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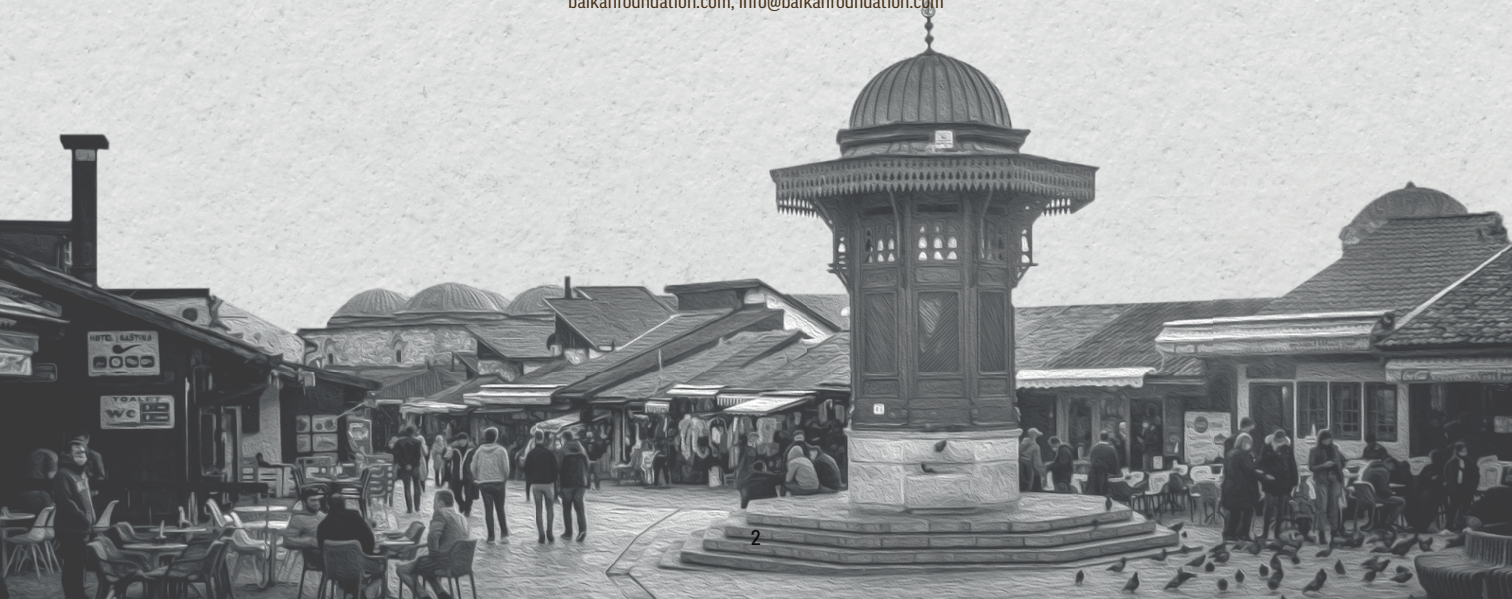
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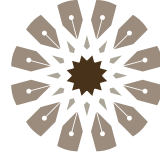
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The Balkan Studies Foundation, formerly known as the Fettah Efendi Education and Thought Association, has experienced a reorganization to support its expanding activities and the inclusion of the entire Balkan region. This transformation occurred in September 2022 and marked a new phase for the foundation in its pursuit of educational and research initiatives.

The foundation is structured around four key research centers and the publishing house, each specializing in different areas of study.

The Center for Political, Economic, and Social Research aims to raise awareness and analyze the phenomena that affect society in North Macedonia, as well as the Balkan society in general, through the organization of courses, conferences, seminars, congresses, symposiums, and publications. The center publishes the Journal of Balkan Studies, which adheres to international evaluation standards. In line with these activities, the center has organized the Balkan Studies Congress. Three congresses have taken place, one in Skopje, one in Tirana, and another in Istanbul. The center also plans to expand its cooperation with national and international institutions to facilitate the exchange of ideas and policies over concrete projects.

The Skopje Academy serves as a hub for academic activities and intellectual exchange and provides a platform for researchers and students to engage in interdisciplinary discussions, conferences, and seminars. The Skopje Academy views training distinguished people who have internalized what is good, true, and beautiful as the solution to the deep crises the Balkans has experienced for two centuries. The academy aims to develop a perspective on the world, the Balkans, cities, societies, and people through the programs it has developed by prioritizing the actions of people shaped by knowledge, morality, values, and competence along this axis. It aims to reach these goals by listening, reading, and writing from an interdisciplinary perspective focused on the social sciences.

The Abdulfettah Rauf Research Center is another integral part of the Foundation. Named after the association's initial formation, this center carries out studies on the personality, life, and works of Abdulfettah Rauf, an important poet and thinker from Skopje. By exploring the rich heritage of the Balkans, the center seeks to preserve and promote the region's cultural diversity.

Lastly and in affiliation with the foundation, IDEFE Publications plays a crucial role in disseminating knowledge and research findings. Through its publishing activities, IDEFE Publications ensures that the valuable research conducted by the foundation and its partners reaches a wider audience. Through its research centers, training centers, and publishing houses, the Balkan Studies Foundation is committed to promoting academic excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research, and advancing our understanding of the Balkan region. By engaging in a wide range of activities, the foundation aims to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic development of the Balkans and toward strengthening the bonds between its diverse communities.

Foreword

The Balkan Studies Congress is an international conference promoting interdisciplinary research in the social sciences and fostering high-quality and innovative academic output. The primary objective of the Balkan Studies Congress is to enhance the caliber of postgraduate and educational studies, academic collaboration, and mobility within the region. This is achieved by facilitating multi-directional contact and exchanging experiences among young academics. The objective is to foster interdisciplinary approaches to address the challenge of producing high-quality academic research on the states and societies in the Balkans. These regions face numerous issues as they strive to recover from the wars after 1990.

The 4th International Balkan Studies Congress, scheduled for September 6-8 at the International University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, convenes researchers from diverse disciplines to engage in a comprehensive exploration of the Balkan region's complexities. This book of abstracts presents the scholarly contributions that will be discussed during the congress, encompassing a broad spectrum of topics within Balkan studies.

The congress is highlighted by a keynote address from a distinguished expert and features presentations that reflect a range of perspectives and current research on historical, cultural, and contemporary issues pertinent to the Balkans. Each abstract has been meticulously reviewed and selected by the scientific committee to maintain the highest academic standards.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all participants and supporting partners for their invaluable role in bringing this event to fruition. The knowledge shared and the collaborations fostered during this congress are anticipated to significantly enhance the understanding of the region's complexities and propel future academic inquiry in the field.

Dr. Sevba Abdula
Director
Balkan Studies Foundation

HISTORY



The Lands Everyone Wants to Know But No One Knows Exactly: Cartography Race in the Balkans

Dr. Özge Kobak

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Abstract: In this study, the race among continental European states -especially Austria, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire- to map the Balkan territories in the 19th century is examined comparatively, considering both its technical and political dimensions. With the scientific developments of the 18th century, cartography evolved from an art form to a scientific discipline in the 19th century. Maps created by artisans were replaced by scientific maps prepared by professional cartographers. The Balkans became one of the regions where this new scientific cartography was most intensively practiced. Throughout the century, Russia and Austria, engaged in a struggle for influence in the Balkans, attempted to produce detailed ethnic, political, and topographical maps of the entire region, piece by piece. This intense activity in the region drew the cartographic attention of the Ottoman Empire to the Balkans and led to the creation of the most detailed and scientific maps in Ottoman history. In terms of ethnic maps, Russia emphasized Pan-Slavism, while Austria highlighted the multi-ethnic structure of the Balkans. Although initially hesitant to prepare ethnic maps, the Ottoman Empire included ethnic elements in its military maps and attempted to produce fully ethnic maps toward the end of the century. Technically, Russia sought to catch up with Austria, which was leading the way in cartographic precision. Although the Ottoman Empire lagged somewhat behind in this race, its efforts were determined and continuous. This study examines why mapping the Balkans was important for these countries, their concerns in preparing the maps, and their objectives. Through the Ottoman Empire's most detailed 19th-century military map of the Balkans, this study explores the process of the Ottoman State's cartographic efforts.

