



## FOREWORD

*Uluslararası Politika Akademisi*, International Political Academy in English, is an academic initiative that was established by me and a few of my students at Uşak University in 2012. The project's aim was defined as “*to inform students and academics about the global political developments and to raise academics and experts who would contribute to the solution of political problems in a globalized age*”. The motto of UPA was chosen as “*Your window opening to the world*”.

UPA started to its academic activities in 2012 with an amateurish spirit, limited budget, and young and inexperienced staff. However, as years went by, many members of our young team became academics holding positions and regional or thematic experts. As part of UPA authors' work, many books specialized in Turkish Foreign Policy and Global Politics were published by Turkish locals and international publishers. Moreover, we now have a group of authors/columnists that have academic expertise in different areas or themes. That is why, as of 2020, we have decided to publish a new international academic journal, *UPA Strategic Affairs*, to make use of our authors' expert knowledge and long years of experience in teaching, researching, and publishing.

Our aim is to make *UPA Strategic Affairs* a professional academic journal appealing to academics, experts, security bureaucracy professionals, and politicians. The journal will be open to all articles relating to different branches of Social Sciences, but our focus will be Political Science and International Relations. The journal -from its first day- is aimed at providing a global perspective, not just appealing to the Turkish audience. That is why, there could be articles in this journal whose ideological and political position will contradict each other. As long as articles reach a high-quality academic and ethical standard, all views are welcomed in *UPA Strategic Affairs*.

For the first issue of the journal, we decided to publish 6 original articles. All articles are reviewed by minimum two referees and passed through ethical standards (maximum 15 % quotation rate is allowed according to Turnitin program). The only English article of the first issue is written by me and edited by a team of American students (Nelia Koontz, Michael Moran, Josh Carpenter, and Griffin Judy) with the help of Professor Russel Hirst from the University of Tennessee Knoxville who arranged the proofreading and editing process as homework for his class. Turkish articles are edited by me.

Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic procedures in Turkey, we must wait to get into academic indexes. So, the first issue of the journal will be published as a non-indexed magazine. But starting from our second issue, we will do our best to enlist the journal in academic databases. Our aim is not limited to Turkish academic indexes; since the journal will be listed as an international publication, we are planning to apply for international indexes as well.

Last but not least, I should state that achieving many things with a small and young team was/is not easy and I am proud of what we have done so far. I also believe that our achievements will grow further thanks to our globalized and peaceful perspective and international connections.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ozan ÖRMECİ

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