

IRS JOURNAL



Table of Contents

Femicides in Türkiye
Aybüke Yılmaz

Women's Place in Turkish
Politics and Society
Aslısu Furtana

United Nations Gender
Equality Index: Does It Reflect
the Truth?
Duru Cantürk

Women's Rights in
International Organizations:
Does Türkiye Participate?
Dila Kadıgil

2024 Nobel Prizes
Aiman Adeel

14 Days Left for Most
Important Election of 2024
Ege Orhun Yağcı

Rise of Asian NATO?
Ege Orhun Yağcı

On The Verge Of BRICS
Summit: Key Considerations
Aral Çağan Yurtseven

Current Situation in Gaza and
Lebanon
Ata Tanrıverdi

IRS Book Talk Event: "Against
the Liberal Order" by Sam J.
Hirst
Selin Akpınar

ISSUE N.07

Bilkent University
International
Relations Society

Future events in IRS:

October 21st: "Intelligence and
International Relations" with Tolga
Ökten

October 22nd: "Career in Diplomacy"
with Emre Zeki Karagöl

IRS JOURNAL



Editor's Note

Dear readers,

I wish I had a hard time finding a theme for this issue, I wish we never had to write about these topics. However, it is the reality and it is indeed the world we live in, so before we begin, I would like to send my condolences to every woman, and every young girl who was killed by a man all around the world. My heart beats for them, and we promise to continue to resist until we get equality and justice. I hope the flames of women's resistance never go out.

Even though general media is moving on, and social media is changing trending topics slowly, our agenda is still the same. It should stay the same, and it should've stayed the same for maybe even centuries. We wanted to show that we can stay focused on what is urgently needed to be solved, and still can discuss other matters. Therefore, in this issue, the IRS journal will cover femicides, especially in Türkiye, women's rights in Türkiye, and from an international relations perspective as well. Aside from giving a feminist critique of the global political system, we will also cover elections from The US to Japan, the current situation in Gaza and Lebanon, an analysis article regarding the soon-to-take-place BRICS meeting, and lastly the Nobel Prizes.

Moreover, I would like to thank all the writers who worked hard for this issue and wanted it to be as striking as I wanted it to be. I also would like to thank the administrative board of the IRS for their perpetual support.

Last but not least, The writer team of IRS Journal and I hope this issue will be an influential read for you.

Future events in IRS:

October 21st: "Intelligence and International Relations" with Tolga Ökten

October 22nd: "Career in Diplomacy" with Emre Zeki Karagöl



Femicides in Türkiye

As I write these sentences, The Monument Counter website shows a three-digit number: **320**.

This isn't just data or a random number. This is the number of women killed by men since the 1st of January. **320** is the number of lives that ended, stories left half-finished, and families destroyed... **320** is the number of times the government closed its eyes, pretended not to hear a single scream, and acted as if everything was normal. **320** is the number of women murdered in this country just because she was a woman. **320** is the number of times humanity died in Türkiye this year.

