İSTANBUL AREL UNIVERSITY | AREL USAM

II. INTERNATIONAL WAR AND PEACE STUDIES CONGRESS

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 21ST CENTURY WARS

23-25 October 2025

Arel TEKMER

La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul Gunesli



For Congress Webpage

https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/

INTERNATIONAL WAR AND PEACE STUDIES CONGRESS
PEACE AT HOME PEACE IN THE WORLD
WAPSCON

AIM AND SCOPE

War, which humanity has been facing for thousands of years, has an unchanging essence that resists time and has evolving and frequently changing characteristics. The unchanging essence consists of passion and primordial violence, chance and probability, reason, and political purpose, and is defined as the "paradoxical trinity" by Clausewitz. Since war is not bound by time and space, geopolitical, political, socio-cultural, economic, technological, international, legal, and cognitive developments constantly change it.

As is evident in the interstate wars, civil conflicts, and acts of terrorism that have taken place in the 21st century from Iraq to Afghanistan, from the Middle East to Latin America, and from Africa to Europe; significant changes are being experienced in the strategic, operational, tactical, and technical levels of warfare with the widespread use of advanced technologies, especially artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and robotic studies. The level of changes that have come is much more evident in the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts, where dramatic results have emerged.

Today, leading states allocate resources to detect changes in advance and learn lessons. This practical approach allows them to adapt to change, avoid being caught unprepared for war, and gain an advantage over rivals. The lessons learned from this congress will directly apply to such work and research, ensuring that your participation will have a tangible impact and contribute to advancing war and peace studies.

In this context, Istanbul Arel University International Strategic Research Application and Research Center (Arel USAM) has organized an international congress titled "Lessons Learned from 21st Century Wars". This congress, of immense global significance, will bring together the war and peace studies community worldwide. It will be held face-to-face in Turkish and English, and participation is free of charge.

The congress will focus on strategic, operative, tactical, and technical level observation, detection, and lessons learned from intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance, warning and notification systems, command-control-communication, maneuver, combat in urban areas, fire support, naval operations, air operations, air defense operations, special forces operations, logistics and personnel activities, training, artificial intelligence and robotic systems, and civil defense-public protection areas.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS FROM THE CONGRESS

• To create knowledge on current and potential doctrines and concepts within the scope of the congress themes.
• To provide information on developments in warfare weapons and vehicles, command control, intelligence, and logistics systems.
• To follow developments in asymmetric means such as CBRN systems, cyber technologies, information systems, and robotic systems and to open doors to new developments in these areas.
• To enable analysis and synthesis at technical, tactical, operative, and strategic levels.
• To provide information exchange between the Academy - Security Sector - Security Bureaucracy.
• To create approaches for introducing developments in demand-based warfare weapon vehicles and systems to the armed forces.
• To create approaches for introducing supply-based innovative warfare weapon vehicles and systems to the armed forces.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts (maximum 300 words) prepared using the abstract submission template should be sent to **https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/** by June 13, 2025, at the latest.

In presentations and full texts of abstracts, emphasis is expected to be given to developments with innovation/ revolutionary potential in military issues rather than theoretical discussions and definitions.

The presentation time of abstracts during the congress should not exceed 15 minutes.

The Congress Organizing Committee will review abstract proposals through referees, and the applicant will be informed as necessary. Abstracts will be published as an e-book before the congress.

Full texts between 2500 and 4000 words should be sent as a Microsoft Word document to **https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/** by November 21, 2025. The full-text proceedings book will be published electronically on December 31, 2025.

CONGRESS CALENDAR

Publication of the call for paper:	7 January 2025
Deadline for submission of abstracts:	13 June 2025
Reporting accepted abstracts:	17 July 2025
Publication of Congress program:	31 July 2025
Congress dates:	23-24-25 October 2025
Submission of full papers:	21 November 2025
Publication of Congress proceedings e-book:	31 December 2025

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Yakup Battal (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye

CONGRESS THEMES AND TOPICS FOR PAPERS

Strategic Assessment of International Peace and Security
War, Politics and Diplomacy in the 21st Century
Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance
-Intelligence and counter-intelligence
-Reconnaissance and surveillance systems and applications
Early warning systems
-Target detection, recognition, and analysis systems

Maneuver
-Combined operations
-Infantry, airborne and air assault operations
-Use of tanks and armored units
-Use of engineering units (destruction, fortification, obstacles, bridging, fortification, fighting vehicles, etc.)

Operation in Urban Areas
-Features of urban areas (tall buildings, narrow streets, tunnels,
-and other underground systems)
-Challenges of urban operations
-Humanitarian law considerations
-Collateral damage and environmental destruction
-Evolving tactics and systems

Fire Support and Air Defense
-UAVs and armed UAVs
-Use of fire and maneuver
-Fire attack tactics
-Artillery, rockets
-Air defense operations

Command-Control, Communications, and Consultation
Cyber operations
Information and Media operations
Psychological operations
Special Forces Operations
Combat service support
-Transportation
-Ammunition and fuel
-Maintenance and repair
-Supply
-Logistics
-Personnel integration and mobilization
-Food services
-Medical evacuation and treatment
-Administrative services

Survival and Operational Security
-Dispersion, relocation
-Concealment

Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Systems
Civil Defense
Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN)
Training and exercises

ABSTRACT PROPOSAL FORM

First Author, Name and Surname:	**University /Organization:**
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Second Author, Name and Surname:	**University /Organization:**
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The title of the paper:	
Abstract: You can enlarge this section if needed.	
The abstract should include the paper's central thesis, the subject's importance, and the content (main and sub-discussion points, the methodology used, and the outcome).	
Keywords: (Four keywords)	
The central thesis of the paper:	

You can enlarge all sections if needed.

Important Note: The name, surname, title, institution and contact information of all authors included in the paper must be shared. In addition, the responsible author who will present the paper must be specified, all communication will be made through the responsible author. Abstracts must be written in Times New Roman format, 11 points and single-spaced.