This book focuses on the contemporary situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, which has become one of the main spotlights of international politics. Especially after the discovery of hydrocarbon resources, the Eastern Mediterranean has been in the agenda of both regional and global powers. While regional actors such as Egypt, Israel, and Greece are attempting political maneuvers in order to benefit from the hydrocarbon resources, international actors such as the United States and Russia have become increasingly more engaged in the affairs of the region. In response to emerging partnerships and coalitions, Turkey, which has the longest shore in the Eastern Mediterranean, has adopted a pro-active policy to defend its rights and interests. This book examines political, legal, and economic dimensions of the Eastern Mediterranean and brings a new insight to the recent developments and the Turkey’s policy in the region.
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND TURKEY’S RIGHTS
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CONTENTS

PART ONE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND TURKEY

MAIN PARAMETERS OF TURKEY’S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY 9
Kemal İnat, Burhanettin Duran

PART TWO
THE POLITICAL DIMENSION
OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

THE CYPRUS DISPUTE: THE PREREQUISITE FOR
THE SOLUTION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEM 33
Muhittin Ataman, Mehmet Çağatay Güler

POWER STRUGGLE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
FROM PAST TO PRESENT 59
İsmail Ediz

WESTERN POLICIES ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 93
Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney

BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 125
Melih Yıldız
PART THREE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND LAW

TURKEY’S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW 163
Buşra Zeynep Özdemir

THE CONCEPT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, ITS DELIMITATION AND THE DISPUTE OVER THE MARITIME ZONES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA 189
Yücel Acer

THE EFFECT OF ISLANDS ON MARITIME DELIMITATION AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 225
Nasih Sarp Ergüven

A SOLUTION PROPOSAL TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEM: JOINT DEVELOPMENT 245
Mustafa Başkara

PART FOUR
ECONOMY AND ENERGY

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMIES AND TURKEY 273
Erdal Tanas Karagöl

POSSIBLE TRANSFER ROUTES OF ENERGY SOURCES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 299
İsmail Kavaz

TURKEY’S HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION AND DRILLING POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 319
Yunus Furuncu
ONE

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND TURKEY
MAIN PARAMETERS OF TURKEY’S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

KEMAL İNAT*  
BURHANETTİN DURAN**

INTRODUCTION

Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy is shaped by a number of factors. The importance of this region, which has become more featured in Turkish foreign policy in recent years, is increasing for Turkey, primarily in terms of security. Turkey’s security is being affected directly by not only the Cyprus problem, but also the ongoing conflicts and struggles in Syria, Libya and Palestine. Developments in Lebanon and Egypt also affect Turkey’s security, though indirectly. The policies of global actors such as the United States (U.S.), Russia, and the European Union (EU) towards the Eastern Mediterranean closely concern Turkey’s security. The U.S., which has long been the most predominant international actor in the Middle East, is the first country that Ankara considers when forming policies regarding all Eastern Mediterranean problems, especially towards Palestine, Syria, and Egypt. Turkey takes Russia into account when determining its policies in Syria and Libya. The EU, due to the membership of Greece and the Greek Administration of Southern Cyprus (GASC), harshly criticizes Turkey’s policies in the Eastern Mediterranean.

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The economy is also a constant consideration for decision makers when determining Turkey’s policy towards the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey, which is dependent on foreign energy, regards the rich hydrocarbon potential of this region important in terms of meeting its energy needs. Through discovering new resources in its continental shelf and cooperating with new energy suppliers that will emerge in this region, Turkey can extricate itself from dependency on countries like Russia regarding natural gas.

In addition to the security and economic concerns, the Eastern Mediterranean basin also has a historical significance for Turkey, warranting constant attention. Because all countries in the region were ruled from Istanbul for centuries under the Ottoman rule, there is a special bond between Turkey and these countries. Turkey’s close interest in the civil wars in Libya and Syria, as well as its objections to the injustices in Palestine and Egypt, can be explained with these historical ties, alongside other factors.

It should also be underlined that the decision-makers shaping Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy have always taken international law into account. Turkey has always defended legality and acted in line with international law in all steps it has taken in the region, i.e., while making an agreement of restricting maritime jurisdiction with the legitimate Tripoli Government in Libya, while sending military troops to Libya in response to the call of that legitimate government, while opposing the Israeli occupation in Palestine, while refusing to recognize the bloody coup in Egypt led by General Sisi, while objecting to GASC’s unilateral steps of commercializing the island’s natural riches without consideration of the rights of Turks in the North, while opposing the massacres committed by the Assad regime and Russia towards civilians in Syria, and while embracing the millions of refugees fleeing from these massacres.