İDETTEN ÖLEN KADINLAR İÇİN DİYALAN



2024

Burçin Sevgi T. | R.İ. Kabay | Fidan Çakar | İsmail Yılmaz | Sevgi Gülden Yalçın | Aygün Sefer | Huriye Özkan | Nuran Sevilgen | Gülcin Kaya | Sevim Kaya | Cavidan Aydın | N.C. | Gülcan U. | Güler Mustafa | Emine Demir | Edanur Demir | Medine Demir | Azra Demir | Berivan Özala | Sıla Y. | Bedriye Işık | Sonay Özpınar Aslan | Fatma Özdemir | Ayşenur Hacı | İzzet Uzunlar | Zehra Gülin | Gülfer Özer | Sibel Aygün | Sıla M. | Sabi Aktan | Hazal Gencer | Özge Hancıoğlu | Esin Karabıyık | Devrim Emir | Ebru Ocal | Selda Eiler | Ruhan Akkaya | Fadima Ok | Pelin Karaca | İsmi Bilemıyor | Aysel Yıldız | Zehinso Dayıyavara | Döne Bozdemir | Cüdem Eskiçimci | Fadim Temirhanogulları | Maya A. | Elif Ceren Anslan | Hamiyet Çetin Görmeyer | Narin Güran | Feriye Gözala | Şehle Gündüz | Hatice Gül | Gülizar Çolak | Tuğba Koç | Ayşe Dürüst | Ebru Doğan | Emine Sezer | Cemre Şimşek | Nira Şimşek | Ceylan Şimşek | Senem Kovruk | Denysa Demir | Eylem Sevilgen | Elif Öm | Gülizar Çolak | Gülizar Altunbaş | Elif Durmaz | A.O. | Nuhce Yılmaz | Sezen Samancı | Duru Pakarda | Özner Akkaya | Zübeyra Bahadır | Sinem Çingirli | Kuyumci Çetinkaya | Sedat Çinar | Serpil Gül | Hatice Tuğba Ergen | Ayşe Öz | Fatma Demir | Sultan Tosun | B.K. | Leyla Çetiner | Müge Elmalı | Ayman Çali | Hande Y. | Nurya Dabaz | Gülhan Bayrak | Özgen Tutul | Nurlen Yapoçcu | Cansu Tarak | Fatma Ö. | Elif Avcı | Salih K. | Elma Bicer | Erva Raziye Asar | Merve K. | Seher İler | Songül Budak | Cansu Aslan | Rukiye Yıldırım | Saliye Bıçak | Doğa Kekik | İlim Altınsoy | Pera Balabıyık | Sevgi Koçer | Yüsera Binnaz Çimtay | Hatice Uslan | Hatice Çelik | Selen Akpolat | Nurcan Tekdemir | Ümmü Döğür | Semha Türk | Gizem Nazile Türk | Hilal Kar | Fatma Kahraman | Gülşim Mertöğlu | Sükran Eba | Leyla Erat | Fatma Nur Bezen | Seher Aktekin | Aylin Ekşi | Merve Sahin | Hacer Çağla Çetinalp | Victoria Vera Bylin | Merve Karabaz | Semha Koca | Hilal Nur Koca | Lale Polat | Gülşen Çarışkan | Sedat Güler | Saniye Anslan | Hediye Kocatürk | Nur El Süleyman | Esma Şimşek | Sula Özdem Ural | Serap Doğan | Zeynep Koc | Ada Koc | Seray Yılmaz | İsmi Bilemıyor | Başak Tekin | Ceylan Demir | Zehra Neşoşa | Nafihan Çan | Fatma Çan | Kader Yıldırım | Cennet Akdağ | Zinnetnur Ayar | Hangül Çoban | Sadiye Özeri | Rümeysa Merc Özcan | Nazlı Akdoğan | İrem Er | Hande Yılmaz | Nazoğlu Orhan | Meryem Karakocak | Selen Bılgın | Bahar Kaban | Aylin Pekin | Sevim Duman | Nisanur Öztürk | Zeynep Özdemir | Hasret Öztürk | Zeynep Özdemir | İptihel Baba | İyay Hattak | Hatice E. | Merve Kuvara | Emine Kuvara | B.S. | Saadet Çay | Duygu Şirin | Buse Erkin | Dilara Güneş | B.S. | Gülay Akça | Edanur K. | Hayriye Derin | Saadet Yörekürk | Ashtaq Ahmad Qureshi | Hivda Teme | Minenur Ala | Gülcan Güneş | Esra Y. | Özde Yılmaz | Emine Derviş | Tülay Tolu | Buse Demirkıran | Nazlı Tepedir | A.K. | Leyla Akçıl | Ayşet Aslan | N.A. | İkincir Çetin | Fatma D. | Betül Kurt | Sultan Akçıl | Selin Yalın | F.C. | Rahime Pınar Rahmet | Maltım Zengin | Vanda Karan Çökten | Ayşe Çan | Emine Bırmacı | Ayşe Ç. | Rume Akse Rume | Nural Yılmaz | Tükan Abaz | Kibire Kocak | Selen Fıran Kır | Ayşe Taz

The Monument Counter lists the names and stories of women who lost their lives due to domestic violence in Türkiye. It is also very lethal to mention that each year more than 100 women lose their lives “suspiciously” and are included in this website. But not in official records. Because authorities refuse to keep track of this horrible reality thoroughly and perpetuate the normalization of these murders, this website and the works of non-governmental organizations serve significant importance.

