

Greece, Cyprus and the Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean

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The Eastern Mediterranean in Uncharted Waters

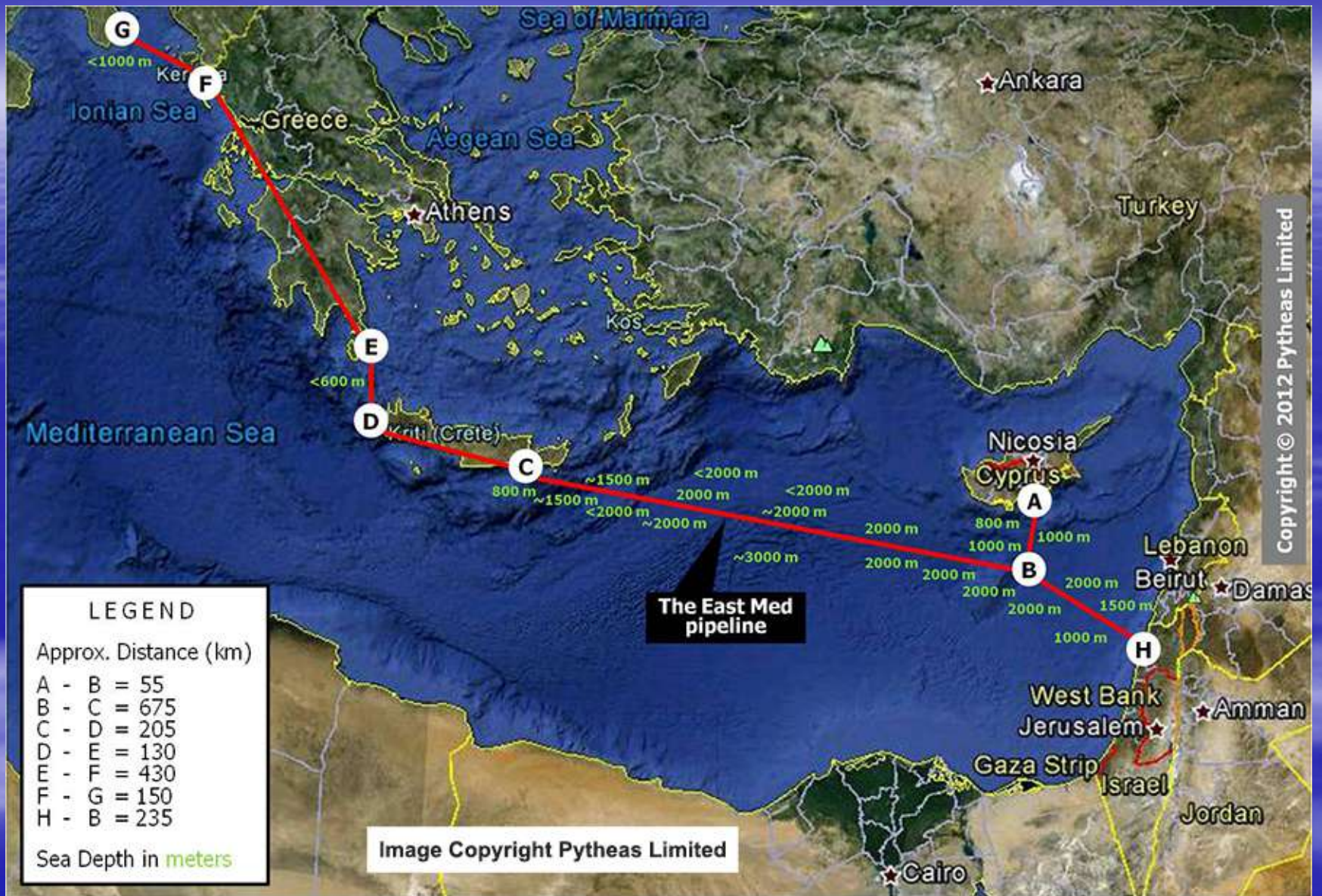
- Main Points

- Why has the Eastern Mediterranean turned into a Conflict Zone
- Four main reasons
 - Energy
 - Cyprus
 - Libya
 - Turkey's "Blue Homeland" Project

