



Western propaganda against Turkey

by **Thierry Meyssan** on [Voltaire Net](http://Voltaire.Net)



SYRIE : DANGEREUSE ESCALADE AUTOUR D'IDLIB

► Au moins 33 soldats turcs ont été tués, jeudi 27 février, à Idlib, dans le nord ouest de la Syrie, par les forces de Bashar Al Assad, appuyées par l'aviation russe

► Ankara en représailles a bombardé des positions syriennes et menacé les Européens de permettre un afflux de réfugiés vers l'ouest

► Près de 900 000 personnes, dont 80 % de femmes et d'enfants, ont fui les combats de la région d'Idlib depuis décembre 2019

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Des soldats turcs maintiennent position à proximité d'Idlib, le 20 février. (AFP/AGF)

EDITORIAL

L'EUROPE DÉFIÉE

FACE AU DRAME qui se joue dans la province syrienne d'Idlib, que pensent les Européens ? L'ampleur de la catastrophe humanitaire – près d'un million de personnes piégées sur les routes par l'offensive du régime –, l'escalade militaire, avec la perte d'au moins 33 soldats turcs, mais que surtout l'engagement russe jusqu'au 27 février, et l'implication des forces russes se conjuguent dans un défi moral et politique inouï pour l'Europe.

Dans une tribune publiée par Le Monde, six ministres des affaires étrangères de l'Union européenne, dont les français et allemand, ont demandé cette semaine au gouvernement syrien et à ses alliés, russes et iraniens, de mettre fin à leur offensive et de revenir aux termes de l'accord de cessez-le-feu de 2018, conclu à Souhî.

LIRE LA SUITE PAGE 35

Coronavirus : l'épidémie se propage en France

► Le nombre de patients infectés par le coronavirus a brusquement augmenté sur le territoire national; il a bondi de 18 à 38 en vingt-quatre heures

► Le nouveau ministre de la santé, Olivier Véran, a indiqué, jeudi 27 février, que la France « était préparée à une épidémie » et que ce bilan pouvait évoluer

► Le foyer le plus important, après le décès d'un enseignant, est désormais dans l'Oise, avec 12 nouveaux cas, dont 3 sur la base militaire de Creil

► Le nombre de nouveaux malades en Chine est désormais moins élevé que dans les autres pays; 746 nouveaux patients ont été détectés dans 53 pays

► La crise sanitaire a maintenu un fort impact économique; les marchés, y compris Wall Street, sont en forte baisse

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Culture
Emilie Delorme, nouvelle ère au Conservatoire

Première femme à diriger le Conservatoire de Paris, Emilie Delorme défend sa nomination dans un entretien au Monde, après la controverse sur ses orientations idéologiques

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idées
L'apologie post-1968 de la pédophilie

Au nom de la libération sexuelle, nombre d'intellectuels, écrivains ou artistes ont défendu la pédophilie après Mai 68. Il a fallu attendre les années 1990 pour que les victimes prennent la parole

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MAGAZINE : SPÉCIAL MODE
L'année 2000, le tournant



► Le début du siècle est aussi celui d'un nouveau départ pour la mode moderne, où ont été posées de nouvelles règles

► La Villa Médicis, toujours sans président, ne s'en porte que mieux
► Alain Carignon, le récidiviste

SUPPLÉMENT

Etats-Unis
Bloomberg à l'assaut de la primaire démocrate

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Justice
Les laborieuses explications de Penelope Fillon

Les juges ont commencé à interroger François Fillon et son épouse, jeudi, à Paris, où s'est ouvert leur procès pour détournement de fonds publics

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Retraites
Jacques Maire, rapporteur LRM, actionnaire d'Axa

Accusé de conflit d'intérêts, le député, qui détenait 400 000 euros d'actions du groupe d'épargne retraite en 2008, a saisi la déontologue de l'Assemblée

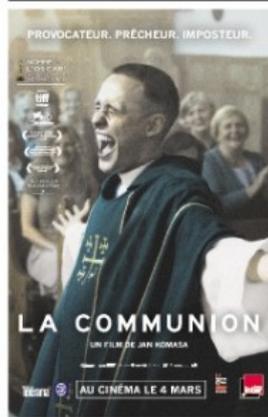
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Education
L'inspection générale évalue la réforme du bac

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Pénurie de main-d'œuvre dans le secteur privé

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LA COMMUNION

UN FILM DE JON ROSSA

AU CINÉMA LE 4 MARS

"Le Monde" : SYRIA : DANGEROUS ESCALATION AROUND IDLIB

"At least 33 Turkish soldiers were killed on Thursday, February 27th in Idlib, northwestern Syria, by Bashar al-Assad's forces, backed by Russian aircraft."

"Ankara in retaliation has bombed Syrian positions and is threatening the Europeans to allow an influx of refugees to the west."

"Nearly 900,000 people, 80 per cent of them women and children, have fled the fighting in the Idlib region since December 2019."



According to the Western press, the tone is rising between Turkish and Russian forces, raising fears of a "dangerous escalation in Idlib". The way in which it treats this subject is in total contradiction with what the actors are saying. This contradiction is an opportunity for us to explain our method of analysis. To make ourselves understood, we will take the example of the "French daily newspaper of reference" (sic), *Le Monde*.

The Franco-German point of view

In its edition dated March 29, 2020, *Le Monde* highlights three points:

1. "the soldiers of Bashar al-Assad" supported by the Russian air force have killed 33 Turkish soldiers;
2. "in reprisal", Ankara bombed the Syrian positions and threatens the Europeans;
3. 900,000 people have fled the fighting in the last three months.

In its editorial, the daily highlights a platform of 14 European foreign ministers, including the French and German, calling on "the Syrian government and its allies, Russia and Iran, to end their offensive and return to the terms of the 2018 ceasefire agreement reached in Sochi".

A disinformation operation

A number of preliminary remarks are in order:

- The Syrian soldiers are not those of Bashar al-Assad, but of the Syrian Arab Republic. President al-Assad is certainly their commander-in-chief, not in his own name but as the democratically elected president by an overwhelming majority of his fellow citizens. It would not occur to any journalist to speak of the French Army as the "Army of Emmanuel Macron".

- The 33 Turkish soldiers who were killed are not the cause of the crisis. It began on February 1st with the assassination in a Turkish ambush of four Russian FSB officers in Aleppo; an event that the French daily never reported on, but which made headlines in the Russian press. Since then, Turkey has multiplied its provocations towards Russia.

- The figure of 900,000 people fleeing the fighting is purely fanciful. Since the beginning of the war against Syria (mid-2012, after the destabilisation of the "Arab Spring"), the Western press has been putting forward frightening figures that are denied by the facts. During the Ghouta crisis, for example, it asserted with aplomb that the number of people imprisoned in the enclave was 10 times greater than the number of people who came out when the jihadists surrendered. In reality, it is not possible in a country at war to compile statistics. They can only be established once peace has returned. No one today is able to quantify the population in the governorate of Idlib.

As if this propaganda were not enough, the editorial highlights a free forum of European ministers (1). The first remark is that there were only 14 signatories and not 27. 13 have refused to join. Moreover, most of the signatories, unhappy that their hands were forced, refrained from having it translated into their language and published at home.

These ministers call on Syria, Russia and Iran to stop their offensive. In the first place, Iran is not participating in this fighting, yet these ministers attribute a responsibility to it and address it. Secondly, these ministers call on Syria not to free its territory from the foreign jihadists whom they, as Europeans, were supporting militarily until recently under the name of "moderate Islamists". Finally, these ministers refer to the Sochi ceasefire which has never been applied by Turkey. Indeed, it provided for it to separate the "Syrian opposition" from the jihadists so that the former could be protected and the latter fought. But here, as elsewhere, there does not seem to be any "Syrian opposition", only jihadists.

The rest of the editorial is a position paper that provides a better understanding of the simplistic thinking of the newspaper. It talks about "the determination of Western democracies, [their] values and [their] ability to translate their ambitions into military action"; the United States which "has



washed its hands of the Syrian problem"; and the paralysis of the Security Council where "Russia, often with the support of China," "systematically" vetoes. In other words: we Europeans are Saints, the United States is Pontius Pilate, Russia and China are Evil.

In passing, *Le Monde* accuses Turkey of threatening "to no longer hold back the refugees from Syria, of whom it already shelters 3.5 million", which is false. Turkey has threatened to no longer hold back its refugees, including not only Syrians, but also the 800,000 people who have fled the Western destruction of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Finally, the editorial ends with an apology for the French position which "is finally beginning to put words to the behaviour of Russian forces (...) guilty of repeated war crimes, also covering up the lies of the Syrian army". People who have endured jihadists, "moderate" anthropophagiacs (sic) and other head cutters for the past eight years will appreciate this.