This counter shows a striking reality: while the number of women who lost their lives has consistently increased since 2008, this number stayed over 400 since 2018. This means, for the last 6 years, over 400 women each year were killed by men and the patriarchy. And if the government keeps the see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil act, and protect criminals, more women will die in the hands of this degenerated system. For this exact reason, we scream the words “*Femicides are political!*” as loud as we can, whenever we can. This systematic misogyny cannot be excused with medical conditions such as mental health and substance abuse. If over 400 women die each year in this country, and the streets keep getting more dangerous every day, if congressmen in this country can suggest remission of punishment to murderers and if courts can reduce a murderer’s sentence because “he was protecting his honor” or “he wore a suit that matched his tie” in this country, every single femicide committed in Türkiye, is nothing but political in its very core.

Today, the Feminist movement is in its fourth wave. The fight for equality continues for over 300 years. But today in Türkiye, women are still fighting for their lives, they are trying to stay alive in a system that keeps violating this basic human right they have. We shouldn't be worrying about how solutions or laws are never implemented. We should ask “How can we increase the number of women in higher workplace positions, how can we include marginalized groups in feminist politics?”. To establish a political air where we can change the questions, we must establish equality in every single social, political, and private environment in which we exist. Not perpetuate inequality.

Women's Place in Turkish Politics and Society

According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022, Türkiye ranks 112th in political empowerment for women and 140th in economic participation and opportunity. Türkiye was originally a country where women participated in the political sphere before many of the "more developed and civilized" nations. However, seeing the data after 100 years of the foundation the progress that was promised and so-called worked upon is nowhere to be seen. Aside from the political sphere, women are heavily misrepresented in the private business sector as well. Only 22% of management positions are held by women.



Women in Türkiye are stuck in a very misogynistic society from their fathers to their boyfriends to their husbands. They are in a constant fight to be able to make their own decisions. The struggle women in Türkiye go through is significantly more than what is in the general media or political discussions in the parliament. While these data are critical, and show that Türkiye has a long way to go in terms of representation of women in decision-making processes, women in Türkiye are still mostly worried about not getting killed, and being able to make their own decisions regarding their own lives.

A young girl born in this country learns about the norms she should abide by and how to act, while a young boy learns about games, freedom, and power. A teenage girl in this country learns about self-defense, and who to complain to when she gets assaulted in the school, the street, or in her own house, while a teenage boy learns about how fun it is to take a late-night walk freely, and learns, makes and spreads misogynist jokes and cuss words. Men in this country are free to live their lives in whatever way they want while women constantly have to make compromises or choose the "safe" path when nothing is safe here for them. In the most basic terms, women are not able to live here.



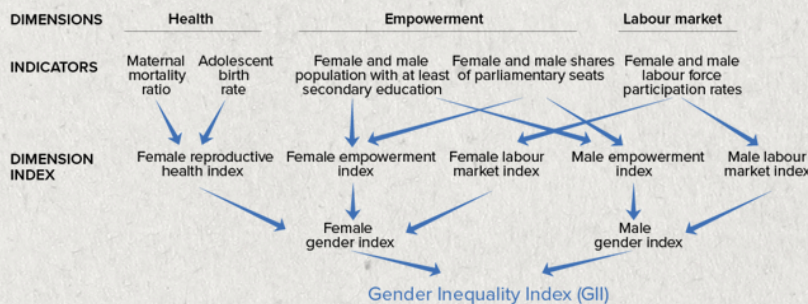
It is debatable if the international system is aware of what women in Türkiye have been going through for decades, however, there is still a spark of hope that social media will hear the screams women are letting out. For instance, after the brutal murder of İkbâl Uzunur and Ayşenur Halil on the same day by Semih Çelik, Turkish social media users tried to use global hashtags, and reached out to big global users to spread the news and it can be said that these actions were successful. There are still hashtags every day, and everyone is highly encouraged to use them, even if the protests are not being held, just to at least not move on like our society always does and keep every woman who lost their life in our resistance.

