

How many islands is Turkey in possession of, illicitly ?

Article by R.Adm Heraklis Kalogerakis HN (Ret) from <https://slpress.gr/ethnika/posa-nisia-katechei-katachristika-i-toyrkia/>

Turkey has no right to challenge the sovereignty of any island, especially when Turkey is in illicit possession of 17 islands in the Aegean, as we will see below. Exactly two years ago, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Imia crisis, the retired admiral Cem Gourdeniz, theoretician of the "Blue Homeland", not accepting the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and denying the consequences and the penalty for his country having made the wrong decision in the First World War, stated that: *"Imia was the beginning. There are 153 islands and islets whose status has not been clarified. Inevitably, this issue will enter its final phase. Greece will be forced in the end to concede that they belong to Turkey. I hope this concession will be made through the legal route and bilateral agreements"*.

The Admiral Cem Gourdeniz (TN Ret) and the theoretician of the "Blue Homeland"

31 Ocak

Amiral Cem GÜRDENİZ'in Kardak Zaferinin 25. Yıldönümü Mesajı: Kardak krizi ile başlayan Egemenliği Anlaşmaları Yunanistan'a Devredilmemiş Ada, Adacık ve Kayalıklar sorunu Yunanistan'ın kanseridir. 1/3



Eninde sonunda terminal safhaya girecektir. 153 ada adacık ve kayalığın Türkiye'ye ait olduğu gerçeğini kabul etmeye mecbur kalacaklardır. Bu mecburiyet, dilerim siyasi ve hukuki yollar üzerinden gerçekleşir. 2/3

Türkiye'de en kısa zamanda 153 Ada, Adacık ve Kayalığın aidiyet sorununu açıkça deklare etmelidir. Bu deklarasyon yapılmadığı sürece Yunanistan bu coğrafi varlıklar üzerinde kışkırtma ve hukuken bir sonucu olmasa da devlet uygulamalarına devam edecektir. 3/3

This opinion is unfortunately shared by many other officials, strategic analysts, retired officers, and even the opposition party of our neighboring country. It can be seen from examination of their own brief history that they are unwilling to acknowledge that the losers always pay, while the winners benefit. Turkey should have understood that their great country was formed in 1923, that it included what was left of the then dismembered Ottoman Empire, that new countries were created and that new borders were drawn with the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne.

On the basis of the peace treaty text signed by Turkey, their country is entitled in the Aegean to exercise sovereignty only over Imbros, Tenedos, Lagouses and those islands that are less than **three miles** (2.6 nautical miles) from the Asia Minor coasts.

Treaty of Lausanne, 1923

Modern Turkey Is Born.



Islands which are further away do not belong to Turkey because under article 12 sovereignty over all the remaining islands of the Aegean was awarded to Greece. Moreover, under article 16 Turkey renounced "every title and every type of right" over them. As for the islands of the Dodecanese and the islets dependent on them, under Article 15 Turkey definitively renounced all rights and titles in favor of Italy. The islands accordingly remained officially under Italy's sovereignty.

Let us remember at this point that during the Tripolitanian War of 1911-12 the Dodecanese was occupied by the Italians. Although a peace pact was signed in Ouchy, Lausanne on 18/10/1912 whereby Turkey recognized Italian sovereignty in Libya while Italy pledged to return the Dodecanese to Turkey, this was not done and thus the islands remained under Italian occupation.

Dodecanese

After the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, on 6/8/1923 Italy officially annexed the Dodecanese and the second period of Italian rule began, the first governor being the Italian senator and plenipotentiary minister Mario Lago.

TREATY OF LAUSANNE

(24 July 1923)

The British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Roumania and the Serb-Croat-Slovene State of the one part, and Turkey of the other part,

Being united in the desire to bring to a final close the state of war which has existed in the East since 1914,

Being anxious to re-establish the relations of friendship and commerce which are essential to the mutual well-being of their respective peoples,

And considering that these relations must be based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of States,

Have decided to conclude a Treaty for this purpose, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

SECTION I.

1. TERRITORIAL CLAUSES.

ARTICLE 4.

The frontiers described by the present Treaty are traced on the one-in-a-million maps attached to the present Treaty. **In case of divergence between the text and the map, the text will prevail.** [See Introduction.]

