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The Implications of Greek, Turkish, and U.S. Triangular Relations on Transatlantic Security

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Laura Cardona

Abstract

Since the discovery of hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean, tensions between Turkey and Greece have been exacerbated due to enhanced geostrategic competition in the region (Dursun-Ozkanca 2021). Against the background of Turkey's increased self-confidence in its foreign policy in the region and its "Blue Homeland" doctrine on maritime claims in the Eastern Mediterranean (Gingeras 2020) as well as its changing relations with the EU and the US, the need for scholarly analyses of regional competition in the Eastern Mediterranean and its implications for transatlantic security relations has become more evident. While there have been few academic works focusing on the diplomatic row between Turkey and Greece in the 1990s (Öymen 2000; Bağcı 2001; Missiroli 2002; Bilgin 2003; Tsakonas 2008), there is no theoretically informed and up-to-date analysis of the developments in the Eastern Mediterranean in the literature. Several solutions have been proposed, but some are unrealistic or attempt to address the entirety of the problem at once. Instead, I propose cementing foundational relations through commercial diplomacy – a strategy backed by the U.S. Department of State in the recently publicized ten-year Global Fragility Plan (United States Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability, 2020).