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From the Editor

The latest issue of the *Uluslararası İlişkiler* (International Relations - Uİ) once again contains insightful and thought-provoking analyses on a variety of topics ranging from IR theory to political history, from political economy to Arab Uprisings. This issue was prepared under extraordinary circumstances as Covid-19 forced us to work from our home offices. However, we continue to do our best to prepare the journal on time. We are happy that thanks to the “online first” publication system we have recently introduced, we are able to publish articles with DOI numbers as soon as their evaluation processes are completed without waiting for the completion of the whole issue or the final print publication.

The first article of this issue by Dr. Başar Baysal is a comprehensive assessment of the Securitization Theory, which has recently become the focus of academic interest among the worldwide IR community. As that debate is still raging on, Dr. Baysal’s article discusses both contributions and limitations of the securitization approach. By presenting a new framework for analysis, the article states that we need to shed light on not only the usual securitization processes but also on the non-violent opposition and counter-securitization as well.

The second article of this issue provides a comprehensive analysis of Russian diplomacy in the Hejaz province of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, based on original documents from Russian diplomatic archives. Professor Vitaly Naumkin from the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow analyses the Russian diplomacy in Hejaz through the official correspondence of the Secretary of the Russian Consulate in Jeddah, Mr. Mikhail Nikolsky. As the author extensively utilizes the documents of the Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Empire, Professor Naumkin’s article makes an original contribution to the field of political history by benefitting from these original diplomatic documents for the first time in academic literature to shed light both to policies of the Russian Empire and the tribulations of a faraway Ottoman territory at the turn of the century.

Associate Professor Selcan Serdaroğlu Polatay’s article inquires into the trade conflict between the US, the EU and China by providing a long-term analysis. The article argues that the interaction between the Chinese, American and European economies from the 19th century onward have defined their trade ties and bargaining capacity. The main argument of the paper is that the trade relationships between these actors have always been a combination of cooperation and conflict. This is a novel approach to the issue as opposed to the current discussion on the subject that describes the trade relationship among these actors as either cooperative or conflictual.

The next article of the issue deals with the relationship between the dimensions of democracy and military expenditure. Dr. Ömer Faruk Örsün responds to the question of “Is democracy a luxury that nations cannot afford during wartime?” by using a panel dataset covering the period between 1950-2000. The author looks at the relationship between two characteristics of democracy, contestation and inclusiveness, and war effort.

The next article, written by Dr. M. Tahir Kılavuz, is entitled “Determinants of Participation in Protests in the Arab Uprisings: Grievances and Opportunities in Egypt and Tunisia”. Analyzing the uprisings

in Egypt and Tunisia in recent years, the article tries to understand why protestors in these countries participated in the demonstrations. Benefitting from survey evidence, the article mainly investigates whether grievances or opportunities played a greater role in the decision of individuals to participate.

The last article of the issue is related to the governmental system of the European Union (EU). Professor Mustafa T. Karayığit sheds light on the structure of the post-Maastricht EU, arguing that the EU has gradually established a semi-presidential governmental system. The main argument of the paper is that as a result of changes in its structure, the EU has come to include a combination of supranational and intergovernmental elements in its governance system.

The issue finally includes book reviews by Didem Buhari Gülmez, Eda Cebeci, Gökhan Sarı and Mehmet Doğar.

As this issue consists of only English articles, we like to point out to our readers and prospective authors that *Uluslararası İlişkiler* intends to become more internationalized in its forthcoming issues, trying to reach a wider audience and aiming to contribute to global IR scholarship. In this context, we have lined up three special issues for 2020, 2021 and 2022 on issues that we hope to contribute to growing knowledge in the field of IR.

The first special issue, which is being prepared at the moment under the guest editorship of Professor Dr. M. Murat Erdoğan, will look at the topic of “Revisiting Migration in International Relations”. The second special issue, which will be prepared under the guest editorship of Pınar Bilgin and Zeynep Gülşah Çapan, will focus on “Globalizing International Relations”. The third planned special issue will be prepared under the guest editorship of Bahar Rumelili and will analyze “International Relations in the Age of Anxiety”. You can follow further notices for these special issues in the Journal website as well as through its social media accounts.

We very much hope that you will enjoy reading the current issue of *Uluslararası İlişkiler*. As always, even under the extraordinary circumstances of a pandemic, *Uluslararası İlişkiler* will strive to contribute to global understanding of the dynamics and challenges of a shifting international system, thanks to the original contributions from its many authors. Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank them earnestly.

We wish you all the best and hope to present our next issue in healthier times.