This article focuses on the factors shaping Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy (namely, security, economics, historical ties, and inter-
national law) and analyzes how each of them influences Turkey’s policy towards the region. In the framework of this analysis, the article also discusses the positions of global actors such as the U.S., Russia, and the EU with regard to Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy.

SECURITY

The main reason for the Eastern Mediterranean gaining more weight in Turkey’s security policy stems from the geostrategic and geopolitical importance of this region. For understanding how important the region is geo-strategically, it is enough to look at the actors involved in the power struggle in the Eastern Mediterranean. Many global and regional players, including the U.S., Russia, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have taken part in this competition. The Eastern Mediterranean is also important geopolitically because of its rich energy resources, the presence of one of the most critical sea passages in the world (i.e., the Suez Canal), and being the location where one of the most protracted political problems in the world, the Israel-Palestine conflict, takes place.

Different countries are attracted to the Eastern Mediterranean by different factors: the Israel lobby attracts the U.S.; the long-held desire to reach the warm sea attracts Russia; England, France, Italy, and Turkey are attracted by their imperial histories. In addition, all these countries and others are attracted by the region’s discovered and potential energy resources. Thus, establishing influence over specific countries is gaining importance: Egypt for controlling the Suez Canal and guaranteeing the security of Israel, Syria for having a port in the “warm seas,” and Libya and Cyprus for having a share in the region’s energy resources.

Within this power struggle, there are attempts to frustrate Turkey, and this can be most felt regarding the island of Cyprus. It is obvious that the attempts towards Turks’ not having a voice in any way over
the island’s governance, and elimination of Turkey’s influence entirely, are supported by many global actors, with the EU at the forefront. Following a series of assaults in December 1963 called “Bloody Christmas” that intended to transform the Republic of Cyprus, founded in 1960 with representation of both communities, into a Greek state with Greek-inspired initiatives, Turkey’s attempts for intervention was frustrated by the U.S.’ opposition. Later, the U.S. responded to Turkey’s intervention, required by its rights and responsibilities as a guarantor, on the island after the coup of 1974, which intended to unite the island with Greece, with an arms embargo that lasted for three years.¹

After Greece became a member of the EU in 1981, Brussels also began following a policy against Turkey on the issue of Cyprus. The pro-Greek and anti-Turkish position of Brussels was evident when the GASC entered the EU as representing the entire the island on May 1, 2004, despite the Greek Cypriots’ rejection of the solution in the Annan Plan in the referendum held in Cyprus only one week before. The EU thus rewarded the Greek Cypriots, who had unfairly opposed solution, while punishing the Turkish Cypriots, who had voted it. Furthermore, by linking Turkey’s EU membership process to the concessions that it would make regarding the Cyprus issue, the EU did not carry forward Turkey’s accession negotiations, which began on October 3, 2005. Instead of contributing to the solution of the Cyprus issue, which is one of the most important problems of the Eastern Mediterranean, as an objective negotiator, the EU has chosen to side with its members of Greece and the GASC against Turkey, which was granted candidate status in 1999. It will not be wrong to claim that with this attitude, Brussels contributes to the insolubility of the Cyprus problem.

Another issue where there is an attempt to besiege and suppress Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean relates to maritime jurisdiction

areas. Despite having one of the longest coastlines in the Eastern Mediterranean, there is an obvious attempt to imprison Turkey within a narrow area in terms of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Ignoring the special statuses of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea caused by half-closed sea and islands, and without considering the decisions of international judicial bodies about the maritime jurisdiction areas of islands, maps are prepared that show most of the Turkish continental shelf as belonging to Greece and the GASC.

