

# Can energy cooperation be the foundation for peace in the Eastern Mediterranean?

July 4, 2024

**Professor Athanasios Platias**

Department of International and European Studies  
School of Economics, Business and International Studies  
University of Piraeus

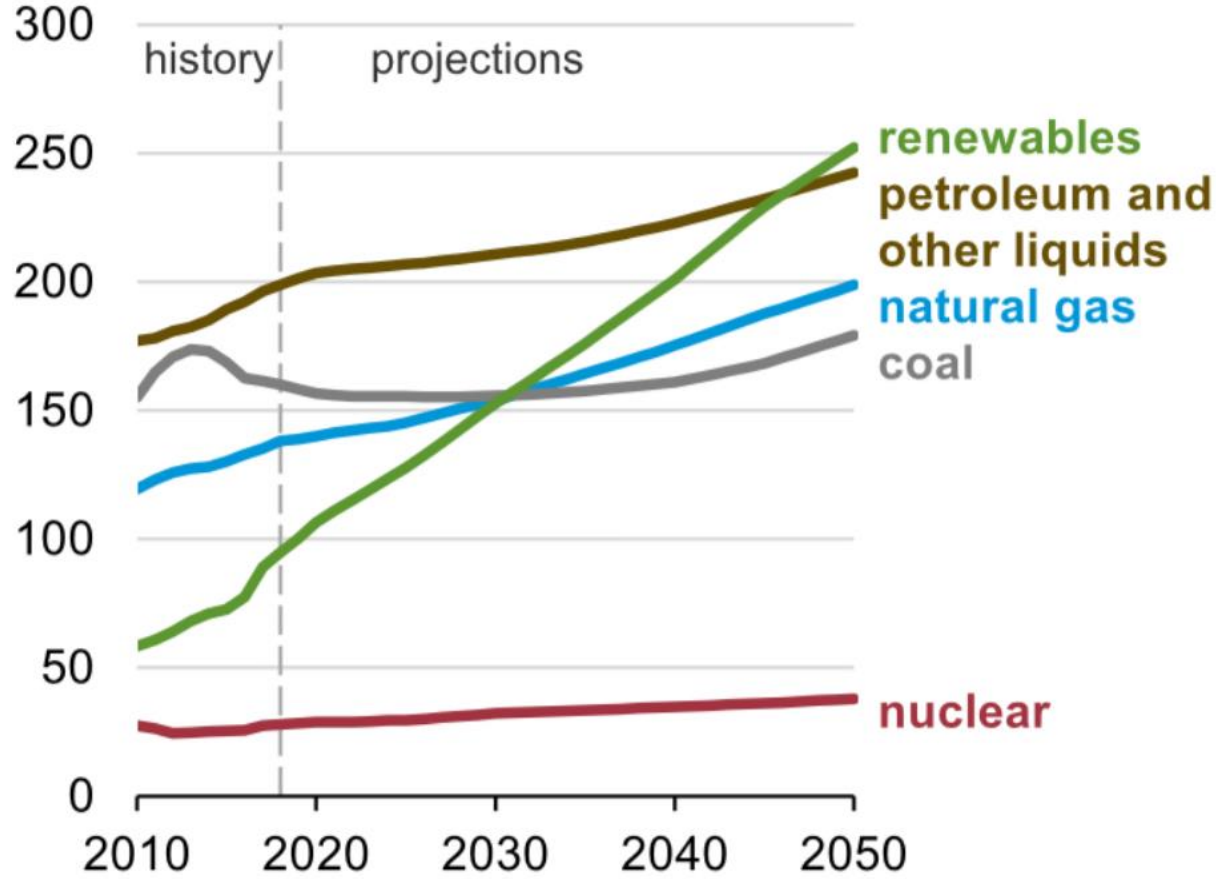


Table 1. Causal Pathways from Oil to International Conflict

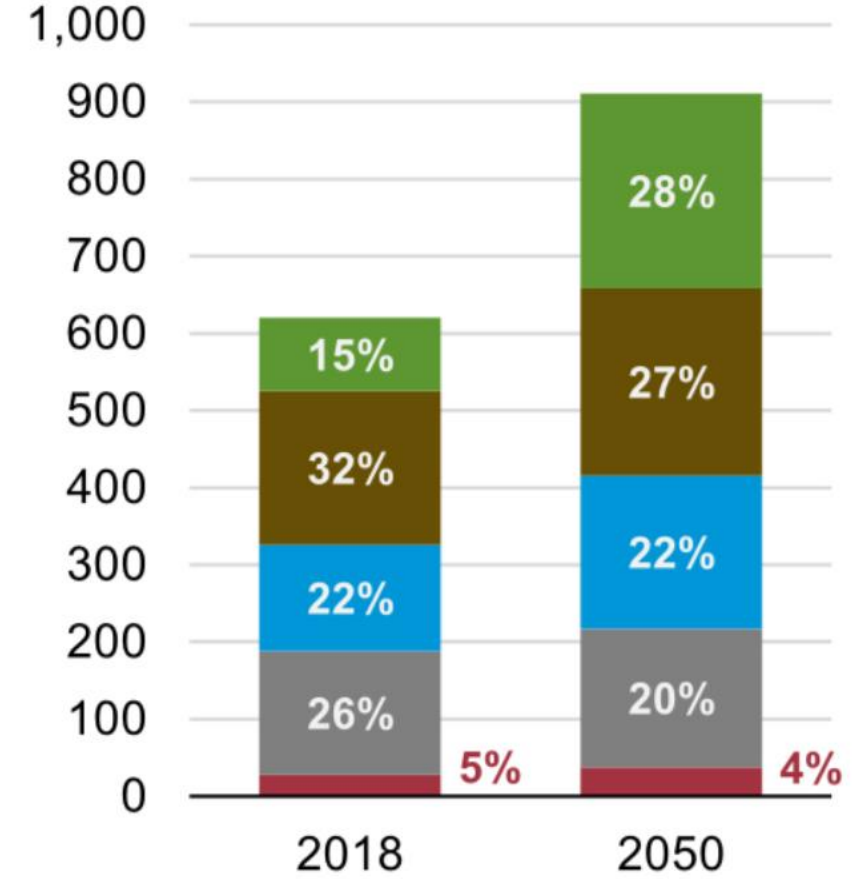
Label	Causal Mechanism	Example
Ownership and Market Structure		
Resource Wars	Oil reserves (or perceived oil reserves) raise the payoff to territorial conquest.	Iraq-Kuwait, 1990; Chaco War; Japan, 1941
Risk of Market Domination	Conquest of (or threat) to key territories in oil market creates a risk for another state, often an importer, causing the state(s) to intervene.	U.S.-Iraq, 1991
Oil Industry Grievance	Presence of foreign workers in a petrostate creates grievances for state or nonstate actors.	Al-Qaida; Iran hostage crisis
Producer Politics		
Petro-aggression	Oil reduces the domestic accountability of petrostate leaders, lowering the risks of instigating wars.	Iraq-Iran; Libya-Chad-Egypt
Petro-insurgency	Oil income provides finances for foreign nonstate actors to wage war.	Iran-Hezbollah; Saudis in Afghanistan
Externalization of Civil Wars in Petrostates	Oil creates conditions for civil war, which then leads to foreign intervention, externalization, or spillover.	Libya-NATO; Angola-Cuba; Sudan-Chad
Consumer Access Concerns		
Transit Route	States' efforts to secure transit routes for oil create a security dilemma that produces or exacerbates conflict.	Sudan; South China Sea; Strait of Hormuz
Obstacle to Multilateralism	Importers' efforts to curry favor with petrostate prevent multilateral cooperation on security issues.	U.S.-China friction over Iran, Sudan

