

## CHAPTER

# 1

## HYDROCARBON ENERGY RESOURCES AND NAVAL FORCES OF LITTORAL STATES IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Mücahit ŞİŞLIOĞLU<sup>1</sup>

### The Importance and Usage of Energy Throughout the Human History

Along with the Industrial Revolution, the need of energy has exponentially increased. At the present time, total energy usage per capita became one of the most popular indicators of the civilization. At the end of the 19th century, hydrocarbon energy resources started to gain importance. The biggest percentage is in the oil with 33.1%, but for the last 50 years' natural gas has come to the fore with 24.20%. So, expectations show that this trend will go on in the near future.

In Table 1, global fuel shares of primary energy resources and their shares as a percentage of total energy in 2019 are presented. As it is observed from the Table, oil and gas are the main energy sources with a total share of 57.30% (BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2020).

Energy source	Consumption (exajoules)	Annual change (exajoules)	Share of primary energy	Percentage point change in share from 2018
Oil	193.00	-1.60	33.10 %	-0.20%
Gas	141.50	2.80	24.20 %	0.20 %
Coal	157.90	-0.90	27.00 %	-0.50 %
Renewables	29.00	3.20	5.00 %	0.50 %
Hydro	37.60	0.30	6.40 %	0.00 %
Nuclear	24.90	0.80	4.30 %	0.10 %
Total	583.90	7.70	100.00 %	0.13 %

<sup>1</sup> Asst. Prof. Istanbul Kent University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, International Trade and Logistics Department. [mucahit.sislioglu@kent.edu.tr](mailto:mucahit.sislioglu@kent.edu.tr)

- The discoveries of new natural gas fields since the 2000s additionally have complicated relations among states in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- As Brenda Shaffer rightfully asserts, “gas discoveries have done little to promote peace in the region.” On the contrary, these findings have increased the likelihood of conflict in the region, as disputes over the delineation of maritime borders arose in the Eastern Mediterranean. Especially after the Greek Cypriots issued the so-called EEZ on their own and awarded drilling rights to international companies without the consent of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, this situation naturally increased tensions in the Mediterranean.
- Geo-political and geo-economic rivalry among the external great powers is bringing negative spillover effects to coastal states.
- The construction of new pipelines like the proposed EastMed project that aim to exclude Turkey will not contribute to peace in the region. Russia is more likely to stand against it together with Turkey so as not to lose its European gas export hegemony.
- It would more beneficial to concentrate on conflict prevention in the Mediterranean basin rather than promoting so-called ‘peace pipelines’ like the EastMed project that exclude both Turkey and the TRNC. Otherwise, the current gunboat diplomacy will simply raise tensions among actors in Mediterranean geo-politics which will likely lead to a lose-lose scenario (Güney, 2019).

## REFERENCES

- Ahronheim, A. (2018). Israel’s navy tests new long-range heavy torpedo. *The Jerusalem Post*. 19 June 2018, Retrieved June 26, 2020 from <https://www.jpost.com/>
- Anadolu Agency, (2018). Egyptian defense minister meets with Greek counterpart. 19 April 2018. Retrieved June 14, 2020 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe>
- Başeren, S., H. (2010). *Dispute over Eastern Mediterranean maritime jurisdiction areas*. (1st edition) İstanbul: TÜDAV.
- BP Report, (2019). BP statistical review of world energy 2020. June 2020. Retrieved June 28, 2020, from <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2019-full-report.pdf>
- Daily News Egypt, (2016). Egypt is only Middle East country to own Mistral helicopter carriers: Navy commander. 8 October 2016. Retrieved June 28, 2020 from <https://www.dailynewss-egypt.com/>
- EDR ON-LINE, (2018). Israel shipyards competes for Saab 4.5 class replacement. 01 November 2018. Retrieved June 21, 2020 from <https://www.edrmagazine.eu/>
- European Parliament Study, (2017). *Energy: a shaping factor for regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean?* June 2017. Directorate-General for External Policies, Policy Department
- Global Security, (2020). *Combattante FS56*. 28 January 2020. Retrieved June 28 2020 from <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/>
- Güney, N. A. (2019). *New balance of power in the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey*. Center for

- Strategic Research. No:17, June 2019.
- Gürdeniz, C. (2020). From the blue homeland, to the high seas. Turkey SeaNews, International Shipping Magazine, 03 June 2020, <https://www.seanews.com.tr/>
- Hürriyet Daily News, (2014). Turkish Navy authorized over oil crisis with Greek Cyprus.,09 November 2014, Retrieved June 30, 2020, from <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/>
- International Energy Agency (IEA), (2019). World Energy Outlook 2019. November 2019. Retrieved June 26, 2020, from <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2019>
- Mevlütöğlü, A., (2019). Naval balance of power in the Eastern Mediterranean. Defence Turkey, Volume: 14, Issue 95. <https://www.defenceturkey.com/>
- OIES, (2017). The Oxford energy report for Turkey. April 2017. Retrieved June 26, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIES-Energy-Insight.pdf>.
- State Information Service, (2019). Defense ministers of Egypt, Greece, Cyprus witness main stage of Medusa 8 drills. 19 April 2019. Retrieved June 23, 2020 from <https://www.sis.gov.tr/>
- Sünnetçi, İ. (2019). Gas conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean and the role of Turkish Naval Forces in protecting Turkey's sovereignty rights. Defence Turkey, Volume: 14, Issue 95. <https://www.defenceturkey.com/>
- The Greek Observer, (2018). Hellenic Navy's exercise carries on as normal in the Aegean for second day. 15 February 2018. Retrieved June 23, 2020 from <https://thegreekobserver.com/blog/2018/02/15>
- Turkish Naval Forces, 2019. Bilgi Notu, BN-1696/2019. 25 May 2019. Retrieved June 28, 2020 from <https://www.dzkk.tsk.tr/>
- WTO Data Turkey, (2019). Merchandise imports by product group – annual. Retrieved June 22, 2020, from <https://timeseries.wto.org/>
- OIES, (2017). The Oxford energy report for Turkey. April 2017. Retrieved June 26, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIES-Energy-Insight.pdf>.