



Dear readers/followers,

In recent years, the political landscape of the U.S. (United States) has experienced profound transformations that have significantly heightened social tensions and brought American politics to the forefront of global public attention. As the global hegemon, political and socio-economic developments within the U.S. are not merely domestic issues but are intricately linked to the broader international order. Consequently, shifts in the U.S. political environment reverberate far beyond its borders, affecting international relations and global stability. This dynamic is particularly evident in U.S.-Türkiye relations, where changes in American political paradigms profoundly influence bilateral ties between these two nations.

The rise of political polarization in the United States has been one of the most notable developments in recent years. This polarization has manifested in increasingly divisive rhetoric, policy gridlock, and social unrest. The 2024 presidential election, in particular, will mark a significant turning point, with a new and somewhat unusual election race between Kamala Harris – after President Joe Biden’s withdrawal – and the assassination attempt on Donald Trump highlighting deep-seated divisions within American society.

The impact of U.S. political developments on its relationship with Türkiye exemplifies the intricate connection between domestic politics and foreign policy. Historically, U.S.-Türkiye relations have been characterized by strategic cooperation, particularly within the framework of NATO. However, recent years have seen increasing strain in this relationship, influenced by a combination of domestic political shifts in both countries and broader geopolitical dynamics. In this political conjuncture, a new special issue on U.S. domestic politics and the country’s global diplomatic ties (e.g., with Türkiye) is a much-needed addition to the growing scholarly literature.

As such, our editorial team at *UPA Strategic Affairs* is pleased to present our new special issue on U.S. politics and U.S.-Türkiye relations.

While the U.S. is undergoing a tumultuous time, as mentioned above, we – in Türkiye – are having difficulties as the country’s entire economic and financial system is being radically reformed along the lines of the economic premier Mehmet Şimşek’s structural adjustment program. Though high inflation, currency devaluation, and an entirely new set of taxes may create problems for Turkish researchers aiming to access a wide variety of resources, attend international conferences, and produce high-quality works, *UPA Strategic Affairs* continues its quest for being a widely respected academic platform to raise the standards of Turkish scholarship and represent the country’s up-and-coming new generation of experts with original scientific studies in the fields of Political Science and International Relations (IR) in particular – alongside other social science fields such as Sociology and Economics.

We are truly grateful for your kind attention and wish you a pleasant time reading our latest issue.

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