



NATO
STUDY GUIDE

TEDMUN

20

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ANKARA
TED ANKARA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS



TED ANKARA COLLEGE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

“Wars and Crises: Maintaining social justice and military law”



TEDMUN

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Under Secretary General



Committee: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Issue: Russian presence in the East Mediterranean region

Student Officer: Erding ACAR

Position: Under Secretary General



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1. LETTERS

a. Letter from Secretary General

Dear participants of TEDMUN 2024,

My words could not start without a quote that enlightens and motivates the whole spirit of this conference: “Peace in home, peace in world.” Although Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is known to be a great military commander and a brilliant government man, he was unique. At that time, while most of the leaders had rather aggressive views regarding the importance of International Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk knew that the future of the modern world and a future modern Türkiye must be tenant to diplomacy. It must be reminded that, our hearths and opinions lie within his words, and this conference is assembled through his enlightenment.

TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has assembled 9 conferences since 2014, and this year we are proud to be the part of the 10th TEDMUN Conference. Becoming a part of the PDC, being an MUN’er and organizing TEDMUN at the end of the 11th grade has turned into a long-lasting tradition of every TED Ankara College member. We are proud to be a part of this long-lasting tradition and glorifying our club. The TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has a rich history of fostering such principles, organizing conferences that serve as platforms for meaningful discourse and collaboration. As we continue this tradition with the 10th TEDMUN Conference, we stand as proud torchbearers of our club's legacy, committed to upholding the values of diplomacy, mutual respect, and cooperation.



For each of us, participating in Model United Nations represents more than just a simulation; it is an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, to forge connections, and to contribute to the collective pursuit of peace and prosperity. As Secretary-General, I am deeply inspired by the dedication and passion that each of you brings to this conference. I hope the best for your contributions to the Model United Nations, and I wish you to enlighten yourselves by recovering the embedded solutions in each conflict. In my opinion, your youth and perspectives will make this conference shine like the North Star in the Arctic.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remember the words of Atatürk and the legacy of TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club. Let us approach our deliberations with open minds, empathy, and a shared commitment to building a better world. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will not only honour our advisors but also reaffirm our belief in the power of diplomacy to transcend borders and unite humanity.

With warm regards,

Buğra Ermihan

Secretary-General of TEDMUN 2024



b. Letter from Under Secretary General

Dear delegates and most distinguished guests,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 12th annual TED Ankara College Model United Nations conference. My name is Erdinç Acar and this year I will be the Under Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) committee.

This year the organization and the academic team have prepared an even better conference. I can assure you that this year's edition is perfectly organized since I know the dedication of the people who are working behind the scenes. Last year I had the chance to be a chair of the GA1 committee alongside this year's Secretary General Buğra Ermihan, and this year's Deputy Secretary General Erdem Ogeday Uyanuk. I saw their innovative ideas and saw that they implemented these creative ideas in this year's edition. All of the efforts of this wonderful executive team are for your enjoyment and for you to be more educated about these issues that we will be debating within each committee.

Even though I won't be able to come physically to the conference due to some complications, the Student Officers of the NATO committee, the



President Chair Atakan Akbay, the Deputy Chair Ali Mete Çavdar, and the Rapporteur Mert Dinler will be helping you throughout the conference if you ever need any help. Please make sure that you study and know the past and active policies of the delegation that was assigned to you. The chair report for the agenda item is going to be helpful for all of you to understand the ongoing issues concerning Russia within the Eastern Mediterranean region.

If you are ever in need of assistance please do not hesitate to contact me or the other Student Officers so that we do the best to help you. Welcome to TEDMUN'24 once again!

Thank you and farewell,

Erdoğan Acar

Under Secretary General



2. INTRODUCTION

a. Introduction to the Committee

The Russian presence in the Eastern Mediterranean is a complex topic involving lots of geopolitical moves and strategic planning that affects the region's stability and the world's power dynamics. Russia has been working to grow its influence in this important area for many years by using its historical connections, military power, and smart diplomacy. This region is super important because of its key shipping routes and valuable energy resources, making it a major area of interest for Russia as it tries to balance out the influence of Western powers like NATO and the European Union. Russia has been building up its military, getting involved economically, and forming political alliances to make sure it has a lasting and powerful role there, helping it control key sea routes and have a say in what happens politically in nearby places.