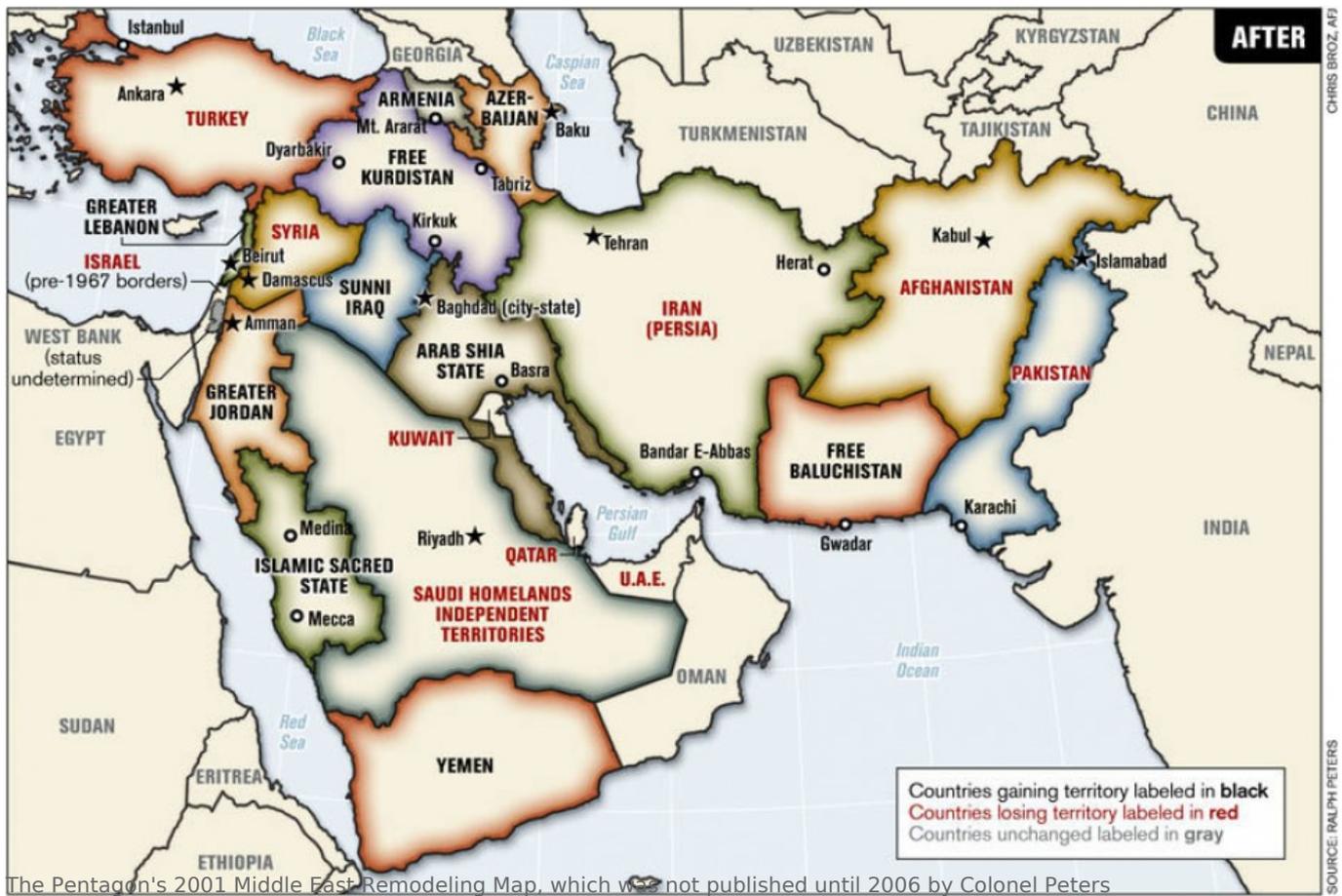
The methodology

Journalism is not about saying what you see (from this point of view, almost everything that *Le Monde* reports here is accurate, except the numbers and responsibilities), but about making it understandable to the public. Which is the exact opposite of what the editorial staff of the "French daily of reference" (re-sic) does. For decades, this newspaper - the image of the ruling class it serves - has deliberately concealed essential information from its readers and biased others.

It is impossible to understand anything without first studying, and studying again, the regional context of events and the history of each actor. As in all sciences, one must constantly question what one believes one has understood and go back to correct one's mistakes. Finally, it goes without saying that during this work one must disregard one's sympathies for one or other of the protagonists.

