

NATO at 72: New Issues and Challenges

In the 72nd anniversary of its foundation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is confronted with new issues and challenges, which have become even more complicated with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, in addition to finding an effective way to address the challenges arising from the transformation of balance of power in the international system where non-Western actors like China, Russia, Brazil and India are becoming increasingly prominent, NATO is also obliged to solve its vital internal problems such as burden-sharing, while continuing to respond to asymmetrical threats like terrorism. The disagreements between the member states with regard to the solution of these issues, however, constitute a significant obstacle for the development of common policies within the NATO framework.

With the goal of shedding light on the transformation of the roles of NATO in contemporary world politics, this issue includes articles exploring the various dimensions of the changing objectives and activities of this collective defense organization which also includes Turkey as a member state since 1952. We would especially like to thank Prof. Giray Sadık who kindly accepted to act as a guest editor in this issue and brought together distinguished scholars from Turkey in order to provide the most comprehensive analysis of NATO's transformed roles in international relations. At a time when the Alliance holds its new summit in Brussels in June 2021, we believe that the articles of this issue are going to be valuable contributions to the already rich academic literature on NATO.

The issue additionally includes two very timely articles that focus on Turkey's developing economic relations with Uzbekistan and the Turkish peacebuilding efforts in Somalia which both draw attention to the widening scope of Turkish foreign policy in the 21st century.