



The Impact Of Libya Turkey Maritime Treaty On Libyan Foreign Policy Objectives

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ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on the significant impact on Libyan foreign policy objectives of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. The Treaty influences Libya's strategic positioning in the Mediterranean, regional alliances, and diplomatic ties. In order to address important economic issues, the treaty also gives Libya the authority to assert its sovereignty and increases its capacity for resource development in the Eastern Mediterranean. The present study aims to analyze the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty, examine how the treaty has influenced Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements and evaluate the treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. The study employed a mixed data collection method. Questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used in this process. Consequently, three research questions and two hypotheses were developed to direct the investigation. The study included 384 individuals in total, and the subjects were chosen for the questionnaire using a simple random sample procedure. Likewise, an interview was conducted with 12 participants. Purposive sampling was the method used by the researcher to choose interview subjects. The study's instruments include an interview schedule and a self-designed questionnaire. The reliability coefficient of the questionnaire is 0.82. The null hypotheses were tested using the t-test at the 0.05 level of significance. The study's findings imply that the treaty has fundamentally changed the Libyan Government of National Accord's (GNA) foreign policy goals and kept them separate from Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. The results also showed that the treaty has a detrimental effect on Libya's diplomatic ties with its neighbours, which intensifies regional polarisation and tensions. According to the findings, the Libya-Turkey marine Treaty will have long-term effects on bilateral relations between Libya and Turkey, economic factors and strategic goals, difficulties with international law and marine laws, diplomatic reactions, and regional repercussions.

Key Words: Impact, Libya Turkey Maritime Treaty, Foreign Policy Objectives

Introduction:

The Libya's foreign policy underwent a significant change with the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty, which impacted its long-term geopolitical posture, regional engagements, and strategic partnerships. The agreement, which was signed in November 2019 by the Government of National Accord (GNA) and Turkey, establishes an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) between the two countries in the Eastern Mediterranean, an area that is abundant in oil resources and marked by fierce geopolitical rivalry (Mansour, 2020). The deal has sparked serious diplomatic and security worries among neighbouring governments, especially Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus, in addition to strengthening Libya's strategic cooperation with Turkey. Libya's sovereignty, economic interests, and regional importance in a rapidly changing international system have all been called into doubt (Dziubinska, 2021).

Since Muammar Gaddafi's overthrow in 2011, Libya's foreign policy has experienced significant transformations due to political unrest, rival factions, and outside involvement. The nation has had difficulty in navigating an increasingly complicated regional environment, managing internal security issues, and establishing a unified government (Sarihan, 2020). The deal between Libya and Turkey marks a significant turning point in Libya's diplomatic development as it looks to reshape its interactions with other countries while preserving its vital economic and security interests. Libya's GNA has gained political and military backing by strengthening its ties with Turkey, but at the expense of increased hostilities with Greece and Egypt, who see the treaty as a breach of their maritime rights. Beyond resource sharing, the pact has wider consequences and is now at the centre of regional rivalries, maritime diplomacy, and international legal conflicts that will influence Libya's foreign policy objectives. (Güney, 2022).

In view of the foregoing, the study analyzed the long-term implications of this treaty, specifically focusing on its effects on Libya's foreign policy objectives and how it impacts the country's strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Research Questions:

The fundamental questions that require investigation are:

- (1) What are the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty?
- (2) How has the treaty influenced Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements?
- (3) In what ways does the treaty's significance advance Libya's strategic economic and security interest?

Objectives of the Study:

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) To analyze the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty.
- (2) To examine how the treaty has influenced Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements.
- (3) To evaluate the treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests.

Hypothesis:

The two null hypotheses will be formulated to guide the study as follows:

Ho1: The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not significantly shifted the foreign policy objectives of the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya, and they remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean

Ho2: The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries such as Greece and Egypt and regional tensions and polarization have not increased as a result of the treaty.

