

The Complexities of Black Sea Regional Security

This edition of the Euxeinos Newsletter aims to explore the various facets comprising the security context in the Black Sea Region today. Although it is by no means exhaustive, it is relatively comprehensive in that taken as a whole the five contributions provided a thorough assessment of the state of Black Sea security. In fact, the reader will realize that, despite their different perspectives, the five authors basically suggest that the security milieu of the region leaves much to be desired. Dimitrios Triantaphyllou provides an overview of the interplay of the various security concerns among the many stakeholders. He laments the loss of influence of the European Union and suggests that regionalism in the region finds itself in a process of disintegration. Yannis Tsantoulis presents a theoretical framework of the process of region-building and how the Black Sea Region has become both the subject and product of geopolitical engineering. Sinem Akgül Açıkmeşe explores the European Union's engagement in the region

by assessing its various policies and instruments. She reflects on the Union's inconsistencies and contradictions in its policy formulation. Mitat Çelikpala focuses, in particular, on Turkey's role on the evolving energy politics in the Black Sea Region and observes how it transcends the region and how technological advances keep making energy a game changer regionally and beyond. Hanna Shelest looks at the ongoing diplomatic processes to deal with the various protracted conflicts in the region. She suggests that these are bereft of originality and that the current status quo is favoured by most conflicting parties.

Whether the reader agrees with some or none of the conclusions and the arguments of the authors, he/she is certainly going to find much food for thought in these articles. The reader should also conclude that the Black Sea Region merits greater study and attention.

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