ARTICLE 6.

In so far as concerns frontiers defined by a waterway as distinct from its banks, the phrases «course» or «channel» used in the descriptions of the present Treaty signify, as regards non-navigable rivers, the median line of the waterway or of its principal branch, and, as regards navigable rivers, the median line of the principal channel of navigation. It will rest with the Boundary Commission to specify whether the frontier line shall follow any changes of the course or channel which may take place, or whether it shall be definitely fixed by the position of the course or channel at the time when the present Treaty comes into force.

In the absence of provisions to the contrary, in the present Treaty, **islands and islets lying within three miles of the coast** are included within the frontier of the coastal State.

ARTICLE 12.

The decision taken on the 13th February 1914, by the Conference of London, in virtue of Articles 5 of the Treaty of London of the 17th-30th May, 1913, and 15 of the Treaty of Athens of the 1st-14th November, 1913, which decision was communicated to the Greek Government on the 13th February 1914, regarding the sovereignty of Greece over the islands of the Eastern Mediterranean, other than the islands of Imbros, Tenedos and Rabbit Islands, particularly the islands of Lemnos, Samothrace, Mytilene, Chios, Samos and Nikaria, is confirmed, subject to the provisions of the present Treaty respecting the islands placed under the sovereignty of Italy which form the subject of Article 15.

Except where a provision to the contrary is contained in the present Treaty, **the islands situated at less than three miles from the Asiatic coast remain under Turkish sovereignty**

ARTICLE 15.

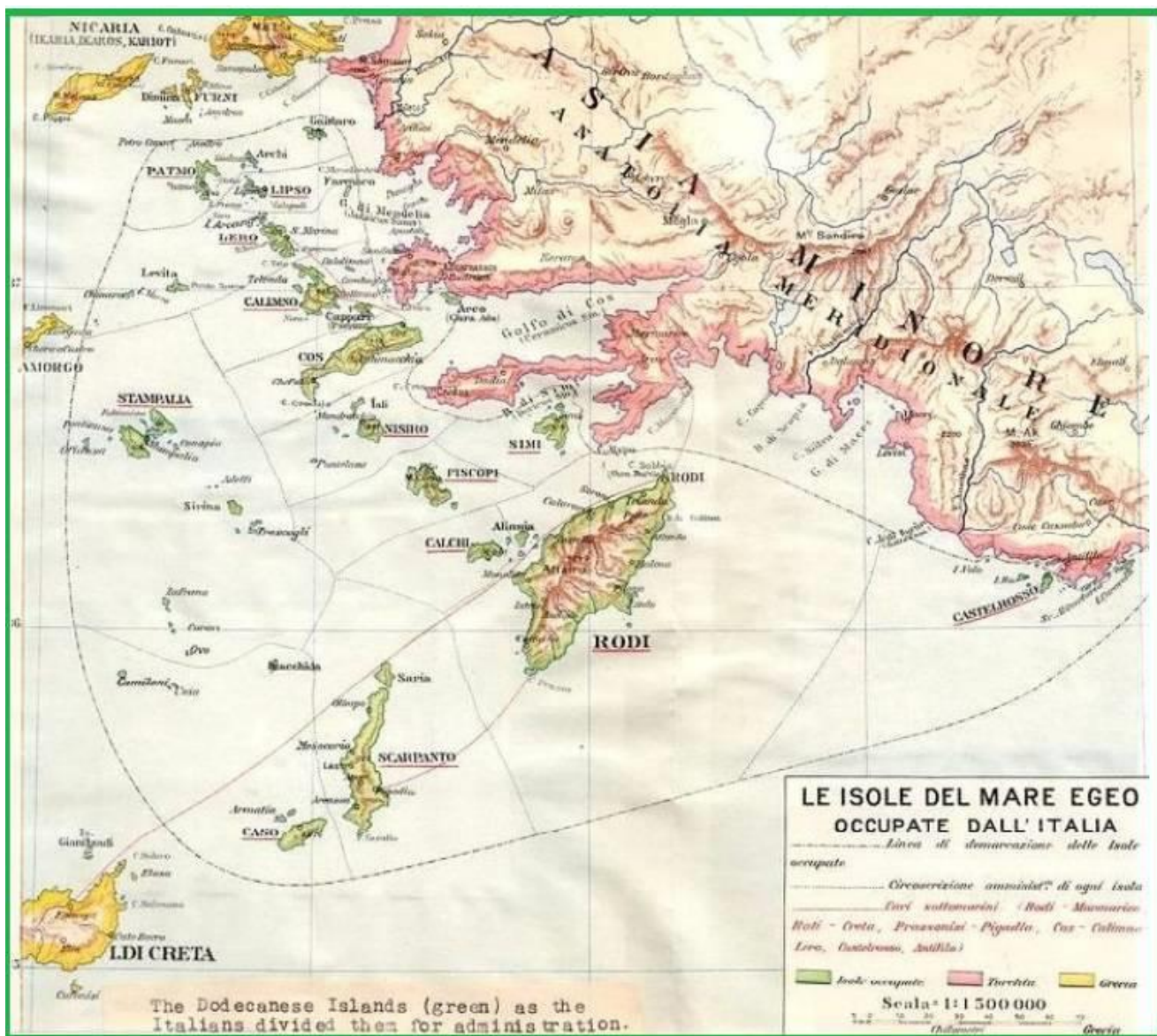
Turkey renounces in favour of Italy all rights and title over the following islands: Stampalia (Astrapalia), Rhodes (Rhodos), Calki (Kharki), Scarpanto, Casos (Casso), Piscopis (Tilos), Misiros (Nisyros), Calimnos (Kalymnos), Leros, Patmos, Lipsos (Lipso), Simi (Symi), and Cos (Kos), which are now occupied by Italy, **and the islets dependent thereon**, and also over the island of Castellorizzo.