Recently, Russia's focus on the Eastern Mediterranean has become even more intense, especially with its role in the Syrian conflict and by increasing its naval power in that area. The civil war in Syria gave Russia a chance to show off its military strength again, leading to the setup of a permanent airbase at Khmeimim and expanding its naval base at Tartus. This has strengthened Russia's position in the Eastern Mediterranean. Alongside its military actions, Russia is also working on building ties with important regional countries like Turkey, and Egypt, and even getting involved in Libya with Russian private military contractors. These efforts are all part of Russia's bigger plan to boost its influence in the Eastern Mediterranean, challenge the dominance of Western countries, and shape the political scene to fit its own interests. With ongoing tensions, the impact of Russia's actions is felt not just in the region but around the world, raising big questions about the future of international relationships and stability in this crucial maritime area.



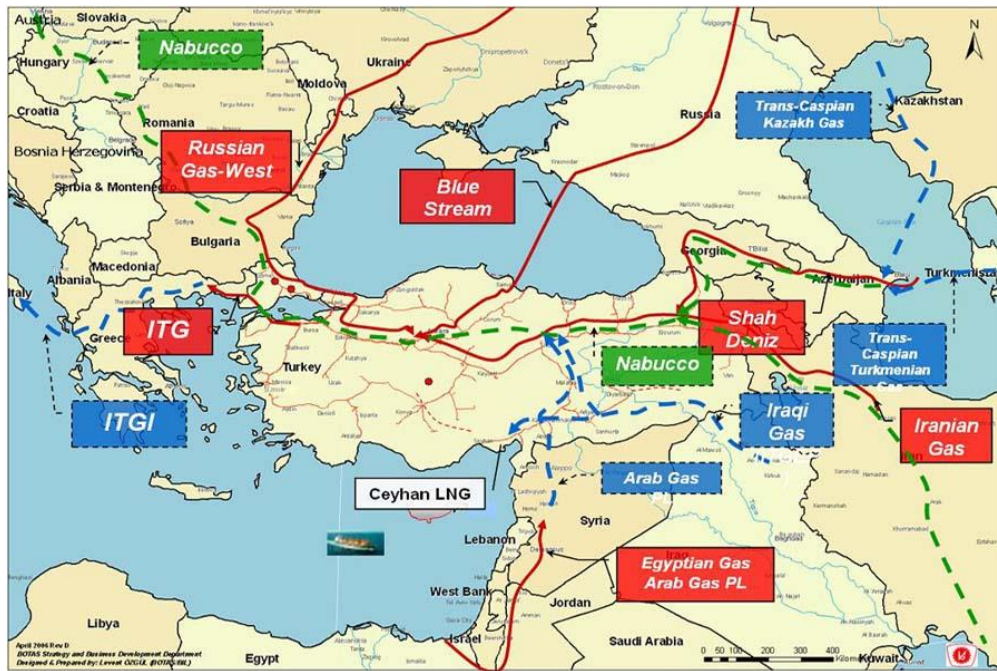
b. Definition of Key Terms

Geopolitical Influence:

Geopolitical influence shows how powerful a country is in affecting other countries or areas in politics, economy, and military affairs. It's about using smart diplomacy, economic relationships, and military partnerships to have a say in world affairs and to keep national interests safe. Countries use this influence to get more control, to make sure they are secure, and to boost their position globally.

Pipeline Diplomacy:

Pipeline diplomacy is when countries use energy pipelines, which are for oil and gas, as tools to sway political power. This involves making deals and managing pipelines that go across borders to build stronger relationships or to have control over other nations. This tactic can help a country get economic perks and more political power, and affect the energy security of other places.



(A map showing the major gas pipelines and gas sources in the Eurasian region)

Military Intervention:

Military intervention is when a country sends its military to change the situation in another country, which is usually to bring back order or support one side of a conflict. This could mean sending soldiers, doing airstrikes, or giving military help to one party. The main reasons are usually to protect national interests, stop the chaos, or make sure international laws are followed.

Proxy War:

A proxy war happens when two countries or groups back opposite sides in a conflict but don't fight each other directly. They support their allies or proxies by giving them resources, money, and weapons to fight. Proxy wars are a way for powerful nations to push for their interests in an area without getting directly involved, which keeps their risks and costs lower.

Sanctions:



Economic sanctions are like penalties that one country or a group of countries put on another to change its behavior by making trade or financial dealings tough. These can be things like tariffs, trade blocks, limits on financial interactions, and freezing assets. They are used as a way to pressure governments to change their policies without going to war.

Soft War:

A "soft war" is using non-military ways to influence or control other nations without actual fighting. It includes cultural diplomacy, media influence, economic pressures, and cyber operations. The aim is to reach political or strategic goals by shaping how people and governments in other countries think and act.