These maps are unlawful in two aspects. The first aspect is an attempt to give the Greek islands, stretching from Kastellorizo and Rhodes to Kasos and Crete, continental shelf and EEZ as if they are mainlands. Considering the examples of international judicial decisions on islands either having no or limited jurisdiction areas beyond their territorial seas, this is an obvious infringement on Turkey’s rights. Within the frame of non-cutoff and non-encroachment principles, these islands must not limit Turkey’s maritime jurisdiction.2 In fact, starting in 2004, Turkey has taken measures to prevent this unjust partition of maritime zones. Ankara declared the western borders of its continental shelf in the Mediterranean to the UN in 2004. In 2011, Turkey signed an agreement with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) for searching hydrocarbons in the maritime jurisdiction of the latter. Under this agreement, Turkey found the opportunity to show its presence around Cyprus with its drilling vessels and navy. This move ensures both that the TRNC’s rights over the island’s hydrocarbon resources are maintained and that the violation of these rights is deterred.3 As a result, a drillship of the Italian oil company ENI was stopped by the Turkish navy on February 9, 2016 when it attempted to pass through parcel number three, which the TRNC claims rights to.

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In addition to carrying out exploration and drilling activities and taking military measures, Turkey took another critical step on November 27, 2019 by signing with Libya, a memorandum of understanding projecting the determination of maritime jurisdiction areas. With this agreement, which was accompanied by agreements for security and military cooperation, the two governments prevented unlawfulness in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In addition, Turkey signed with the Tripoli government agreements for security and military cooperation, according to which Ankara then sent troops to Libya after being invited to do so. As a result, some of the limits of Turkey’s maritime jurisdiction areas in the West were determined and Turkey’s imprisonment to an area of 41,000 km (25,500 miles) in the Mediterranean, based on such maps as the Seville map, is therefore prevented. Ankara’s latest political-diplomatic moves turned the Eastern Mediterranean (and relatedly Libya and Cyprus) to one of the main agenda items of Turkish foreign policy. Also, the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean and Libya is a critical part of Ankara’s conception of national security. Regarding the attempts that snub Turkey’s rights in the Eastern Mediterranean, President Erdoğan stated: “There are plans that were attempted to be imposed. We nullified them with a legitimate move. I will go further. This is actually a reversal of [the] Sèvres [Treaty].”

The second aspect of these maps’ unlawful nature arises because the Cyprus problem is still unresolved: the GASC acting as representative of the entire island. The approval of this from the international community means extortion of rights of both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey. The GASC’s parceling of the maritime jurisdiction zones it had declared in the south of the island and its authorization of international companies to explore and extract oil and gas in these parcels are illegal actions. This is because some of the maritime areas in the

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west coincide with Turkey’s continental shelf, and the GASC is not au-
thorized to decide on the island’s maritime jurisdiction alone. For any
decision to be taken regarding these maritime zones, it is first necessary
to determine who has authority to do so, and this means resolving the
Cyprus issue.

Another example for Turkey’s suppression and restriction in the
Eastern Mediterranean are the attempts to sever the political, eco-

nomic, and cultural ties that Ankara tries to establish with the for-
mer Ottoman geography. Especially under the Justice and Develop-
ment Party (JDP) governments, Turkey has been closely interested
in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine, which are located in the
Eastern Mediterranean basin, and aimed to develop close relations
with these countries. With the onset of the Arab Spring uprisings,
Turkey urged the administrations of Egypt, Syria, and Libya, which
could not be changed through democratic means, to listen to the
peoples’ demands. Once this did not happen, Turkey sided with
these countries’ peoples. In Egypt, Ankara supported Mohamed
Morsi, who was the first and only president that came into power
through democratic elections. In the same way, it has supported the
moderate opposition in Syria, which represents the majority of the
Syrian people, as well as the Tripoli Government in Libya, which is
approved of by the majority of the Libyan people and acknowledged
by the international community.5

Turkey’s close interest in Egypt, Libya, and Syria has disturbed the
actors supported the Sisi and Khalifa Haftar, the putschists in Egypt
and Libya, respectively, as well as Bashar al-Assad, the dictator in
Syria. Despite having different interests and goals, the common trait
of the states supporting Sisi and Haftar is that, instead of endorsing
the leaders who rely on their people and come to power democrati-
cally, they prefer putschists. This is why they regard Turkey’s policies,

5 Kemal İnat, “Doğu Akdeniz Sorununun Nedenleri ve Türkiye’nin Politikası”, Türkiye,
11 December 2019.
which prioritize people and denounce coup designers and dictators, as a threat. They all are, in fact, are aware of Turkey’s potential to break the schemes plotted in these regions.

The UAE, Israel, the U.S., France, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, who see Ankara’s interests in Egypt, Syria, and Libya as a threat for their influence and interests, put forth an intense effort to break Turkey’s involvement in the Eastern Mediterranean. By this token, they did not hold back from involving themselves in direct attacks against Turkey’s security. It would not be fair to suggest that these states constitute a united front against Turkey. In fact, some of them are in competition with each other in the region. However, one can see that France and Russia, although opposites on the Syrian issue, agree in their support of Haftar.

It is also necessary to mention Israel and the effective lobby it has in the U.S. regarding efforts to deter Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean. During the JDP period, after advancing its economic and military capacities Turkey inclined towards a more independent foreign policy, including here opposing Israel’s aggressive policies, which made it a target for the Israeli lobby. For Turkey, this means becoming a target of some circles in Washington that are influential in forming the U.S. foreign policy.

Turkey recognizing the 2006 election-winning Hamas as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people by accommodating its leader Khaled Mashal in Ankara, opposing Israel’s inhumane blockade and attacks of Gaza, and disturbing Tel Aviv by its autonomous policies in the Middle East resulted in Israel mobilizing its lobby in the West, which is highly influential in the media, politics, and economy, against Ankara. Thus, a bloc, joined by states like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, emerged in the Middle East against the JDP government. This bloc acts together against Turkey in the issues of Libya and maritime jurisdiction in the Eastern Mediterranean. The main objectives of Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy are to prevent further expansion of
this bloc, which targets its independence and interests, with the inclusion of Libya and to defend its interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.\textsuperscript{5} For this reason, with the goal of establishing a ceasefire in Libya, Ankara did not abstain from lending the Tripoli Government its military support. At the same time, on January 19, 2020, Ankara provided an active diplomatic contribution at the Conference in Berlin.

**ECONOMY**

One of the factors taken into consideration when forming Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy is this region’s importance to the Turkish economy. The Eastern Mediterranean is a critical region both for its abundant energy resources and for the bilateral economic relations between Turkey and the countries of the region. Turkey seeks to both decrease its foreign dependence on energy and to increase its trade, first with neighboring countries and then with the world. In this regard, when forming its Eastern Mediterranean policy, Turkey is, on the one hand, intensely searching for natural gas and oil on its continental shelf and following policies towards transferring the resources found in other countries’ maritime zones to the Western markets through Turkey, and, on the other hand, trying to improve its relations with the countries in the region.\textsuperscript{7}

The Eastern Mediterranean has approximately 4.5 percent of the total natural gas reserves in the world. The seismic detection and drill activities performed until today show that essential portions of these reserves range from the Tamar and Leviathan gas fields, where the coasts of Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel meet, to the West Nile Delta field along the Egyptian coast. The largest natural gas fields explored on


this line are in Tamar with 318 billion cubic meters, in Leviathan with 605, in Aphrodite with 129, in Calypso with 230, and in Zohr with 850 billion cubic meters of natural gas. In the Levant and Nile Delta basins, a total presence of approximately 9.8 trillion cubic meters of natural gas is estimated. Apart from the explorations in the Levant and West Nile basins, no comprehensive research has yet been done in the region, which includes Turkey’s continental shelf, stretching from the southwest coasts of Turkey to the eastern coast of Libya and the western coast of Egypt. With the drillships it purchased lately, Turkey has been conducting drilling attempts in this region. Comprehensive energy research has not yet been done on the Aegean Sea, either, due to the disputes on maritime jurisdiction zones between Turkey and Greece.

The natural gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean region are not only present on the seafloor. It is known that some areas within the boundaries of Egypt and Libya are also rich in natural gas. Having the Wafa and Bouri gas fields, Libya is 22nd in the world with around 1.5 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves. Egypt is 16th in the world, with the Zohr, West Nile Delta, and Atoll fields yielding a total of around 2.2 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. It must be said that the reason many global and regional players got involved in the Libyan civil war is closely related to its abundant energy resources.

The Eastern Mediterranean region is rich not only in natural gas, but also in oil. Adding land and sea reserves together, the Eastern Mediterranean possesses nearly 3.7 percent of the world’s total oil reserves with around 64 billion barrels that are known of. Libya alone has nearly 3.2 percent of the world’s oil reserves, with roughly

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48.4 billion barrels, and Egypt has around 3.3 billion barrels of known oil reserves.

