

## Contributors

### Ali ASKER

Ali Asker is the Head of Karabük University International Relations Department. Asker graduated from Azerbaijan Technical University in 1993 and Baku State University Faculty of Law in 1997. He gained his master's degree in Public Law at Marmara University in 2000. He completed his doctoral studies in the same field at Ankara University in 2007. Asker is an Associate Professor of Regional Studies. His research focuses on Post-Soviet countries, the Caucasus and the Turkish World.

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Hamdi Fırat Büyük is currently a visiting research fellow at University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Political Science. His main research interests are the Balkans, Turkey-Balkan relations, and EU enlargement policies. In Turkey, Büyük worked in think-tanks and the media sector. Büyük is a regular contributor to various national and international media outlets, and often conducts fieldwork in the Balkans. Büyük is currently pursuing his Ph.D. with his dissertation titled *Balkan Muslims in AKP Period Turkish Foreign Policy* in International Relations at Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences. He obtained a B.A. in Business Administration and International Relations from Kadir Has University, and received a M.Sc. in International Relations from University of Essex with his thesis titled *Turkey's Soft Power in the Balkans*.

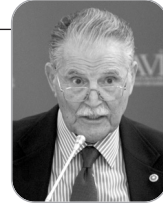
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Mustafa Şükrü Elekdag, after graduating from *İstanbul Yüksek İktisat ve Ticaret Okulu*, completed his masters and doctoral studies in Economics at *La Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Economiques L'université Paris-I-Panthéon-Sorbonne*. Elekdag joined the Turkish MFA in 1951. He served as ambassador in Tokyo, undersecretary of the Turkish MFA, and ambassador in Washington. He retired in 1989. Elekdag taught courses at Bilkent University between 1990 and 2002. He was a member of the parliament as a deputy of Istanbul at 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> legislative terms. He has made numerous contributions to various media organs.

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