Security Pacts:

Security pacts are deals between countries to help each other out if there are threats or military conflicts. These often involve promises to defend each other, share secret info, and work together in military training and stuff. They are meant to make the security of the countries in the pact stronger by forming solid alliances that scare off potential threats.

3. General Overview

a. NATO Dynamics:

NATO is important for international security and has been keeping a close eye on what's happening in the East Mediterranean, especially because of Russia's military and political moves there. The East Mediterranean is essential for NATO because it's a key spot connecting Europe, Asia, and Africa. It's also really important for energy paths and sea routes. NATO, as a military group, wants to keep this area safe and stable because it's crucial for the economic and security interests of its member countries.

Russia's presence in the East Mediterranean is a big deal for NATO for several reasons. Historically, Russia has wanted to spread its influence there to secure its own interests, like



having access to ports that are warm all year round and increasing its power in the area. Russia has a naval base in Tartus, Syria, which is a major asset because it's Russia's only permanent naval base in the Mediterranean and outside the old Soviet Union area. This base helps Russia project its power into the Mediterranean and the Middle East, which is a challenge to NATO's influence there. To deal with Russia's moves, NATO has been upping its game by doing more naval patrols and military exercises in the East Mediterranean to strengthen its presence and show its commitment to protecting the region. NATO also works closely with countries in the area to get better at watching over the region, sharing intelligence, and working well together militarily. Also, the way NATO acts in the region is affected by the different views and tensions among its members, who sometimes don't agree on how to handle Russia. This makes it tricky for NATO to keep everyone on the same page while trying to deal with Russian activities in the East Mediterranean.

b. Syrian Civil War:

The Syrian Civil War started in 2011 with the Arab Spring protests and quickly became a complex fight with many local and international groups involved. One key player has been Russia, whose involvement has changed the war's dynamics and the political landscape in the Eastern Mediterranean. Russia stepped into the conflict in 2015, siding with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Russia's main goals were to keep Assad in power since he's been a long-time ally, protect its military interests in the region, and show its power on the world stage as a major influence in important global issues. The Russian Federation's role in the Eastern Mediterranean is essential since Syria has Russia's only naval base in the Mediterranean in Tartus, which lets Russia access the Mediterranean Sea and extend its power. Also, by influencing Syria, Russia plays a big role in an area crucial for global energy and trade. Russia's military help has been crucial for Assad, changing who controls what on the ground. With airstrikes and support from troops and equipment, Russia has helped Assad's government take back land from different rebel groups and ISIS, strengthening Assad's hold over Syria.

One of Russia's jets was shot down by the Turkish military, and the relations got tense. Turkey claims that it violated its airspace, while Russia claims that the jet never left the Syrian Airspace.

Russia's involvement has been criticized globally, especially because of reports of civilian deaths and other humanitarian issues caused by their military actions. Also, Russia's goals in



the area often conflict with those of other big powers like the USA and European countries, which makes for some tricky international relations.

c. Relationship with Turkey:

In 2015, the tension between Turkey and Russia got intense because of their different views and actions in the Syrian Civil War. Turkey also doesn't support the Syrian leader, Bashar al-Assad. The situation got intense when Turkey shot down a Russian military plane. On November 24, 2015, a Russian Su-24 bomber was brought down by a Turkish F-16 fighter jet near the border of Turkey and Syria. Turkey said that the Russian jet had entered its airspace and didn't listen to several warnings. Russia, however, claimed that their plane never left Syrian airspace and that Turkey's attack was unprovoked and might have even been planned with the U.S. The incident killed a Russian pilot and a marine who was part of a rescue mission, which made the situation even worse.

After the jet was shot down, the relationship between Russia and Turkey went downhill fast. Russia put a bunch of economic sanctions on Turkey, like cutting down on Turkish goods, stopping Russian tourism to Turkey, and banning Turkish workers. These sanctions hurt Turkey's economy. Also, Russia started to beef up its military in Syria by adding more advanced air defense systems. Basically, this event showed how complex and tense things can get when countries have different goals in conflicts, such as the one in Syria.

d. Engagement in Libya:

