The latest book by Burak Tangör, a specialist on international relations and the European Union at the Gazi Üniverzitesi in Ankara, analyses the reactions of the EU on the threats stemming from the Bosnian, Kosovo and Macedonian crises in 1992–2001. In essence, Tangör provides a handbook that sums up crucial facts about the European foreign policies towards the region and the legal framework of the European intervention and its crisis management.

European security management: the Bosnian, Kosovo and Macedonian crises, as the Turkish title could be translated, was intended primarily for students of law and international relations and can be thus taken for a textbook. The author cites numerous documents which have been in this way published in their entirety (or partially) for the first time in Turkish (which can be very beneficial in view of the poor language skills of the Turkish academia).

The theoretical framework, especially in respect to its pedagogical function, is mostly grounded on a broad understanding of security politics, as it is still more often perceived by experts on security, and policy makers. Apart from the diplomatic negotiations and military missions, the account includes also economic policies and politics of subsidies of the EU towards the respective countries as well as the stabilization impact of the integration process. It is mainly these stabilization measures preventing future military threats that characterize the new approach towards security and security politics that has been asserting itself approximately since the end of the Cold War. The book can thus be read as a case study that illustrates the practical operation of security politics in this conception.

Tangör’s book is meant for Turkish audience as it deals with a topic that has been numerous researched in the European context. It thus does not bring any new views on the issue. Within the Turkish environment, though, the publication can be perceived as in many aspects very useful and unique. Yet in the broad European or even global context, it is a rather uninspiring study. After all, as its translation is not envisioned, and the author probably does not even set such ambitions for this book.

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