Keywords: Ottoman cartography, Balkan cartography, mapping the Balkans, Russian cartography, Austrian cartography



Demographic Structure of Bihor District in 1851

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Abstract: Population, which refers to the people living in a given geographic area, has always been and continues to be an important element for political authorities. States sought to determine their financial and demographic resources to formulate their management strategies and developed policies based on the data they obtained. Censuses were conducted to systematize tax collection and military affairs. Population records are significant because they contain valuable information about the social, economic, and demographic structure of a region. These records make it possible to trace the names of townships, villages, and neighborhoods, as well as the changes in these names over time. Population records that have survived to the present day provide researchers with the opportunity to access more detailed data about the regions they study. In this study, an evaluation was made of the demographic, economic, and social structure of the Bihor District in the Bosnia Province's Yenipazar Sanjak, using the population records from 1851. These records generally contain information about the names, nicknames, ages, birth and death dates, professions, religions, physical characteristics, and disabilities of individuals and their fathers. The settlements within the district were identified, and valuable information about the administrative structure of the region was provided. Additionally, by comparing the population data of the district from 1833 to 1851, the changes in the population and administrative structure were analyzed. This allowed for a more comprehensive evaluation of the social, economic, administrative, and demographic structure of the Bihor District.

Keywords: Bosnia, Yeni Pazar, Bihor, population



Who Exposed the Ottomans? The American Missionaries and the Earliest Reports of the Bulgarian Atrocities

Brandon Johnson

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Abstract: This essay challenges the contemporaneous assertion of Sir Henry Elliot that the American missionaries were the sources for the *Daily News* and its reports on the Bulgarian Atrocities in the summer of 1876. This challenge is built upon a textual-historical analysis of under-considered primary sources, specifically the private correspondences and an accompanying report on the violence of 1876 produced by the American missionaries (ABCFM) themselves. The leading figure of this group was Henry Otis Dwight. From his desk in Constantinople, Dwight commissioned an eyewitness report on the violence of 1876, authored a report based on these notes, and corresponded on these themes with missionaries on the ground in Bulgaria as well as with ABCFM headquarters in Boston. Together, these sources present the American missionaries not as the Ottoman Empire's accusers who sourced the *Daily News*, but as the colorfully motivated authors of a tempered, credible counternarrative to Elliot's assertion, the *Daily News*, and other early reports of the Bulgarian Atrocities. Because the historiography of the Bulgarian Atrocities over the last century and a half has overwhelmingly followed the latter sources, Dwight's testimony as a representative of the missionary sources invites a thorough reconsideration of these violent events as a whole.

Keywords: history of violence, Bulgarian atrocities, Sir Henry Elliot, American missionaries, ABCFM, daily news



The Relocation and Resettlement of Bosnian Muhajirs after the Annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary in Ottoman Archival Documents (1908-1910)

Bedriye Uzuner

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Abstract: Bosnian people, who had been living as part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries, faced many difficulties under Austrian rule after the annexation of Bosnia by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1908. Bosnian Muslims, in particular, were subjected to discriminatory and repressive practices by Austria. In addition, problems with adaptation in terms of religion, language and culture also began to arise for Bosnians under the Austrian rule. For these reasons, Bosnians, along with other Muslim communities, began to migrate towards the Ottoman lands, which they considered safer. The difficulties and poor conditions experienced by Bosnians during the migration and resettlement operations led to great suffering and misery among the migrants. In the Ottoman Archives, there are documents illuminating this period, particularly concerning the migrations and the transfer and resettlement of Bosnian Muslims after the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austria. These documents are important because they show the difficulties and struggles that Bosnian Muslims experienced during their migration to the Ottoman lands. In addition, the socio-economic change caused by this migration after the resettlement of the emigrants to the Ottoman lands are also revealed. In conclusion, the relocation and resettlement of Bosnians who became immigrants after Austria's annexation of Bosnia caused them to face great difficulties and experience a difficult adjustment process. This process was an important turning point in the history of the Bosnians and has affected the future of Bosnia. Regarding this period, ATASE archival documents that were recently made public were scanned and the subject was examined, in addition, archival records such as *Yıldız Evrakı*, *Teftişat-ı Rumeli Evrakı (Selanik Evrakı)*, *Hariciye Siyasi*, *Hariciye Mektubi Kalemi*, *Hariciye İdari*, *Dahiliye Muhaberat-ı Umumiye İdaresi (Mektubi Kalemi)*, *Sadaret (Mühimme Kalemi Evrakı)*, *Bab-ı Ali Evrak Odası*, *Meclisi Vükela Mazbataları* were also searched with the aim of providing new information and documents to the field. In addition, domestic and foreign sources and press organs of the period were screened for the subject, contributing to the study.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary, 1908, annexation, Bosnian immigrants



On social conditions and economic politics in the Republic of Türkiye according to the Bosnian-Herzegovinian magazine *Islamski svijet* (1932-1935)

Amir Džinić

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Abstract: In this article, the author presents the most significant social events and economic conditions in the Republic of Türkiye, as reported by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian magazine *Islamski svijet* (1932-1935). By examining texts related to social events and the economic situation, the author also considers the political decisions that influenced the social reality and economic policies of the Republic of Türkiye. The paper highlights that the public in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was not deprived of information on these topics. On the contrary, the content of individual articles, news, and columns in the 161 issues of *Islamski svijet* clearly demonstrates the Bosnian-Herzegovinian public's need and interest in understanding the events during this turbulent period in the modern Republic of Türkiye.

Keywords: Islamic world magazine (1932-1935), Republic of Türkiye, social conditions, economy



A Visual Fight for Bosnia and Herzegovina – Narrative Analyses of Caricatures in *Врач Погађач: Шала И Подсмјевка* Magazine on the Annexation Crisis

Maroš Melichárek

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Abstract: Bosnia and Herzegovina became a crucial element in the series of events at the beginning of the 20th century. Apart from the geopolitics and international relations that have been quite systematically elaborated, this presentation will discuss its place in the context of visual studies, particularly caricatures. After discussing the division of caricatures (or cartoons), we will focus on the so-called political cartoon, which deals with a personality or event and expresses the artist's opinion. In the direct caricaturing of a political event, we can speak of political satire. These cartoons generally combine artistic skill, hyperbole, and satire to question authority or draw attention to corruption, political violence, or other social problems. This presentation moves away from an evaluation of primarily iconographic elements to their reception, situating discussions around cartoons and showing that a deeper understanding of cartoons involves a form of knowing, thereby making them a source of knowledge. The main method used in the caricature analyses is the narrative method, which primarily discusses how stories are narrated. It examines the forms and structures of narration, the role of the narrator, and the subjectivity of narration. By analyzing selected caricatures from “*Врач погађач: шала и подсмјевка*” (Fortune-teller: jest and mockery) from 1896-1914, this study aims to showcase the potential of narrative analysis in the research of historical caricatures and to evaluate whether the magazine's stance on the annexation of Bosnia was consistently condemnatory during this period.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, political cartoons, narrative analysis, annexation crisis 1908, caricature reception