United Nations Gender Equality Index: Does It Reflect the Truth?

The United Nations' Gender Inequality Index (GII) is an important tool for making gender inequality visible by measuring gender differences between countries. The index evaluates key areas such as women's participation in society, political representation, access to education and health services. However, the fact that the scales were evaluated only on the basis of social participation and the private sphere was not being examined leaves a big question mark in mind. How much does the data reflect reality? We can argue that this index ignores some facts and that gender equality cannot be reduced to quantitative data alone.

According to United Nations data, countries such as Switzerland (0.018) and Norway (0.012) are among the countries with the lowest gender inequality. Women's representation in parliament is 39% in Switzerland and 45% in Norway. Additionally, in both countries, women's access to secondary education is over 97% and their workforce participation rate is over 60%. These figures show significant progress in gender equality. However, in Switzerland, women's labor force participation rate is 61% while men's is 72%. This difference shows that women are still not fully involved in business life.

We must not forget that inequality stems not only from representation in parliament, but also from social areas such as the unfair sharing of responsibilities at home and care work.



The data also shows disparities in access to women's health. While 7.3 women per 100,000 live births die from maternal causes in Switzerland, this rate is 1.6 in Norway. Although these figures seem low, maternal deaths and teenage fertility rates are still high in countries with low development levels. This clearly demonstrates that women's access to adequate healthcare is not equal in every country and that global inequalities continue.

For example, the maternal mortality rate in Nigeria is 917 per 100,000 births, while in Chad the rate is 1,140. In addition, in developing countries such as India, this rate is 130. At the same time, teenage fertility rates are quite high in low-income countries.

Although the United Nations Gender Inequality Index covers many important data it cannot fully capture the structural obstacles faced by women. The fact that such indices are limited to superficial data such as the "parliamentary representation rate" overlooks the real political and cultural transformations that will ensure equality. While it is important to increase women's participation in politics and the business world and to be able to evaluate their access to health on a country basis, it is also necessary to take into account the quality of this participation and its spread to all segments of society. For example, gender norms and the forcing of women into "care labor" roles in society are an ongoing invisible face of gender inequality.

In order for women to achieve the equality they deserve, it is essential to move forward with policies that are more comprehensive and focused on social change, not just based on numbers.

Women's Rights in International Organizations: Does Türkiye Participate?

Women face many challenges such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and inequality. Regarding that, there has been the adaptation of international conventions that guarantee basic human rights. In addition to that, international organizations have taken initiatives to address this issue. The United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU), and the G-20 are such organizations that take action to produce output for women.

Türkiye's participation includes being a party to six fundamental UN human rights conventions. Türkiye became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and signed the Additional Protocol to the Convention. Although Türkiye ratified the CEDAW, there have been periodic reports to the UN on challenges Türkiye has in improving women's rights. Mostly, due to the cases of gender-based violence and the lack of representation that women face in politics and business, the CEDAW Committee criticizes Türkiye.



Additionally, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, Türkiye co-sponsored the UN draft resolution entitled "Working towards the Elimination of Crimes Committed against Women in the Name of Honor". This aims to prevent honor killings targeting young girls and women and this requires the commitment of Governments and the international community.

Although the things that had happened were far from simple, Nahide Opuz was a victim of domestic violence in simplest terms and Opuz Case was brought against the Turkish government for failing to protect her and her mother from attacks perpetrated by her husband. As violence against women is a Europe-wide issue, it was proposed to have a convention against violence against women to protect women in the European community that would be called Istanbul Convention.



Türkiye was the first country that ratified the Istanbul Convention. Although it seems like signaling a strong stance against gender-based violence, Türkiye announced its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in March 2021. The Istanbul Convention was seen as a legal safeguard, however, the rule of law was disregarded with the arguments that it was being manipulated by the ones who seek to normalize homosexuality, which is incompatible with Türkiye's social and family values, and being unnecessary as there are national laws that provided sufficient protections. However, the latest news illustrates the importance of the Legislation of 6284 once again, if nothing else. Women in Türkiye are worried regardless of whether they are at home or on the street considering their most basic right, their right to life, is not respected.

