## Three Lectures by Professor Dr. Dimitri Kitsikis Department of History, University of Ottawa, Fellow, Royal Society of Canada, Honoray President of the Dimitri Kitsikis Public Foundation, Athens delivered at Zhongshan University, Guangzhou (15, 17 and 21 December 2010)

# Remark: For information on the speaker, his biography, bibliography, thought and activity, you may consult the following weblinks:

http://www.idkf.gr

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitri\_Kitsikis

http://www.history.uottawa.ca/faculty/prof\_kitsikis.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermediate\_Region

http://www.intermediateregion.com

## (Important: For the presentation of these three lectures a large wall world map and a blackboard to write on will be needed)

#### The Importance of Greek Language for World Civilization (First Lecture, Zhuhai campus, 15 December 2010)

There are only two world civilizations on this planet i.e. the Chinese and the Greek. All others are just cultures. For each of these two civilizations corresponds one language, the Chinese language for Chinese civilization, the Greek language for the rest of the world (the Intermediate Region and the West). The Greek language, like the Chinese is unique in its writing and its structure because it spans over a period of three thousand years without basically changing. Even though some linguists, influenced by Western linguistic theories have distinguished three main forms of the Greek language, i.e. ancient, Jesus Christ Greek and modern, in fact there is only one Greek from Homer to today. All European languages have as their basis Greek, either directly or through Latin. It is not an exaggeration to say that English or French are Greek dialects.

#### Hellenism versus Helladism (Second lecture, Guangzhou southern campus,17 December 2010)

Greece like China is not primarily a nation-state but a civilization and more specifically a world civilization. We use the word Hellenism to refer to this world civilization and Helladism to refer to the present day nation-state with its capital, Athens. This state is a relatively recent phenomenon (since 1821) and many Greeks belonging to the so-called Eastern Party consider it an anomaly, detrimental to Hellenism and would like to see it abolished, something like the state of Taiwan. The Eastern Party would like to see the lands of the present Greek state reintegrate the Empire that was pulled down by the Western imperialist states in the period 1918-1923 (about the same time the Chinese Empire fell in 1912) in the form of a Greek-Turkish Confederation or even a communist empire in the form of a "Soviet Union" between the Adriatic Sea and China. The Empire which had at its center the Hellenic-Roman civilization and formed the "Romeosyne" was united before Christ under an emperor, in the same period about than the Chinese Empire was united by the First Emperor of China. The emperor of the Greek Empire was Alexander the Great, the lands of which spanned from the Adriatic Sea to China. This Empire lasted about the same time than the Chinese Empire, i.e from the 4th century BC to 1918-23 AD. The name of this Empire changed, depending on the dynasties, in the same way the Chinese Empire was called with different names depending on the ruling dynasties. The Greek Empire was called Hellenistic, then Roman (pagan), then Roman (Christian or Byzantine), then Ottoman (Roman or Alevi-Bektashi) up to its demise. Hellenism, still today, is at the basis of the so-called Western Civilization and since the 15th century AD through expansionism (imperialism) has covered the whole planet.

### Greek Geopolitics: The Intermediate Region (Third Lecture, Guangzhou eastern campus, 21 December 2010)

Eurasia is divided today between three civilizations: the Chinese civilization, the Western civilization and, in between, the civilization of the Intermediate Region, spanning from the Adriatic Sea to China and from Siberia to North Africa. Up to the 15th century AD there were only two civilizations in Eurasia: China and the Intermediate Region which comprised also present day Western Europe. With the Italian Renaissance, from the Intermediate Region was gradually detached a new civilization which became the present day 500 year long so called Western civilization. Like China, the Intermediate Region had at its center a single political entity, the Empire, which continuously defended itself from the intrusion of the peripheral Barbarians. The Empire being ecumenical in theory i.e. universal, neither China nor the Intermediary Region could be understood as being expansionist (imperialistic). It is characteristic of this reality that the only two Empires that were confronted with what they called the Barbarians are the Chinese and the Greek (Roman).