### Global primary energy consumption by energy source (2010-2050)

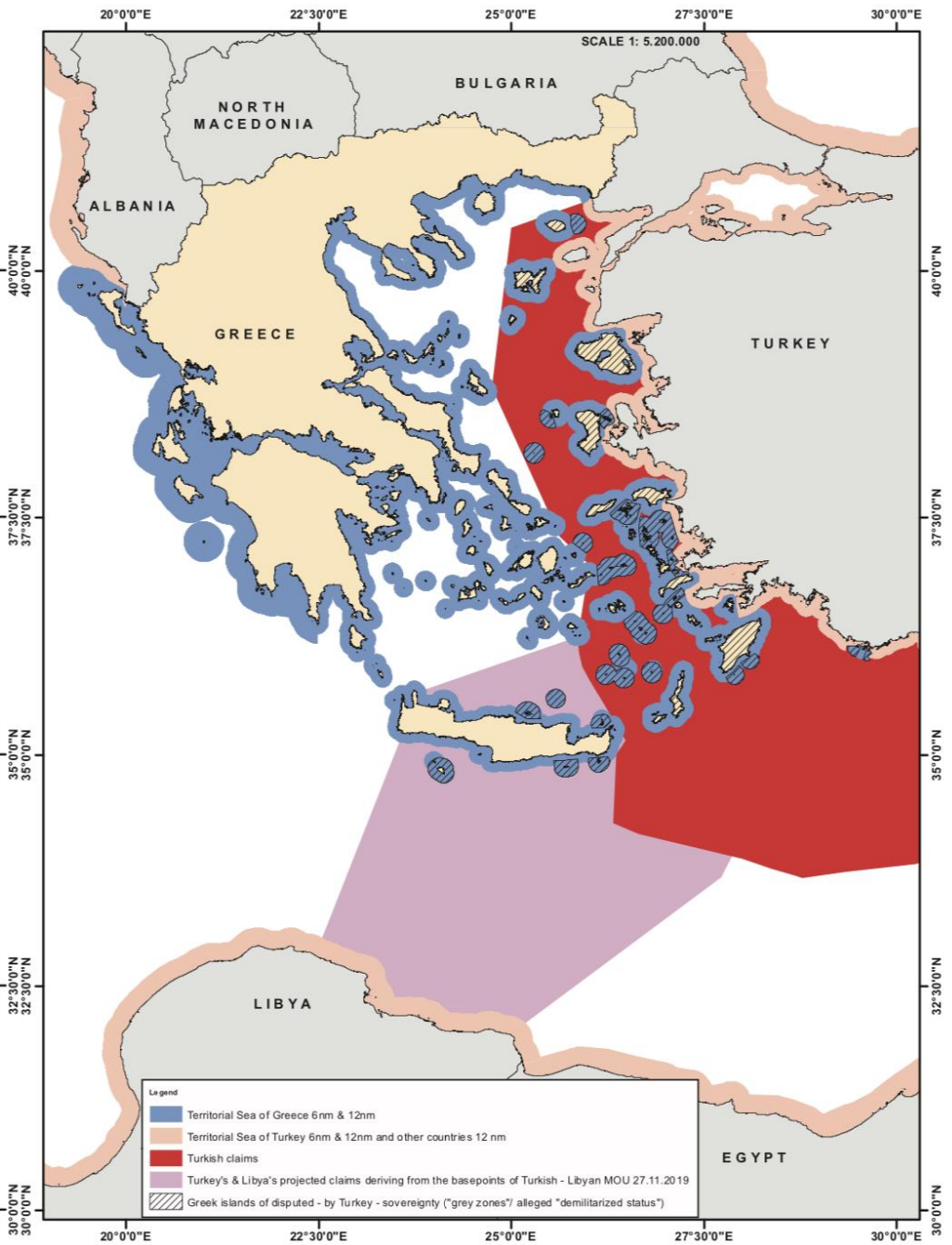