2024 Nobel Prizes

What is a Nobel Prize

The Nobel Prizes are a series of annual awards inaugurated by Swedish inventor and industrialist, Alfred Nobel, who laid out in his will that his estate must be used to bequeath "prizes to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind". The 2024 Nobel Prizes were announced in the first two weeks of October and will be awarded on Nobel's death anniversary, on 10th December 2024. The Nobel Prizes are given in categories of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology and Medicine, Literature, Peace, and additionally Economics.

Literature

Han Kang was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize for Literature. Her win is perhaps the most groundbreaking this year as she constitutes the first Asian woman to win the Literature Prize and the second South Korean individual overall. Her works prominently feature the conflict presented by South Korea's history of authoritarian rule and encompass modern ideas of feminist struggles in her work. One of her most popular works includes "The Vegetarian" which superficially presents the tale of a woman spiraling into madness after vowing to give up meat, but intrinsically comprises a parable of feminine resistance against South Korea's overwhelming patriarchal values. Kang has refused to publicly celebrate her win on account of the ongoing conflict and genocide in Ukraine and Gaza.



Peace

Nihon Hidankyo, a human rights organization representing the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, had the honor of winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024. Nihon Hidankyo has worked tirelessly towards nuclear disarmament and has shown extensive humanitarian support for Gaza by asserting the similarity of their situation with the ones their ancestors faced in 1945.

Economics

Daron Acemoglu, an alumnus who received an honorary doctorate from Bilkent University in 2015 and currently works at MIT, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson have been awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel. They are lauded in appreciation of their research on European colonial institutions and the conclusive ideology they developed which asserts that countries with inadequate rule of law and exploitative institutions will face backward growth economically and otherwise.



14 Days Left for Most Important Election of 2024

The year 2024 has been one of the most eventful year in terms of elections, with millions participating across major democracies like India, Mexico, Indonesia, and the European Union. However, the most pivotal, consequential and closely watched election is yet to happen. On November 5th, American citizens will finalize their electoral choices in one of the most competitive elections in the century. Former President Donald Trump, who has faced 34 felony convictions, is up against incumbent Vice President Kamala Harris in a tight race across seven crucial swing states.

In the U.S., only swing states hold importance in determining the winner due to the electoral college system. While states like California are expected to vote for Harris, once most swing and purple state Florida expected to vote for Trump. In the end, Harris begins with 226 electoral votes, while Trump starts with 219. To victory, a candidate needs to reach 270 electoral votes, which is one more over half of the total. The seven swing states collectively carry 93 electoral votes, and securing these will be critical for pushing candidate above 270.

This election is unique compared to other ones, as it is the first since 1968 in which an incumbent president is not seeking re-election. President Biden announced his withdrawal from the race on July 21 due to pressure from his party. Despite winning all state contests during the primaries, Biden's catastrophic debate performance led to his exit, opening the way for his running mate. As the first Black, South Asian, and female vice president, Harris aims to become the first woman of color president and challenge longstanding stereotypes of American politics.



To predict the likely outcome, the seven swing states can be categorized into three segments: Arizona and Nevada in the Southwest which care more on immigration and economy; Georgia and North Carolina in the Southeast which highlight the recovery of Hurricane Helena and economy; and Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania former Blue Wall states in the Midwest which former Democratic strongholds but faced transformation on Trump-era politics care mostly about economy.

Additionally, a significant national issue influences all swing states: Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, which had federally protected abortion rights for women. This ruling has notably shifted women voters toward pro-choice Democrats. While abortion is a key concern for female voters, economic issues remain a single top issue for the broader electorate. Notably, voters perceive Trump as more trustworthy on economy and immigration, owing to comparisons between the previous Trump and incumbent Biden administrations.

As we approach the final days leading to this monumental election, it is still very hard to make prediction on the winner. However, if Trump outperforms swing states polling aggregates (which he leads 6 out of 7) like 2016-2020 he is more likely to prevail. For context, the International Relations Society will publish a special journal on analyses of voting demographics and possible policies of winning candidate after the projections declared.

Rise of Asian NATO?