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■ Energy

- Recent energy discoveries have put the Eastern Mediterranean into the European energy map
- Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel and Turkey got involved
- Volatility in global energy markets is likely to affect the viability of several projects
- Initial estimates may prove too optimistic;
 - Yet energy has become an additional factor in regional politics



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■ Cyprus (I)

–Energy Monetization moves by the Republic of Cyprus

- Energy exploration
- New licenses
- Declining sentiment in energy markets
- Monetization ever more difficult

–Turkey's reaction

- Escalation and spillover towards Greece

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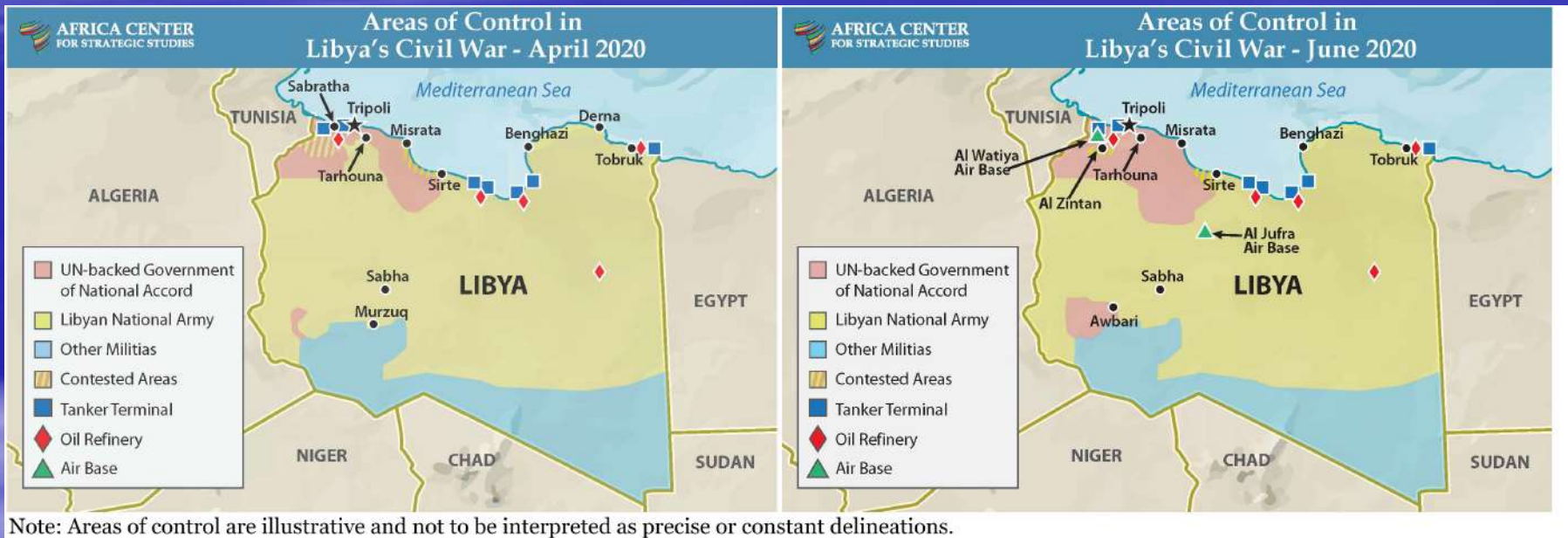
- Cyprus (II)
 - Turkey's View on Cyprus Discoveries
 - The Republic of Cyprus cannot exploit energy resources, as it does not represent Turkish Cypriots
 - Yet Turkey has recognized the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” in the north of the island
 - Dispatch of the exploratory vessels
 - Interruption of intercommunal negotiations