Austria-Hungary's Annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Humor Magazines

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Abstract: With the rapid and organized progress of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkan geography in the mid-15th century, it first dominated Bosnia and then the region of Herzegovina. The area, which holds a strategic location for the south of Central Europe and is one of the key points in terms of the Adriatic, gradually became a central point of influence between the Habsburg dynasty and the Ottoman Empire. Bosnia-Herzegovina, which also has significant underground resources in addition to its geographical importance, increased in value with the mercantilist policies that emerged as a result of the new age of colonization. For these reasons, in the 19th century, conflicts and reformist demands arose among Russia, with its Pan-Slavist policy; Austria-Hungary, due to its geographical interests; and the Ottoman Empire, which sought to protect its rights over the region through its nearly four-hundred-year-old religious and cultural ties. One of the important crises within this network of relations, involving many influential actors, was the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary in late 1908. After the declaration of the Second Constitutional Era, the peaceful and idealistic plans for a solution in the Balkans, which were anticipated by the Ottoman Empire, were postponed for a while due to this crisis. An active policy was pursued against annexation in both domestic and foreign politics. The Committee of Union and Progress (*İttihat ve Terakki*) also used the press to strengthen its planned policies. In our study, domestic and international magazines, especially *Karagöz* and *Kalem*, which were the important humor magazines of the period, were reviewed to examine how the press commented on the annexation. Through these drawings, political history was approached and analyzed from a different perspective.

Keywords: caricature, Bosnia crisis, Karagöz, constitutional monarch



Analyzing the Zaman Newspaper as an Historical Resource: Reflection of Disorders in the Selanik Province (1876 – 1880)

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Abstract: The emergence of the *Zaman* newspaper can be traced back to the *Rumeli* newspaper, which was established by Mustafa Bey between 1873 and 1876 in Thessaloniki. After a three-year period, the publication underwent a name change and continued under the title of *Zaman*. This study will first provide information about Ottoman newspapers. Next, it will discuss the features of provincial newspapers and analyze what can be learned from newspapers, with a focus on the *Zaman* newspaper. Although *Zaman* is not officially a provincial newspaper, it bears similarities to provincial newspapers in terms of structure and content. It also serves as a mechanism through which people can voice their complaints. Letters are sent to the newspaper from many points in the Balkans. Additionally, the newspaper includes news about local provinces, other countries, telegraphs about wars, and incidents of banditry. Banditry was one of the most pressing problems in the Balkans at that time. In connection with these banditry incidents, the newspaper frequently reported on immigrants. People, in their attempts to escape the turmoil, left their homes and migrated to various parts of the country. The study emphasizes the significance of newspapers as valuable historical sources. With its increasing importance over the years, information about Thessaloniki (*Selanik*) is also highlighted. The newspaper provided news about the province and detailed the general situation. Thus, it offers an opportunity to observe the conditions of the period from different perspectives.

Keywords: Zaman newspaper, provincial newspapers, Selanik province, banditry, refugees



Memories of a Russian Officer on the Ottoman-Russian War (1828-1829)

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Abstract: Feodor Feodorovich Tornau was born in 1810 in Polotsk, today Belarus, into a family of barons who had served in the Russian army for generations. His father, Feodor Grigorovich Tornau, served in the Russian army during the war between France and the Russian Empire in 1812, known as the Patriotic War, and his grandfather was one of the most important generals during the reign of Catherine II. F.F. Tornau received his high school education in St. Petersburg and was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1828 at the age of 18. Although it was rare in the Russian army, Tornau reached high ranks in a short time. Tornau participated in the Ottoman-Russian War of 1828-1829, he took part in the Polish operation. He then traveled to Tbilisi in 1832, where he took office and participated in the campaigns against the Chechens. In 1835, he disguised himself as a mountaineer and conducted research in the region to analyze the Caucasus Mountains. During his third research trip, F.F. Tornau was taken prisoner by the mountaineers, refused their offer of the Mountaineers to be released in return for a large ransom, and was kidnapped by the Nogai Prince Tembulat Karamirza in 1838. F.F. Tornau also served in the Russian army between 1817 and 1864 during the so-called Caucasian War between the Russian Empire and the Caucasian Highlanders (Chechens, Dagestanis). F.F. Tornau spent the end of his life in Vienna as an agent of the Military Scientific Committee of the Russian General Staff with the rank of lieutenant-general, where he died on 7 January 1890. The memoirs of F.F. Tornau during the Ottoman-Russian War of 1828-1829 were published in 1867 in the journal *Russkiy Vestnik*. This work is considered an extremely important and reliable source for the Russian political history of the XIX century. In this study, besides F.F. Tornau's life and military personality, his memoirs about the Ottoman-Russian War of 1828-1829 will be analyzed, and his observations about the war will be evaluated through the eyes of a Russian lieutenant.

Keywords: Tornau, Ottoman, Russia, memoirs, war



From Ottoman Foreign Minister to Prime Minister of Albania: Turhan Hüsnü Pasha (1846-1927)

Doğukan Oruç

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Abstract: Born in 1846 into a local dynasty, Turhan Pasha had a distinguished but turbulent career in the Ottoman foreign bureaucracy. Beginning his career at the Translation Office (Tercüme Odası), Turhan Pasha held a range of positions over the decades, rising from ambassadorial roles in several countries to eventually serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1914, while serving as the Ottoman Empire's ambassador in St. Petersburg, he was offered the position of prime minister of his newly independent homeland, Albania. In 1918, he was once again appointed as prime minister in the provisional government formed following the Durrës Congress and worked to diplomatically advocate for his country's interests at the Paris Peace Conference. Turhan Pasha resigned from his post as prime minister once more due to the disunity in representing Albanian national interests at the conference. He subsequently withdrew from the political scene due to his advanced age, passing away in France in 1927. Despite his nearly half-century-long career in the Ottoman foreign service and his significant role in the political landscape of newly independent Albania, Turhan Pasha's life and political contributions have yet to receive the analysis they deserve in both Turkish and Albanian historiographies. He presents a compelling figure with a layered identity, set against the backdrop of a historical period marked by the transition from empires to nation-states. This study aims to evaluate Pasha's life by examining key turning points in his career and situating them within the historical context, as well as analyzing his career within the broader scope of the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Turhan Pasha, Albania, Ottoman Balkans



Balkan View of a Japanese Scientist: Travelogue of Nakanome Akira

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Abstract: Nakanome Akira, an eminent geographer and philologist, was sent to Austro-Hungary as a student in 1903, supported by a scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education[1]. Nakanome studied under the renowned geographer A. Penck at Vienna University[2]. In 1906, he traveled through the Balkan Peninsula, a journey that proved to be a pivotal moment in his career as he explored the diverse landscapes and cultures of the Balkan nations. Akira's observations and reflections on the places he visited were later compiled into two seminal books, which offered invaluable insights into the region's geography, linguistics, and cultural dynamics. In this paper, Nakanome's observations during his Balkan travels will be discussed. His first book, titled *Barukan Ryokōdan* (Balkan Travel Stories), is written as a diary, while *Barukan Ryokōdan Furoku*, which consists of articles published in the *Tōhoku Newspaper*, will also be examined. Nakanome's thoughts on the Balkans are significant for shaping the image of the region in Japan, and this paper will provide an opportunity to examine the Japanese scientist's perspective on the Balkans in the early 20th century. [1] "Fourth Higher School Professor Nakanome Akira to study abroad in Austria-Hungary 1903" Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR) Ref.B16080827300, Miscellanea about Ministry of Education student studying abroad Vol. 3 (6-1-7-2_003) (Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) [2] Esenbel, Selçuk (Eds.), (2018) "Japan on the Silk Road", Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, p. 239.