Japanese citizens have been called to vote in snap election scheduled for Sunday, October 27th. Despite being a developed democracy, Japan has a unique political environment. Following the devastating Second World War, the newly formed Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has dominated the government, ruling except for two brief periods: 1993-94 and 2009-12. Thus, Japan operates as a multi-party democracy with a dominant party, the LDP. However, the LDP's dominance is not seen as oppressive or rigid by the Japanese public. The opposition, primarily led by the center-left Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) and the center-right Innovation Party (Ishin), can exercise freedom of speech and demonstrations. Moreover, Japanese citizens generally remain apolitical regarding political preferences and participate in elections at lower rates.

Despite Japan's extraordinary political landscape, the upcoming elections can be significant in allowing citizens to express dissatisfaction with the previous government led by Fumio Kishida. Former Prime Minister Kishida was one of the least popular politicians in the country due to economic issues and scandals. These scandals created rifts between Kishida and the party's strongest faction, ultimately forcing his resignation on August 14th.

After understanding the current political situation, the most important question is: Who is Shigeru Ishiba? Ishiba is a strong advocate for the establishment of Asian NATO to counter the rising influence of China. He seeks to deepen strategic relationships with South Korea, United States, and Australia to create a new collective defense organization in the Pacific. Ishiba is a proponent of nuclear weapons, despite Japan's historical policy of anti-nuclear proliferation.

On the opposition side, the Constitutional Democratic Party elected former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda as their new leader. Noda had previously served as Prime Minister before the landslide electoral loss to former and then assassinated Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the 2012 election, Noda led CDP lost 251 seats compared to the previous election. Despite his poor electoral track record, Noda is seen as an experienced politician, capable of leading the opposition in its challenging goal of defeating the LDP.



Also, Ishiba could be seen as a controversial politician due to his visits to Yasukuni Shrine prior to 2002 (his first cabinet role). This Shrine contains the memorials of 1,066 convicted war criminals from the Second World War and is regarded as a symbol for Japanese right-wing extremists. However, he did not visit the shrine after 2002 and supported the separation of Class A war criminals from it. Therefore, on October 27th, Japan will either elect a LDP prime minister like usual but prepare to challenge the power dynamics in the region or shock the world by choosing a CDP to end the LDP's consecutive governance.

On The Verge Of BRICS Summit: Key Considerations

The 16th BRICS summit is scheduled to take place from 22 to 24 October in Kazan, Russia. This will be the inaugural BRICS summit since the organization's expansion, which saw the inclusion of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Russian officials have indicated that the summit will be attended by representatives from 32 states. The forthcoming summit promises to be a particularly intriguing event, given that over 30 countries have either submitted formal applications or expressed a desire to join the BRICS grouping. These include some countries of geostrategic importance, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Nigeria and also Turkey.



The Russian chairmanship announced priorities to focus on this year's summit. The agenda includes a range of areas, including policy and security, the economy and finance, and humanitarian and cultural issues. One of the principal objectives is to facilitate the integration of new members into the BRICS group. Furthermore, the list of priorities includes ensuring international information security and strengthening interaction among BRICS states on multilateral platforms such as the WTO, IMF and World Bank.

As the BRICS continues to expand, so do the discussions regarding the structure of the organization. It is no shocker that the BRICS+ consists of countries that have a dissatisfaction with the privileges advanced market democracies enjoy in the Western-led liberal institutions. Nevertheless, the expansion of the group fosters the ongoing question of homogeneity. It has already been a discussion topic as China, the economic pioneer of the group, has different desires compared to India, and even Russia in particular areas. This summit may also increase the arguments of homogeneity as the application of Turkey, a traditionally western-oriented state, raises more questions. Although their accession is unclear, the potential increase of multialigned states in BRICS may aggravate internal divisions. Developing a coherent policy agenda for the desired reforms may become even more challenging as countries with different political and economic institutions and national interests vary.

On the other hand, the BRICS+ expansion and the summit in Kazan can also be viewed as raising the voice of the global majority. Common trait of the BRICS states and the applicants is the fact that they all have "common aversions" against the current global order. Some want more quotas in financial institutions, while others want their sphere of influence to grow and some even target their traditional allies to respect them. It is repeatedly articulated that BRICS does not desire to assault the existing global order but rather renovate the rules and institutions of the multilateral system. An example of such renovation may be the BRICS pay, which will be an alternative payment system that ultimately aspires to the de-dollarization of international trade, and is expected to be announced at the summit.