Literature Review:

Strategic Motivations behind the Treaty

The strategic interests of Turkey and the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya were the main forces behind the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. The deal gave Libya access to much-needed Turkish military assistance during its war against Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA). The GNA's existence was in jeopardy at the time as Haftar's forces advanced towards Tripoli. Signed in November 2019, the pact was part of a separate security cooperation agreement that permitted Turkey to supply Libya's GNA forces with military training, equipment, and advising support (Pala, 2021). Under its "Blue Homeland" theory (Mavi Vatan), a geopolitical framework highlighting Turkey's sovereign rights over vast ocean zones, Turkey used the deal to bolster its maritime claims in the Eastern Mediterranean in exchange. Turkey used this concept to resist what it saw as attempts by Greece, Cyprus, and other regional actors to keep Turkey out of Mediterranean energy politics and to get access to hydrocarbon resources and establish its influence in the region. Furthermore, by increasing its military and diplomatic presence in North Africa and establishing itself as a major actor in the region's economic and security issues, the treaty strengthened Turkey's larger geopolitical goals (Yılmaz, 2020).

Legal Controversies and Regional Opposition

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been cited as evidence that the treaty violates the rights of other Mediterranean countries, including Greece and Cyprus, by ignoring their rights; Greece specifically claims that the agreement encroaches on its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf because it does not recognise Greece's sovereign rights over islands like Crete; the lack of ratification by the Libyan Parliament has also raised questions about the legitimacy of the agreement, with Libyan political factions opposing what they perceive as a unilateral decision by the GNA. In late 2020, granting it a certain degree of global reputation. Nonetheless, the deal continues to face diplomatic and legal resistance, with Greece and the EU contesting its legality on geopolitical and legal grounds (Aydıntaşbaş, 2023).

Impact on Regional Geopolitics

The deal has strained Libya's ties with its neighbours, especially Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus, and escalated geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. These countries are concerned that the deal will limit their capacity to explore and utilise the region's natural resources, and they see it as a direct challenge to their marine sovereignty and energy interests (Demir, 2022). The Turkish-Libyan claims were essentially refuted in August 2020 when Greece and Egypt inked their own maritime delimitation agreement. This action strengthened opposing coalitions in the Mediterranean and further widened the gulf in the region. The United States, France, and the European Union have also criticised the treaty, citing worries about Turkey's forceful maritime policy and increasing power. Because of these tensions, which have resulted in increased military posture, diplomatic conflicts, and naval encounters, the Eastern Mediterranean has become one of the most unstable geopolitical regions in recent years. (Kavalski, 2023).

Economic Implications

By creating prospects for hydrocarbon exploration within its newly defined EEZ, the pact offers Libya a possible lifeline for its post-conflict rehabilitation from an economic standpoint. The deal permits cooperative exploration projects with Turkey's state-owned petroleum corporations, which might unlock substantial energy reserves given Libya's strong reliance on oil and gas earnings. But there are risks associated with these economic opportunities (Özertem, 2020). Any resource extraction in disputed waters could lead to more diplomatic disputes and potential military escalation because of the treaty's disputed maritime claims. Furthermore, the increasing political unrest may make it difficult for European energy firms with current investments in the area to manage investment flows and economic stability (Pack, 2021).

Military Cooperation between Libya and Turkey

The deal has strengthened military connections between Turkey and Libya in addition to its political and economic effects. Through a separate security cooperation agreement, Turkey quickly expanded its military support for the GNA after the accord, providing modern weapons, military advisors, and training programs for Libyan forces. In 2020, the GNA successfully repelled Haftar's attack on Tripoli with the aid of Turkish drones, naval resources, and intelligence assistance. In addition to ensuring the GNA's continued existence, this military alliance increased Turkey's geopolitical clout in North Africa (Papatolios, 2022). Turkey has solidified its position in the area and gained access to important naval bases and military installations by maintaining a long-term military presence in Libya. This could provide it a tactical edge in future Mediterranean security issues. Turkey is now one of Libya's most important security allies as a result of their stronger military collaboration, which has also changed Libya's defence strategy and increased regional polarisation and opposition from competing actors. (Strating, 2021).

