

Energy Discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean: Source for Cooperation or Fuel for Tension?

The Case of Israel

by [Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](/experts/simon-henderson)

Jun 15, 2012

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](/experts/simon-henderson)

Simon Henderson is the Baker Senior Fellow and director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute, specializing in energy matters and the conservative Arab states of the Persian Gulf.



Articles & Testimony

This week, the German Marshall Fund published *Energy Discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean: Source for Cooperation or Fuel for Tension? The Case of Israel*, a new report by Washington Institute senior fellow Simon Henderson. Focusing on the challenge of exploiting newly found natural gas reserves off the coasts of Israel and Cyprus, he discusses how these resources could change the economic fortunes of various states in the region. In particular, he assesses Israel's dilemma of how to export surplus gas, given that each available option -- converting it to liquefied natural gas, transporting it via pipeline, or using it to generate electricity for export via undersea cable -- comes with political obstacles.

As part of his research, Henderson visited Israel, Brussels, and Qatar, the world's largest LNG exporter. The German Marshall report follows a series of Washington Institute articles he has written on the subject since Israel's offshore "Leviathan" field was discovered in 2010, all part of a long career covering energy developments in the Middle East.

[Read more about the German Marshall Fund series on Eastern Mediterranean energy discoveries.](http://www.gmfus.org/archives/energy-resources-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-source-for-cooperation-or-fuel-for-tension-preliminary-reports-and-recommendations)

[\(<http://www.gmfus.org/archives/energy-resources-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-source-for-cooperation-or-fuel-for-tension-preliminary-reports-and-recommendations>\)](http://www.gmfus.org/archives/energy-resources-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-source-for-cooperation-or-fuel-for-tension-preliminary-reports-and-recommendations) ❖

German Marshall Fund Policy Brief

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Ongoing Debates over Water and Electricity Privatization in Morocco

May 1, 2024



Soufiane Elgoumri

(/policy-analysis/ongoing-debates-over-water-and-electricity-privatization-morocco)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

Why Israel Should Declare a Unilateral Cease-Fire in Gaza

May 1, 2024



Dennis Ross,
David Makovsky

(/policy-analysis/why-israel-should-declare-unilateral-cease-fire-gaza)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Understanding the IRGC's Past, Present, and Future Use of Syrian Tribal Militias

Apr 30, 2024



Abdullah Hayek

(/policy-analysis/understanding-irgcs-past-present-and-future-use-syrian-tribal-militias)

TOPICS

Arab-Israeli Relations (/policy-analysis/arab-israeli-relations)

Energy & Economics (/policy-analysis/energy-economics)

Gulf & Energy Policy (/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Israel (/policy-analysis/israel)

Gulf States (/policy-analysis/gulf-states)