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■ Libya

- The Arab Uprisings and the Libyan civil war
- Strong Turkish interest
 - Business
 - Muslim Brotherhood
- GNA vs LNA/HR
- Turkey's clash with Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia
- Turkey's conflict with France

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- Turkey's Involvement in Libya
 - Sponsor of the GNA side
 - Bitter enemy of LNA/HR
 - Military engagement
 - Stronger interest in the Eastern Mediterranean
 - The November 2019 memorandum of understanding
 - Its effect on Greek-Turkish relations

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- The “Blue Homeland” and Greek-Turkish Relations
 - Delimitation of Greek-Turkish Maritime Borders
 - A long-standing dispute referring to territorial waters, continental shelf and airspace in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean
 - The discovery of energy resources brought about the question of delimiting the exclusive economic zone (EEZ)

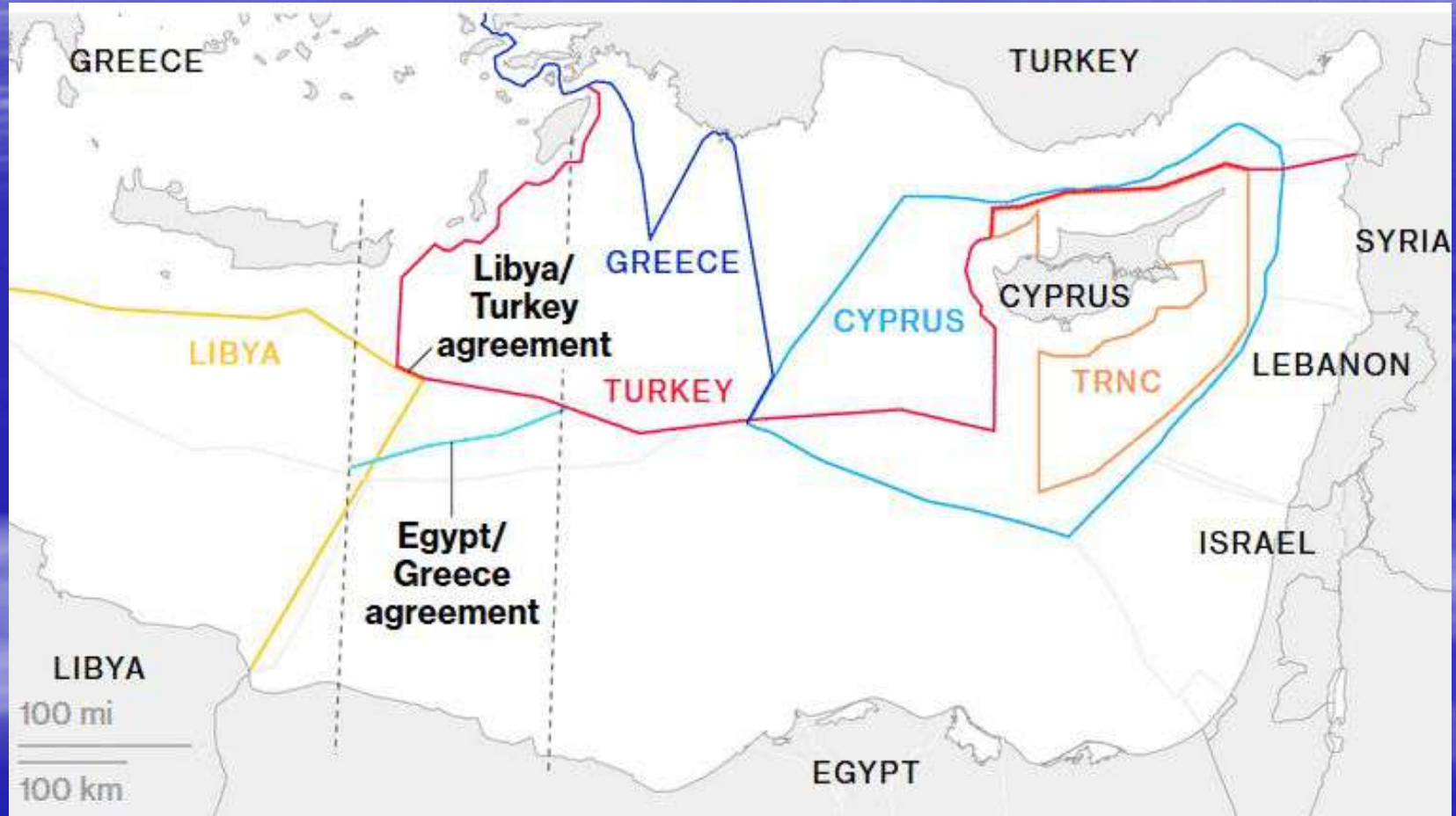
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- **Turkish Shifting Political Landscape and Foreign Policy**
 - The AKP and *Ulusalcılık*
 - From bitter animosity to swift collaboration
 - The effect of the 15 July 2016 coup attempt
 - The “Blue Homeland” vision
 - The signature of the EEZ agreement with Libya

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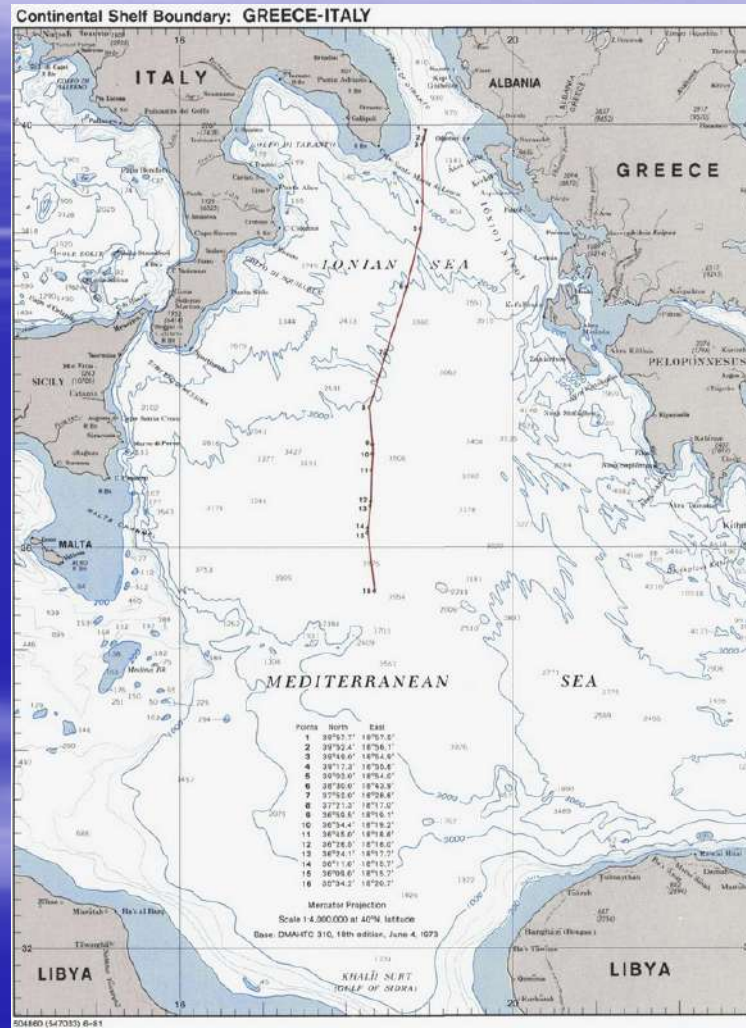
■ Greece's Response

- Signature of EEZ agreements with Italy and Egypt
- UNCLOS is applicable but flexibility shown
 - Islands given EEZ rights, but not always 100 percent