Theories of foreign policy objectives

Theories of foreign policy objectives provide frameworks for understanding how states formulate and pursue their goals in the international arena. Some key theories includes:

Realist Theory

Realism posits that foreign policy objectives are primarily driven by security and power considerations. States seek to maximize their power and security in an anarchic international system, often through military strength and strategic alliances. This theory emphasizes the role of national interest and self-help in guiding foreign policy decisions (Waltz, 1979).

The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty embodies key principles of realist theory in international relations. Realism posits that states prioritize power and security in their foreign policy decisions. Libya's alliance with Turkey exemplifies this principle, as it sought to enhance its security and power by securing Turkish military support. This move aligns with realist self-help and security maximization tenets, allowing Libya to counterbalance internal threats and external pressures in an anarchic international system (Rose, 1998).

The treaty also serves Libya's national interest by securing access to hydrocarbon resources and enhancing its geopolitical standing in the Eastern Mediterranean. This pursuit of economic and strategic interests reflects realist thinking about state behavior, where states act to maximize their national interests. However, the treaty has contributed to a shift in the regional balance of power, increasing tensions with neighboring countries like Greece and Egypt, which perceive the treaty as a challenge to their own power and interests. This dynamic illustrates the realist emphasis on maintaining a balance of power in international relations (Keohane and Nye, 2001).

Liberal Theory

Liberalism suggests that foreign policy objectives are shaped by economic interdependence, democratic governance, and international institutions. It argues that cooperation and multilateralism can reduce conflict and promote peace, emphasizing the importance of diplomacy and international law in achieving foreign policy goals (Bromley, 2022).

The treaty between Turkey and Libya facilitates joint exploration of hydrocarbon resources, promoting economic cooperation and interdependence. This aligns with liberal ideas that economic ties can reduce

conflict and enhance cooperation among states. By fostering economic interdependence, the treaty has the potential to strengthen relations between Turkey and Libya, and possibly even reduce tensions in the region (Akhavan, 2020).

However, the treaty's legitimacy and compliance with international norms remain contentious. Critics argue that it violates international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Despite these criticisms, the treaty reflects an attempt to establish a legal framework for maritime cooperation between Turkey and Libya. The European Union, Greece, Cyprus, and other countries have expressed concerns over the treaty's implications, highlighting the need for careful consideration of international institutions and law in shaping state behavior (Khalil, 2020).

Methodology:

The research design used was a mixed-method approach to data collection. As a result, an interview and questionnaire were used to gather the data. A deeper knowledge of the research problem can be obtained by combining quantitative (such as experiments) and qualitative (such as interviews) methodologies in a mixed methods approach. As a result, the explanatory sequential design which uses qualitative data to examine quantitative findings was chosen as the best approach for this study. In this sense, the qualitative information provides a more thorough explanation of the quantitative findings (Creswell, 1998).

Two categories of populations are identified in scientific research: the study population (available population) and the target population (theoretical population). The target population, which typically has a variety of characteristics, is the full set of people or things to which the researcher is interested in applying the findings (Sekaran 2010). Libyan government officials, Turkish diplomats, Libyan civil society organisations, and international relations experts and researchers from Tripoli, Benghazi, Misurata, and Sabha make up the study's population. Based on the 0.05 margin of error given by Kreycie and Morgan (1970), the sample size was selected from the study population in order to calculate the necessary sample size. As a result, the study used 384 samples. To determine the necessary sample size, the study used a simple random sampling procedure. Twelve participants from the aforementioned city also participated in a semi-structured in-depth face to face interview. Purposive sampling is a method used by the researcher to choose interview participants.

