



MAP 8 - 2019: The "Mavi Vatan" (Blue Homeland) as Turkey's official doctrine

In October 2018, the map of the "Mavi Vatan" (Blue Homeland) was presented for the first time by Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar, in a TV interview with Anadolu, as a maritime area covering 462,000 square kilometers in the Aegean Sea, Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Until then, the term "Mavi Vatan" (Blue Homeland) was exclusively mentioned in Turkish Navy studies and newspaper articles, without any endorsement or use by the Turkish Government.

As far as Greece is concerned, the "Mavi Vatan" (Blue Homeland) encompasses all areas in which Turkey had until then raised claims to sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Aegean Sea [i.e. the area for which it has licensed TPAO since the 1970s and has claimed SAR (Search and Rescue) responsibilities since 1988], as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean (licenses to TPAO from south of the Kastellorizo complex & south and southeast of Rhodes up to the 28th Meridian), but also further west to the outer limits of the Greek territorial waters of 6 nautical miles off the islands of Crete, Kassos and Karpathos.

With this map, not only Turkey does not recognize the right to the continental shelf of the Greek islands in the Mediterranean, but also the right to territorial waters beyond six (6) nautical miles. Since then, the "Mavi Vatan" (Blue Homeland) has effectively become an official Turkish doctrine with President Erdoğan and other members of the Turkish Government referring to it on a regular basis.