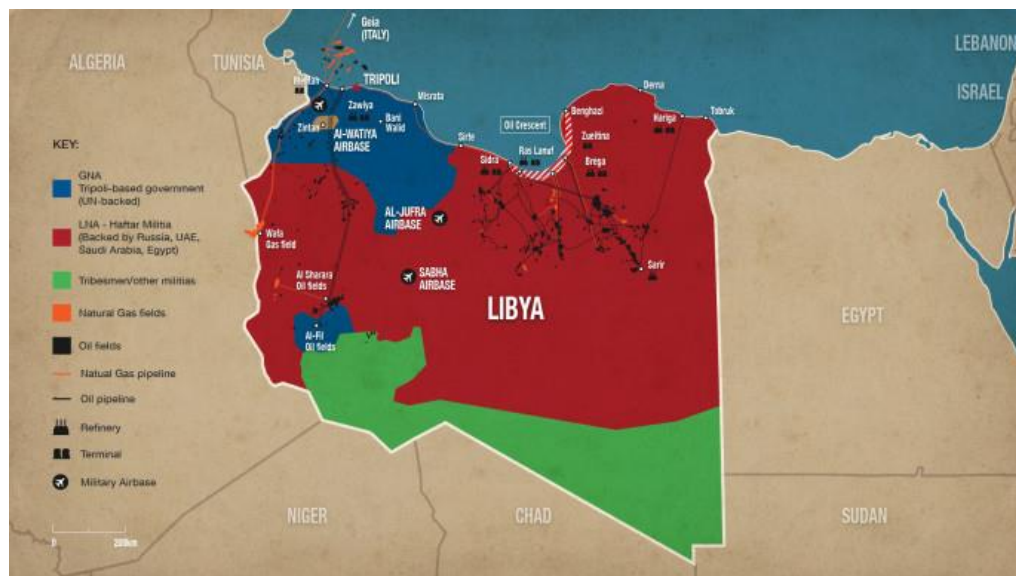
The situation in Libya has been complicated because different countries with their own goals are involved there. One of the big factors in this whole thing is Russia's role in the Eastern Mediterranean area, which affects what's happening in Libya.

Ever since Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was overthrown in 2011, the country has been split between two main groups fighting for control. The Government of National Accord (GNA) is based in the capital, Tripoli, and the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Khalifa Haftar controls much of the eastern part of Libya. Each group is supported by different countries, turning Libya into a proxy war zone where big nations play out their rivalries. Russia's actions in the Eastern Mediterranean, including in Libya, are part of its bigger plan to grow its



influence in that region. Russia has always wanted to keep and expand its access to ports in warmer waters and to make its presence felt more strongly. In Libya, Russia is said to be helping the LNA with military contractors, supplies, and support. They're doing this because they want a strong position in North Africa, which has lots of oil and other resources and is also a key area for controlling migration to Europe. Russia being in the Eastern Mediterranean also helps it influence Europe through energy politics and military positioning. This area is really important for the routes that bring energy to European markets, and Russia being involved in Libya could let it control these energy routes even more.

However, what Russia is doing has made other countries, like the U.S. and European nations, especially those near the Mediterranean, pretty nervous. They're worried that Russia's growing influence could threaten their interests and safety. This tension between countries makes the situation in Libya even more complicated and makes it harder to find peace and stability there.



(Map showing the geopolitical landscape of Libya marking who controls where, resources, and infrastructure)

e. Influence in Cyprus:

During the 1974 invasion of Cyprus, the Soviet Union mainly stuck to diplomacy rather than getting directly involved. When Turkey, which is part of NATO, decided to intervene militarily after a coup aimed at joining Cyprus with Greece, the Soviet Union stepped up as a supporter of Cyprus being independent, against what it saw as Western takeover attempts. This was



part of the Soviet strategy to push back against NATO getting too close to its territory or into areas that were important strategically. The Soviets spoke out against the coup and Turkey's military actions and stood up for Cyprus being independent and keeping its territory intact at big international meetings like the United Nations. By doing this, the Soviet Union tried to look like the good guy defending smaller countries from Western control and also tried to get more influence in the region by being seen as a counter to NATO.

Russia's role in Cyprus today, especially considering the bigger picture of the East Mediterranean region, is pretty significant in shaping what happens on the island, both politically and economically. Russia cares about Cyprus because of its strong historical, cultural, and economic connections. A big part of Russia's presence in Cyprus comes from a lot of Russian money in Cypriot banks and real estate, with Russian businesses and people playing a big part in Cyprus's economy. This doesn't just help the relationship between the two countries but also gives Russia some power in a very strategic spot that connects Europe, Asia, and Africa. Moreover, because Cyprus is right in the middle of the East Mediterranean, it gives Russia a key spot close to the Middle East and Southern Europe, which helps Russia spread its influence. Politically, Cyprus often tries to keep a balance between its relationships with Russia and Western countries like the EU and the US. Even though Cyprus is part of the EU, it sometimes stays neutral on certain issues to keep Russia happy. This balancing act gets tricky because of global pressures and ongoing issues with NATO and EU policies towards Russia, like sanctions and military stuff in the region. So, Cyprus has to be careful in managing its relationship with Russia, making sure it's helpful but also keeping in line with its larger goals for safety and diplomacy.

