

## FOREWORD

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Turkey's threats in the Eastern Mediterranean continue to escalate. In the past two years, Ankara has occupied northern Syria at the expense of the Kurds, has militarily intervened in Libya, and militarily assisted Azerbaijan in ousting Armenians from the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh border region. The hydrocarbon fields belonging to Cyprus are challenged with warships that even intimidate EU drilling companies. Moreover, Turkey makes claims on various Greek islands and steadily moves to establish Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus as an independent state. According to Turkey's Blue Homeland Doctrine, some 152 islands, inlets, and rock formations currently under Greek rule are disputable.

NATO has mildly rebuked Turkey's daily violations of the airspace and territorial waters of Greece, a fellow NATO member, but it has refused to impose any penalties. Its rationale is that the NATO mandate is to jointly resist an attack on members from any outside force, but it has no authority to control conflicts between members. NATO also declined to issue sanctions when Turkey purchased a S-400 missile defense system from Russia, NATO's major adversary.

The big plus for Greece and Cyprus this past year was the defeat of the decidedly pro-Turkish President Trump by a decidedly pro-Greek President Biden. Trump assisted in some of Turkey's aggression while Biden has the kind of mindset that led previous Republican and Democratic presidents to take actions that halted pending Turkish military aggression against Greece. The Greek government has been as firm as possible given its circumstances and in concert with Cyprus has strengthened its alliances with Israel and Egypt. Among the EU powers, only France has supported Cyprus in any meaningful manner.

In our present issue, Panayiotis Diamadis explores Turkey's Neo-Ottoman ambitions and Rear Admiral (retired) George Tsogkas considers ways NATO and the EU could be more effective. Vasili Ioannides and fellow students at the University of Michigan detail the hydrocarbon dynamics at play in the Eastern Mediterranean. Matthew Kokkinos addresses the related issue of the impact of Middle East refugees and migrants on EU policies. More recent refugee issues are addressed in a book reviewed by Van Coufoudakis

about the controversial adoption of 3,000 Greek children by various nations during the Cold War era.

Coufoudakis also reviews a collection of the log books of American naval officers serving Black Sea ports in 1921. The accounts describe Turkish atrocities as witnessed by these officers and their conversations with American merchants, educators, and social activists about the systematic attacks on the Greek population. A collection of short stories based on the life of Greek refugees after they were expelled from Asia Minor is reviewed by Penelope Karageorge. The work is a mixed genre in that the characters are composite fictions based on real events and persons.

Some of the culture problems China's investments in Greece could create are examined in an essay by George Stratigakis. A more detailed documentation of what concerns Stratigakis is accessible in *American Factory*, an Academy-Award documentary film available on Netflix that deals with a Chinese owner imposing Chinese routines on American workers employed in a factory he purchased in Ohio.

Klearchos Kyriakides discusses the international cultural impact made by Eugene Rossides' championship of the rule of law and reminds Greek Americans of the impact their actions and inactions have throughout the Hellenic Diaspora. In like manner Nicholas Karambelas explores the different cultural assumptions of the American revolutionaries of 1776 and the Greek revolutionaries of 1831.

Personal accounts of shaping a Greek identity in twenty-first century America are shared by Annamarie Buonocore and Anthony Katsounis. Three poems with the related theme of being Greek and American are offered by Nicholas Samaras, Perry Nicholas, and Nicos Alexiou.

I am pleased to end by noting that the American Hellenic Institute has become co-publisher of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*, founded by the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (Queens College) in 1984. The *JMH* is a peer-review, scholarly journal that surveys all aspects of the Hellenic experience since the final years of the Ottoman Occupation to present times. The first joint issue of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* will be published in the summer of 2022 while the *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues* will continue to appear the first of each year. Both journals will be posted on the website of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation.