

# Future Tense – Erdogan’s Gambit In Syria And The Middle East

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## Teaser

I will drive you nuts by writing on “future tense” as you are more familiar with “past tense”.

- Simple Future Tense.
- Future Continuous Tense.
- Future Perfect Tense.
- Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

## Examples of Simple Future Tense:

- I will meet him later
- You will come
- She will be late
- We will get married in September

It is rather simple as illustrated above and when you do not have your head between your legs!

**Malaysians, why do you think I started my article with the Teaser?**

Know the past and you will understand the present better and hopefully pre-empt the future.

**I will help you join the dots if and when you complete reading the article.**

Read carefully, at the minimum, five times:

**“The Pentagon’s New Map”** by Thomas PM Barnett (2004)  
**“Blue Print for Action”** by Ditto (2005)

## You Need To Know History

Thomas Barnett’s opening words of his book “The Pentagon’s New Map” still haunts me,

*“When the Cold War ended, we thought the world had changed. It had – but not in the way we thought. When the Cold War ended, our real challenge began. The United States had spent so much energy during the years trying to prevent the horror of global war that it forgot the dream of global peace. As far as Pentagon strategists were concerned, America’ status as the world’s sole military superpower was something to preserve, not something to exploit, and because the future was unknowable, they assumed we needed to hedge against all possibilities, all threats, and all futures. America was better served adopting a wait-and-see strategy, they decided, one that assumed some grand enemy would arise in the distant future. It was better than wasting precious resources trying to manage a messy world in the near term. **The grand strategy ...***

**was to avoid grand strategies .... We are still searching for a vision to replace the decades-long containment strategy that America pursued to counter the Soviet threat. Since September 11, at least we have an enemy to attach to all the “chaos” and “uncertainty, but that still leaves us describing horrible futures to be prevented, not positive ones to be created.”**

In his follow-up book, “The Blueprint for Action” Thomas Barnett wrote,

*“... so many readers cracked the Code of the first book: the implied blueprint for action is simply so much larger than anything the Defence Department can manage. That was the book’s great limitation: it explained the world’s fundamental dynamics – or rule sets that govern globalisation – as viewed from the military outward, and many non-military readers were left wondering how they and their communities could join this larger effort to reshape the international security environment upon which all economic activity and political stability ultimately depend. **Some readers, too, had difficulties with points regarding the use of force, believing that no discussion of peace can ever admit rationales for war. In reality, of course, security is necessary, but never sufficient for lasting peace.**”*

*“The world needs to play catch-up, so to speak. We need to make sure our security rule sets match our growing network connectivity, and that our political rule sets keep pace with our economic transactions. We need balance, pure and simple, not moving ahead any faster than the slowest among us can manage. **And not waging wars without waging peace – lest our victories prove illusory.**”*

*“None of what this book advocates will be easy, but all is feasible **if we stop treating great powers as rivals and start treating them as equals in desire, if not capabilities.** America has created many new rules since 9/11, but the only ones that matters in the end are those recognised by other nations and taken up as their own. **Globalisation comes with rules but not a ruler. We may propose but never impose, because the difference between the leader and the led, is not merely their competing visions of power but the power of their competing visions...**”*

You are now in the proper frame of mind to read the rest of the article.

### **Turkey’s Ambitions**

Zbigniew Brezezinski in his book “The Choice” gave a succinct history of Turkey,

*“Turkey has been America’s ally for half a century. It earned America’s trust and gratitude by its direct participation in the Korean War. It has proven to be NATO’s solid and reliable southern anchor.... It energetically promoted itself as a relevant model of political development and social modernisation for those Central Asian states whose people largely fall within the radius of the Turkic culture and linguistic traditions. In that respect, Turkey’s significant strategic role has been complementary to America’s policy of reinforcing the new independence of the region’s post-Soviet states.”*

Brezzezinski further observed,

*“The Europeans have reluctantly favoured Turkey’s inclusion in the European Union largely to avoid a serious regression in the country’s political development ... from a state guided by Ataturk’s vision of a European-type society into an increasing theocratic Islamic one would adversely affect Europe’s security.... **It is likely therefore, that the European Union will delay for as long as it can, a clear-cut commitment to open its doors to Turkey – but that prospect in turn will breed Turkish resentment, increasing the risk that Turkey might evolve into a resentful Islamic state, with potentially dire consequences for southern Europe.**”*

*“The other major liability limiting Turkey’s role is the Kurdistan issue... Kurdish nationalists claim a population of 20 million, which they say aspires to live in an independent Kurdistan that would*

*unite all the Kurds currently living under Turkish, Syrian, Iraqi, and Iranian domination. Whatever the actual facts the Kurdish ethnic problem and the potential Islamic issue tend to make Turkey - notwithstanding its constructive role as a regional model - also very much a part of the region's basic dilemmas."*

### Malaysian, why do you think I chose "Choice"?

Not forgetting Israel's standpoint, it has been asserted that the American-Arab ties are disadvantageous to Israel as they would limit the degree to which the United States is prepared to back Israel's territorial aspirations and the need to be sensitive to Arab grievances against Israel. However, it cannot be denied that Israel's Gaza genocide and adventurism in Syria have changed the above reservations as the US had backed Israel to the hilt!

