

## Editorial Note

**A**s we publish the 26th issue of the International Crimes and History (UST/ICH) journal, we are experiencing a period shaped by turbulence in the field of international law and politics. Today's global environment is defined by the ongoing war in Ukraine, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, new conflict dynamics in Africa, and intensifying competition and shifting balances among major powers. These developments make the need to prevent international crimes and strengthen accountability mechanisms more apparent than ever.

On the other hand, the ongoing fragility in the global economy, the questioning of neoliberal institutions, and the new political balances brought about by the global election cycle are also leading to intense debates about the future of the international order and bringing criticism of certain international organizations to the forefront.

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This issue aims to contribute with articles presenting new ideas in the fields of international crimes, law, and history within this complex environment. It also includes a distinguished commentary examining the reflections of historical events of the past on the present.

The **commentary** section of our 26th issue features an article by Ambassador (ret.) Oğuz Demiralp entitled "*A European Union Story in the Atatürk Era.*" Demiralp evaluates Aristide Briand's 1929 European Union project in the context of Türkiye during the Atatürk era and emphasizes that Türkiye was seen as part of European integration even before it became a member of the League of Nations. This article, which discusses the lessons learned from failed attempts at European integration and Türkiye's early ties to European identity, sheds light on the historical origins of today's Europe-Türkiye relations.

The section on **Cases in International Courts** includes an article by Lecturer, PhD Candidate Burak Tekin titled "*Türkiye's Application for Intervention in the Case of South Africa V. Israel Before the International Court of Justice: Core Legal Arguments Against Israel's Potential Defenses*" The study examines in detail the legal basis for Türkiye's intervention declaration and analyzes which arguments can be put forward against Israel's defense theses. Critical issues such as the

interpretation of the Genocide Convention, the limits of the right to self-defense, and the obligation of states to prevent genocide are addressed. The article is timely and important in terms of highlighting Türkiye's role and contributions in the field of international law. **Türkiye's contribution to international justice mechanisms is a concrete demonstration of its support for the rule of law on a global scale.**

The **special section** of this issue is titled "*State Crime, Propaganda, and Cultural Destruction.*" In this section, four articles comprehensively analyze the historical, ideological, and cultural dimensions of international crimes. These articles offer a common perspective by examining the methods states use to commit crimes in different contexts, their propaganda tools, and the destructive effects they have on cultural heritage.

Dr. Architect Baki Burak Acil's article, "*From Sacred Image to Iconoclasm: The Case of DAESH in the Context of Iconoclastic Strategies,*" examines DAESH's attacks on cultural heritage in the context of the iconoclasm tradition, revealing the international crime dimension of cultural destruction.

Faculty member Assist. Prof. Caner Çakı's study titled "*Reflection of the Katyn Massacre, a Crime Against Humanity, in Visual Propaganda of Nazi Germany*" shows how the Katyn Massacre was instrumentalized through Nazi propaganda, analyzing how war crimes were turned into a means of legitimacy in the international public sphere.

Dr. Çağatay Balcı's article, "*The Dysfunctionality and Consequences of Decapitation in the War on Terror: The Case of Jundullah in Iran*" evaluates the failure of the decapitation strategy and its impact on states' counterterrorism policies.

Dr. Yeter Solak's article, "*State Violence, Mental Resistance, and Memory in the Apartheid Regime: Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement,*" addresses the apartheid regime in the context of state crimes, emphasizing the importance of mental resistance and collective memory.

This special section examines, from an interdisciplinary perspective, how states' strategies of violence, propaganda, and cultural destruction become international crimes and the lasting effects of these processes on

societies. We are deepening the tradition we have developed in previous issues with special sections focused on law and history by including cultural, ideological, and economic dimensions in this issue. Built upon the conceptual accumulation of previous issues' special sections, this theme strengthens our journal's academic contribution in the field of international crimes with an interdisciplinary perspective.

PhD Student Aykut Aydeniz's article, "*Evaluating the Establishment of the WTO from a Neoliberal Perspective*," which addresses the economic dimension, critically evaluates the institutional structure of the World Trade Organization and its relationship with the neoliberal paradigm. The study examines how the transition from GATT to the WTO created a transformation in the global trade order, revealing the debates generated by the neoliberal governance approach in the context of international law, state sovereignty, and commercial justice. This article adds an important dimension to legal-political studies in the field of international crimes and history by emphasizing the role of economic institutions.

Finally, the **reports** section includes Chief Mehmet Birlik's article titled "*Military Interventions, Lausanne-Defined Minorities, Social Movements, and Media (1960-1971): A Multidimensional Analysis of Crisis Dynamics*" The study examines the relationship between military interventions in Türkiye and minority rights, social movements, and the international conjuncture, addressing the crisis dynamics of the period within a holistic framework. **We believe that this analysis of Türkiye's own historical experience will make valuable contributions to discussions on democracy, law, and social peace not only at the national level but also at the international level.**

With its 26th issue, the International Crimes and History journal continues to contribute to critical discussions on political, legal, and social transformations at the global level. Our journal aims not only to understand the legacies of the past but also to offer rich content for current and future discussions on international law and justice. In this context, the examination of economic structures, alongside legal and political analyses, constitutes an important part of our journal's multidimensional approach. In the coming issues, we will continue to maintain this approach and contribute to the examination of international crimes and the presentation of their historical contexts.