f. Effects of the Russian-Ukrainian War:

The Russian-Ukrainian war affects states far away, like the ones in the East Mediterranean region. Because of the war, there's a big mess in the energy supply since Russia, which sends out a lot of natural gas and oil, can't do that as usual. So, countries in the East Mediterranean that depend on these energy sources are scrambling to find other places to get their oil and gas, which can be expensive and tricky. Also, Russia has been using its military bases in the East Mediterranean, like in Syria, to show its power in that area. But with the war going on, Russia is pumping more military resources into these bases to balance out the pressure from Western countries. This move is making the situation in the region even more tense and unstable. The sanctions or penalties that Western countries have put on Russia are another big issue. These sanctions are making it hard for East Mediterranean countries that used to do



business with Russia, impacting everything from banks to the import and export of goods. The war is also forcing countries in the East Mediterranean to think about their political moves. Some might want to get closer to Western groups to protect themselves from Russia, while others might stick with Russia based on what they need economically or politically. Lastly, the war has made the refugee crisis in Europe even worse, with millions of Ukrainians having to leave their homes. This is a huge problem for East Mediterranean countries too, which already have their hands full with refugees from other conflicts. Now, they have to deal with even more people needing homes and basic services, which is a lot for these countries to handle.

g. Energy Politics:

Energy politics in the East Mediterranean region is complicated since it mixes up things like geopolitical interests, natural resources, and international relationships. Russia's role in this area is important because it affects the energy scene in many ways. Russia has a huge role in the world energy market because it has tons of oil and gas. It's active in the East Mediterranean because it wants to keep its power over Europe's energy supply and find new markets and resources. This region is important because it's like a hub for several major energy paths that supply natural gas and oil to Europe.

The situation here is the development and control of natural gas fields in the East Mediterranean. Countries like Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and Lebanon have found a lot of gas recently, which could change their economies and make Europe less dependent on Russian gas. Russia sees these new gas discoveries as both a problem and a chance. By getting involved in the region, Russia could have a say in how these resources are handled and who benefits from them.

Russia's involvement in regional politics and its alliances can be seen as part of its energy strategy. By allying with certain countries and backing specific political groups, Russia wants to make sure things turn out well for its energy business, like securing routes for pipelines and having a say in regional energy policies.