What *Le Monde* hides from its readers

Let us look back over two decades of incompetence or bad faith: since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has been waging what President Bush called an "endless war", not against enemies, but against a method of combat, terrorism. In Afghanistan (2001), Iraq (2003), Libya (2011), Syria (2012) and Yemen (2015), they had excellent reasons to send money, weapons, mercenaries, and sometimes soldiers to overthrow forces they described as illegitimate. However, it is clear to everyone that far from disappearing, terrorism is on the rise, and wherever they have overthrown an adversary, the situation has only gotten worse.



Since the publication of the Pentagon's map of the "reshaping of the Middle East", all states in the region (except Israel and Jordan, which are not involved) know that their best ally wants to dissect them alive. NATO member Turkey is no exception.

Since its creation, Turkey has had a powerful and efficient administration inherited from the Ottoman Empire. Its population came from the Mongol hordes that invaded the region, and its founder, Mustafa Kemal, was a victorious warlord, so that the army still has greater prestige and power than civilians. This is why the totality of Turkey's foreign policy reversals since it became aware of the US plans is aimed at protecting the country from the voracity of its best ally (2).

The Turkish General Staff is today persuaded - rightly or wrongly, that is not the question - that after having destroyed Syria, the Pentagon is going to attack its homeland, Turkey. In the midst of urgency, panic and despair, it has devised a response consisting in threatening all its NATO allies with imminent catastrophe if they let Turkey be destroyed and offering them another battlefield, as far away as possible, in Libya (3).

Turkey does not know who it is. It contests its borders (Atatürk's national oath) and its history (it denies having practiced the genocide of non-Muslims), but it does not want to die. In panic, it cries, shouts, screams like a cornered child.

The deliberate attacks against Russia (assassination of FSB officers on February 1st, meeting with the head of the Tatar militia, meeting with anti-Russian banditry supporters in Ukraine, clashes with the Russian army in Idlib, shooting at Russian reconnaissance planes, drone attack on the Hmeimim base, arrest of journalists of the Russian press agency in Turkey) are not directed against Moscow (4). They are means of threatening the United States with the worst cataclysm imaginable: a Third World War, if they do not back down.

Threats to launch columns of refugees on the roads of the European Union are not intended to destabilize the EU. They are calls for help: if Turkey is destroyed, these flows of migrants will be



inevitable, so act before it is too late!

If President Erdoğan wanted to go to war with Russia, he would not have taken the initiative to call President Putin on February 4, 12, 21 and 28 and would not have gone out of his way to meet him.

The same President Erdoğan, who is not a military man, but a simple civilian from an Islamist militia, did not say anything other than our analysis on 29 February 2020 to the deputies he had gathered at the Palace of Dolmabahçe (the former residence of the Sultan): 'The real target of the scenario we are facing is not Syria, but Turkey. Those who get what they want in Syria will immediately turn their eyes to Turkey. It is worse than reckless to think that those who have effectively divided Syria into three parts will respect Turkey's territorial integrity.

Obviously, it is not *Le Monde*, which has never ceased to support the colonial ambitions of a certain French elite and to promote a revolution in Syria, that will translate this direct questioning of US strategy.

The choices of the West

With all due respect to the editorial staff of *Le Monde*, the question is not at all the "escalation around Idlib", which can stop instantly, but whether the NATO member states will let Turkey be destroyed or not.

It is time to stop whining about the unfortunate families of jihadists and take responsibility before a new country is crushed.

Thierry Meyssan

Translation: Roger Lagassé

[url2frame=https://www.voltairenet.org/IMG/pdf/209362-A-5.pdf]Extrait du "Monde" du 29 février 2020[/url2frame] (PDF - 1.6 Mb)

(1) [Tribune conjointe de quatorze ministres des Affaires étrangères européens](#) », *Le Monde* (France) , *Réseau Voltaire*, 27 février 2020.

(2) [La Turquie, en quête de puissance](#), par Thierry Meyssan, *Réseau Voltaire*, 11 février 2020.

(3) ["Preparing for a new war"](#), by Thierry Meyssan, Translation Roger Lagassé, *Voltaire Network*, 7 January 2020.

(4) ["Four Russian FSB officers killed by pro-Turkish forces"](#); ["Turkey blows hot and cold on Russia"](#); ["Turkey threatens Syria and indirectly Russia"](#); ["Turkey goes into battle against Russia"](#), *Voltaire Network*, 4, 5 and 28 February 2020.