ARTICLE 16.

Turkey hereby renounces all rights and title whatsoever over or respecting the territories situated outside the frontiers laid down in the present Treaty and the islands other than those over which her sovereignty is recognised by the said Treaty, the future of these territories and islands being settled or to be settled by the parties concerned.

The provisions of the present Article do not prejudice any special arrangements arising from neighbourly relations which have been or may be concluded between Turkey and any limitrophe countries.

On January 4 1932 an agreement was signed by the Italian ambassador to Turkey Baron Pompeo Aloisi and the Turkish foreign minister, Dr. Tevfik Roustu Bey. It settled a dispute that had arisen between Italy and Turkey in relation to sovereignty over the islets lying between the coasts of Anatolia and the island of Kastellorizo, as well as to sovereignty over the islet of Kara Anda. Also established under the agreement were the territorial waters of these islets.



Shortly thereafter, on 28/12/1932, a further agreement was signed. A committee of experts submitted a 37-point definition precisely specifying the Turkish-Italian border line. After the Second World War, on 10/2/1947, with the signature in Paris of the peace treaty between the allies and Italy, these islands were transferred from Italy to Greece, with the arrangements then in force. Under this treaty Italy ceded to Greece complete sovereignty over the islands of the Dodecanese and the adjacent islets. The treaty was ratified by Greece with Legislative Decree 423 on 22/10/1947. It should be noted that Turkey was not a party to this treaty, once again due to Turkey's own decisions.

It is therefore not clear to me what it is that is still not understood in Turkey and why it is that they are unwilling to honor their signatures. The Treaty of Lausanne was signed unanimously. The treaty has no expiration date and nobody expressed reservations before signing it. Why then do the Turks, and specifically their president, Erdogan, dispute it, verbally?

Why do the Turks not reread articles **6, 12, 15 and 16** so that it will be impressed on them that they have renounced all their rights over the islands? Why do they not wish to

understand that through their obsessive insistence they not only impose a freeze on progress in the region but also threaten the peace. Do they not already own enough islands so that they are obliged to dream of owning more ?

Hydrographic Service

At the beginning of this century the Hydrographic Service (HY) of the Hellenic Navy entered the digital world. About twelve years ago through the acquisition of new devices, programs and methods, it constructed a new digital cartographic database for the purpose of compiling and publishing necessary "digital maps".