4. Major Parties Involved

a. Countries and Groups

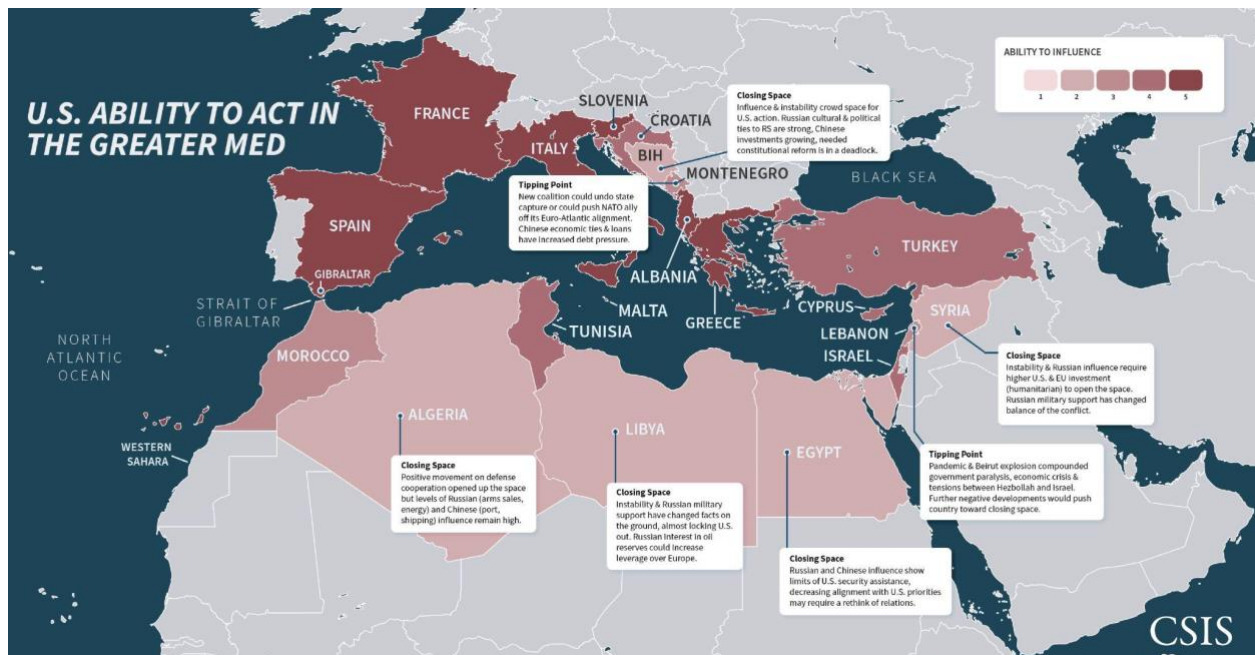


1) The Russian Federation:

Russia's presence in the Eastern Mediterranean is crucial for stretching its power beyond its borders, protecting its interests in the Middle East, and pushing back against Western influence. Moscow views this region as super important for keeping up its naval and air power, boosting its diplomatic sway, and protecting its economic interests, including energy resources. Russia's plan includes making stronger alliances with countries in the region and taking advantage of divisions within and between Western nations to boost its own geopolitical position.

2) The United States of America:

The USA is concerned about Russia's growing presence in the Eastern Mediterranean. This area is strategically important, and the US sees Russia's military and political moves here as a big challenge to its power and a potential threat to NATO's southern side. To deal with this, the US is trying to balance out Russia's influence by supporting its allies through diplomacy, working together militarily, and keeping a strong naval presence in the Mediterranean.





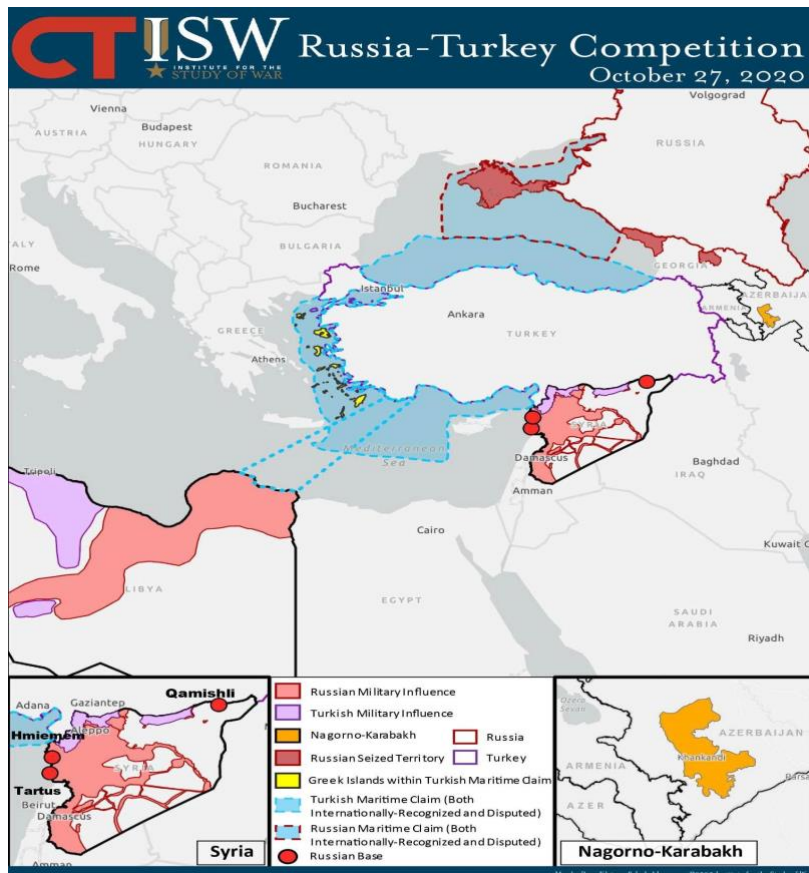
(Map showing the U.S. interests in the Mediterranean region and where the U.S. has the ability to act in the region)

3) The European Union:

The European Union is also concerned about Russia getting more powerful in the Eastern Mediterranean. This region is important for Europe, especially for things like energy security and controlling migration. EU countries want to keep their neighborhood stable and safe to avoid any problems spilling over. While the EU generally tries to handle things through diplomatic talks and economic relationships, it's still pretty wary about Russia's military build-up and what that could mean for the area's stability.

