



FOREWORD

Dear readers,

I met with the founders of Uluslararası Politika Akademisi (UPA) in an academic conference that was held in 2012. Since that time, a group of young academicians from Turkey and many other countries have been publishing very many important articles and sharing their researches on Political Science and International Relations in the UPA website in three different languages; Turkish, English, and French. Since 2015, a group of UPA columnists and academicians from different universities have also been involved in academic book projects with regard to the different aspects of Turkish Foreign Policy and Turkish Politics as well as Global Politics. These publications are followed not only by academicians, but also by Turkish and foreign statesmen, journalists, and experts.

In summer 2020, during a small reunion, in a conversation between me, Dr. Ozan Örmeci, and Dr. Gamze Helvacıköylü, we decided to publish a new peer-reviewed academic journal as the UPA team. Then, we began to work on the publication of this journal and we named it as *UPA Strategic Affairs*. Eventually, we published our first issue in September 2020. In this process, most of the UPA members have worked hard in order to establish a new academic journal for Turkish and international scholars and researchers. Our Editorial Board and Academic Advisory Board are composed of respected scholars from Turkey and abroad. Their contributions to *UPA Strategic Affairs* are invaluable for us. In the two past issues of our journal, the contributors have discussed numerous contemporary International Relations and Political Science issues with articles published in Turkish and English languages. From now on, we will be able to publish French articles as well thanks to our Francophone editorial team and contributors. *UPA Strategic Affairs* journal is already indexed in several academic databases such as the Asos Index and

Dergi Park. However, we hope to get included into many other Turkish and international databases in the near future.

We are very excited to announce that *UPA Strategic Affairs'* third issue (September 2021) is now ready and published. Within this issue, you can read articles on the analysis of Turkish Foreign Policy during AK Parti era, the relationship among political class, religion, and society in terms of COVID-19 pandemic process in different countries, a discourse analysis over the Azerbaijani leadership in terms of the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, the impact of Saudi Arabia-Iran competition over the Syrian civil war, the divergent outlooks of Turkey and Russia on the Cyprus Question in terms of their complicated relations based on competition-cooperation axis, Russia's Northern Sea Route strategy within the framework of its Arctic policy, and lastly, Turkey's humanitarian policy with its values and actors.

We do hope that you will be enjoying and benefiting from all the articles of this issue in your academic studies. We also want to announce that our next issue to be published in March 2022 will be a special edition on French Politics. That is why, we encourage all Turkish and international scholars and researchers to send their analyses on French Politics and French Foreign Policy. We are planning to publish new special editions in the future in order to leave a lasting legacy on the researched topic by bringing together best experts on this field.

Kind regards.

Sina KISACIK (PhD Lecturer)

Özyeğin University Social Sciences Institute

Public Law M.A. Programme Energy Law Module