

## Adding fuel to the conflict: How gas reserves complicate the Cyprus question

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### Propositions to the doctoral dissertation:

# ADDING FUEL TO THE CONFLICT: HOW NATURAL RESOURCES COMPLICATE THE CYPRUS CONFLICT

- 1. The case of Cyprus shows that structural explanations of international conflict that downplay domestic and ideational factors tend to be inadequate.
- 2. A discursive approach provides a holistic framework about how agents use historical grievances to decipher their environment and formulate their responses to it.
- 3. What renders natural resources as contentious is not the distribution of potential profits but the particular intense relationship that Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots feel toward these resources; in its fullest form, this intensification yields an absolute divide between friend and enemy in relation to them.
- 4. The case of Cyprus shows that leaders, facing declining levels of public support, prefer to carry out energy-security policies which boost their popularity, even if these policies are considered extremely risky for their communities.
- 5. The most suitable way to uncover the discursive factors underpinning the intense relationship between the disputants is Q-methodology, as it measures human subjectivity.
- 6. The real reason why Greek-Cypriots do not let Turkish-Cypriots participate in the hydrocarbons management is because they fear that the latter may hold the extraction of natural resources hostage to Turkey's priorities on the island.
- 7. The prospect of sharing profits does not lure the Turkish-Cypriots into terminating their own exploration initiatives with Turkey, because what they actually want is to promote their political equality with the Greek-Cypriots.
- 8. Due to the collapse of the reunification talks in 2017, the most likely outcome of the present conflict between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots over the hydrocarbons in the seabed of the Republic of Cyprus is a naval blockade by Turkey.
- 9. The discovery of large gas reserves around the island seriously complicated a federal constitution for the unification of Cyprus.
- 10. A peace-pipeline is a pipedream.