

## Editorial Note

In its 17<sup>th</sup> year of publication, Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History (UST/ICH) is set to release its 24<sup>th</sup> issue. Consistent with its editorial legacy, the journal has introduced numerous innovations to its publishing platform over the preceding four years, a trend that will persist in the current year. Specifically, the 24<sup>th</sup> issue will feature a special section and augment the thematic focus of that section with additional articles. Through this approach, UST/ICH aims to make a substantial contribution to specific academic literature with each issue.

Owing to global trends like De-Dollarization, De-Francolonization, and the characterization of Germany as the contemporary “sick man of Europe,” major western powers are exhibiting increased assertiveness in their international stances. Such shifts have influenced their foreign policies leading them to employ more destabilizing mechanisms against other states to sustain their global influence. The present issue of the journal will address selected dimensions of these phenomena.

The 24<sup>th</sup> issue of the UST/ICH consists of one commentary, one special section with three articles, and two research articles.

The commentary penned by Ambassador (R) Oğuz Demiralp is titled “**Disarmament and Arms Control Law**,” In his commentary, Demiralp focuses on the evolution of armament processes and arms control.

The 24<sup>th</sup> issue of the UST/ICH will include a special section entitled “**International Law and Identity**.” In the prevailing global context, major powers like Germany, France, and the United States are employing sociological variables, including identity, as tools to destabilize individual states and, at times, entire regions. These influential international actors readily attempt to correlate these sociological factors with international law when advantageous. This section aims to contribute to the existing scholarship by examining both historical and theoretical efforts in this domain and will encompass three articles.

In the special section, the first research article, by Yusuf Dinçel titled, “**So-Called Syria ‘Genocide’ Allegations In The Guise Of Syriac Uprisings**” employs British and League of Nations archival documents

to impartially examine the historical rebellions by Nestorian and Syriac groups against the Ottoman Empire and later, Türkiye, contextualizing these uprisings within broader public disorder exacerbated by World War I and exploring their contemporary relevance in international discourse on so-called “genocide” claims.

The second research article titled “**Machiavelli’s Conceptualization Of Hegemony And Power In Relation With International Legal Thought**” by Merve Önenli Güven deals with conceptualizations of power and hegemony. The article scrutinizes Machiavelli’s conceptualizations of power and hegemony, as articulated in “The Prince” and “Discourses,” evaluating their influence on the formation of international legal thought and their potential utility in establishing an acceptable international legal order.

The third research article titled “**The Life Cycle of the Genocide Ban Norm: Actors, Motivations and Mechanisms**” by Bilal Süslü employs Finnemore and Sikkink’s norm life cycle framework—comprising emergence, cascade, and internalization stages—to analyze the transformation of the genocide ban from an idea to an internationally recognized legal principle, thereby exploring its congruence with global norm formation processes in the realm of human rights.

To some degree, the two articles serve as a continuation of the previous special section, exploring the post-Cold War efforts by certain European Union countries, notably Germany, aimed at destabilizing the Balkan region through identity alteration. These articles will, in part, enrich existing scholarship by highlighting the errors committed by European Union powers in their Balkan interventions.

The first research article is entitled “**Imperial and Hegemonic Interregnum**” by Ivan Ivanov. The article examines the crisis in Western political hegemony during the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, utilizing the concept of “interregnum” to describe transitional periods from unipolar to multipolar global configurations, and interrogates whether recurrent cycles of interregnum offer insights into current geopolitical shifts, with particular focus on Western civilization’s self-perception and adaptability in the context of globalization.

The second research article titled “**The EU - Balkans Enlargement Process Deadlock: The Role of Perceptions, Stabilitocracy, and Recommendations**” written by Zoran Ivanov examines the dynamics of

EU enlargement policy towards the Balkans, analyzing historical interactions that have shaped mutual perceptions and hindered accession, while also scrutinizing the region's political elites' compliance with EU criteria and offering recommendations for reinvigorating the stalled enlargement process.

We hope you will enjoy the 24<sup>th</sup> issue of the journal and extend our best wishes for the coming period and year.