The importance of the Black Sea region as a focus of European Union (EU) external policy making has been growing for several years. The area is fascinating and diverse, comprising both large and small states, with a mixture of democracies and more authoritarian regimes. Traditionally a central foreign policy concern for Russia and Turkey, after the Cold War the EU and the US have become increasingly involved in the many dimensions of Black Sea politics.

In this book a broad range of specialists on the region analyze the challenge of divergent agendas both within and outside the EU. They look at how the EU’s enlargement to include states on the Black Sea shore has brought about new external policies including the European Neighbourhood Policy, Black Sea Synergy and the Eastern Partnership, all representing subtly different aims and interests, and also examine regionalization, conflict resolution, security, relationships between the Black Sea’s states and the vital issue of energy which has begun to dominate the discussion of the region.

‘Provides essential insights into EU policy towards the region, security issues, epitomised by the Russian–Georgian conflict, and on-going rivalries over energy and pipelines.’ – Fraser Cameron, Director, EU Russia Centre and Board Member International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

‘This is an important collection of essays by leading commentators on the European Union’s policy toward its eastern frontier. The judicious and balanced analysis sheds light on the many challenges confronting Europe around the Black Sea – from unresolved conflicts to jockeying over energy resources and pipeline routes.’ – Charles King, Georgetown University, USA

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