

# **USA, EU AND TURKISH WATER LAW: A BROAD PERSPECTIVE**

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## **EXPERTISE THESIS ABSTRACT**

Importance of water, as one of, may be the most, vital natural resource since the beginning of human history, for both society and individuals consistently increased within the historical era that begins from industry revolution and reaches today. Legal aspect of water also became more concrete within national and international context due to its indispensability for economical activities rapidly developing especially from 19 th century. The domestic regulations of water law has been shaped according to the geological and climatic aspects of geographical territory that every country belongs to, whereas, the international dimension of water law has been shaped mostly according to the bilateral or multilateral agreements acted among riparian states within the era lasted until the end of Second World War. However, after the Second World War within the new world order established under the dome of United Nations, the international dimension of water law also shaped according to the international efforts such as 1972 UN Environment Conference and 1977 UN Water Conference. In 2010, UN recognized water right as a human right. Although water law was considered as a branch of environmental law at the beginning, it is now recognized as an independent legal discipline standing out. As a fact, the efforts regarding this issue seems heavily effected from USA's and EU's Water Laws. Thus, to be able to fairly understand and interpreted the most updated concepts, implementations and principles adopted by water law it appears as a requirement to possess general understanding of USA and EU Water Laws.

On the other hand, regarding to Turkish Water Law, a dispersed and segmented legal structure and lack of academic works evaluating Turkish Water Law in a broad perspective in order to display its general structure appear as important problems. In this context, a study displaying the general structure including the main issues such as the

historical evolution, main principles, related legal decisions, legal and administrative structure of Turkish Water Law will be beneficial. Additionally, adding USA's and EU's Water Laws into such study will benefit not only providing information about the water law systems of these states, but also allowing to evaluate the position of Turkish Water Law in contrast to other legal systems.

Consequently, in this study it is aimed to explain USA, EU and Turkish Water Law systems regarding with ground water, underground water, and crossboundary waters in general terms based on the historical evolution, main principles, related legal decisions, legal and administrative structure.

**Key Words:** Turkish Water Law, USA Water Law, EU Water Law, crossboundary waters, public water, private water.