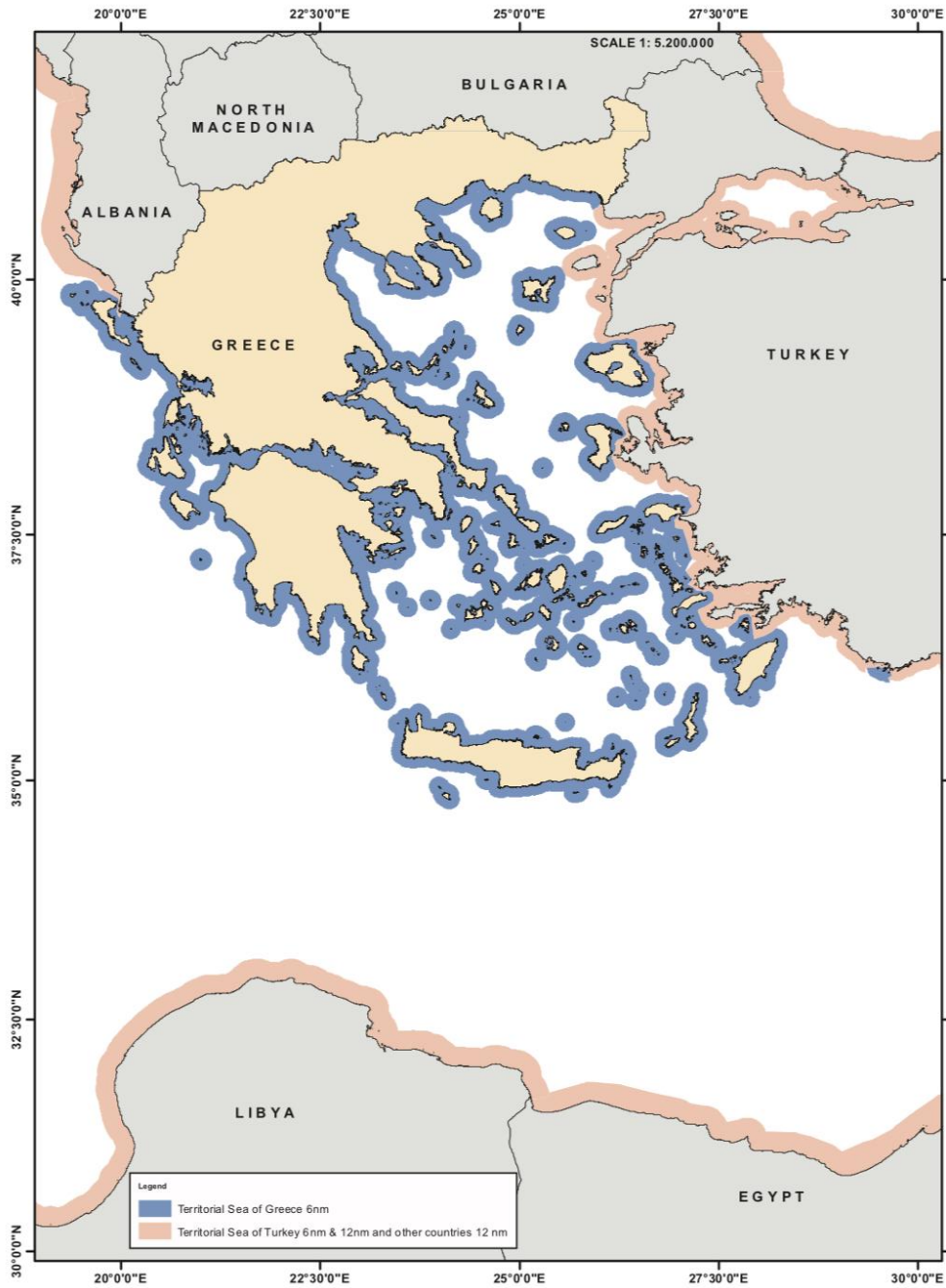
quadrillion British thermal units



