

MARINE AND MARITIME SECURITY FORUM 2019

“New Maritime Security Ecosystem and
Eastern Mediterranean Sea”



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The main determinant of the competition for great powers in modern times is the presence of navy power. Power of navy is a front runner means used in the security of the sea transportation lines of states. In order for the manufactured goods to contribute to the country's wealth through trade, ships must reach the safe harbors via safe routes because water travel and trade is always safer, easier and cheaper than land travel. The famous Admiral Alfred T. MAHAN says, “*the necessity of the navy begins with the existence of a peaceful sea transport in the strict sense of the word and ends with it*”, and he adds “if the country has no aggressive tendencies”. As a matter of fact, in the 21st century, states have become more dependent on energy resources with the impact of increasing world population in order to keep their industries alive. Increasing use of hydrocarbon deposits at seaside for the replacement of this required energy, it has been instrumental in increasing the richness of the seas, the strategic importance of the seas and thus the competition in the seas.

The aim of sea sovereignty and sea power, which determines the global power status quo, has become an integral part of the national strategies of all revisionist developed states. The distribution of sea power over the oceans, seas and straits throughout history reveals a picture of the competition for global status. However, the famous *Admiral Alfred T. MAHAN* distinguishes being sea power from being a fortress fleet in his work. He says, to have a strong navy in the sea is not a prerequisite but a result of being a sea power. Being a sea power depends on the marinizing of the state and society.

“Sea and Marinizing” on defense, security, economy, prosperity and happiness in size is very important for Turkey's continuity. Republic of Turkey, which is has a peninsula geography, moderate and generous seas with rare qualities, close to 200 ports and piers, 8,333 kilometers of coastline, with major transportation lines; the adequacy of the capacity of maritime power to meet the needs of the country's geopolitics in the defense and security dimension and to transform its existing potential to the prosperity is discussed since its foundation.

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It is evaluating that G20 member Turkey has not yet reached the point it deserves in key areas of sea power such as, maritime trade, shipyard and shipbuilding, port management and agency services, maritime tourism, fisheries, seabed mining and related sectors, maritime sciences. Despite the existence of continuation problems related to maritime jurisdictions, limited number of surpluses are obtained due to the low number of specialists trained in the field of maritime law, lack of knowledge of the history of the sea and insufficient number of studies.

Although associations, foundations and non-governmental organizations operate in different perspectives and issues related to maritime power in Turkey; there is a need for think tanks and institutions that can evaluate all aspects of maritime power together with maritime geopolitics, offer scientific options to capacity-makers, entrepreneurs/investors and decision-makers and analyze maritime power and contribute to marination.

Our environmental seas, which are called as “Blue Homeland”, with our maritime jurisdictions, it is considered that the Marine and Maritime Security Forum can assume a mission in explaining our vital geopolitical interests to the Turkish Nation with TRNC, and friends and allies especially in the Aegean Sea, Çanakkale and Istanbul Straits, and Cyprus.

The purpose is to establish the **Marine and Maritime Security Forum**, a structural institution that will work in conjunction with scientific methods and ethics, by **TASAM National Defense and Security Institute**, in the issue of proper management in “sea and marine” parameters changing with a broad vision of history and integrative approach in Turkey and the cooperative nations in order to establish a public consciousness in the field of "sea and maritime power", to carrying the relevant studies to new dimensions required by global developments, to provide academic contribution to the creation of maritime-themed networks among Turkey and other countries, including all maritime areas (**navies, merchant marine fleets, ports, shipyards** [shipbuilding industry and all engineering branches in ships], **fishery activities, seabed mining** [including metallurgy, geology, oceanography, hydrography and seismology], **sea tourism, maritime law, maritime educational institutions and activities, marine environmentalism, supporting sectors** [search and rescue, agencies, guidance services, navigational ease, ship traffic services, sea meteorology, etc.], **naval history, maritime literature, cultural and sporting themed activities** [aquatic sports, museology], **and partnerships with national / international, military and civil maritime organizations**).

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The main objective of the “**New Maritime Security Ecosystem and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea**” program at the **Marine and Maritime Security Forum 2019** is determination of target, policy and strategy in basic areas that institutionalize the Maritime Security and marination in Turkey and this provide multi-dimensional strategic contributions to Turkey’s marination.

It is evaluated by the national maritime community that the security of the Anatolian Peninsula will become a controversial issue unless the North Coast of Cyprus Island is in the hands of the Turks. The presence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the island of Cyprus is particularly essential for Turkish flagged vessels to operate safely in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the contrary case, Turkey will not produce prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean seabed namely in maritime jurisdiction. In order to prevent the siege of the Anatolian Peninsula from the South namely the island of Cyprus, it is foreseen that to be inevitable that Turkey will show flag and build capacity in Northern Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean.

In this context, to examine the interaction of maritime power with other national power elements **in the context of “Cyprus and Eastern Mediterranean”**; conducting research on “maritime security”, “sea power”, “maritime strategy” and producing policy, strategy and doctrine on these issues; developing plans and projects for the promotion and dissemination of maritime in the cultural and psycho-social sphere is within the main academic activities of the Forum.

Within this framework, it is aimed to follow the regional, continental and global developments in every area that interests marine and to make academic inculcates that will guide the international relations, defense, security, economy, law and socio-cultural policies.

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Main Theme

New Maritime Security Ecosystem and Eastern Mediterranean Sea

Sub Themes

New Marine and Maritime Security Ecosystem

The Future of Turkey Maritime Sectors Ecosystem and Vision

Structuring of Turkish Naval Power and Force Distribution/Force Concentration

Greece's Military Activities in the Aegean and Security of the Islands

Exclusive Economic Zone Debates and Law of Sea Violations

The Place and Importance of Environmental Policies in Maritime Security

Current Status of Turkish Maritime Trade and Sectoral Analysis

MİLGEM and Defense Industry Studies for Maritime Security

Turkey's Shipbuilding Capabilities and Shipyards

Hinterland of Turkey's Ports and Growth Plans

The Position and Importance of Tourism in the National Economy

Security of the Black Sea after the Kerch Strait Incident

Aegean Sea Security After Imia Crisis and Aggressive Discourses

"Accomplished Facts" in Turkey's Sovereignty Areas

Energy Supply Security in the Eastern Mediterranean and The New Ecosystem of Competition

Turkey's Deepwater Drilling Capabilities

Discussions on the Construction of a Turkish Naval Base in Cyprus