In order to reach a potentially large number of participants and enable both statistical and thematic analysis of the results, the study used both questionnaire instruments and an interview technique. But according to Litchman (2010), the interview protocol was defined as a roadmap for a dialogue between the interviewer and the interviewee. The interviewer collected data during the session, which involved verbal communication between the interviewee and the interviewer (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2016). The first portion of the interview protocol asks about the participants' demographics and socioeconomic status. Second, concerns about how Libya's foreign policy goals are affected by the Libya-Turkey maritime deal. To guarantee content validity, measurement and evaluation specialists validated the instruments. Cronbach Alpha measurements of scale reliability were used to assess the instrument's dependability.

With the help of a research assistant, the researchers directly administered the instruments (such as the questionnaire and interview protocol). They both contributed appropriately to the data collection. In a similar vein, the interview lasted perhaps twenty-five to thirty minutes. To satisfy the requirements of the research objectives, the data collected from the participants' questionnaire was handled, processed, and analysed using relevant statistical methods (SPSS 24 program). Inferential statistics like the t-test were employed in the data analysis. In contrast, thematic analysis was used to examine the interview data. According to Bodgan and Biklen (2017) thematic analysis is "a technique for identifying, examining and recording patterns within the data". The subsequent stages of thematic data analysis were applied. Specifically: data analysis, coding, transcribing, and theme development.

Result

The data gathered from the two research instruments i.e. the questionnaire and the interview guide forms the basis of the study's findings. However, the t-test technique below was used to evaluate the two null hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1 (Ho₁): The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not significantly shifted the foreign policy objectives of the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya, and they remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean

Table 1: Showing the t-test analysis on Libya's inability to shift the foreign policy objectives and remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean

Variables	N	X	SD	DF	t.cal.	t.crit.	Decision
Libya's inability to shift the foreign policy objectives	205	2.78	1.22	276	0.148	0.843	Not Significant
Libya remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean	179	2.66	1.18				

The computed t-test value of 0.148 is less than the critical t-test value of 0.843 at the 0.05 level of confidence, according to the result in table 1 above. This implies that the null hypothesis which stated that the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not significantly shifted the foreign policy objectives of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) and remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean, is accepted.

Hypothesis 2 (Ho₂): The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries such as Greece and Egypt and regional tensions and polarization have not increased as a result of the treaty.

Table 2: Showing the t-test analysis on the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty inability to negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries such as Greece and Egypt.

Variables	N	X	SD	DF	t.cal.	t.crit.	Decision
The Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty	277	2.63	1.17	276	6.034	0.136	Significant
Treaties' Inability to negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries							

The computed t-test value of 6.034 is higher than the critical t-test value of 0.136 at the 0.05 level of confidence, according to the data in table 2 above. This implies that the null hypothesis which stated that the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries such as Greece and Egypt, is rejected.

Furthermore, the collected interview results were presented and examined. The following subheadings were used to analyse the participants' opinions:

Long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty

The participants gave their opinions on the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. The themes that emerged from the participants' clarifications include the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty such as Libya and turkey bilateral relations, economic considerations and strategic objectives, challenges in international law and maritime regulations, diplomatic responses and regional consequences.

One of the participants mentioned that one of the long-term effects of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty is the bilateral relationship between Libya and Turkey. A strategic change in Libya's foreign policy, bilateral relations with Turkey bring the country closer to Turkey, a major regional power. He further stated that:

The agreement is an illustration of Libya's efforts to forge closer diplomatic and economic ties with Turkey after years of upheaval under Gaddafi. Although the deal is economically advantageous to both countries, he continued, it has put Libya in a more difficult political position as it attempts to balance its ties with the EU and other Mediterranean powers.

However, one of the participants narrated that economic considerations and strategic objectives is another long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. He argued that:

Both Libya and Turkey have benefited strategically from the deal, particularly in terms of safeguarding maritime resources like oil and gas reserves. The deal now centres on Libya's abundant natural riches, especially in the Mediterranean. He goes on to say that the agreement gives Turkey easier access to lucrative energy development prospects in Libyan waters. Thus, the deal is regarded as a significant component of Turkey's larger Mediterranean geopolitical and economic agenda.