Keywords: Balkan image, travelogue, Japan



From Berlin to Istanbul: The Balkan Journey of the Special German Unit Assigned to Reinforce the Straits

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Abstract: The secret treaty between the Ottoman State and the German Empire, signed at the outbreak of the First World War, obliged Germany to protect Ottoman territory. Although this treaty was secret and the Ottoman government initially declared its armed neutrality, it promised to join the war on the side of Germany as soon as it completed its mobilization preparations. This situation required the highest level of defense preparations against the Entente Powers. The primary focus was on preparing against threats to the capital. It was obvious that joining the war on Germany's side would mean that the Entente States would target the Straits of Çanakkale (Dardanelles) and Istanbul (Bosporus), the two gateways to Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman State. It was in such a context that a special German unit was organized for the purpose of fortifying the Bosporus and Dardanelles Straits and made its way to Istanbul via the Balkans in mid-August 1914. The main purpose here was to prepare the Straits for war within the framework of the war objectives of the secret alliance. Admiral Guido von Usedom was appointed as the head of the Special Command of the Imperial German Navy in Turkey upon requests from Istanbul, and more than five hundred German naval military and technical personnel under his command traveled to Istanbul by rail through the Balkans. However, this journey was not to be a conspicuous military dispatch, but rather a civilian and clandestine one. Plans and assignments were made in advance to avoid problems along the route to Istanbul via Austria-Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Despite these precautions, problems encountered necessitated changes in the plans from time to time. This journey is significant as it was the first major dispatch of military personnel within the framework of the alliance shortly after the signing of the secret treaty. It was also a development that increased the influence of the Ottoman State in Istanbul at a time when it was still neutral. In this study, through the narratives of some German experts and officers who participated in the above-mentioned journey and the reports found in the German archives, the story of the journey that started from the shipyards of Northern Germany in the first weeks of the First World War and reached Istanbul via the Balkans will be discussed.

Keywords: straits, Ottoman, Germany, World War I, Balkan journey



Albanians at the Tribal School and Tafil Bolatini

Dr. Yunus Güler

Independent Researcher

Abstract: By the end of the 19th century, Ottoman modernization continued at a rapid pace. Abdülhamid II, who sought to reinforce the centralization efforts he inherited from the Tanzimat era, aimed to solidify these initiatives through the institutions he established. Ottoman modernization, which mirrored the tendencies of France's Third Republic, was driven by the idea of integrating the people and the state. The Royal Tribal School, opened in Istanbul by the order of Abdülhamid II, was initially intended to provide education to the children of prominent Arab tribes and to integrate them into the state. However, in the following years, Kurdish and Albanian tribal children were also enrolled in the Tribal Mekteb-i Hümâyunu. As a result of the 93 War, Abdülhamid II aimed to keep the remaining Arab, Kurdish, and Albanian populations united within the shrinking borders of the empire. He sought to achieve this goal through Pan-Islamism, a supranational identity. The Ottoman Empire implemented specific policies to retain the loyalty of the Kurdish, Albanian, and Arab populations. For the Kurds, there were the "Hamidiye Cavalry Regiments"; for the Arabs, the "Tribal School"; and for the Albanians, a special guard unit called the "Tüfekçiler," recruited from prominent families of the region. In the charter for the establishment of the Tribal School, the term "ashâir-i urban" was modified when it came to the Albanians, and it was decided, by the Sultan's decree, to admit Albanian students to the school. In 1902, 20 Albanian students from Kosovo, Manastır, Debre, and Ioannina were enrolled in the school. Among these Albanian students were individuals who would later make a name for themselves in Albanian history, including Tafil Bolatini, the nephew of Isa Bolatini, one of the chiefs of Kosovo. Members of this family, who were significant figures in Albanian nationalism, also studied at this school. In this study, we will examine the process of Albanian admission to the school and the life of Tafil Bolatini.

Keywords: tribal school, Albania, pan-islamism, Tafil Boletini



The Foundation of Gajret: A Pivotal Bosniak Society and Its Activities from 1903 to 1914

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Abstract: Between 1878 and 1918, Bosnia and Herzegovina was part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. During this period, numerous Serbian, Croat, and Bosniak societies were founded in the region. At the beginning of the 20th century, Bosniaks established several important societies and organizations, such as the Muslim Agricultural Cooperative, the Muslim Shareholder Printing House, the First Muslim Credit Cooperative, and El-Kamer - the Muslim Roll and Gymnastics Society. These societies and organizations played a significant role in the social and political life of Bosniaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among them, perhaps the most important was Gajret. Founded in 1903, Gajret aimed to improve Bosniak society by providing assistance to students in middle schools and universities. The purpose of this paper is to explore the factors that led to the creation of Gajret and to examine its activities until the outbreak of the First World War. The research draws on archival sources and issues of the newspaper *Gajret*, which was published from 1907 to 1914. This newspaper was published intermittently during the following intervals: 1907-1914, 1921-1922, and 1924-1941. Additionally, the *Gajret* Society published eight issues of the *Gajret* calendar for the years: 1907/1908, 1915, 1937, 1938, and 1939. The paper also references a book titled *Gajret: A Society for Supporting Muslim Students, Its Development and Origin*, written by the editors of the *Behar* newspaper in 1903, as well as other literature such as *The Role of Gajret in the Social Life of Muslims* by Ibrahim Kemura, *The Struggle of Muslims for Religious and Waqf Autonomy* by Osman Nuri Hadžić, and *Cultural, Educational, Humanitarian, and Social Societies in BiH during the Austrian Rule* by Đorđe Pejanović. It can be concluded that the Gajret Society had a significant influence on the development of politics and public life among Bosniaks during the early years of the 20th century.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosniaks, Gajret, society, cultural society, the Balkans



Deviance of Sufi Orders in Bosnia Through the Lens of State Power

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Abstract: The Ottoman Empire, with its diverse population and multi-religious structure, formed alliances for governance purposes even with the smallest communities within society. This is particularly evident in the border provinces, known as the Serhat region, where Sufi orders were deeply embedded in society like capillary circuits. Bosnia, in particular, has always been a significantly important territory throughout the Ottoman Empire, maintaining its administrative importance due to its multi-religious structure and its reputation as a “loyal” region. It is widely accepted that tekkes (Sufi lodges) could be seen as agents of Islamization and supportive intermediaries of the state. However, the relationship between these Sufi orders in Bosnia and the state was not always favorable. While some tekkes were granted material or legal concessions by the state, others were deemed deviant. For example, in the 16th century, Hamza Bali, and in the 19th century, *İlhami Baba*, were two sheikhs considered deviant and heretical, leading to their execution by the state. Given the different periods in which Hamza Bali and İlhami Baba lived, this paper will explore whether there is a correlation between the evolution of Sufi practices and the state’s authority under various socio-political circumstances, encompassing cultural and economic factors. This paper will provide a comparative analysis of these “deviant” sheikhs and scrutinize the concept of “deviance” as it applied to Sufi orders in Bosnia, particularly in the cases of Hamza Bali and *İlhami Baba*, while considering the influence of central authority. Archival documents, oral historical evidence, and notes on the poems of the sheikhs will be included to explore their outward attributes, similarities, disparities, and life paths, collecting data from events impacting their lives and the shared elements of their experiences.