From the abundance of oil and natural gas reserves, it can be understood why the Eastern Mediterranean is so important for Turkey, a nation dependent on foreign energy. Although Turkey’s primary goal is to discover oil and natural gas within its own maritime jurisdiction zones, it is also concerned with obtaining licenses in countries that are rich in energy resources, such as Libya, for production. Ankara is also ready to transfer energy resources extracted in other countries’ maritime zones or territories to Western countries with pipelines running through Turkey. By doing so, Turkey will be able to both find alternative suppliers for its energy consumption and strengthen its role as a bridge between the energy-rich East and the West that needs these resources the most.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1. TURKEY’S FOSSIL FUEL IMPORTS (2010-2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oil (million tons)</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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</table>

Source: Compiled from EMRA and TKI data.

10 “Oil Data: Upstream”, OPEC, https://asb.opec.org...
It is expected for Turkey, which is dependent on foreign energy, to search for natural gas and oil within its maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean. While opposing attempts towards extorting its maritime zones, Turkey has begun exploration activities by determining the boundaries of those areas. Through agreements signed in 2011 with the TRNC and in 2019 with Libya, the boundaries of Turkey’s continental shelf and EEZ were determined, and this was followed by seismic detection and drilling activities in these sea zones. The seismic vessels Barbaros Hayrettin Paşa and Oruç Reis, together with the drillships Fatih and Yavuz, put Turkey into the world’s leading countries in terms of researching energy resources on the seafloor. In the beginning of 2020, the drillship Kanuni was added to the fleet. With the naval ships accompanying these vessels to ensure they are safely carrying out their activities in the aforementioned sea zones, its comprehensive naval exercises carried out in the region, and its expanded military presence in Cyprus with drones, Turkey has shown a resolution to defend its economic and legal interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Eastern Mediterranean region is also important for Turkey’s trade opportunities and potential, considering Turkey’s goal to enter the world’s ten strongest economies. When looking at the trade figures between Turkey and the countries in the region, a major increase between 2002, the year when JDP came into power, and 2019 is observable. While Turkey’s export to these countries was $2.6 billion in 2012, it amounted to $15.3 in 2019. During this period, Turkey’s trade volume with Egypt and Libya increased tenfold.

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<td>66</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td><strong>2.622</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.342</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.393</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.638</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.015</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.980</strong></td>
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Source: Compiled from TURKSTAT data.

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BONDS**

The entire Eastern Mediterranean, excluding Malta and the southern and western coasts of the Adriatic, being under the rule of the Ottoman Empire created strong historical and cultural bonds between Turkey and the geography stretching from Tunisia to the Balkans and from the Levant to Egypt and Libya. The Ottoman Empire ruled the Eastern Mediterranean coastal countries of Egypt for 365 years, Tunisia for 332, Montenegro for 339, Albania for 445, Greece for 437, and the lands comprising Syria, Palestine/Israel and Lebanon (the Levant) for 402 years. Thus, a considerable portion of these countries’ histories took place under the Ottoman Empire. Turkish minorities continue to live in a significant part of these former Ottoman lands, while Muslims inhabit in Balkan countries as a heritage of the Ottoman period. In Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muslims constitute the majority of the population, while, a significant number of Turkish and Muslim populations live in countries like Macedonia and Greece.
The cultural proximity brought about by this shared history facilitates Turkey’s development of bilateral relations with the Eastern Mediterranean countries. Ankara, in periods of conservative leaders such as Turgut Özal, Necmettin Erbakan and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, attached importance to developing the relationships with the Balkans, the Levant, and North Africa. However, global powers like the U.S., England, Russia, and France, which have, in comparison to Turkey, a much newer and lesser presence in the region, are uncomfortable with Ankara’s interest in this former Ottoman geography. Naming Turkey’s steps to develop relations with the region, which it had neglected for a long time, first “Middle Easternization” at the end of the 2000s and then an “axis shift” and “Neo-Ottomanism,” they wanted Ankara to return to a Western-oriented foreign policy. Turkey’s efforts to develop its relations with Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, aiming to convert the historical and cultural bonds into an opportunity, have disturbed Israel and other global players that regard the Eastern Mediterranean as their own zone of influence. For this reason, media institutions and academic circles which are tied to the Jewish lobby in the West, led the above-mentioned accusations against Turkey.

