

Editorial Note

Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History (UST/ICH) has reached its 15th year of publication with its current 22nd issue. UST/ICH, in line with its rich publication heritage, has continued to expand its article types and topics in the current issue. In that regard, the 22nd issue of UST/ICH covers the fields of International Law, History, International Relations, and Sociology.

Ambassador (R) Gündüz Aktan, in his editorial published in the first issue of the UST/ICH, had described the area of study of the UST/ICH as the massacres and atrocities that took place in history, and the international crimes mentioned in the Rome Statute of 17 July 1998. Following publication in this context for a long time, UST/ICH decided two years ago to expand its research topics and thus new article sections were added to the journal. On this occasion, we commemorate with respect Ambassador (R) Aktan, who penned the first editorial of the journal and contributed greatly to its publication.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be at the top of the world agenda in 2021. In this challenging period, the whole world tried to adapt to new conditions and changes. While changes with sociological, political and economic implications occur both internationally and nationally and the pandemic environment creates unusual difficulties, old troubles of the past such as separatist tendencies, racism, and problems created by the legacy of colonialism continue to remain on the agenda. The current issue of the journal gives the message that life continues as before in the pandemic environment and also emphasizes the importance of the uninterrupted continuation of the journal's studies.

As part of the expansion of the subject areas, the 22nd issue of the UST/ICH consists of one commentary, five research articles, one "Cases Before International Courts" section article, one report, and one book review.

The commentary penned by Ambassador (R) Oğuz Demiralp is titled "**International Humanitarian Law: Its Origin and Evolution**". In his commentary, Oğuz Demiralp concisely explains the historical background of the phenomenon of "International Humanitarian Law", examines its evolution, and brings a humanitarian perspective to the devastating effects of crimes against humanity.

The article in the “The Cases Before International Courts” section titled **“An Evaluation Of The Four Main Legal Problems That The International Court Of Justice Will Likely Face In Assessing The Crime Of Genocide In Gambiya – Myanmar Case”** Dr. Onur Uraz examines four fundamental legal problems that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will likely face in Gambia v. Myanmar case and analyses in detail whether the crime of genocide was committed against the Rohingya People of Myanmar. The article argues that the real challenge of the case is to establish whether these acts are committed with “genocidal intent” and, if so, whether Myanmar can be considered as the perpetrator as such.

The first research article by Mustafa Karaca, Caner Çakı, and Abdülhakim Bahadır Darı titled **“The Presentation Of The Nazi Germany In The Soviet Union Propaganda In The Context Of The War Crime In Great Patriotic War”** investigates the discourses that the Soviet Union used against Nazi Germany during the The Great Patriotic War and World War II. The article focuses especially on the messages that the USSR gave to its people about the Nazis for propaganda purposes.

The second research article titled **“Transition Towards Green Economy Within EU Green Deal, The Evaluation Of Possible Impacts On Relations Between Turkey And The EU”** by Ali Oğuz Diriöz deals with environmental problems in the face of natural disasters that have been experienced frequently in Turkey and in the world, especially in recent years. The article focuses on the relations with the European Union, without ignoring the critical importance of Turkey’s adaptation to the Green Deal for future generations.

The third research article titled **“Rape Camp Vilina Vlas Hotel: Why Is The Internatonal Community Still Unmoved?”** by Senad Sevdik investigates the agonizing realities regarding Vilina Vlas hotel in Visegrad city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is a building that was used as a camp for raping, torturing, beating, and killing innocent civilians, mostly Bosnian Muslim women. The article investigates the ethical issues surrounding the operation of this former camp as a touristic place and proposes solutions to this shameful situation.

The fourth research article by Zoran Ivanov titled **“The Crisis Of Liberal International Order And The Status Of The Small States: The Case Of Republic Of Macedonia And Republic Of North**

Macedonia” examines the clash between international system and small states. The article approaches this clash from the experience of the Republic of (North) Macedonia, which has sought to join international organizations since 1991. The article analyzes the critical weaknesses of the liberal international order’s approach that neglect’s small states, then examines the critical vulnerabilities and advantages of small states that lead to the emergence of weak or failed states in the international system.

The fifth research article titled **“The Challenges To French Colonial Rule In Tunisia: Realpolitik In The Mediterranean”** by Mehmet İlber Çoban investigates the dynamics behind the impediments that French colonial rule faced in Tunisia in the context of International Relations discipline. The article explains the notion of anarchy and argues that this notion is helpful in explaining the dynamics of the region in which Tunisia situated.

In the Reports section, Narmin Abbaslı, in her article titled **“Nationalism As A Mechanism: Analysis Of Xinjiang Cotton Ban Incident”** investigates the aftermath of the sanctions imposed by Canada and the European Union on current and former Chinese officials and of the increasing pressure on China for alleged abuses in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region province. The study also analyses the government’s ability to manage nationalism and public opinion during the period of increased international pressure.

The book review by Ceylin Özyurt analyzes Rustam Atadjanov’s book titled **“Humanness As A Protected Legal Interest Of Crimes Against Humanity: Conceptual And Normative Aspects”**. Özyurt in her analysis draws attention to the point that the book describes the protective scope of one particular type of core crimes under international law and underlines that the explanations regarding this concept need to answer both conceptual and normative questions.

We hope you enjoy the journal and extend our best wishes for the coming year.