4) Republic of Turkey:

Turkey has a complicated relationship with Russia. On the one hand, Turkey and Russia work together on big strategic issues, like energy through the TurkStream gas pipeline and topics about defense and military, where the example of Turkey buying the S-400 missile system from Russia can be given. But on the other hand, Turkey and Russia have clashing interests in places like Syria and Libya, where both are trying to increase their influence. The tensions have increased in 2015 due to the jet shooting. Turkey tries to keep a balanced approach, working with Russia when it's helpful but standing against Russian actions that could threaten its interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.



(Map showing geopolitical influence and territorial disputes in the Russia-Turkey region as of October 2020)

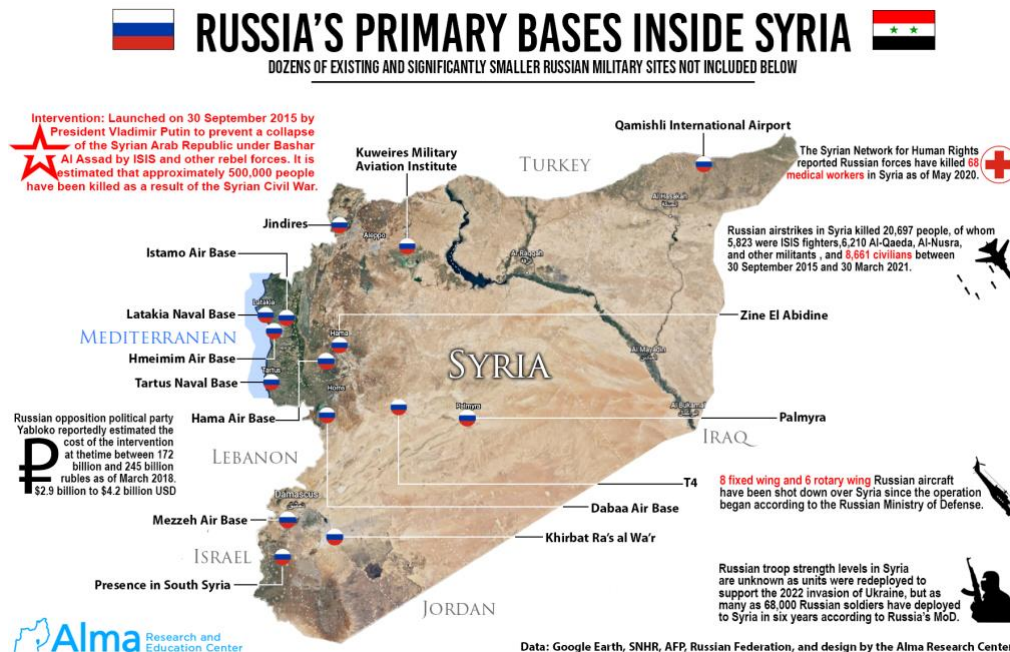
5) State of Libya:

In Libya, how people see Russia's involvement varies a lot between different groups. The Libyan National Army (LNA) in the east, led by General Khalifa Haftar, really thinks of Russia as a key ally because Russia has helped them with mercenaries, military gear, and political support. However, the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli is more careful and often criticizes Russian involvement, viewing it as unwanted foreign interference that mostly helps their rivals.

6) Syrian Arab Republic:



Syria sees Russia's presence in the Eastern Mediterranean as a big plus. The Syrian government has depended a lot on Russian military support during its civil war, with Russia providing airstrikes, and advisors, and having bases like Tartus and Khmeimim. Russia's diplomatic support has helped Syria stand up to Western pressure and sanctions, and its role in peace talks has strengthened Syria's hand in negotiations. Moreover, Russia's presence has brought economic perks, including investments and cooperation in rebuilding the country, which has also helped keep a balance of power in the region, challenging Western influence and making Syria stronger.



(Map showing the Russian military bases inside Syria)

7) The Wagner Group:

The private Russian military company sees its role in the Eastern Mediterranean, like in Libya and Syria, as a chance to grow its business and increase its influence under Russia's backing. For the Wagner Group, being involved in the region is both a way to make money and a strategy to spread Russian power indirectly.