During the JDP period, the main criticism directed at Turkish foreign policy is its being shaped by ideological preferences. The concepts of axis shift Neo-Ottomanism are used for this end as well. Ankara’s valuing the historical and cultural bonds in the relations with both the broader Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean countries is an effort of ensuring mutual interests. The only axis for Ankara is its concrete national interests. The “ideological foreign policy” criticism cannot wreath Turkey’s national interests regarding maritime jurisdiction zones in the Eastern Mediterranean. In fact, the EU countries that

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adopt the maximalist theses of Greece and the GASC, are showing an inclination to imprison Turkey into the Gulf of Antalya. This attitude cannot serve regional stability, peace, or cooperation. On the contrary, the EU countries are displaying a biased and ideological attitude.

Turkey’s development of its political and commercial relations with former Ottoman and Muslim lands should not be seen as an alternative to its relations with the West. Although the U.S. and EU support the PKK-YPG, especially in Syria, and host FETÖ in their countries, Turkey places importance to its relations with NATO and the EU, and endeavors to resolve arising problems. clearly does not regard the integration with the West as “an asymmetric interdependence.” In the last ten years, Turkey’s relationships with the West have been redefined. However, Turkey primarily drawing attention to the cultural and historical bonds in terms of diversifying its commercial relations is disturbing those who regard its Ottoman past as an obstacle. Those in Turkey who harbor negative ideas against developing relations with the Muslim lands are being fed by a line of thought that perceives modernization as moving away from Islam and Muslims. This obsessive Westernism regards Turkey’s recent insistence on the pursuit of mutual interests in relations with the U.S. and EU as dangerous. It also finds Turkey developing its relations with the Muslim countries of the former Ottoman geography as a crime. Because integration with the West is thought of in these circles as staying away from the actions that will disturb the West and acting unconditionally in accordance with Western countries, Turkey’s growing interest in Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Palestine is regarded negatively.

It is necessary to state that these circles are also present in the countries on the eastern and southern coasts of the Eastern Mediterranean. As in Turkey, within these countries, which have been under Western influence for nearly 150 years, there are circles who defend getting along with the West at any cost and not being involved in any relations that the Western countries do not allow. The absence of attempts to de-
Develop positive relationships based on this common history and culture between Turkey and these countries before the Cold War was closely connected with this problematic Westernist understanding.

During the 1980s, with Turgut Özal’s “multi-dimensional foreign policy”\textsuperscript{18} approach, Turkey began to use shared history and cultural past as a positive element in its foreign relations, and this approach was also adopted by the JDP governments, who came into power in 2002. The reactions to this approach by the countries on the other side of the Eastern Mediterranean have changed seasonally according to the governments. While in 2012, during the short-lived rule of Mohamed Morsi, who took charge as the first elected president of Egypt, there was an intense collaboration between Turkey and Egypt. Since Abdul Fattah el-Sisi took power, the relationship between the two countries has deteriorated. Although the views about the Ottoman past by the people of Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Libya have been affected by their leaders’ approaches and conjunctural developments, they have been generally positive. Their positive attitude regarding collective history and cultural values will continue to be one of the aspects that Turkey will keep in mind in its Eastern Mediterranean policy.

**INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Another determining factor in the formation of Turkey’s Eastern Mediterranean policy is the rules of international law regulating interstate relationships and protecting human rights. When looking at Ankara’s attitude towards policies related to Palestine, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Cyprus and maritime jurisdiction zones, it can be seen that it always tries to act according to international law and opposes policies from other states that violate the main principles of international law.

Firstly, when examining Turkey’s policies about maritime jurisdiction zones in terms of international law, Ankara is acting based on

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This book focuses on the contemporary situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, which has become one of the main spotlights of international politics. Especially after the discovery of hydrocarbon resources, the Eastern Mediterranean has been in the agenda of both regional and global powers. While regional actors such as Egypt, Israel, and Greece are attempting political maneuvers in order to benefit from the hydrocarbon resources, international actors such as the United States and Russia have become increasingly more engaged in the affairs of the region. In response to emerging partnerships and coalitions, Turkey, which has the longest shore in the Eastern Mediterranean, has adopted a pro-active policy to defend its rights and interests. This book examines political, legal, and economic dimensions of the Eastern Mediterranean and brings a new insight to the recent developments and the Turkey’s policy in the region.