

## Editorial Note

**U**luslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History (UST / ICH) completes its 14th year of publication with its current 21st issue. UST/ICH is one of the few examples of its kind in the periodical scholarly journals spectrum at the international scale. UST/ICH, at the same time, is the only scholarly journal platform of its kind in Turkey publishing both in Turkish and English research articles, reports and book reviews congruous with the basic publication purposes of the journal.

In line with this rich publication heritage, we have expanded the article types and topics in the current issue. Ergo, 21st issue of the Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History consists of six research articles, one report and three book reviews.

The year 2020 has brought incredulous, unforeseen changes to humanity. COVID-19 pandemic, has dominated life worldwide. It changed the way we were used to live. It imposed on most of us to work from home. Face to face contacts in the work places diminished to minimum. Online virtual conferences replaced the in-person contacts. Academic studies as well were adversely affected from these limitations. Our endeavours for publishing our journal on time have had their share from these unforeseen changes and difficulties. Yet, we are happily coming together with our readers in our 21st issue with a number of research articles, reports and book reviews.

The first research article in the current 21st issue of our journal is titled **“Historical Identities and Conflict in Central Asia”** penned by Pınar Köksal. In her article, Pınar Köksal, analyzes the phenomenon of “identity” from an historical perspective, examines the various identities that have been redefined in the Central Asian republics in the aftermath of 1991 and elaborates the impact of this redefinition on the post-Soviet conflicts.

The second research article by Çiğdem Akin titled **“Role of Turkey’s Accession to the Rome Statute Establishing International Criminal Court in its Membership to the EU”** lands on the crossroads of law, political science and international relations and deals with the role of being party to the Rome Statute in Turkey’s membership to the EU. The article while explaining EU’s approach to

candidate countries' alignment with the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) acquis and being party to the Rome Statute within the EU Enlargement Policy clarifies that Turkey's fundamental and satisfactory alignment with the CFSP acquis could be considered adequate for the EU accession.

The third research article titled **“An Examination of Enemy Construction Propaganda in Serbian Society in Milan Nedić's Reign”** by Özkan Avcı and Caner Çakı deals with the construction of an “enemy” identity in the society. The authors, in their article, explicate the Axis Power's occupation of Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941, partitioning of its territory and subsequent formation of Government of National Salvation by Serbian General Milan Nedić under the control of Germany. In this context, the authors review the Grand Anti-Masonic Exhibition held in Belgrade between 22 October 1941 and 19 January 1942 during the Nedić government and examine in a detailed way the hate speech developed against both Allied States and Jews through the materials in the exhibition.

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The fourth research article titled **“Crime, Punishment and Communication Case as a Disciplinary Tool in Prisons”** by Arda Umut Saygın emphasizes the importance of communication in social life, deals with the concept of communication in the context of disciplinary theory and explores the negative effects of depriving prisoners of communication as a disciplinary practice. Article claims that punishment and rewarding in prisons are done by decreasing and increasing the communication opportunities and thuswise is used as a tool of disciplinary practices.

The fifth research article by Ceyda Acicbe titled **“An Evaluation Regarding the Role of France in Rwanda in the Light of Recent Developments”** examines the tragic events in Rwanda starting from the shooting down of the airplane carrying Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana on 6 April 1994. The author underlines that this incident triggered decades-long conflict between Tutsi and Hutu culminating in genocide, in which more than 800,000 Rwandans were killed by Hutu extremists. She draws attention to the point that this genocide led to the questioning of the role of states, western-based international institutions in Rwanda, and underscores that one of the states at the center of criticisms is France. The article reviews the reasons behind these accusations and criticisms, as well as present an evaluation

regarding the role of France in Rwanda in the light of recent developments in the media.

