

GREECE, TURKEY, NATO, EU

A WAR CONUNDRUM

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As we speak Turkey has declared hybrid war on Greece via throngs of illegal immigrants threatening to overwhelm Greek borders. Rumors say these throngs are replete with Turkish special forces saboteurs infiltrating Greek territory. Turkish government ministers miss no opportunity to openly threaten Greece in unmistakable language. *For all intents and purposes, Turkey has practically declared war on its neighbor.*

This is no surprise development. Ever since the 1974 brazen Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Ankara has relentlessly pursued an undeclared war in the Aegean Sea questioning Greek sovereignty and dishing international treaties and international law.

But Greece and Turkey are still nominal “allies” in NATO. And that in itself creates a huge question of responsibility for the Atlantic Alliance. For years and years, NATO has ignored this blatant Turkish aggression “in the interest of alliance stability.” Lukewarm statements, spokesmen engaged in speech acrobatics, and turning a blind eye to Ankara’s not-so-veiled aggression in the Aegean have created a deadlock-- which bring us to [Article 5](#) of the NATO treaty.

Article 5 enshrines collective defense as the cornerstone of the alliance: if one member is attacked all others need to come to the assistance of the member being attacked. Today, and against the backdrop of the Turkish hybrid war on Greece, the obvious question arises: *when this hybrid war evolves into all-out conflict in the Aegean, who will support who?*

While NATO is guilty of barefaced tight roping, and turning a blind eye to Turkish aggression, Greece herself is also guilty of *never really tabling Article 5 as an urgent issue for the cohesion of the Alliance*. Claims by Greek politicians that any such move would have “destabilized” Greece’s own interests was and is idle talk of “leaders” and “experts” fearing to act as they should have.

At this time, therefore, Greece is at the precarious position of being attacked relentlessly by a NATO member that is running amuck in the Middle East by invading Syria, pairing with Russia and Iran, threatening Greece and Cyprus with military action over natural gas exploration, and having the gall to unilaterally parcel out Eastern Mediterranean via a bilateral agreement on Exclusive Economic Wars with the wobbling Libyan administration in Tripoli. As for the European Union, in terms of holding

Turkey responsible for its actions, its position is almost identical to that of NATO's. Stroking the Islamist strongman Erdogan, Brussels misses no opportunity to issue statements *undistinguishable from those of NATO* stressing Turkey's purported significance as a "rampart" of Western interests—a truly ludicrous claim under present circumstances.

A Turkish attack on Greece will collapse what is left of NATO's core "values" and make a laughingstock of the EU's "unity" and "high diplomacy." But, in the end, Greece will also hypnotically step into its Finlandization shoes losing territory and whatever "independence" still has. In other words, Greece, as so many times in the past, will be left alone holding the big can of worms.