

*The development of international law does not necessarily mean progress towards the rule of law. The law of the sea is a case in point. Instead of establishing a precise and comprehensive legal régime for maritime spaces, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has opened a Pandora's box of unresolved, at times almost intractable, disputes and conflicts around the globe. (...) Since the second half of the 20th century, the assertion of national interests has increasingly included efforts to control and exploit the resources of the sea – with major implications for the global power struggle in the 21st century.*

(From the introductory chapter)

The controversy around Kastellorizo, the most remote Greek island – situated more than 500 km from mainland Greece, but less than 3 km from the Turkish coast, in the Eastern Mediterranean, has highlighted major systemic problems of the law of the sea in its present state. The position paper of the International Progress Organization examines the development of international law since President Truman's "Proclamation on the Continental Shelf" shortly after World War II, analyzes the problems that result from the rapid expansion of national jurisdictions over vast areas of the ocean, and describes the conflictual constellation in the Eastern Mediterranean. The dispute over maritime jurisdiction around Kastellorizo goes well beyond the bilateral or regional dimension. It has laid bare the difficulties, legal as well as political, that follow from the application of the principle that "the land dominates the sea."

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Kastellorizo – The Geopolitics of Maritime Boundaries · Hans Köchler



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## Kastellorizo

### The Geopolitics of Maritime Boundaries and the Dysfunctionality of the Law of the Sea



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