The sixth research article titled “**The Sinicization of the Manchu State in the Context of Ibn Khaldun’s Political Theory**” by Gülperi Güngör combines a concept developed by one of the well-known founders of the modern disciplines of historiography and sociology Ibn Khaldun and the historical transformation process of the last imperial dynasty of China in a unique perspective. The article discusses, from the perspective of cyclical history, the sinicization of the Qing State and the transformation of Qing institutions within the framework of Ibn Khaldun’s concept of “asabiyyah” which emphasizes the importance of strong bond of cohesion among humans for forming durable communities. The article, in a historical perspective, sheds also light on the dynamics of inter-communal, inter-ethnic and inter-religious interactions and conflict resolution practices in the same administrative structure.

In the Reports section, Ömer Zeytinoğlu, in his article titled “**A Human Tragedy: The Tragic Story of the North American Indians**” presents a preliminary study regarding the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual violence indigenous people of America, later called Indians have been subjected to throughout history.

The first book review is written by Didem Ekinçi in which she analyzes the book titled “**State, Society and Politics in Post-Soviet Ukraine: Changing Dynamics, Transforming Identities**” (**Sovyet Sonrası Ukrayna’da Devlet, Toplum ve Siyaset: Değişen Dinamikler, Dönüşen Kimlikler**) edited by Prof.Dr. Ayşegül Aydınçün and Prof.Dr. İsmail Aydınçün. Didem Ekinçi in her analysis of the book firstly gives the concise summary of the full content of the book chapter by chapter. Afterwards, she explains the view that study, as a general approach, emphasizes that the changing dynamics and transforming identities of Ukraine are not based on the recent past contrary to the general belief. She points out in this context that the study asserts the view that changing dynamics and transforming identities of Ukraine have been and are being shaped as a result of policies, practices and dynamics dating back to much earlier time in history. According to Ekinçi, the book suggests that the developments in 1991 and 2014 and the current conjuncture should be examined in such a context.

The second book review is prepared by Ahmet Can Öktem on the book titled “**Atrocities In The Balkan Wars**” (**Balkan Savaşları’ndaki Mezalimler**). As per the explanations by Ahmet Can Öktem, the mentioned book written by Hungarian Turcologist and ethnographer Dr. Gyula Mészáros published originally in Hungarian titled “**A Balkáni Háború Kegyetlenségei (Eredeti Török Források Alapján)**” (**Atrocities in the Balkan Wars, According to Original Turkish Sources**), has been translated to English by Dr. Vural Yıldırım and prepared for Turkish publication by Prof. Dr. Melek Çolak. The Turkish translation provides the original Hungarian text at the end of the Turkish text. Öktem, in his analysis of the book, makes a critical assessment of the content and underlines striking noteworthy parts of the text by indicating relevant pages of the book. In this vein, Öktem points to the methods used by the Bulgarians, Greeks, Serbians, and Montenegrins with the aim of annihilating or expelling the Muslim-Turkish population from Macedonia and Rumelia and emphasizes that the details of the atrocities described in the book elicit sadness, disgust and anger in the reader.

The third book review by Berfin Mahide Ertekin analyzes the book titled “**Military Interventions, War Crimes, and Protecting Civilians**” (**Askeri Müdahaleler, Savaş Suçları ve Sivillerin Korunması**) written by Christi Siver. Ertekin, in the analysis of the book, draws attention to the point that the author (Christi Siver) aims to investigate why soldiers commit war crimes and what are the factors that drive soldiers to kill civilians. In this context, the author treats the armed forces as an organization and examines the behavior of the soldiers in the armed forces in line with the culture of the organization. According to Ertekin, it is understood from the study that certain soldiers form a counterculture subculture within the armed forces reject organizational norms in favor of their own identities. The fault for the lack of social integration and training falls on the commanders of the unit, who insufficiently transmit knowledge, orders and behavior to the units. In this context, the author asserts that units that lacked a cohesive subculture, or that developed countercultural subculture, were more likely to commit war crimes. As per the assessment of Ertekin, the study contributes to the relevant literature in this field and is a useful source not only for academic circles but also for those who have interest on the subject.

We hope you enjoy the journal and extend our best wishes for the coming year.