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TURKISH COMMERCIAL LAW
An English-Language Textbook



FİLİZ KİTABEVİ
İSTANBUL
2026



Filiz Kitabevi Basım Yayın Dağıtım
Petrol Ürünleri San. ve Tic. Ltd. Şti.
Genel Yayın No | General Publication Number: 1281
Sertifika no | Certificate Number: 77398

Filiz Kitabevi
Yayın No | Publication Number: 2026/30

Kitap Adı: Türk Ticaret Hukuku: İngilizce Ders Kitabı
Book Title: Turkish Commercial Law: An English-Language Textbook
ISBN: 978-625-8585-25-4
DOI: doi.org/10.64161/filiz.9786258585254

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Konu Kategorisi | Subject Categories: Hukuk; Ticaret Hukuku; Türk Ticaret Kanunu; Ticari İşletme Hukuku; Şirketler Hukuku; Kıymetli Evrak; Uluslararası Ticaret | Law; Commercial Law; Turkish Commercial Code; Commercial Enterprise Law; Company Law; Negotiable Instruments; International Trade

Yayın Türü | Publication Type: Kitap | Book - Monograph
Yayın Dili | Language: İngilizce | English
Ebat | Dimensions: 16 x 23 cm
Baskı Sayısı | Edition: 1
Sayfa Sayısı | Pages: 459

Yayın Tarihi | Publication Date: Mart 2026 | March 2026
Yayın Yeri | Place of Publication: İstanbul, Türkiye
Mizanpaj ve Kapak | Layout and Cover Design: Vildan YAVUZ / Özge DANE
Baskı ve Cilt | Printing and Binding: Filiz Kitabevi Basım Yayın Dağıtım
Petrol Ürünleri San. ve Tic. Ltd. Şti.
(Sertifika no: 77398)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author graduated from the Faculty of Law at Istanbul University in 2003. He obtained his LL. M. degree in International Trade Law from the University of Essex in 2007. He completed his Ph. D. in International Arbitration Law at King's College London in 2013.

Following his doctoral studies, he was a Visiting Scholar at Brunel University in 2014 and served as an Associate Researcher at Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London, United Kingdom.

Between 2014 and 2020, he worked as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, where he also serves as the Head of the Department of Private International Law.

In addition to his primary academic appointment, he teaches Introduction to Law, Law of Obligations, and Commercial Law at undergraduate level at the School of Transportation and Logistics, Istanbul University, and at the Faculty of Administrative and Political Sciences, Yıldız Technical University.

His academic interests include commercial law, international arbitration, private international law, and international trade law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the product of a practical teaching need that I have felt more strongly each academic year. Istanbul University has continued to expand its 100% English-medium education, particularly within the School of Transportation and Logistics, through a steadily developing curriculum. Since 2022, while teaching Turkish Commercial Law in the Logistics Management undergraduate programme, I have worked with students who are ambitious, internationally oriented, and often encountering Turkish commercial law concepts in English for the first time. The same need is visible in the Administrative and Political Sciences programmes and, increasingly, across many departments where this course is offered as a compulsory subject.

For these reasons, this textbook began as a project with two closely connected aims. The first is to provide a clear and reliable English-language foundation that matches the learning outcomes of Turkish Commercial Law courses taught to undergraduate students at Istanbul University. The second is to respond to a broader reality: Turkish universities now welcome a dramatically increased number of non-Turkish undergraduate students, and English-medium programmes are expanding. In that context, the absence of an accessible, course-oriented Turkish commercial law textbook in English has become a genuine gap—both for students and for instructors teaching similar subjects in English at other universities.

I am grateful to Istanbul University for supporting this project and making it possible to develop a book aligned with course syllabi while remaining academically grounded. I would like to thank the School of Transportation and Logistics at Istanbul University for their assistance and constructive support throughout the process. Their help has contributed directly to turning a teaching initiative into a completed manuscript.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Selman Karakul, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, for

his valued support and for providing an encouraging and productive working environment that greatly facilitated the writing of this book.

Writing a textbook requires balancing clarity with accuracy. I have taken great care to avoid factual mistakes and typographical errors. Nevertheless, in a work of this scope, some imperfections may remain. I alone take full responsibility for any errors, omissions, or points requiring further clarification. I also warmly welcome comments and suggestions from colleagues and students; any feedback that improves precision and readability will be sincerely appreciated and, where appropriate, incorporated into future revisions.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family for their patience, support, and encouragement throughout this project. I am especially grateful to my wife, **Ayşe**, whose understanding and steady support made the long writing and editing process possible. I also thank my two daughters, **İlim** and **Maya**, for their love, joy, and the perspective they brought to my daily life while I worked on this manuscript. This book owes as much to their support as it does to any academic effort.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is designed as a reading companion for undergraduate courses in Turkish Commercial Law taught in English, with a primary focus on the needs of students in the School of Transportation and Logistics at Istanbul University. It is written in a way that makes it suitable for other departments where Turkish Commercial Law is taught as a compulsory course, and for instructors at other universities who teach similar content in English.

The central purpose of the book is educational. It aims to present the key institutions, concepts, and legal reasoning methods that form the subject matter of commercial law. Commercial law is not only a national field. It is shaped by universal commercial problems—credit, risk allocation, market trust, and the functioning of commercial organisations. For that reason, the book seeks to strike a careful balance between two objectives. On the one hand, it introduces the basic doctrines and theories that help students understand commercial law as part of a broader legal and economic system. On the other hand, it places special emphasis on Turkish law, terminology, and institutional design, so that readers can confidently apply what they learn to Turkish legal materials and practice.

Although this is not an exam-preparation guide, it has been written with a clear awareness of students' future pathways. Many readers will use this material not only to succeed in their course, but also to prepare for competitive examinations or to pursue further studies in commercial law-related fields in Türkiye. For that reason, the book aims to be conceptually systematic, legally accurate, and method-driven. It does not merely describe rules, but explains how and why they operate, and how legal reasoning is built from statutory text, doctrine, and commercial realities.

Each chapter is written in a textbook style and structured to support independent reading before class. The tone is intentionally that of a lecturer guiding undergraduate students: the language is legal, but not unnecessarily dense; the aim is clarity without sacrificing substance. Where Turkish concepts

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are difficult to translate directly, the book uses established English equivalents while remaining faithful to Turkish legal meaning. The result is a text intended to be useful for both Turkish and non-Turkish students studying in English-medium programmes.

Finally, the book is offered in the spirit of continuous improvement. Commercial law develops through legislation, judicial interpretation, and commercial practice. For that reason, readers are encouraged to treat this book as a strong foundation and to consult the statutory texts and current developments alongside it. Suggestions for improvement are invited and welcomed; this project is intended to grow with teaching experience, student feedback, and the evolving needs of English-language legal education in Türkiye.

To support students and instructors in using this book effectively, I have prepared a set of PowerPoint presentations aligned with the twelve-week course syllabus. Upon request, I can share these slide decks with students taking the course, students using this book as a companion text, and academics who would like to adopt the book in their own teaching. You may contact me at fserbest@nku.edu.tr

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