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EDITORIAL

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Beginning, I will have to admit that The Bulletin of Palestine Studies was launched when our efforts to establish an association for Palestinian and Israeli studies remained without result two years ago. After the Hebrew lectures, I started to give in the Turkish Historical Society (TTK) in 2013; efforts were made to provide an academic and institutional basis to this field. At this point I consulted with my friends I taught Hebrew about what kind of work could be done in this field. Then I realized that the most reasonable way was to issue an academic journal.

When I spoke about my plans to Can DEVECI, the associate editor and member of the journal's editorial committee, we set out on the way immediately because he was also ready for such an idea. I would like to thank him here for all the support and enthusiasm he has brought to the task. We have now published the first issue of the journal, after a year of preparations. I would like to thank Alaattin DOLU and Selim TEZCAN, the other two members of the editorial committee, who have not left us alone at this process.

I would also like to thank all the authors of this journal. If they had not helped us by sending their articles to the first issue, it would not have proved possible to publish this journal. Because when we expressed our intentions to publish such a magazine, we were repeatedly reminded of the difficulty of finding articles. The geography and the relative size of the nations in question might be a reason for this: Palestine / Israel is a country with an area roughly the size of Antalya (20,790 km²) (includes 427 km² inland water= 20,770 km²; include West Bank 5,655 km², East Jerusalem 70 km², Golan Heights, 1,154 km², Gaza 365 km²= 27,736 km²), and with the population size of Istanbul (14 million) (include West Bank 3.2 million, Gaza 1.9 million and Israel 8.7 million= 14 million). In addition, the population of the Jews and Palestinians scattered around various parts of the world is about the same for each group. But it is difficult to explain everything with size. There are also few studies

about Saudi Arabia, which is three times larger than Turkey and visited by millions of people on pilgrimage. In Turkey, there are few studies and experts on the Middle East, compared with the Europe and West.

But I approached all these caveats with suspicion, as I knew the existence of a considerable body of work related to Israel in Turkey, even if not wholly equal in quality. Additionally, the resources in English produced by Israeli scholars were available for Turkish researchers. Moreover, as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was related to the many controversial issues in the Middle East, scholars and researchers had to follow the Israeli and Palestinian academics and media. Jewish scholars in the United States and Europe were also well known in Turkey. All this, along with the rising demand for interdisciplinary studies on the topic, would render it easier than it seemed at first sight to find publishable articles of high quality.

The number of institutions and periodicals related to the Middle East began to increase in the 2000's in Turkey. Institutions and periodicals focusing on individual countries in Middle East have begun to appear in the recent years. With the normalization of Turkey's relations with the Middle East in the 1960's, interest in the region began to rise as well. It can be assumed that the institutions and journals focusing on individual Middle Eastern countries will proliferate, just like the new university departments and research centers. I would also like to report here that I plan to write a study analyzing the progress of Israeli studies in the world and Turkey.

Bulletin of Palestine Studies - BPS [*כתב העת ללימודים פלסטיניים, مجلة الدراسات الفلسطينية*, Filistin Arařtırmaları Dergisi- FİAD], a biannual, double-blinded peer-reviewed journal, aims to become an indispensable resource for anyone interested in Palestine, Israel and the Middle East. As an interdisciplinary journal, it is to provide an intellectual platform for discussing Turkey's policies toward Palestine, Israel and Middle East and for analyzing the historical, political, social, and cultural aspects of the region. In accordance with these purposes, the Bulletin of Palestine Studies pays close attention to the relationships of Palestine and Israel with Turkey, the Middle East and the world, and encourages scholarly articles with theoretical or comparative approaches provided that the focus remains on modern Palestine and Israel.

The Bulletin of Palestine Studies aims to publish the articles of not only accomplished scholars, but also of promising young researchers in order to promote their research activities. Many dissertations that involve original research go unpublished. There are many benefits of publishing journal articles produced from these works, including original contributions to the chosen field, career enhancement, and personal satisfaction. Generally,

turning several chapters from a dissertation into scholarly articles do not constitute a problem when later producing a monograph based on it.

As an editorial board, we have tried to determine the scope and contents of the journal as optimally as possible, given the conditions. It welcomes papers from scholars working in the fields of Social, Human and Administrative Sciences, related with Palestine, Israel, Judaism and Jerusalem. For the field of theology and law, we also plan to publish a peer-reviewed journal that is published annually.

Setting out to publish this journal, we hope it to become a reference source combining institutional independence with academic robustness. We closely follow the national and international academic studies related to this field, and wish to make a meaningful contribution on our part to the accumulation of scholarly knowledge. We also aim to help the research of talented young academics reach the appreciation it deserves. We want to increase the communication and information-sharing among the academicians, professionals and researchers in the field, and to provide the venue conducive to this.