

reasoning behind the juxtaposition of ideologies, mentalities and behaviours is left unexplained. Even if one makes allowances for the fact that the author himself repeatedly mentions that he is merely sketching out the problems involved in a particular topic, one still feels cheated by the speed at which the author glosses over important, complex issues such as, for example, the wounded pride of the Greeks, an interesting new category he introduces only to skate over it in three or four pages. The level of study of the Greek nineteenth century demands more thorough investigations. One can only hope that the author, true to the Dimaras style, will enlarge on this first approach with a more thorough and systematic work in the near future.

Alexander KITROEFF
New York University

PARIS ARNOPOULOS, *MEDITERRANEAN 2000*,
VOLUME 1, ATHENS, FOUNDATION FOR
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES, 1992, P. 206

The aim of this book as mentioned in its prologue is “to look into the position of the Mediterranean region in a global perspective and try to forecast its prospects by the year 2000”. The book is written by Paris Arnopoulos, but it is the result of research conducted by an interdisciplinary team under the auspices of the Athens based Foundation for Mediterranean Studies. It is divided in three chapters. The first chapter deals with the theoretical framework and presents a model for the study of social systems. The second chapter presents the regional aspects of the Mediterranean world. The third chapter focuses on the economic, cultural and political prospects of the region.

The Mediterranean has been the centre of various civilizations and has a history of more than five thousand years. The Mediterranean world exerted considerable influence on humanity via the Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian and Arab-Islamic cultures.

Furthermore the Mediterranean region qualifies as an international system for three thousand years from a territorial, historical and structural-functional point of view. The author of this study poses the question “whether it will continue to maintain its distinct identity in the face of the revolutionary changes which the world is undergoing presently.”

In order to answer this question, the author proceeds with “a geohistorical model of general systems theory, especially constructed for this purpose”.

The introduction of a model together with the Delphi technique, enabled the research team to investigate the region as a case study of the Mediterranean world. It's a futuristic investigation which tries to present an overall perspective

of the area in a global context.

The thematic dimension of the model is organized around the three sectors of the social system: economy, culture and polity. In each of these sections the contents are functionally, geographically and historically correlated.

The results of this study may be synthesized as follows:

- the Mediterranean, even today with the centres of the world shifting beyond Europe, remains still "the most important region of the world" from a geopolitical perspective

- nevertheless, from the historical perspective, ("as the cradle of western civilization") the Mediterranean has lost "its centrality in the contemporary world"

- finally one has to note the gap between the countries of the European Union the northern pole of the Mediterranean - and the southern half of the littoral. The author goes further speaking of a "European neo-colonialism" which in the third Millennium might dominate the region's southern half.

There is no doubt that this study is very interesting in that it paints the portrait of a historical region as it evolves towards the third millenium. The theoretical model is also interesting but as the author noted its application "required extensive and contemporary statistical data", that unfortunately were "either incomplete, incorrect, or outdated, making a scientific study almost impossible".

Under these circumstances one may question the specific results of the study. Nevertheless the conclusions of this research seem to correspond to the general picture of the area which we have from various other sources. In addition to the imperfect data, the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, intercommunal conflict in the area and the rise of muslim integrism may change by the turn of the century the whole picture presented in the study. But of course, as the author indicates in his conclusion - and this will always be the weak point of any futuristic study - "reality is not simply deterministic but contains various chaotic elements..." permitting a future always "open ended and full of surprises which no one can predict".

Stephanos CONSTANTINIDES
Département de science politique
Université du Québec à Montréal