Greece has been profoundly affected by recent changes in the international environment, on its borders, and within the country itself. Many long-standing assumptions about Greek interests and Greece’s role have fallen away and have been supplanted by new approaches. The country has become progressively more modern and more European, and its international policy has become more sophisticated. At the same time, the geopolitical scene has evolved in ways that present new challenges and new opportunities for Athens in its relations with Europe, the United States, and neighboring countries. Many of these challenges cross traditional regional boundaries and underscore Greece’s potential to play a transregional role, looking outward from Europe to the Mediterranean, Eurasia, and the Middle East.

This report explores the new geopolitical environment Greece faces, paying special attention to the implications for southeastern Europe and transatlantic relations. The report also explores options for Greek strategy and offers some new directions for policy in Greece and on both sides of the Atlantic.

The study was prepared for and conducted with the generous support of the Kokkalis Foundation and builds on extensive discussions with policymakers and expert observers, including roundtables in the U.S. and Greece and a major international conference held in Athens from November 30–December 2, 2000. The research was undertaken within the International Security and Defense Policy Center of RAND’s National Security Research Division and with the cooperation of RAND Europe.