■ Turkey's Response

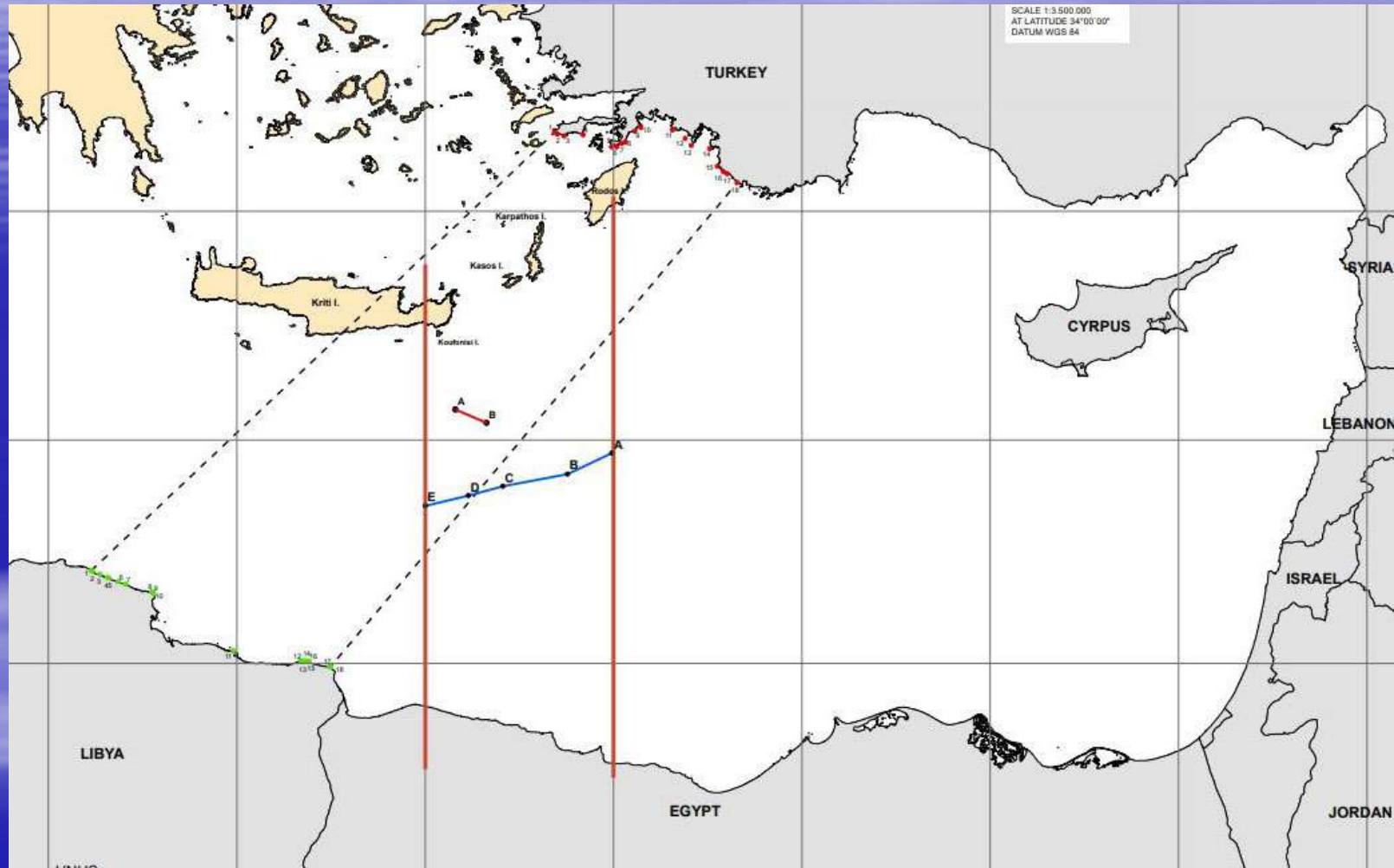
- The *Oruç Reis* vessel and exploration activities
- Military escalation and threat for an accident

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■ Conclusions

- Four factors have contributed to the escalation of Greek-Turkish conflict
- De-escalation should be the first step for negotiations to bring the case to ICJ
 - The ICJ has shown remarkable flexibility within the limits of UNCLOS
- Inertia is highly risky and dangerous for both countries and the region

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