Similarly, another participant explained that challenges in international law and maritime regulations is also another long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. She explained that:

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been questioned in relation to the treaty's delineation of maritime borders between Libya and Turkey, particularly in light of Greece and Cyprus' exclusion. As a result, the treaty violates current international standards for the fair distribution of marine resources in disputed waters, which is another international legal issue.

Similarly, one of the participants stated that diplomatic responses and regional consequences. is another long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty He clarified that:

Libya and its Mediterranean neighbours, especially Greece, Cyprus, and Egypt, have been at odds over the treaty for a long time because they believe it violates their marine rights and sovereignty. He went on to say that the deal has established two rival Mediterranean blocs, one headed by Greece, Egypt, and the EU, and the other by Turkey and Libya. Libya is now stuck between conflicting regional interests, which has further polarised its foreign policy.

How the treaty has influenced Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements

The participants gave their opinions on the how the treaty influenced Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements. The themes that emerged from the participant's explanations includes: strengthened alliance with Turkey and military cooperation, deteriorating relations with Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus, diplomatic challenges with the European Union and international community, energy and economic considerations in Libya's foreign policy.

One of the participants mentioned that strengthened alliance with Turkey and military cooperation is one of the Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements as a result of the treaty with Turkey. He further stated that:

The deal has strengthened a strategic cooperation that goes beyond marine concerns by bringing Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA) closer to Turkey. Under the terms of the deal, Libya received vital military support from Turkey, which was essential in halting Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) onslaught during the civil war in the nation.

Similarly, another participant narrated that the deteriorating relations with Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus, Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements was seriously affected. He added that:

Libya's diplomatic relations with its Mediterranean neighbours, especially Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus, have suffered as a result of the treaty. These nations contest the agreement's validity, claiming that it infringes upon their maritime rights as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

In the same direction, one of the participants confirmed that the diplomatic challenges with the European Union and international community is one of the Libya's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagements as a result of the treaty with Turkey. The EU has been largely critical of the agreement, with officials arguing that it is inconsistent with international maritime law and contributes to instability in the Eastern Mediterranean. France, in particular, has opposed the treaty, citing concerns over Turkey's growing influence in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

The Treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests

The participants gave their opinions on the treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. The themes that emerged from the participants' explanations are strengthening Libya's security through Turkish military support, economic opportunities: hydrocarbon exploration and energy security, assertion of sovereignty and regional influence, challenges and risks to economic and security gains.

One of the participants mentioned that strengthening Libya's security through Turkish military support is one of the treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. . Following the signing of the agreement, Libya and Turkey concluded a separate security and defense cooperation deal, paving the way for Turkish military intervention in Libya He further stated that:

As part of this agreement, Turkey supplied the GNA with air defense systems, armoured vehicles, drones, and military advisors to help them fight Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA). In 2020, Haftar's advance on Tripoli was decisively halted by this help, giving the GNA back control of the territory. Therefore, the pact was a strategic tool used by the Libyan government to ensure its survival and strengthen its military.

In the same direction, one of the participants confirmed that economic opportunities: hydrocarbon exploration and energy security is another treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. Beyond security benefits, the treaty has significant economic implications, particularly regarding hydrocarbon exploration and resource control. He added that:

By extending Libya's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the maritime border agreement makes it possible to explore for oil and gas in disputed areas. Given that hydrocarbon revenues account for more than 90% of Libya's national income, this is especially crucial for the country's post-conflict economic recovery.

Similarly, one of the participants stated that assertion of sovereignty and regional influence is another treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. The treaty has bolstered Libya's efforts to assert its sovereignty in the face of competing territorial claims and external interventions. He clarified that:

Control over its borders, resources, and international relations has proven difficult for the GNA to sustain. By allowing the GNA to balance off external demands from Egypt, Greece, and France, the deal with Turkey is a crucial step in reclaiming Libya's agency on the global scene.