While the BRICS countries have demonstrated a willingness to work together, it remains unclear whether they will be able to present a unified front. Nevertheless, the addition of the "plus" members will undoubtedly have an impact on the global system.

Current Situation in Gaza and Lebanon

From the beginning of the genocide in Gaza, Israel has maintained its attacks in the Gaza Strip and also in Lebanon. Israel's attacks on Lebanon began in September with the explosion of communication devices targeting Hezbollah, and this was followed by the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. The background to these attacks was Hezbollah's open support for Hamas in the Hamas-Israel War. Hezbollah has carried out hundreds of attacks on the Israeli side since October 7, 2023, and significant numbers of civilians and infrastructure were damaged in these clashes.

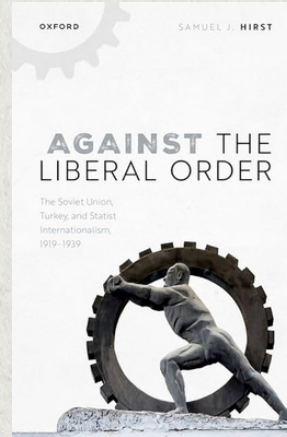
Israel demanded that Hezbollah implement UNSC number 1701 and withdraw its forces, but when Hezbollah did not withdraw its forces and announced that it would not withdraw until the clashes in Gaza ended, Israel targeted Southern Lebanon after a long time and launched devastating airstrikes. Israel has violated Lebanese airspace thousands of times since 2007 and has also begun occupying neighboring regions. In addition to this devastating picture in Lebanon, Israel attacked a hospital tent camp in Gaza 2 weeks ago.

As a result of these attacks, at least four people have been killed and dozens of others wounded. The Israeli army has regularly attacked medical facilities in Gaza since the assault began more than a year ago. In recent months, it has repeatedly struck crowded shelters and tent sites, alleging armed groups were using them.

Ata Tanrıverdi

IRS Book Talk Event: “Against the Liberal Order” by Sam J. Hirst

Last week, the International Relations Society started the semester with a book-talk event hosted by Samuel J. Hirst. Hirst's book, *Against the Liberal Order*, is a historical book on the USSR and Turkey's interactions during the interwar period. As early Turkey and the interwar USSR emerged as the first significant exceptions to the Western liberal order, their patterns of acting and relations with each other are deeply examined in the book, exceeding the international level discussion borders, and being able to observe the effects on the individuals of the era.



The event started with Hirst's speech regarding the book and an explanation of some instances that demonstrated the bilateral agreement between Turkey and the USSR. According to Hirst, Turkey, and the Soviets shared a common cause and interactions throughout the interwar period with ideological similarities not only in a pragmatic way but also in helping each other form an alternative to Western liberalism. A significant example of this is the Soviet engineery in Nazilli and Kayseri. Then, Hirst clarified some of the criticism his book received. One important criticism was the lack of a research question, and another was the possible bias due to coincidental focus. After addressing the criticism, the event continued with a question-and-answer session.

Against the Liberal Order can be found in the Bilkent University library catalog and Oxford University Press using the link below.

[Against the Liberal Order](#)

Selin Akpınar

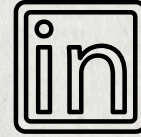
IRS JOURNAL



*To Subscribe to
IRS Journal*



*Find IRS on
Social Media*



If you want to be a writer:

You can send direct message to any of our social media accounts, or email us on irsociety@bilkent.edu.tr

Credits

Writers

Aiman Adeel
Aral Çağın Yurtseven
Aslısu Furtana
Ata Tanrıverdi
Aybüke Yılmaz
Dila Kadıgil
Duru Cantürk
Selin Akpınar

Editor / Designer

Aslısu Furtana

Contributors

Aral Çağın Yurtseven
Selin Akpınar
İbrahim Polat Topcu
Çınar Öğütçü
Berk Deniz Aydın
Efe Kaksa
Zeynep Duru Atik

ISSUE N.07

Bilkent University
International
Relations Society