## From the Editor

Academic journals are more than venues for publishing scholarly research; they are intellectual platforms that foster interdisciplinary dialogue, encourage critical inquiry, and contribute to the advancement of emerging research agendas. In preparing this issue of *CENK Journal*, our primary objective has been to bring together original studies that address pressing contemporary issues through rigorous theoretical and methodological approaches while making meaningful contributions to the existing body of scholarship.

The contemporary international landscape clearly demonstrates that international politics, security studies, and religion can no longer be examined as isolated fields of inquiry. The evolving security strategies of states, rapid technological transformations, regional power competition, and the changing role of religious movements in the modern world have become interconnected phenomena that demand comprehensive and interdisciplinary analysis. The articles included in this issue reflect this perspective by examining these complex dynamics from diverse yet complementary analytical viewpoints.

The opening article investigates the United Arab Emirates' proxy strategy in Yemen through its relationship with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), employing a process-tracing methodology to examine the dynamics of proxy warfare, the foreign policy behavior of small states, and regional strategic competition. By analyzing both the rise and the gradual decline of this proxy relationship, the study provides important insights into the structural limitations of proxy warfare while contributing to a broader understanding of the contemporary security architecture of the Middle East.

The second contribution offers a comparative analysis of two prominent Hasidic Jewish movements—Satmar and Chabad-Lubavitch. Focusing on their contrasting responses to modernity, secularization, Zionism, and the State of Israel, the article demonstrates that religious traditions do not produce uniform reactions to modern social and political challenges. Beyond filling a significant gap in the Turkish literature, the study makes a valuable contribution to the fields of the sociology of religion and the history of religions by illuminating the diverse strategies through which traditional religious communities negotiate modernity.

The third article shifts attention to one of the defining dimensions of contemporary geopolitical competition: the strategic significance of submarine fiber-optic cables. As energy security and digital infrastructure become increasingly intertwined, submarine communication networks have emerged as critical components of geopolitical influence and intelligence capabilities. By situating Türkiye within the evolving digital security architecture of the Eastern Mediterranean, the study highlights the country's strategic role as a regional data corridor while examining the broader geopolitical implications of emerging digital infrastructure projects.

The final article explores cognitive biases in intelligence analysis and evaluates structured analytic techniques designed to mitigate analytical errors. In an era characterized by unprecedented volumes of information, the principal challenge confronting intelligence organizations is no longer merely acquiring information but interpreting it accurately. By systematically examining the relationships among cognitive biases, uncertainty, and structured analytical methodologies, the study offers significant contributions to both the academic literature and the practice of intelligence analysis.

Although the articles presented in this issue address distinct research questions, they converge around a common theme: the growing interdependence of security, religion, technology, intelligence, and international politics. As contemporary global challenges become increasingly multidimensional, understanding these complex phenomena requires analytical frameworks that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. *CENK Journal* remains committed to promoting precisely this kind of interdisciplinary scholarship by providing a platform for innovative research that bridges diverse fields of inquiry.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all authors whose original research has enriched this issue, to our reviewers for their careful evaluations and constructive feedback throughout the peer-review process, and to the members of our editorial board for their dedication to maintaining the journal's academic standards. We are equally grateful to our readers for their continued confidence in *CENK Journal*. We look forward to publishing future issues that continue to foster rigorous, original, and impactful scholarship addressing the critical questions of our time.

We wish you an engaging and rewarding reading experience.

**Prof. Enes BAYRAKLI**

**Editor**