The Guardian newspaper opined that the US has a choice: domination through force, which can ultimately never ensure security or leadership of a global interdependent community. The recent events have demonstrated that the US has chosen the former to maintain its global hegemony.

### Malaysians, why do you think I chose the Guardian Newspaper?

What will be Erdogan's next strategic move on the geopolitical chessboard?

The Maps below illustrate the competing power visions:





As at 1914 before WWI and before the division created by the Sykes-Picot Agreeent 1916



I quote from Britannica:

*In the midst of World War I the question arose of what would happen to the Ottoman territories if the war led to the disintegration of "the sick man of Europe." The Triple Entente moved to secure their respective interests in the region. They had agreed in the March 1915 Constantinople Agreement to give Russia Constantinople (Istanbul) and areas around it, which would provide access to the Mediterranean Sea. France, meanwhile, had a number of economic investments and strategic relationships in Syria, especially in the area of Aleppo, while Britain wanted secure access to India through the Suez Canal and the Persian Gulf. **It was out of a***



**need to coordinate British and French interests in these regions that the Sykes-Picot Agreement was born.**

Its provisions were as follows: (1) Russia should acquire the Armenian provinces of Erzurum, Trebizond (Trabzon), Van, and Bitlis, with some Kurdish territory to the southeast; (2) France should acquire Lebanon and the Syrian littoral, Adana, Cilicia, and the hinterland adjacent to Russia's share, that hinterland including Aintab, Urfa, Mardin, Diyarbakır, and Mosul; (3) Great Britain should acquire southern Mesopotamia, including Baghdad, and also the Mediterranean ports of Haifa and Acre; (4) between the French and the British acquisitions there should be a confederation of Arab states or a single independent Arab state, divided into French and British spheres of influence; (5) Alexandretta (İskenderun) should be a free port; and (6) Palestine, because of the holy places, should be under an international regime.

The British point of view is stated by Britannica as follows:

*The pact excited the ambitions of Italy, to whom it was communicated in August 1916, after the Italian declaration of war against Germany, with the result that it had to be supplemented, in April 1917, by the Agreement of Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne, whereby Great Britain and France promised southern and south-western Anatolia to Italy. **The defection of Russia from the war cancelled the Russian aspect of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the Turkish Nationalists' victories after the military collapse of the Ottoman Empire led to the gradual abandonment of any Italian projects for Anatolia.***

*The Arabs, however, who had learned of the Sykes-Picot Agreement through the publication of it, together with other secret treaties of imperial Russia, by the Soviet Russian government late in 1917, were scandalized by it. This secret arrangement conflicted in the first place with pledges already given by the British to the Hashemite dynast Hussein ibn Ali, sharif of Mecca, during the Hussein McMahon Correspondence (1915–16). **Based on the understanding that the Arabs would eventually receive independence, Hussein had brought the Arabs of the Hejaz into revolt against the Turks in June 1916.***

*Despite the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the British still appeared to support Arab self-determination at first, helping Hussein's son Faisal and his forces press into Syria in 1918 and establish a government in Damascus. In April 1920, however, the Allied powers agreed to divide governance of the region into separate Class "A" mandates at the Conference of San Remo, along lines similar to those agreed upon under the Sykes-Picot Agreement. **The borders of these mandates split up Arab lands and ultimately led to the modern borders of Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.***

*Even though the borders of the mandates were not determined until several years after the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the fact that the deal set the framework for these borders stoked lingering resentment well into the 21st century. Pan-Arabists opposed splitting up the mostly Arab-populated territories into separate countries, which they considered to be little more than imperialist impositions. Moreover, the borders split up other contiguous populations, like the Kurds and the Druze, and left them as minority populations in several countries, depriving their communities of self-determination altogether. Moments of political turmoil were often met with declarations of "the end of Sykes-Picot," such as the establishment of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq in 1992 or the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and the State (ISIS) in 2014. Meanwhile, the Sykes-Picot Agreement is often criticized together with the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence and the Balfour Declaration as contradictory promises made by Britain to France, the Arabs, and the Zionist movement.*

**Malaysians, why do you think I chose Britannica?**

## **Tutorial**

Analyse which categories of “Future Tense” applies to the evolving geopolitical landscape:

- Simple Future Tense.
- Future Continuous Tense.
- Future Perfect Tense.
- Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

Now, Malaysians can hopefully, join some of the dots.

**I am not ever surprised that the British Imperialists and their Deep State have such contempt for our intellectual capabilities. We think we are “superior” but we are intellectual pigmies, arse-lickers!**

**We are so fractured and at the bottom of the shit hole and yet, we have not the foggiest idea as to how we got to the bottom and not even able to know how to get out of the damned shit-hole.**

**F#@KED!!!!**

We are over the precipice already!

Wake up!

