
Introduction to the Issue: Energy and International Relations

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Current issues in regional and global energy include a myriad of challenges and opportunities. This special issue on energy policy and international relations brings out academic findings on factors that affect various processes of energy business, energy diplomacy, and energy economics with reference to the theory and policy-making aspects of international relations. Normative, qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches are used by the authors, who have focused on various aspects of the link between energy and international relations with reference to “fossil fuels, nuclear and renewable energy”, “oil prices”, “energy investments”, “legal and normative frameworks”, “the impact of shale”, “environmental restraints

and challenges”, “the rise of natural gas as a remarkable energy security parameter and yet with further geopolitical competition”, “capabilities and restraints of natural resource-based economies and their power politics”, “conventional and unconventional production”, “energy cooperation at regional and global scales”, and “energy transport and transit corridors”.

Contributions from distinguished scholars elaborate on these fundamental and current issues within the following order based on topic:

My article, entitled “The Shale Revolution and Beyond: Has Turkey Faced the Consequences of US Energy Transition?” elaborates on Turkey’s energy policy with regard to the intervening variables stemming from the energy transition in the USA. I compare the basic characteristics of the energy transitions in Turkey and the

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USA, and then intertwine particular restraints and goals with reference to contextual changes in selected regions and issues.

Hayriye Kahveci Özgür focuses on Eastern Mediterranean hydrocarbons from an international relations perspective in her article entitled “Eastern Mediterranean Hydrocarbons: Regional Potential, Challenges Ahead and the Hydrocarbon-ization of the Cyprus Problem”. The article not only looks at issues of oil and gas with reference to political, economic and legal aspects, but also highlights how oil and gas intersect with the ongoing Cyprus issue.

Şebnem Udum’s article, entitled “Nuclear Energy and International Relations: Outlook and Challenges for Newcomers,” deals with diverse aspects of nuclear energy with a particular focus on the economic and technological features while drawing attention to the issue of nuclear weapons as a means of power in international relations. The article takes nuclear energy and nuclear weapons as important drivers of international relations that entail distinct features.

Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney analyzes Turkey’s nuclear energy initiative as

a case study in her article entitled, “Where Does Turkey Stand in the Quest for Civilian Nuclear Energy in the Middle East?”. The article explores the similarities and dissimilarities of Turkey’s nuclear energy program with reference to selected countries in the region. It points out how the project models of particular countries lead to distinct paths within the diverse types of civilian use of nuclear energy, thereby affecting international relations.

Emre İşeri and Defne Günay bring out the significance of climate change within energy policies in their article entitled “Assessing Turkey’s Climate Change Commitments: The Case of Turkey’s Energy Policy”. The article particularly deals with the case of Turkey, and yet its findings offer important highlights for other cases too. This is because it focuses on climate change as a security variable with regard to environmental, economic and political parameters.

Finally, Rovshan Ibrahimov compares Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, by using the link between energy (oil and gas in particular) and power politics, in his article entitled “Energy and Power Politics in the Cases of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan”. The article

elaborates on issues of oil and gas in order to map the regional and global positions of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan by benefitting from the power terminology of international relations.

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These articles that have been brought together to constitute this special issue on energy and international relations channel significant findings in terms of theory, practice and policy-making.

I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank the authors, referees and the editorial office, whose full commitment and common work to attain the best possible research on particular issues of energy and international relations, resulted in this very special issue; clearly reflecting the value of author expertise in energy and international relations...