



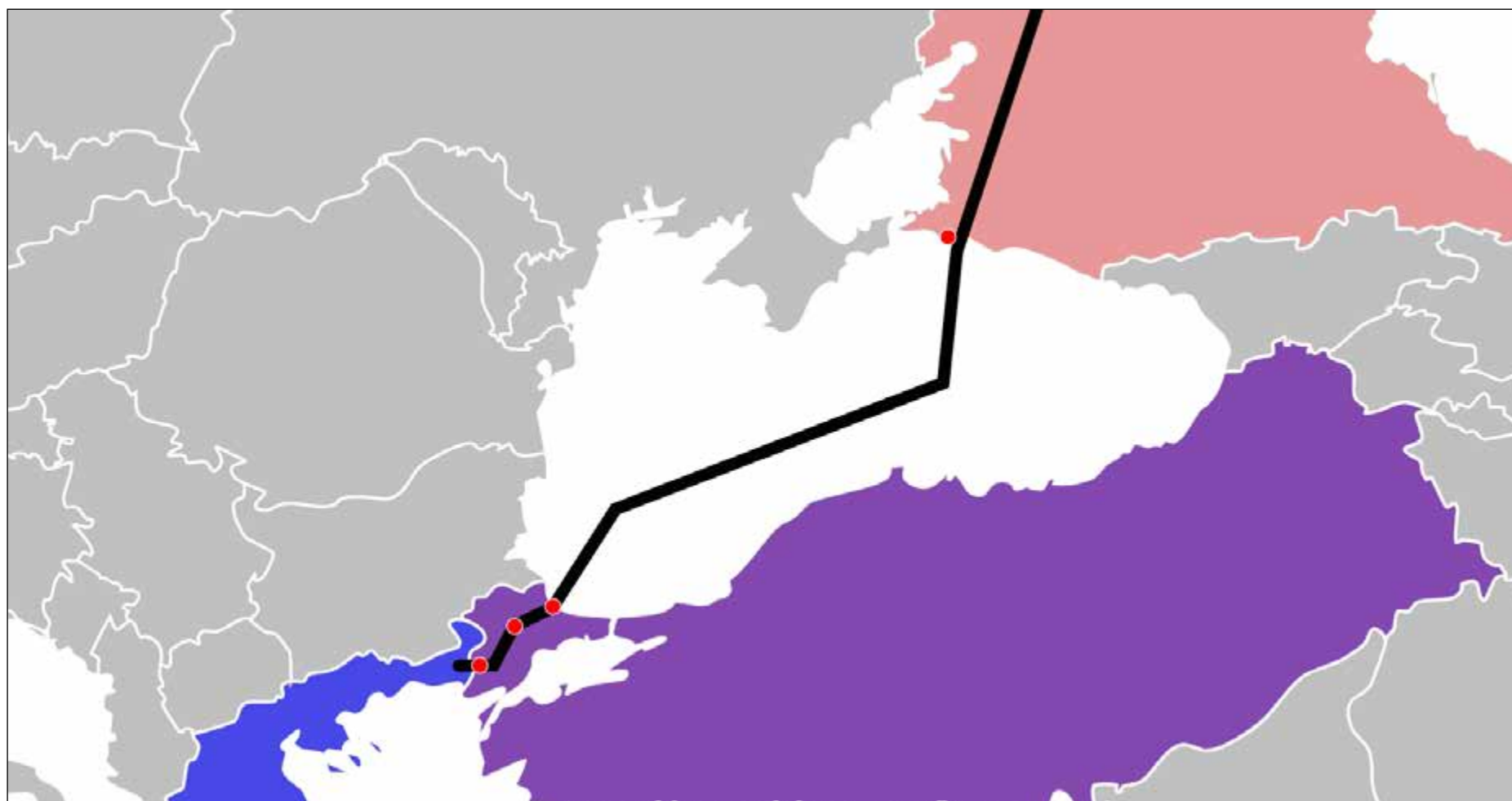
## TurkStream and Turkish-Russian Cooperation

**OE Watch Commentary:** The completion ceremony of the offshore section of the Turkish Stream Project (TurkStream), a pipeline project that will carry 31.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year to Turkey and Europe, took place in Istanbul on 19 November 2018. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin were present at the ceremony and both praised growing bilateral relations. The pipeline begins at Anapa in Russia and delivers gas through the Black Sea basin to Kiyıköy in the Kırklareli province in northwestern Turkey and then on to Europe. The accompanying excerpted articles, both from *Hurriyet* (one is from the English-language *Hurriyet Daily News*), not only highlight the importance of TurkStream, but also provide insight into Turkish and Russian cooperation.

TurkStream will provide energy security to Turkey and some European countries. According to the first excerpted passage, the project consists of two parallel pipelines of slightly over 580 miles each. The first line was built for Turkish consumers and it is projected to provide “35 percent of Turkey’s natural gas consumption alone. The second is for gas supply to countries in southern and southeastern Europe.” The project was announced in December 2014 to replace the South Stream pipeline, a failed joint venture of the European Union (EU) and Russia. TurkStream will further boost Turkish-Russian cooperation as Russia’s market share in the Turkish natural gas imports will increase to 60 percent. Turkish officials are hopeful that it may also give Turkey an upper hand in its relations with the EU, as Turkey will have some control over the energy supply to it. The first delivery through the pipeline is expected to take place in December 2019.

