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THE PROSPECTS OF THE BALTIC-BLACK SEA COOPERATION

The region from the Baltic to the Black Sea is situated in the very center of Eurasia (in geopolitical meaning you see, not geographic). It occupies the territories of 16 countries of the Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Minor Asia.

Three civilizations are interacting on this territory – they are Western, Slavian-Orthodox and Islamic. That is why this area is can be considered as a bridge between those civilizations. Therefore, this region is strategically important. About it Halford Mackinder wrote. Do you remember his famous formula: “he, who controls Eastern Europe, controls Heartland; he, who controls Heartland, controls World island; he, who controls World island, controls whole world”.

Speaking about important strategic location of the region, we would like to emphasize the fact that very significant transport ways lie here.

There are many subregional organization in the Baltic-Black Sea region. Most of them have been formed by the West. This statement has mainly to do with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), established on the 5-6-th of March, 1992. All Baltic states became the members of this pact. The leading role in this organization belongs to Germany and Scandinavian countries. For this reason we can explain its dependence on the European Unity.

It is interesting, that simultaneously with this pact in the Baltic Sea region, in the Black Sea area a similar organization was established – the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), on the 25-th of June, 1992.

If we try to compare these pacts, we can reveal several interesting peculiarities:

1. The synchronic formation of the CBSS (the 5-6-th of March) and the BSEC (the 25-th of June) 1992.
2. The location of these organizations is extremely important regions of the Baltic and the Black Sea.
3. Economic, political and financial influence of the EU on these unions.

Thus, around Western economic and security structures an attempt to organize zone of “friendly” countries is being made. And the nearer to the borders of the EU, the closer cooperation between the states and the EU. In this case the CBSS and the BSEC are strong points on the Baltic and the Black Sea. They are weak yet, but continuing to strengthen their positions (in particular it is visible on the Baltic Sea). Obviously, that on the area from the Baltic to the Black Sea are being prepared the basis for larger organization (may be for the Baltic-Black Sea Cooperation). And if there is such union, the conditions for the control over Heartland and trade ways of the region will appear.

In other words, the proponents of Atlantism are trying to isolate Russia, using different organizations like NATO, the EU and others. For this reason the area from the Baltic to the Black Sea can become a barrier between civilizations.

Idea of the BBSC based on abounds in organizations in the region. This union is necessary to consolidate the success of Atlantism in the Heartland. But, evidently, the unification of very different countries is impossible.