

CHAPTER

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WHILE NATO SHOW OFF ENERGY SECURITY VIA SECURITIZATION, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IS IN NODUS BUT TURKEY?

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Introduction

Countries particularly Turkey, Greece, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Gaza, Egypt, Libya, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and South Cyprus are neighbouring with their opposite and adjacent coastal coasts in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Eastern Mediterranean has geostrategic, geopolitical and geoeconomic importance since its history. Indeed, it is the cradle of Eastern Mediterranean, Asia, Europe and Africa. There are important Northern-Southern and Western-Eastern routes such as the Modern Silk Road, the Suez Canal of the Red Sea, the Dardanelles Strait of Turkey, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Arabian Gulf or the Indian suburb of the Red Sea. “In addition, international terrorism and nuclear arms were included in the regional policies as a security issue” (Inbar, 2014). In fact, the rise of Turkey as a regional power is produced the maritime security in Eastern Mediterranean despite of the excessive claims of Greece and Greek Cypriot Administration (GCA) have created a suspicion, blurry and insecurity in the region. Essentially, the latest developments on the energy discoveries creates tit for tat as political revisionism in the region.

Discovery and suspected oil and natural gas deposits on the coasts of Israel, Gaza, Egypt and Southern Cyprus have also triggered the struggle to become an energy hub in the region. In other words, the claim that the Eastern Mediterranean is not only an energy corridor but also a center with rich oil and natural gas reserves has contributed to an alternative route to Europe’s energy security. “The total energy reserve is equal to 30 billion barrels of oil, which is worth about \$ 1.5 trillion.” (Göksel,2014). “The lack of capital and technology in the development

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perceived some threats against energy security by its members. The latest energy discoveries affect the NATO's energy security policy in Eastern Mediterranean. It makes a possible to prioritize energy security as a hard security issue. In this case Turkey may be dominant actor in the region, because of Turkey and NATO consistently acting in good faith and common interests. Additionally, Turkey simultaneously exercised the "Blue Homeland" operation in accordance to the NATO's regulations in Mediterranean, Aegean and Black Sea during 27 February-8 March in 2019. That is much larger participation, practiced with local production warships that produced by MILGEM. Turkey as an NATO member has an important role in maintaining stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean. The logical way to laying cables and pipelines via Turkey to Europe would be preventive conflict step against excessive claims by Greece/GCAs and other related Parties. For de-escalation the tension in the region, cooperation with Turkey is necessary. Although, respecting the Turkish maritime jurisdictions can only promotes the stability and security. Greece and GCA should give up their piracy policy over the maritime zones of Turks.

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