

From: "A.D. Dirkzwager" <djatiro@me.com>

Subject: From Amsterdam with love

Date: 10 May 2022 at 21:37:14 CEST

To: "Faysal M. El Khalil" <faysal.elkhalil@continentalbeverages.com>

My dear Faysal,

Today I have sent the booklet 'Falling Waters' to your address in Lebanon. Let me know when it has arrived.

Much water must flow through the Nile before all the weaknesses of the state of Lebanon are strengthened.

For your consideration a few limited thoughts to put Humpty Dumpty together again. Much love to you and **May** from both of us, Vera & Adriaan. PS. Yes, Feisal, you are locked in Vera's long memory.

Re weaknesses: C, D & E: I commend you to read (the 10th May) article in the NYT about Elvira Nabiullina, the Russian Central Bank president, which I sealed in the envelope.

Re weakness H: A high profile international conference should be convened to discuss the political requirements to change Lebanon into the Switzerland of the Middle East as an objective.

Theses:

The stability of a nation is determined by a thriving middle class.

The stability of a nation is determined by good governance

It is important for the stability of a State that the State is the only entity that has a controlled monopoly on violence.

The stability of the nation is determined by enlighten leadership.

I am missing a financial chapter in the SWOT analysis.

To repair the weaknesses, a multi-year plan will have to be drawn up with a convincing financial substantiation.

Mustafa Kemal Pasha until 1934, commonly referred to as Mustafa Kemal **Atatürk**; 1881 – 10 November 1938) was a Turkish field marshal, revolutionary statesman, author, and the founding father of the Republic of Turkey, serving as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938. (He was elected president four times.) He undertook sweeping progressive reforms, which modernized Turkey into a secular, industrializing nation. Ideologically a secularist and nationalist, his policies and theories became known as **Kemalism**. Due to his military and political accomplishments, Atatürk is regarded as one of the most important political leaders of the 20th century.

As for Lebanon's **SWOT analysis**, I will offer you my brief analysis:

Strength:

1. The people, entrepreneurial, well educated, resilient.
2. The country has a good climate, (culture/tourism)
3. Excellent educational systems
4. Excellent health systems) Freedom of speech.
5. A multi-religious democracy.

Weakness:

1. A corrupt governance.
2. Lack of accountability.
3. Failing economy and
4. High inflation.
5. Banking system under serious threat.
6. Judiciary compromised, (no prospect of foreign investment. ADD)
7. Our geography has placed us within a very bad neighbourhood.
8. Non state actors (Hezbollah) has hijacked the country, etc....
9. Negative outcome of coming election to agree and implement reforms.
(this is a consequence; not a weakness. ADD)

Opportunity

- Our parliamentary elections are taking place on May 15 which hopefully will usher in new and honest members. If the new Cabinet can implement the required reforms, fresh funds will flow in from the IMF and other European countries to support the badly needed infra-structure and other vital projects. (this cannot be listed as an opportunity, but only as a consequence. ADD)
- Lebanon to exploit its gas-reserves. (what about solar energy? ADD)
- Others ? Agriculture/ tourism What else?

Threat

1. Iran through Hezbollah tightens its grip upon Lebanon.
2. ?
3. ?