



Aegean Sea



Key Points

▪ Physical Geography:

- It is an **arm of the [Mediterranean Sea](#)**. It is located in the East Mediterranean Basin with the Greek peninsula to its west and Anatolia (consisting of the Asian side of Turkey) to its east.
- The Aegean is connected through the straits of the **Dardanelles**, the **Sea of Marmara**, and the Bosphorus to the **Black Sea**, while the island of **Crete** can be taken as marking its boundary on the south.

▪ Turkey-Greece Dispute:

- The **[Aegean Sea maritime dispute](#)** comprises three main issues: the breadth of the territorial sea; the presence of islands; and the delimitation of the continental shelves between the two States.
- Since 1936, Greece has claimed a 6 nautical-mile (nm) territorial sea. Turkey also claims a 6-nm territorial sea in the Aegean. However, the **[United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 \(UNCLOS\)](#)** allows States to extend their territorial sea up to 12 nm

- from the shore.
- Greece has adopted the Convention, but Turkey has not, holding different approaches in different regions.
 - **Related Treaty: Treaty of Lausanne** of 1923.

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