5. Timeline of Key Events



<p style="text-align: center;">1956</p>	<p>The Soviet Union backed Egypt diplomatically during the conflict, threatening intervention against Israel, the United Kingdom, and France.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1967</p>	<p>The Soviet Union supported Egypt and Syria, providing them with military equipment and training before the war. Soviet intelligence reports also contributed to the pre-war tensions which led Egypt to mobilize its forces against Israel.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1971</p>	<p>The Soviet Union establishes a naval presence in Syria, utilizing the port of Tartus, which strengthens its influence in the region.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1973</p>	<p>The Soviet Union provided substantial military aid to Egypt and Syria, including equipment and advisors. During the conflict, the Soviets also maintained an alert posture and engaged in diplomatic efforts alongside the United States to mediate a ceasefire.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1974</p>	<p>The Turkish invasion of Cyprus leads to tensions between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies, which the Soviet Union exploits to gain leverage in the region.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1982</p>	<p>The Soviet Union had supported various Palestinian and Lebanese factions in previous years, providing arms and training, which played a role in the conflict.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1991</p>	<p>The dissolution of the Soviet Union significantly reduces Russian influence in the East Mediterranean, leading to a reconfiguration of regional power dynamics.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2006</p>	<p>With Georgia's increasing Western alignment, Russia accused Georgia of espionage. It led to conflict over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2011</p>	<p>Russia supports the Syrian government militarily.</p>



	beginning with naval and air support and escalating to a direct military presence in 2015, including operations from Tartus and the Khmeimim Airbase.
2011	Massive protests started across Russia in response to the electoral fraud in the parliamentary elections.
2014	Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine after the Ukrainian Revolution and a controversial referendum was held in Ukraine. This led to international condemnation and sanctions being imposed on Russia.
2015	The Turkish Air Force shot down a Russian jet near the Turkey-Syria border. Turkey claimed that the jet was violating Turkish airspace and Russia denied it.
2017	Russia signs long-term agreements with Syria to maintain its naval and air bases, solidifying its military presence in the region.
2022	Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, escalating ongoing tensions. The invasion led to international condemnation and severe sanctions against Russia, with the conflict still continuing.

6. Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

During the Cold War, the issue of the Soviet Navy in the Mediterranean was mostly handled through direct talks between the US and the Soviets, and also through NATO. They tried to control arms and avoid naval fights, as seen in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Incidents at Sea Agreement (INCSEA) in 1972. These agreements were meant to stop accidental military fights and manage the competition between the superpowers in important areas like the Mediterranean.



After the Cold War ended, Russia wasn't as strong militarily, leading to its smaller presence in the Mediterranean. There weren't as many direct conflicts during this time, and Western countries tried to use diplomacy with Russia to help it become part of the European security framework. The Partnership for Peace program started by NATO in 1994 was part of these efforts. It aimed to build trust and cooperation, which also helped with concerns about military actions in places like the Eastern Mediterranean. But, when Russia got stronger militarily and started focusing more on the region around 2013 because of the conflict in Syria, new ways to solve the problem were needed. These included multi-party negotiations led by the U.N. for peace in Syria and talks at big international meetings like the UN Security Council and the G20. Because Russia was so involved in Syria, had made their naval base at Tartus bigger, and was active in the Libyan conflict, Western countries, and regional states had to think again about how to handle the bigger security issues caused by Russia's actions in the Mediterranean.

7. Possible Solutions

One idea is for NATO and the European Union to work more closely with countries within the area. By building stronger relationships with nations like Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey, and helping to improve their security, the West could help balance out Russian influence. This plan would involve doing more joint military training, forming economic partnerships, and having strategic discussions to strengthen the independence and safety of these countries.

Another approach might be having direct dialogues with Russia to try and lessen its military activities in the area. These talks could happen within already existing international setups or through new one-on-one discussions, aiming to sort out common security worries that both Russia and NATO members have. The deals made could include limits on certain kinds of naval activities or setting up systems to avoid any military mishaps or misunderstandings. This method would need serious diplomatic work and building trust to make sure the states do not violate the agreements and that they work well.

From an economic viewpoint, the European Union could use its economic power to get Russia to cooperate by connecting economic perks to reducing military activities. This might include making deals that offer advantages like easier trade or working together on energy, but these would depend on Russia cutting back its military actions in the Eastern



Mediterranean. These tactics would have to be adjusted carefully to not make tensions worse, and they would need a lot of support from EU countries.

Lastly, encouraging strengthening diplomatic relations through international groups could also lessen the effects of Russian presence. This could include starting a Mediterranean security forum that Russia would also be part of, to tackle common issues like migration, terrorism, and maritime safety. This forum would help in having regular talks and coordinated actions among countries in the Eastern Mediterranean, Russia, and Western nations, which would help build trust and improve stability. Through these joint efforts, the region could reach a more balanced power situation and better security cooperation.

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