

COSTAS KOLIOPOULOS

**FROM IMPERIAL
BACKWATER TO STRATEGIC
MINEFIELD: THE
MEDITERRANEAN & THE EU**

A HISTORICAL ANALOGY: ROME

- A PERSISTENT GREAT POWER IN THE EAST (PARTHIA, PERSIA) – BUT SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED
- COLLAPSE CAME FROM THE NORTH/NORTHEAST (GERMANS, GOTHS)

THE IMPERIAL BACKWATER

- EU ALWAYS FAIRLY ACTIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
- EASTERN EUROPE ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP

GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

EVOLVING CONTEXT

- EU ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE
- EUROZONE CRISIS
- ARAB SPRING
- PARTIAL US WITHDRAWAL (?)
- BREXIT

THE STRATEGIC MINEFIELD

- LOCAL CONFLICTS (TURKEY AND HER NEIGHBORS) **PARTIALLY CONTAINED** – BY THE USA
- TERRORISM (OVERBLOWN BUT PERNICIOUS) **UNCONTAINED**
- POPULATION MOVEMENTS (IDENTITY CRISIS) **UNCONTAINED**

CONCLUSION

- RUSSIA: HUGE (IF REALLY A THREAT TO THE EU), **BUT CONTAINED BY THE USA**
- MEDITERRANEAN THREATS: LOWER INTENSITY, BUT POTENTIALLY **DEVASTATING BECAUSE UNCONTAINED**