quadrillion British thermal units



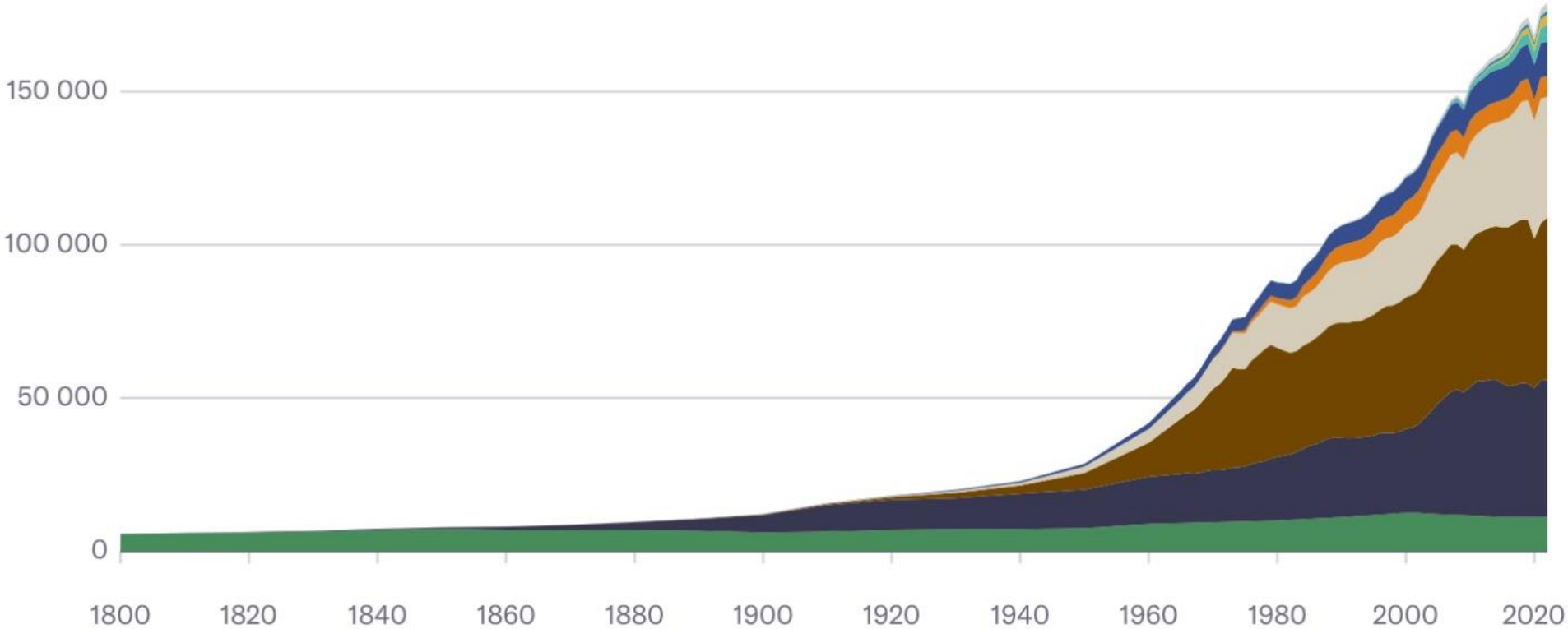
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 2019* Reference case



# The global energy system continues to be dominated by fossil fuels

Primary energy sources, in terawatt hours

- Traditional biomass
- Coal
- Oil
- Gas
- Nuclear energy
- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Solar power
- Biofuel
- Other renewable energies



Source: [Our World in Data](#)