Keywords: deviant sects, tekkes, Bosnia, Hamza Bali, İlhami Baba, Bayrmi melami, obedience



Comparison of the Role of the Sufism Movement in the Balkans and Indonesia

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Abstract: The Balkans, a region of immense historical significance, has been a melting pot of diversity, religion, and ethnicity since ancient times. This rich tapestry of cultures has not only shaped the region but also played a pivotal role in global history. The Balkans, with their diverse Muslim population, have always been a region of interest and importance. One of the salient characteristics of Muslims in this region is that, instead of emphasizing language or ethnicity, they consider Islam and Sufism to be the most important elements of their identity. On this basis, even though they have experienced various pressures from successive rulers, they have continued to maintain their identity under the auspices of religion. Despite the differences in the initial process of Islam entering the Balkans and Indonesia, the two regions share a common heritage in the development of Islam with a Sufi influence. The roots of Sufism in both regions can be traced back to Persia, underscoring the shared history and cultural ties that bind these two distant lands. In this context, the author of this paper examines the historical process of Islam in these two regions and the developments that have increasingly oriented towards Sufism and contemporary Sufi practices in the Balkans and Indonesia. In addition, this paper seeks to provide knowledge and enhance understanding of how to engage with Sufi communities in these regions and explore ways to better benefit from the cultural similarities between the two, such as their shared reverence for Islamic teachings and the superiority of Islamic civilization, which is evident in their rich cultural heritage and intellectual contributions.

Keywords: Balkans, Indonesia, sufism, history, islamic culture, civilization



Reconsidering the Dynamics of British Imperialism through the Balkans

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Abstract: During the nineteenth century in particular, the British Empire reached its peak and became the foremost global power. After the defeat of France in the Napoleonic Wars, Britain consistently pursued policies of imperialism. It was not only the Industrial Revolution that had a significant impact on Britain's economic interests, but also the imperatives of geopolitical security policies and political nationalism that were the main driving forces behind this strategy. All these factors increased the British influence on the Ottoman affairs, and the British Empire wanted to dominate the Mediterranean and Indian subcontinent. The motivation behind Britain's role as a principal arbitrator in the Balkans, therefore, was based on economic, military and political determinants. It is equally clear that one of the significant aspects of British policy towards the Porte was the status of Christian minorities under the Turkish rule, in addition to economic and political underpinnings. By tracing the beginning of British political involvement in the Balkans during the Greek Revolt of 1821, this paper will analyse the process of uprisings that lead to deeper British imperial considerations until the end of the First World War. In this framework, it is also intended to shed light on the politics of liberal interventionism in later Victorian political debates. The purpose of this study is to reveal the dynamics of British imperialism and to analyse how Britain aimed to become the hegemonic power in the Balkans.

Keywords: christian minorities, British imperialism, the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire, liberal interventionism



Tribune of the Bulgarian Exarchate: *Novini* (1890-1898)

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Independent Researcher

Abstract: The aim of this study is to focus on the newspaper *Novini*, which was the media outlet of the Bulgarian Exarchate, and to introduce the newspaper in general terms regarding its form and substance. The main source of the study is the newspaper *Novini*, although Bulgarian and Ottoman archival documents have been used at certain points. The newspaper began its publication on September 27, 1890, in Istanbul, with permission from Abdulhamid II. *Novini*, which published political, social, literary, and religious content, changed its name with its final issue dated October 16, 1898. Therefore, the study is limited to the years between 1890 and 1898. The primary goal of the newspaper was to reach and inform Bulgarians living within the borders of the Ottoman Empire. Its publishing policy centered around religious and educational content. The newspaper featured official declarations of the Bulgarian Exarchate, the operations and structures of institutions affiliated with the Exarchate, and statements by Bulgarian metropolitans. As such, *Novini* serves as a valuable source for the history of the Bulgarian church. Additionally, the newspaper's coverage of education-related news and articles provides a basis for further studies on the history of education. The newspaper's diverse content enables researchers to obtain information across various fields. Its travel notes on many regions of Macedonia, including cities, villages, and towns, offer significant data on cultural, demographic, and local history. By publishing articles on political, economic, social, and military events in the Ottoman Empire, the Principality of Bulgaria, and other regions, *Novini* reflects the Bulgarian Exarchate's perspective on these matters. The specific objective of this study is to demonstrate the contributions the newspaper can make to research in education history, church history, political history, and cultural, demographic, and local history.

Keywords: Bulgarian Exarchate, *Novini*, Ottoman Empire, Abdulhamid II



Intellectual Catalysts: The Cultural Influence of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania on the Road to Romanian Independence

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Abstract: After being an autonomous principality under the Ottoman Empire until the Treaty of Karlowitz in 1699, Transylvania came under Habsburg rule following the decline of the Ottoman Empire. During the Habsburg administration, three different nations and four churches formed the backbone of Transylvanian autonomy, with Hungarians, Saxons, and Seklers holding the monopoly of power and privilege. The other populations, especially the Romanians, who constituted the majority of the Transylvanian population, were excluded from this system because they were peasants and Orthodox Christians. However, the people could no longer tolerate social, cultural, and religious oppression and began to take concrete steps toward change. The contribution of the Uniate Church of Transylvania to the intellectual developments in the process of Romania's independence is very significant. The cultural movements that emerged in this region in the 18th century led to political changes for Romania in the future. The first step was the struggle for "equality" undertaken by the members of the Church. This struggle continued with an emphasis on the origins of their own history and language, finding a patriotic motive in the name of nationalism. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the role of Latinist activities and propaganda by members and students of the Uniate Church of Transylvania in the struggle for equality and the revival of the past within the Romanian national movement. Additionally, the study will emphasize how the institution known as the "Transylvanian School" shaped Romanian national ideology.

Keywords: Romania, unitarian church of Transylvania, intellectual movements, revolution



The Transformation of the Ottoman Millet System and the Rise of Nationalism in the Balkans: A Case Study of Church Disputes in Florina

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Abstract: The 19th century witnessed significant transformations in the Ottoman Empire's millet system, a structure that historically granted autonomy to religious communities. By examining the interplay between the Tanzimat reforms (1839-1876) aimed at modernization and the burgeoning national movements within the Balkans, one can reveal the struggle between nations. The reforms, while promoting equality, inadvertently fueled nationalist aspirations, challenging the millet system's core principle of religious autonomy. As a result of the rising nationalist movements in the Balkans, Nizamnâmes were prepared, and the communities that sought to establish their own national identities took steps to emphasize their differences among themselves shortly after their struggles against the Ottoman Empire. Prior to the 1870 firman, Bulgarians fell under the purview of the Rum Millet within the Ottoman Empire's millet system. The emergence of Bulgarian national consciousness in the 1840s, marked by the eruption of Bulgarian revolts and subsequent efforts to detach from Rum Millet dominance, culminated in the 1870 edict establishing the Bulgarian Exarchate in Istanbul. This research focuses on a specific case study: the 19th-century church disputes between Bulgarians and Greeks in Florina. Utilizing Ottoman archival sources, the investigation will explore how these conflicts mirrored the broader struggle between the two communities for national identity. The analysis will illuminate how churches became a focal point for expressing and contesting national identities within the confines of the millet system.

