wrong and perhaps
remedy some of the damage that had been inflicted on an insignificant defenceless
nation that staggered along without guardians for decades.

The Arab Spring by all accounts was a spontaneous movement across North Africa.
But when the wind is naturally in one’s sales, naturally helpful stuff happens, or so it
appears. The spontaneous uprising provided a perfect platform for re-organising the
region into more unstable, less dependent, fake democracies with no real control
over their affairs. But there was little “natural” about the events of the aftermath of
the Arab Spring. In reality, the big powers with territorial claims on the region
planned well and invested in multiple options in anticipation of changes such as the
Arab Spring. This enabled them to force events to happen according to plan
“naturally”. The political landscapes in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia have been literally
re-engineered politically (and socially) to become restless, aggressive to one
another and drenched with terror groups that the authorities in charge beg for
foreign war planes to bomb their cities. The latest current episode of Egyptian
manufacturing of grounds to invade the East of Libya on the basis of reducing
terrorism in Egypt is one of the starkest disastrous consequences of events in the
aftermath of the Arab Spring. Apparently bombing Derna will eliminate terrorism in
Mina. But this would not be enough, only a land invasion of Cyrenaica will punish
Egyptian terrorists and provide peace to Egyptian cities. This twisted logic would
not have been considered a decade ago. The regional leaderships heard of
alternative facts and fake news and went to town with these new permits to invent
facts with little attention to history, legacies and honour and veracity in politics.

While the region is under reconstruction, Europe leaders continues to engage in
half measures at best, at worst a bystander looking the other way in case awkward
questions are asked by their own public. Perhaps fear of the retribution that
routinely follows involvement in the American territory in their region left the
Europeans nervous. The French-led expedition in Libya to help the uprising defeat
Gaddafi’s forces was against American wishes. It ended prematurely leaving a
massive power vacuum filled quickly by unlawful militia groups financed by
American collaborators from the Gulf and wealthy Libyans. The intensive financing
of undesirable Islamist political parties in Libya and many others by certain Gulf
States has become an open trade in post-Arab Spring era will sooner or later be a
clash point. This activity by insignificant but a wealthy States is obviously a
deliberate unashamed policy to destabilise with permission, and despite the tacit
consent (or desire) by the area policeman power; it cannot go on unchallenged for
much longer. This class of international meddling activity by wealthy protected Gulf
States is one of the most traitorous and destructive features of the post Arab Spring
era. This stealth spread of destabilising elements has rapidly become an effective
self-financing stick to discipline the region into a permanent flare up using local
unique societal and cultural fissures. If the Arab region continues to flare up, Europe will suffer. This is not a theory, it is a fact.

The unrelenting Libyan chaos that followed the Arab Spring and dangers to Europe from human trafficking and terrorism are lessons not easily forgotten by the Europeans. That said, it is incumbent on uncorrupted Libyans independent of the grip of the multiple powers tearing the country apart at present, to convince the Europeans of two issues: the exclusively American-led policy for Libya is deliberately harmful to both Libya and Europe and that there is another way to govern Libya and steer the nation out of the chaos if they are prepared to act free of the American direction and take the heat.

The narrative to Europe by may be expressed in a few words: Libya is literally micro managed by American intelligence responsible for the region with the help and financing by their collaborators in the Middle East and foot soldiers inside the country. The policy drawn for Libya decades ago did not include the economic interests of Europe or its security let alone the interests of the Libyan public. At present and since the Feb 2011 revolution, every consequential event that happens in Libya is pre-designed by this merciless inhumane thing. Evidence shows that the complex power struggle between the many Libyan factions is becoming even more convoluted and tribal flare ups spreading to all regions. Individuals in power are knowingly or otherwise mere robots on strings. Leaders realise that the only safety for them is in the continuation of the current chaos. The economic collapse will increase the temptation for many to engage in illicit trades, terrorism and corruption. Lawlessness, poverty, incompetent leaderships, collapse of infrastructure, loss of hope and spread of aggressive tribalism culture push individuals and families to the edge and legitimise the otherwise unthinkable.

Leaving the country to its present evils is not an option for Europe. Something different needs to be forced onto the rapidly flaring scene. It need not be only a choice between tribalism and Islamists. There is a truth beyond the one synthesised for Libya. The question is: are the Europeans ready to listen now?

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