

CHAPTER

5

GREECE AND THE ENERGY GEOPOLITICS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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Introduction

Since ancient times, the Mediterranean, various civilizations, and empires in the region, have struggled in various ways to dominate the seas in the Mediterranean trade and to retain their power and fertile lands. Over time, the importance of the Mediterranean, especially the Levant Basin, the east of the Mediterranean, has increased due to its geostrategic position, and has witnessed the struggle of many empires to rule the world, as it is considered one of the commercial centres of the world.

We know that in the century we live, the welfare, economy and sustainable development of countries depend on energy and energy resources, that is why the concept of energy is an inevitable resource for countries. One of the biggest turning points in the world history is the Industrial Revolution experienced in the 18th century, which brought a rapid mechanization with the technology moves caused the power struggle carried out with the muscle power up to that time to a different dimension and has made us increasingly dependent on energy today.

As the world, which uses coal as an energy source in time, started to use oil and gas as an energy source, various oil and gas resource locations have been explored all over the world. “So, has the Mediterranean changed over time in the context of international relations? And now, there is increasing global interest in the Eastern Mediterranean region, which today plays a more important role in world politics than the beginning of the post-Cold War era” (Tziarras Z. , 2019). “The discovery of hydrocarbon deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean has created new dynamics in the field of geo-economy and can act as a catalyst for stability and cooperation or conflict” (Tziarras Z. , 2019).

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the difference in all its details, it has several geopolitical indicators such as state competition and conflict” (Hayes, 2006), “and it is an essential factor in several international issues such as the Arab Spring, the spread of radical Islam, international terrorism and the danger of nuclear reproduction” (Tsardanidis, 2019).

Greece needs an active policy strategy for the interests of Greece due to its geostrategic position and location. This should be implemented in line with all its regional interests, and this strategy should become the doctrine of Greek foreign policy, considering all possible alternatives to face forces acting against the interests of Greece.

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