In 2018, using data of the Marine Geographical Information System (MGIS), the Hydrographic Service tabulated the data resulting from the thematic layer (Layer) of the coastline at a scale of 1:50,000, as can be seen in the relevant table. , We must bear in mind of course that on the one hand due to the geological changes that are constantly occurring (tectonic effects, rising water levels, etc.) and on the other hand due to the progress of digital technology, the background is constantly under revision. Now the background has been improved and we have a scale of 1:20,000. Therefore, the data listed in the table may be slightly different in future.

The Greek islands and the Greek coastline				
An island is a naturally or artificially formed land mass of any size and shape that is completely surrounded on all sides by water and is above the surface at high tide.				
The Greek islands	Total number	Named	anonymous,	inhabited
	29,372	2,295	27,097	126
Area of the island Surface 100 x 100 m = 10,000 Sq.m or 0.01 Sq.Km Surface 316 x 316 m = 100,000 Sq.m or 0.1 Sq.Km Surface 1,000 x 1,000 m = 1,000,000 Sq.m or 1 Sq.Km Surface 10,000 x 10,000 m = 100,000,000 Sq.m or 100 Sq.Km		number of islands		length of coastline (Km)
Smaller than 10 sq meters (rock-skopelos)		4,807		50
From 10 to 100 Sq meters (large rocks, small rocky islets)		17,658		417
From 100 to 1,000 Sq meters (rocky islets – islets)		4,766		363
From 1,000 to 10,000 Sq meters (small islands)		1,123		355
From 10,000 to 100,000 Sq meters (islands)		572		623
Over 100,000 Sq meters (big islands)		446		12,902
Coastline of mainland Greece		-		6,108
Total number		29,372		20,818
The length of the Greek coastline according to the World fact book of CIA is 13.676 Km and ranks it in 9 th place worldwide. But with the recent measurements with advanced techniques, in 2018, Greece's coastline was calculated 20.818 kilometers, which ranks it in 8th place.				

Islands regime

As regards the Turkish islands, under the Lausanne treaty Turkey is in illicit possession of 17 islands , which are more than **three miles** from the Asia Minor coast. In addition, in the Aegean, Turkey's territorial waters extend six nautical miles from the coast, whereas they should extend **2.6 nautical miles**, i.e. the **three miles** to which the Treaty of Lausanne

(Article 12) entitles them. On the basis of the signed treaty, the islets of Moshonisi opposite Lesvos: Adiaavatos, Gialonisi, Daskaleio, Eleos or Leos, Kalamaki or Kalamopoulos, Kalamos, Ulia, Pyrgos and the islets of the Lagos-Mavreia complex: Drepano, Mavro, Praso and Feidonisi which they are not listed by name, should not be Turkish.

Similarly, the islets in the Sea of Marmara and the Propontis that are more than three nautical miles from the coasts should be removed from the sovereignty of Turkey. These islands are: Prokonisos, Afisia, Kalolimnos, Koutali, Provatonisi, and the Princes Islands that are not mentioned by name in any treaty: Antigone, Plati and Neandros, as correctly pointed out by Prof Angelos Syrigos on pages 38 to 42 of the special edition of "Kathimerini" newspaper entitled "60 maps that explain Greek-Turkish disagreements."

A state that violates an international treaty is not entitled to plead "violation" of a treaty by any other state. A state which respects and honors its signature, has the right to apply only those articles which are in its interest, and cannot abrogate or modify it, except if this is done with the agreement of all the contracting parties, or by war.

To respect the Treaty

Therefore, in order to eliminate problems in the sensitive area of the Eastern Mediterranean and to promote the progress and well-being of our peoples, Turkey must sit down, as they did in 1932 with the Italians, and in collaboration with Greece, establish common borders on the basis of the International Convention on the Law of the Seas (LOS). And they should respect the LOS, having already applied soΑπο 10 μέχρι 100me of its articles, selectively. Of Identifying and securing the common interest must of course be the underlying purpose served by any such negotiations.

So, to honor the first signing of an official document by the first Turkish state, Mr. Gurdeniz, Mr Erdogan and others, leave the "blue" homelands and limit yourself to such islands as you already have, without opening the bag of Aeolus that does not benefit either side.

Only in this way will the frictions stop, the risk of a war conflict will be nullified and the peoples, content with what they have, will be able to focus on their well-being.