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, millet system, Balkans, tanzimat, church



The Effects of Islamic Movements on Bulgarian Muslims' Interpretation of Religion

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Abstract: Islam's introduction to Bulgaria and the emergence of Turkish-Muslims in these lands date back to ancient times. Historians note the presence of Turkish tribes in the Dobrudja region, now Northern Bulgaria, as early as the 10th century AD. Additionally, Islam as a social phenomenon in Bulgaria significantly materialized during the Ottoman period in the 14th-15th centuries through settlement policies. The Ottoman period witnessed substantial contributions of Islam and Muslims to various fields, particularly civilization and architecture. This paper explores the effects of Islam in Bulgaria through different forms of religious interpretation. The region's societal diversity and interest in Islamic movements have facilitated the growth of various schools of thought. In the late 13th century, the Bektashi dervish Sarı Saltuk settled in Bulgaria with his tribe. Bektashism, reflecting Central Asian Turkish culture, spread from Anatolia to the Balkans and notably influenced Bulgarian society. Consequently, Alevism-Bektashism became a primary form of religious interpretation in the Balkans, especially in Bulgaria. During the Ottoman period, the Hanafi-Mâturidi interpretation of Islam was widely adopted in Bulgaria. Several Sufi orders, including Bektashism, Mevlevism, Rûfâilism, and Naqshbandism, flourished alongside Hanafi-Mâturidi interpretations. In post-Ottoman Bulgaria, particularly after the end of communism, new religious movements such as Wahhabism, Bahâ'îism, and Qadianism gained followers and began spreading their views. These movements targeted the dense Turkish-Muslim population in Bulgaria. The influence of these movements on Hanafi-Mâturidîs, driven by various factors including the lack of religious education, has been significant. This paper aims to evaluate the impact of these newly encountered movements on the Turkish-Muslim community, highlighting why they have been effective and their subsequent effects.

Keywords: Islamic movements, Bulgaria, Hanefi-Maturidi, Bektashism, Wahhabism



Women in the 1528-1530 Detailed Survey of the Sanjak of Bosnia

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Abstract: The subject of research in this paper is the 1528-1530 Detailed Survey of the Sanjak of Bosnia (Tapu Defteri, Istanbul BOA, now T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı, TD No. 157). This type of official document of the Ottoman administration was created as a result of population surveys periodically conducted in cities or sanjaks to determine the amount of taxes, which were a significant source of state income. The paper will analyze all entries and highlight all females mentioned throughout the Defter. The majority of entries in Defters are men because they were heads of households and tax-payers. However, in situations where the head of the household was absent for various reasons, women are mentioned as heads of households. After identifying the number of mentioned females, further analysis will be conducted based on the context in which they are mentioned, their place of residence, and other information provided about them. The translation of the mentioned source, done by Medžida Selmanović, will be extensively used in this paper. The translation is being prepared for publication in 2024 by the editorial team at the Oriental Institute, led by Dr. Elma Korić.

Keywords: Bosnia, tapu defteri, women



A Call for Freedom: The situation of Albanian Muslim Women during the Interwar Period (1925-1945)

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Abstract: The issue of women's rights and gender roles continues to be a topic of debate today, although the discussions vary across different societies. In some societies, women still struggle to gain basic legal rights, while in others, they work to change conceptions of gender roles. In this context, I aim to research the struggles of women in Albania during the interwar period (1925-1945), which laid the groundwork for significant societal changes and reforms. This research will focus on Albanian Muslim women as represented in the journals of the Muslim Community of Albania. I chose these periodicals because they played a major role in shaping Islamic thought in Albanian society at the time, influencing the lives and mentalities of Muslim believers, who comprised the majority of the population. The aim of the research is to uncover the main problems faced by Muslim women during this period, their means and forms of resistance, their agency, and their points of reference. To achieve this, I will use Discourse Analysis to examine articles related to women's issues in the journals "Zani i Nalte" and "Kultura Islame," particularly those written by an anonymous young Muslim girl from Shkodra, one of the few female writers in these journals. The importance of this study lies in recognizing the contributions of Muslim Albanian women from a century ago to the development and prosperity of later generations.

Keywords: women rights, periodical, the muslim community of Albania



Bosnian Franciscans as Guardians of the Written Heritage in Oriental Languages

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Abstract: The collections of Oriental manuscripts held by Franciscan monasteries and provincials in Bosnia and Herzegovina are diverse in terms of subject matter. According to relevant sources, it can be assumed that these manuscripts also served educational purposes during the Ottoman administration in Bosnia. Monasteries, like other institutions of cultural, national, and educational significance, suffered greatly during periods of war and destruction. As a result, the manuscripts are now preserved in several institutions: the Archives of the Franciscan Province (formerly the Provincialate of the Herzegovinian Franciscans in Mostar), the Franciscan Monastery in Fojnica, the Franciscan Monastery in Petrićevac, the Archives of the Franciscan Monastery Gorica-Livno, the Professor's Library of the Franciscan High School in Visoko, and the Museum of the Franciscan Monastery Tolisa - Vrata Bosne. These smaller collections of Oriental manuscripts have been only partially cataloged and have received little or no attention from the scientific and professional community since the events of 1992-1995. Therefore, it is important to assess the current situation, including the presence of specific works, authors (particularly the representation of domestic authors), and copyists. The main goal of this paper is to systematically present the manuscripts in Oriental languages that are still carefully preserved in the collections of Franciscan monasteries in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to highlight these institutions as crucial in preserving and presenting the value and significance of written heritage in Oriental languages.

Keywords: manuscripts, Franciscan monasteries, Ottoman heritage, cultural history



Reflections of Modernization in Daily Life in Sarajevo: A Study Based on Svrzo's and Despić House

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Abstract: The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary marked not only the inclusion of this former Ottoman province into traditional European territories but also the beginning of a period in which the modernization process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had begun gradually during the Tanzimat period, gained momentum. In this context, the modernization process that started with the proclamation of the Tanzimat in 1839 in Sarajevo—a city that found its identity with the Ottoman Empire—progressed slowly. However, with the onset of Austro-Hungarian rule in 1878, modernization manifested itself in all areas and began to affect daily life. Yet, the modernization processes and their impacts during the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian periods differed among the Muslim and Christian populations in Sarajevo. The Muslim population in the city focused more on preserving Islamic values during the modernization process, while the Christian groups, whose influence increased during the Austro-Hungarian period, adapted more quickly to European modernization. These differences in the adoption and implementation of modernization led to significant distinctions in houses—the most fundamental spaces of daily life—as well as in political, economic, and cultural spheres. This study aims to explain the effects of the modernization process on different religious groups living in Sarajevo between 1839 and 1918 through the lens of houses, which are among the basic living spaces of daily life. In this context, two prominent houses of the period, Svrzo's House and Despić House, have been examined. The study concludes that modernization was more widely accepted among the Christian population in Sarajevo, while the Muslim population attempted to preserve their traditional culture and way of life.

