

UPA

== STRATEGIC AFFAIRS ==

Dear readers/followers,

Welcome to the new issue of *UPA Strategic Affairs* journal; a peer reviewed journal devoted to the study of regional and global political problems published twice a year. *UPA Strategic Affairs* is gaining new momentum and rapidly developing in the field with the cooperation of valuable academicians from different universities and countries. UPA (International Political Academy) has a dual purpose: to be a nexus for scholarly research and debate into current political developments in global politics. UPA achieved a great deal, publishing number of significant articles, book reviews and analyses, often themed as a special issue, on a range of different subjects. UPA evaluates different issues in each volume, mostly focusing on current political and international issues that are be analyzed via scientific articles written by various experts around the world. UPA is a platform for political and academic discussion on a wide range of subjects regarding global issues. The point that makes UPA different from other journals is that it publishes in three languages: Turkish, English, and French. In addition to that, *UPA Strategic Affairs* is solely established for academic purposes and does not collect article processing or submission charges from contributors. *UPA Strategic Affairs* publishes theoretical, methodological, and research-based articles as well as original op-eds and book reviews. *UPA Strategic Affairs* Editorial Board is composed of respected colleagues from universities around the world. The collaboration with *UPA Strategic Affairs* journal for this volume has been outstanding, and we would like to pay tribute to Prof. Dr. Ozan Örmeci for his dedicated work shepherding this edition.

In the year 2024, there have been several unpredictable events in the world, especially in the Middle East. For example, the continuation of Israel's brutal massacre in Gaza, Russian-Ukraine War, the defeat of Hezbollah on the battlefield, the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, the isolation of Iran, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States for the second

time, and a series of landmark decisions by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) contrary to the passive stance of the United Nations has made predictions about the future of 2025 difficult.

With the effect of globalization, new global issues occur in the system. In other words, the state is not the only actor threatening the international structure, and local/social or international organizations also play a vital role in threatening the current situation within the system. With the elimination of the state-centered threat element, a transition has been made to a new era in which states cannot directly identify their enemies. That is why, the first volume of *UPA Strategic Affairs* journal in 2025 composed of current global issues such as migration issue, feminist movement, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, economic crisis, smart technology, disinformation, rise of authoritarian regimes, human rights violations, ethnic conflicts, asymmetric threats etc. In this issue, authors tried to provide an objective, analytical, and scientific point of view on explaining current debated problems in the world.

Finally, I would like to thank all editors for their valuable contribution to the proofreading and editing process of the volumes. Also, special thanks to Naoures GHOZLANI, Erol NAGAŞ, Yavuz TÜRKGENCİ & Ufuk AYHAN & Murat TINAS, Vidaa BABAZADEH, Serdar ÇUKUR, Cansu ARISOY GEDİK, Dilara SÜLÜN, and Seda Gözde TOKATLI for their contribution on *UPA Strategic Affairs* journal.

Assist. Prof. Seda Gözde TOKATLI

Izmir Democracy University

Editor-in-Chief of *UPA Strategic Affairs*

19.02.2025