Finally, another participant asserts that the challenges and risks to economic and security gains is one of the treaty's significance in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. Although the treaty has improved security and the economy, it has also increased regional tensions, which may have an effect on Libya's long-term stability. He went on to say that the deal has caused Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus to become estranged from one another, which could result in counter-maritime accords and diplomatic isolation. Moreover, Libya's strong dependency on Turkey for security assistance raises worries regarding sovereign autonomy, since Turkey's expanding influence could affect Libya's domestic and foreign policies in ways that may not necessarily accord with Libya's national interests.

Discussions of Findings

The findings of this study indicated that the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has not significantly shifted the foreign policy objectives of the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya, and they remain independent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. The result supports the assertion of Tanchum (2023) who opined that the goals of Libya's foreign policy are still distinct from those of Turkey. He noted that in spite of the treaty, the Government of National Accord (GNA) has retained its independence and ability to make decisions.

Similarly, the findings of the study indicate that the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has negatively impacted Libya's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries such as Greece and Egypt and regional tensions and polarization have increased as a result of the treaty. This corresponds with the findings of Tsafos (2022) who found out that indeed, Libya's diplomatic ties with its neighbours, especially Greece and Egypt, have suffered as a result of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. A number of nations have opposed the treaty, which established an exclusive economic zone in the Mediterranean Sea. For example, Greece claims that the agreement violates its own maritime rights and has rejected it as unlawful and null and invalid. Egypt has also voiced worries about the treaty, pointing to how it would affect security and stability in the region.

On the long-term implications of the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty, the study finds out that Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty carries significant long-term implications for regional stability, geopolitical dynamics, and Libya's internal and external relations. This is similar to the findings of Dziubinska (2021) who confirm that the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty has likely contributed to rising regional tensions and badly harmed Libya's diplomatic relations with some of its neighbors. It's important to refrain from oversimplifying the matter, though. The treaty must be viewed in light of the Eastern Mediterranean's larger geopolitical competition, economic interests, and pre-existing tensions.

Finally, Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty is significant in advancing Libya's strategic economic and security interests. This is similar to the findings of (Sarihan, 2020) who observes that the accord has the potential to boost Libya's economic growth, especially in the energy industry. The two nations' cooperative exploration of natural resources may be made easier by the pact. The pact may also be seen as a component of a broader security agreement. The treaty strengthens Turkey's military assistance to the Government of National Accord (GNA) during the civil war in Libya.

Conclusion:

A major change in Libya's foreign policy and geopolitical standing in the Mediterranean is represented by the Libya-Turkey Maritime Treaty. The agreement has given Libya significant military and economic advantages, including as access to priceless Mediterranean natural resources and Turkey's resolute assistance in its continuous post-Gaddafi recuperation. In addition to redefining Libya's relations with other Mediterranean states, this strategic cooperation has strengthened the two countries' diplomatic and economic ties and realigned Libya's foreign policy to put Turkish interests first.

But there are advantages and disadvantages to this change. On the one hand, because Turkey has made large investments in Libya's security and reconstruction, the treaty permits Libya to receive vital military and reconstruction help. The economic ramifications of the deal have improved Libya's economic prospects and given it leverage in the area, especially with regard to the discovery of hydrocarbon resources in contested maritime territories. However, Libya's longstanding ties with neighbouring countries like Greece, Cyprus, and Egypt have been strained due to its growing reliance on Turkey; these countries also see the deal as a breach of their maritime rights. Libya now needs to negotiate delicate diplomatic waters as a result of the tension and possible instability this has caused in the Mediterranean.

International legal experts have also expressed serious reservations about the treaty's legal implications, especially with regard to the recognition of marine borders. Libya runs the danger of alienating the international community and eroding its credibility within international legal frameworks by siding with Turkey against regional norms and contesting established maritime claims. Although the pact improves Libya's ties with Turkey, Libyan foreign policy must strike a difficult balance between preserving its sovereignty and handling the agreement's diplomatic implications.

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