The Turkish president, speaking at the ceremony, stated that “for us, Russia is a friend we can have long term cooperation with and is an important natural gas supplier.” The Turkish president further praised Turkish and Russian cooperation and signaled the possibility of bigger projects on the horizon. President Putin noted “TurkStream and the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant will be symbols of the development of relations between Turkey and Russia.” The Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is Turkey’s first nuclear power plant that is under construction by the Russian state corporation Rosatom.

The second article entitled “Is our new ally Russia?” notes how both presidents highlighted the importance of trust in their relations while speaking at the TurkStream completion ceremony. The passage states that Turkish and Russian relations are getting closer in several areas. Additionally, Turkey’s decision to purchase S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems has created “momentum in their relations.” Economic cooperation in particular has increased in the past few years with projects like the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant and TurkStream. While Turkish officials publicly consider the purchase of S-400 as a demonstration of political strength for their domestic audience, in reality Turkey relies on its Russian alliance to stay relevant in Syria. Purchasing the S-400 and strengthening its cooperation with Russia is insurance for Turkey to have a seat at the table and remain in Syria to address its national security concerns as the Syrian Civil War unfolds. **End OE Watch Commentary (Gunduz)**



The Turkish Stream. Version of the map with the internationally recognised borders.

Source: Consigli88 [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Turkish\\_Stream.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Turkish_Stream.png).

(continued)



## Continued: TurkStream and Turkish-Russian Cooperation

*“Turkish Stream is a project of historic proportions for our bilateral relations and for energy geopolitics in our region.”*

**Source:** “Erdoğan-Putin mark completion of offshore section of Turkish Stream,” *Hurriyet Daily News*, 19 November 2018. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-putin-mark-completion-of-offshore-section-of-turkish-stream-139005>

*President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Nov. 19 attended the completion ceremony of the offshore section of the Turkish Stream Project (TurkStream).*

*“For us, Russia is a friend we can have long term cooperation with and is an important natural gas supplier,” the president said, speaking at the ceremony.*

*He identified that this project is one of the outcomes of a “tested friendship” throughout many years and said Turkey has never judged its relations with Russia over “impositions of other countries.”...*

*“I believe our solidarity with Putin and the Russian people will be foreshadowing of bigger projects,” the president said... “Turkish Stream is a project of historic proportions for our bilateral relations and for energy geopolitics in our region, on which we have exerted great efforts with our Russian friends,” Erdogan said...*

*Such an important project would not be realized unless parties had confidence, the Russian president said... TurkStream and the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant will be symbols of the development of relations between Turkey and Russia, he said, noting that his country wants to reach a \$100 billion bilateral trade volume with Turkey.*

*The TurkStream will deliver Russian natural gas across the Black Sea to Turkey and then onto Europe... Gazprom began construction of the offshore section of the Turkish Stream in May 2017. The Turkish Stream project envisages the construction of two pipelines, each 939 kilometers long.*

*The first line will be designed for the Turkish market and will meet 35 percent of Turkey’s natural gas consumption alone. The second is for gas supply to countries in southern and southeastern Europe. The capacity of each line is 15.75 billion cubic meters of gas per year. The first deliveries are scheduled for the end of 2019.*

*...Two lines will have a total throughput capacity of 31.5 billion cubic meters of gas per year. The first stream of gas is expected to flow through the pipeline in December 2019.*

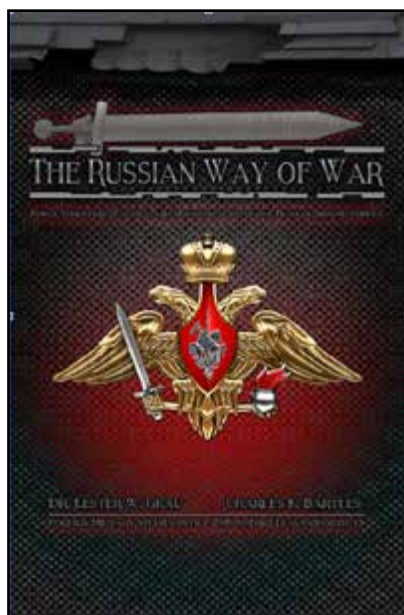
**Source:** Sedat Ergin, “Yeni müttefikimiz Rusya mı? (Is our new ally Russia?),” *Hürriyet*, 24 November 2018. <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/yazarlar/sedat-ergin/yeni-muttefikimiz-rusya-mi-41029310>

*Russian leader Vladimir Putin, speaking at the ceremony of the [TurkStream] natural gas pipeline... said: “This, as my fellow Turkish president mentioned, depends on trust. These projects will not be accomplished without trust.”*

*It will not be a mistake to place Russia on top of the countries that have warm relations with Turkey... We are experiencing a period of intense relations between Ankara and Moscow focused on all areas.*

*In terms of political relations, Syria is one of the leading areas where this intensity manifests itself... Turkey’s decision to buy the S-400 air defense system from Russia has played a critical role in gaining this momentum in their relations...*

*As the recent pipeline project shows, parallel to the warm relations at the political level, rising economic cooperation seems to be marking the future of their relations. The commissioning of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in 2023 will further strengthen cooperation in this area.*



### THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR by LESTER W. GRAU and CHARLES K. BARTLES

At any given time, assessments of the Russian Armed Forces vary between the idea of an incompetent and corrupt conscript army manning decrepit Soviet equipment and relying solely on brute force, to the idea of an elite military filled with Special Operations Forces (SOF) who were the “polite people” or “little green men” seen on the streets in Crimea. This book will attempt to split the difference between these radically different ideas by shedding some light on what the Russian Ground Forces consist of, how they are structured, how they fight, and how they are modernizing.

**DOWNLOAD AT:**

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/199251/download>