

From the Editor

In his article, “China’s Growing Presence in Central Asia: Will Russia’s Dominance Come to an End?”, Mustafa KARAKAYA aims to explore what policies China has followed to enhance its presence over Central Asia from 1991 to 2025 and to inquire whether China is to challenge the longstanding Russian domination in the region. He argues that, since the dissolution of the USSR, China has been carrying out political, economic, diplomatic, military, and commercial activities in Central Asia, which has dramatically increased its influence over the region. However, China’s objective in these policies is not to challenge the Russian hegemony in Central Asia, but to make a burden-sharing with Russia. Karakaya also claims that Russia and China are not in a competition, but in a cooperation as they need each other to prevent any Western influence in Central Asia, to provide security and stability over the region against threats like ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and terrorism, and to help the friendly secular regimes to stay in power. Additionally, this Sino-Russian cooperation has not stopped Russia from staying as a strong actor in Central Asia. Though China has enhanced its presence in the region through various tools such as international organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, investments, pipeline projects, and the Belt and Road Initiative; Russia is still a determining power as it enjoys control especially through the Eurasian Economic Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Consequently, the author argues that, between China and Russia, no conflict stemming from China’s rising power is visible in the near future in Central Asia as the Sino-Russian cooperation has been useful so far for these two countries to attain the aforementioned goals.

In his article, “Strategic Trends of French Policy in the Context of Security and Energy Crises”, Ahmet GEDİK argues that, amidst crises in recent years that have profoundly shaken Europe’s security and energy policies, France has faced the necessity of developing strategic solutions to address these challenges. In the realm of security, France has taken significant steps to strengthen the European Union’s common defense mechanisms and deepen its cooperation with NATO. Furthermore he argues that the Paris administration has accelerated efforts to modernize its military capacity by increasing the national defense budget. The energy crisis, on the other hand, has led to fundamental changes in France’s long-term energy strategies. In its efforts to reduce dependence on Russian energy, France has increased investments in renewable energy and repositioned nuclear energy as a strategic resource. In addition, to diversify energy sources, France has expanded LNG imports and prioritized policies aimed at energy conservation. During this period, France implemented various measures in domestic policy to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the energy crisis. To minimize the

burden of rising energy costs on households, subsidy programs and tax reductions were introduced. Moreover, France has advocated for the establishment of Europe-wide solidarity mechanisms to contribute to the long-term resolution of the energy crisis. France's responses to the security and energy crises have had an impact not only at the national level but also across the European Union, contributing to the EU's resilience and strategic capacity. Consequently, the author tries to come up with an in-depth analysis of France's strategic transformations in the face of these crises, focusing on the balance between national interests and European solidarity.

In her article, "Changing Energy Supply Security of US After the 'Cold War': An Evaluation within the Framework of 'Hegemonic Stability Theory' " Yonca YALÇIN ÇAKMAKLI argues that energy resources are among the most critical factors in shaping the global policies and relations today. She adds that access to energy resources, especially oil and natural gas, which are unequally distributed in the world, has emerged as one of the most important reasons for the struggles experienced in the world from the discovery of the importance of oil with the invention of internal combustion engines in the late 19th century to the present day. Her article examines the energy security approach of the US, whose hegemonic presence became more visible in the unipolar system that emerged after the end of the 'Cold War' and who then faced rivals such as China and Russia that challenged its hegemony, from a global economic-political perspective and tries to explain the power struggles experienced in the energy rich regions of the world today through the lens of Hegemonic Stability Theory (HST), a political economic theory that addresses hegemony and international systemic change within the context of power transition approach.

In her article, "Mobility and Adaptation Reflexes of the Syrian Turkmen After the Overturn of the Assad Regime", Elmashan KÜÇÜKAKBULUT states that the world witnessed the end of the 61-year rule of the Ba'ath Party and the 54-year governance of the Assad family following a military operation that began on November 27, 2024 and lasted for 12 days, culminating in opposition forces capturing the capital, Damascus. In this process, the parties that wanted to take part in the reconstruction of Syria began to take rapid steps to express their economic, social, cultural or political demands. One of these parties is the Turkmen, who operate as the second largest ethnic group in Syria after the Arabs. Turkmen expressed their demands to be included in the decisions taken during the transitional administration process and their views and concerns regarding current developments in Syria at a press conference held on January 8, 2025, exactly one month after the overthrow of the regime. The author tries to conduct an in-depth discourse analysis of this press release presented at this meeting using

the MAXQDA 24 Analytics Pro program while also aiming to analyze the migration, mobility and adaptation reflexes of communities with multiple identities, such as Syrian Turkmens, on a theoretical level.

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