Keywords: Sarajevo, modernization, Ottoman, Austria-Hungary, Svrzo's house, Despić house



Bulgarian Madrasahs in the 19th Century: The Voivode of Tarnova Feyzi (Feyzullah) Aga Madrasa and Its Waqf

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Abstract: Education and knowledge have long been the crown jewels of Turkish societies. The epics, inscriptions, poems, and proverbs on education and morality found in ancient Turkish states attest to this. With the advent of Islam, “the rank of knowledge was considered the highest of all ranks,” and scholars and Sufis played a pivotal role in the development of science and Sufi life during the early phase of the Ottoman Empire. The study of the structures built by the Ottomans in the Balkans is a subject of great interest to historians. Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi’s works on this topic are particularly significant. Bulgarian madrasahs held an important place within the Ottoman madrasah system. According to Ayverdi’s research, 144 madrasahs were established in Bulgaria. However, in the study conducted by Bilgin Aydın and Rifat Günalan, the number of madrasahs was found to be 281. Between the 14th and 19th centuries, Plovdiv was the Bulgarian city with the highest number of madrasahs, boasting 21. It was followed by Tarnovo with 19 madrasahs. Notably, Tarnovo was the only place in Bulgaria where a madrasah was established in every century between the 14th and 19th centuries. This study analyzes the state of madrasahs in the 19th century in the city of Veliko Tarnovo, known as Turnavos by the Greeks and Tirnova (طرنوه) by the Ottomans, with a particular focus on the Feyzi Aga Madrasah. The most significant madrasah established in Tarnovo in the 19th century was the Feyzi Aga Madrasah, founded by Feyzullah Aga, the Chief Janitor of the Dergâh-ı Âli and later the Voivode of Tarnovo, with a charter dated 10 Ramadan 1228/6 September 1813. We learn about the final status of the madrasah, also referred to as Feyzullah Aga in some records, from Aksekili Ahmed Hamdi’s article in *Sebilürreşad* dated September 6, 1328. It is stated there that Gazi Firuz Bey Madrasah and Feyzi Aga Madrasah, two of the madrasahs in Tarnovo, were either converted into churches or burned down by the Bulgarians. This study examines the waqf records of these madrasahs and the documents from the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Bulgaria. It also evaluates the educational structure of Tarnovo in the 19th century—a city that played a significant role in Bulgaria’s path to independence in various aspects throughout history. Additionally, the study considers the contributions of Feyzullah Aga, who served as Tarnovo Voivode in the first quarter of the same century, and the waqfs he established.

Keywords: Bulgaria, Tarnovo, education, madrasah, waqf



The Role of Bosnian-Herzegovinian Scholars in the Tradition of Political Writing

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Abstract: The culture of writing *siyasetnâme* (political treatises) can be traced back to the early periods of Islamic history. Although the Holy Quran and Hadiths initially formed part of this tradition, political literature was developed during the Abbasid period and continued throughout subsequent Islamic states. This tradition also persisted within the Ottoman Empire. Additionally, many examples of political writings from our history reflect the political understanding of their respective periods. Numerous scholars born in the Balkans during the Ottoman era authored works on politics. In our study, we first examine the tradition of providing advice as a precursor to political literature. We then discuss the evolution of political writing and its reformative aspects over time, focusing on the works of political scholars from Bosnia and Herzegovina. We aim to reveal the essence of this writing tradition by analyzing the works of three notable political writers identified through our review of the Turkish Manuscripts Archive. Nergisîzâde Mehmed Bosnevî, born in Bosnia and known for his work as a muderris and judge, authored “*el-Vasf al-Kâmil fi Ahwâl al-Wazîr al-Âdil*”. Bosnian Hasan Kâfî wrote “*Usûl al-Hikem fi Nizâm al-Âlem*”, while Bosnian Hilmi Baba authored “*Risâle fi’s-Siyâse*”. These works are significant examples of political literature and provide insights into the political understanding of their time, as well as the ideals of state order and administration. They also offer valuable information about the historical context of their era and demonstrate the long-standing tradition of political writing in the Balkans.

Keywords: *Siyasetnâme*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, culture



Evaluation of the Tanzimat Period of the Balkan Nations According to the Political Psychology Approach

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Abstract: The outbreak of nationalist movements, which spread globally with the French Revolution, also affected the multi-national Ottoman Empire. This period coincides with Mahmud II's attempts at reform. Subsequently, during the Tanzimat Era, the Tanzimat reforms were implemented with variations according to different regions and situations. The initial steps of the Tanzimat reforms were taken in the Balkans, with the Danube region serving as a pilot area. Given the unique characteristics of the Balkan states, responses to these reforms varied. The disintegration that began with the Serbian rebellion was further exacerbated by the Greek rebellion, challenging their identity within the millet system, which was based on religious foundations. Prioritizing ethnic identity, Bulgarians made strides towards independence every 20 years. Albanian religious identities were diverse, leading to a mixed response to the Tanzimat Reforms; some regions within the Ottoman Empire adopted the reforms, while others resisted and fought against the changes. The Tanzimat reforms are significant not only as historical events but also in terms of their impact on contemporary historiography. Historians' reactions to or support for the Tanzimat reforms have been interpreted through political and psychological lenses. Political psychology examines the political issues arising from attitudes formed by various identities on a psychological basis. This field focuses on points of historical continuity and rupture that unite and divide according to conflicts and alliances over identities. Similar to psychoanalysis applied to individuals, political psychology evaluates trauma and events that remain in collective memory, aiming to uncover causality. Topics such as victory, trauma, identity, and mass psychology are explored, and their approaches and texts in Balkan historiography can be analyzed. This paper examines the Tanzimat period in the Balkans through a political psychology lens and presents its effects from the Tanzimat period to the present day.

Keywords: political psychology, Balkans, millets system, ottomanism, tanzimat



The Ottoman State's Military Governorship of Romania and Its Activities During the First World War

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Abstract: Romania preferred to join World War I on the side of the Entente after observing how the war would unfold. Consequently, the Allied Powers had to open the Romanian Front in the Balkans. The Allied armies, which gained the upper hand in a short time, facilitated Romania's withdrawal from the fronts. As a result of this withdrawal, the Allied Powers took control of the region and began to station their own forces there. Within a short period of three months, the Allies established complete domination over Romania. The military equipment left behind by the Romanian army during its retreat was divided among the Allied Powers as war booty. Additionally, it was decided to divide the heavy industrial materials among the Allied Powers. By dispatching the 6th Army, the Ottoman Empire, which fought on the Romanian Front alongside the Allied Powers, also received a share of this booty. Although Romania was occupied by the Allied Powers, after the Allies won World War I, Romania demanded the return of the heavy industrial materials taken from its country. As a result of the work of the commission established to address this demand, Romania managed to recover some of the heavy industrial materials. This study examines the activities of the Bucharest Military Governorate in the region, the mission of the Ottoman military in Romania, the process of sharing heavy industrial materials, and the main problems that were addressed afterward. The paper is based on sources from the Ottoman Archives of the Presidential State Archives, the ATASE Archive, periodicals from the period, and other copyrighted works.

Keywords: Romania, military governor, World War I

LITERATURE



The Balkans as Cultural Memory in Necati Cumalı's Novel *Viran Dağlar*

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Abstract: Necati Cumalı (1921-2001), born in Şorina, located in today's Western Macedonia region, was the child of a family that emigrated from the Balkans. He produced many literary works, including poetry, stories, novels, and plays, and is considered one of the important figures in Turkish literature. The Balkan geography holds a special place in his life and works. Cumalı explores his ancestral roots and cultural memory through this geography because his family lived in the region for centuries, and he spent his childhood and youth in the Balkans. Consequently, the Balkans serve as a foundation for cultural memory and narrative in his works. In literary texts based on the principle of narration, history and geographical regions are sometimes mentioned. Generally, for writers, the creation of a fictional world or narrative begins with the external world. Observations of the external world are shaped and refined through the imagination, incorporating elements such as historical events, personal memories, and legendary narratives. In "Viran Dağlar," an important symbol of the region where Cumalı spent his childhood, the unique structure of Macedonia at that time and the lifestyles of people deeply connected with village and rural life are depicted through a narrative specific to the text. The period in which the novel is set is marked by significant and complex political events in Balkan geography. The novel beautifully reflects the unease of the people in the region following the Constitutional Monarchy and just before the Balkan Wars, their thoughts of migrating to Anatolia, and their anxious waits in cities and towns. Zülfikar Bey in the novel can be seen as a symbol of the Ottoman efforts to survive in the Balkans. This study will examine "Viran Dağlar" by Necati Cumalı, who was born in the Balkans and later migrated to Anatolia, using a biographical reading method. The aim is to reveal how cultural memory is constructed through the novel.

