

## RECENSIONS / BOOK REVIEWS

### *Greece and Turkey After the End of the Cold War:*

Edited by CHRISTODOULOS K. YIALLOURIDES AND  
PANAYOTIS J. TSAKONAS.  
(New York and Athens, Caratzas, 2001.)

This volume brings together a wide range of Greek views on the status of the relationship between Greece and Turkey and the prospects for the future. What is notable for the reader and what makes the volume stand out from others dealing with relevant issues is the way articles are structured in four parts. In order to explain this structure I would like to pay tribute to all contributors in the following lines.

The first part of the book provides a historical approach to Turkey as seen by Christos Iacovou, who elaborates on the development of Turkish politics and people since Kemal Ataturk, and as explained by Gerasimos Karabelias, who expands on the role of the Military institution in Turkey using historical proof from the Ottoman and Ataturk legacy and in later periods since the end of World War II. Keridis' comprehension of the Greek foreign policy on Turkey, with an analysis of Greek domestic politics is also useful in further elaborating the patterns in Greco-Turkish relations. Christodoulos Yallouridis adopts an innovative approach in a compact, pointed analysis that explains a developing Greek perception of the Turkish élite and Greek insecurities about its neighbour's orientation.

The second part of the volume highlights the importance of Turkey's attitude towards its periphery within the context of Greek-Turkish relations. Evridiades' contribution focuses on international implications and the impact of the relationship between Turkey and Israel while Kefalas looks at Turkey's Middle East Policy. Tsardanides deals with Turkey and Central Asia; whereas, Thanos Dokos and Panayotis Tsakonas attempt to relate both countries by projecting Turkey's presence in Greek security policy. The former thoroughly analyses how Turkey has traditionally been Greece's main security concern; the

latter, in an effort to find a 'recipe' for the 'right balancing' for Greece, makes the useful point that given the limits to 'internal balancing' (armed forces), there is a need for Greece to develop a more sophisticated external balancing (foreign policy).

The third part of the book concentrates on two crises that greatly influenced relations between Greece and Turkey. The crisis at Imia is initially treated by Stelios Alifantis, who argues that this particular crisis has mainly projected Greece's weaknesses at a political-strategic level and was further elaborated by Fakiolas and Mavridis who mainly focused on the analysis of the crisis itself and its multiple parameters, such as the lack of Greek crisis management strategy and the role of the US. The Cyprus issue is also skillfully evaluated by all contributors who retained a more superficial approach. Consequently Manolis Ioannou has a profound analysis of UN presence in Cyprus, Theophanous elaborates on the role of the EU in Cyprus and Van Coufoudakis explains the role of US in Cyprus in a historical analysis starting from the early 50's. Furthermore Yiallourides, focuses on the Cypriot Republic limitations on foreign policy as well as on its relations with Greece and Turkey, whereas Sergios Zambouras expresses a Greek view on how Turkey is handling the Cyprus issue, arguing that although the 'expansionist' approach remains the main characteristic, an internal Turkish debate on the best way to deal with Cyprus has gradually emerged.

Lastly, three writers explain the highly significant role of the foreign policy of the US and Russia in the post-Cold War period. Argyrios Pisiotis has an extensive and interesting view of how Russian foreign policy for Greece and Turkey has been affected by the energy policy, geopolitics as well as by culture. Both Marialena Conalis-Kontou and Monteagle Sterns deal with the American foreign policy approach but as their scopes are different, their conclusions are also divergent. The former highlights discrepancies between professed values and the pursuit of narrow American interests while the latter argues that the fact the US has not found a replacement for NATO, still colours Greek-Turkish relations with Cold War assumptions. Last, but not least, there are two contributions which give a different shade

to the volume as they deal with legal and economic aspects that influence Greece and Turkey. Theodoros Tsakiris, using useful data, focuses on the importance of energy policy in the region and the possible role of Greece. Angelos Sirigos offers an interesting legal approach to Greek-Turkish disputes with particular reference to the International Court of Justice, presenting the possibility of all Greek-Turkish cases being sent to that institution.

Having to distance myself from the strict book review effort, which calls for a critique rather than a synopsis, I nevertheless must mention the excellent structure of the book. It should be said, however, that any future volumes should include the evolving significance of the European Security and Defence Policy in the relations of the two countries.

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