

## Editorial Note

As we mark the 25<sup>th</sup> publication of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History (UST/ICH)*, we reflect upon a year characterized by significant geopolitical shifts and pivotal legal advancements that continue to shape our global landscape. This milestone edition underscores our commitment to deep scholarly exploration, addressing complex international conflicts, crimes, and mechanisms for conflict resolution, amidst evolving global dynamics.

In 2024, several significant developments have underscored the urgency and relevance of our journal's focus on inter-communal, inter-ethnic, inter-religious, and international conflicts, along with conflict resolution practices. The Near East and Africa region continues to grapple with intense conflicts, notably in Gaza, where a significant humanitarian crisis escalates, highlighting the complexities of regional stability and international responses. Meanwhile, the persistent Ukraine-Russia conflict remains a focal point of international tension, influencing global geopolitics as there are no signs of ending the ongoing military engagements.

The year is also marked by a global elections supercycle, anticipated to reshape geopolitical landscapes and potentially intensify international conflicts. Additionally, the role and rights of victims in judicial responses have taken center stage at the International Criminal Court (ICC), reflecting ongoing efforts to fortify international legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms.

This edition continues our tradition of scholarly excellence, significantly enriching the discourse on contemporary international conflicts and legal challenges. Through this exploration, we hope to inspire new ideas and perspectives in addressing the challenges that lie ahead in international relations and legal frameworks.

The commentary section of the 25<sup>th</sup> issue features an commentary article by Ambassador (R) Oğuz Demiralp titled “**The Palestine Issue and International Judiciary.**” In this piece, Demiralp evaluates how the interplay of power politics and the rule of law shapes international relations, particularly highlighted by the Israel-Palestine conflict. Despite the establishment of international legal bodies post-World War II aimed at fostering global order, Demiralp illustrates their limitations

through the ongoing challenges in enforcing United Nations resolutions on Israel, compounded by U.S. support of Israel's stance. This commentary complements the special issue by probing the effectiveness of international legal frameworks in resolving deep-rooted geopolitical conflicts.

The article in the “**The Cases Before International Courts**” section titled “**The Evolution of Genocide Law: An Examination of the Role of the Bosnian War**” by Gözde Kılıç YAŞIN delves into the 1992-1995 Bosnian War's profound impact on international genocide law. This piece critically explores how the war shaped the enforcement of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its broader implications on the international legal framework. By analyzing key court decisions, the article highlights the challenges of balancing legal responsibilities, state sovereignty, and the politicization of genocide within the international community. This commentary is pivotal to the special issue as it exemplifies how historical conflicts influence contemporary international law and justice systems, underscoring the ongoing relevance of the Bosnian War's legacy in addressing global legal challenges.

14

The special section in this 25<sup>th</sup> issue of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History (UST/ICH)*, titled “**Historical Legacies and Their Impact on Modern Legal Systems and Identity Politics**” examines the profound influence of historical legacies on contemporary global issues. Focusing on regions like the Levant, Asia, and Africa, it explores the enduring effects of colonialism, the roots of ethnic and cultural conflicts, and their impact on current human rights issues. Articles delve into the philosophical roots of dehumanization and colonial practices, linking past events to today's geopolitical challenges and justice systems.

In the special section, the first research article by Soner Tauscher and Yiğit Cem Eskicioğlu titled, “**Ancient Origins of Dehumanization and Its Impact on the Enlightenment,**” explores the roles of prominent Western philosophers in shaping views on race, slavery, and human nature. It examines how these views have fueled modern racism and dehumanization, analyzing the philosophical texts of Ancient Greek and Enlightenment thinkers and their impact on social hierarchies and exploitation.

The second research article by Yekta K. Noyan titled, “**Colonialism,**

**German Experience and Reflections on History—South Africa as a Case Study,”** investigates the South African colonial experience in the early 20th century. It compares these dynamics to extermination policies during the Wilhelmine and Nazi eras in South West Africa (SWA). The article examines the conditions that lead to extermination policies and the factors influencing such decisions.

In the special section, the third research article by Yusuf Halil Calip titled, **“Evolution and Reasons of the Distinct Hong-Kong Identity in the Historical Process,”** delves into the development of Hong Kong’s unique identity. The study provides a historical analysis of how special laws and treaties have shaped Hong Kong’s distinct path, separate from mainland China’s policies. It examines the socio-political factors influencing the strained relations between Hong Kong and the PRC today.

Celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> issue, we aim to build on our legacy, offering enlightening insights and inspiring discussions that advance understanding of complex global issues. We extend our best wishes for the coming year and look forward to continuing our journey of exploration and understanding in the years to come