Keywords: Necati Cumalı, Viran mountains, Balkans, literary geography, cultural memory



Two Wars, One Geography: The Changing Image of the Balkans in the Works of Yaşar Nabi Nayır Titled *Balkans and Turkishness* and *Our Changing World*

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Abstract: In 1789, the idea of nationalism, which emerged under the influence of the French Revolution, led to the disintegration of multinational states such as the Ottoman Empire. The most notable reflection of this idea in the Ottoman Empire was the loss of almost all of its Balkan territories during the First and Second Balkan Wars. The First World War, which followed these conflicts, the subsequent defeat of the Ottoman Empire, and the ensuing political, economic, and social developments inevitably shifted literary interest towards post-war conditions. As a result, the Balkans were often overlooked in Turkish literature, which emerged around the idea of nationalism with the new borders. However, Turkish literature began to refocus on the Balkans with the onset of migration from the region to Türkiye, driven by political developments in the Balkans, the organization of Balkan Conferences, and the Balkan Treaty signed in 1934. This renewed interest is evidenced by travel writings, articles, poems, stories published in art and literary journals about the Balkans, and novels published independently. In this context, Yaşar Nabi Nayır, who was born in Skopje, wrote articles for *Varlık* magazine describing the current situation of both the Balkans and Balkan Turks. Many of these articles were based on Nayır's observations during his travels in the Balkans and were later published in book form by Ulus Press in 1936 under the title *Balkans and Turkishness*. Nayır traveled to the Balkans again in the new world order that emerged after the Second World War and published his observations from this trip in various magazines. These writings were later compiled and published by Varlık Publications in 1973 under the title *Changing Our World*. An analysis of these two works reveals changes in the author's views on the Balkans. This article aims to explain why and how Yaşar Nabi Nayır's impressions and thoughts about the Balkans differed between these two works.

Keywords: Balkans, Yaşar Nabi Nayır, *Balkans and Turkishness*, *Our Changing World*



Ottoman Perception in Novels About the Balkans

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Abstract: In Turkish literature, historical novels are generally event-centered, focusing on war, campaigns, sieges, and heroism. When these narratives extend beyond Anatolia, the preferred geographical setting is often Central Asia. The subject of the Balkans in Turkish novels emerged with some delay. Since the 1960s, the Balkans have gradually started to appear in Turkish novels, and in recent years, there has been a notable acceptance and adoption of this region, surpassing the focus on Central Asia. The Balkans remained under Ottoman rule for five centuries, resulting in a significant Ottoman heritage in social, political, cultural, and other areas. The Turkish novel, which often addresses various social issues, political developments, and cultural changes, has also explored this heritage from different perspectives. Key topics include the Ottoman establishment of order and peace in the Balkans, policies of tolerance, migrations, wars, sieges, and city reconstruction. In our study, we examine the approaches that shape the Ottoman perception in novels published between 1960-1980, which focus on the Balkans. Five novels that make this perception particularly visible and prominent were selected: *Danube River Says Not to Flow*, *Balkan Pain*, *Bizim Diyar*, *Çiçek Büyür*, and *Azap Toprakları*. The plots of these novels are set directly in the Balkans, and their narrative characters are of Balkan origin, born and living in the region. This study explores how the Ottoman perception is depicted in these novels, which discourses are emphasized in constructing this perception, and what approaches are used to critique the Ottoman Empire. Additionally, by analyzing and comparing the discourses in the novels, the study concretizes the common points and dominant views regarding the perception of the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Turkish novel, Balkans, Ottoman



Writers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Albanian Language

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Abstract: The Balkan Peninsula contains dynamic linguistic, cultural, and literary manifestations. We discuss Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Bulgarian languages and literatures, among others. Despite this natural dynamism and the linguistic differences, the Balkan region, due to its shared historical, political, and social experiences, forms a common backdrop. This does not imply unification but rather the interaction of diversities within a shared space. Such interaction can be observed, for instance, in the literary themes that various authors from the region address in their works. Thus, Homo-Balcanicus can gain a more comprehensive existential portrait by exploring the works of different authors from this region. The encounter with The Other—or what lies beyond Me—can be achieved either through a shared language or through interlingual translation. The former is less widespread, while the latter is more dominant. Understanding others through language involves translation, where the translator plays a crucial role not only linguistically but also culturally. Encountering others through translated literature means gaining a better understanding of both them and oneself, and also dispelling prejudices that arise from ignorance. The focus of our paper will be the translation of works by writers from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Albanian language, aiming to provide an overview of these translations during the 20th and 21st centuries. In our analysis, we will concentrate on notable figures such as Ivo Andrić and Meša Selimović, among others.

Keywords: Balkan peninsula, writers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, translation, short story

HISTORY



The Sultan Murad Mosque and Complex in the Formation of Skopje's City Identity

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Abstract: Skopje was conquered by the Turkish army under the command of Yiğit Mehmed Pasha in 1389-1390 and became part of Ottoman territory. Due to the implementation of a regular settlement policy following the conquest, the city quickly became Turkified and Islamized. In conjunction with this, construction activities were initiated to meet the needs of the increasing Muslim population and to give the city an Ottoman identity. These efforts, which began in the 15th century under the leadership of Pasha Yiğit Bey, were further enhanced during the reign of Sultan Murad II. Like in Bursa and Edirne, Sultan Murad continued the tradition of previous Ottoman sultans by building a complex and establishing a new district in Skopje. The social complex built by the Sultan on a hill overlooking the city center (1436/1437) is significant both for containing the first architectural examples in Skopje and for facilitating the first settlements outside the castle. With the construction of the Sultan Murad Mosque, the Câmi-i Kebîr District, one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, was established. It can be said that the attempt to create a social complex centered city texture in Anatolia continued to be implemented in the Balkans. The Sultan Murad Complex has become an important representative of early Ottoman social complex architecture in the Balkans, encompassing both its mosque and other architectural works. This study aims to explain the significance of the Sultan Murad Mosque and its complex in Skopje's acquisition of a Turkish-Islamic city identity and the place of the complex in early Ottoman art from an art historical perspective.

Keywords: Skopje, Sultan Murad II, Hunkar Mosque, complex, Turkish architecture



The Modern Monuments of North Macedonia after the Prespa Agreement

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Abstract: This thesis explores the significance of cultural heritage and cultural landscapes in shaping national identity and a sense of belonging, alongside the transnational conflicts that may emerge within the framework of competing nationalisms. Monuments and statues, as tangible texts carved in stone, actively contribute to the preservation of collective memory within a region. Authorities frequently employ statues as tools to shape public consciousness and historical memory. Supranational and international agreements act as mediators between conflicting historical narratives and monumental representations. Nonetheless, it is often observed that governmental decisions do not necessarily guarantee the effective legitimacy of the measures implemented. Additionally, this thesis addresses the relationship between monuments and their political roles. It examines the primary motivations behind the development of the “Skopje 2014” project and evaluates the contribution of the Prespa Agreement in resolving the protracted conflict between Greece and North Macedonia concerning the management of the monuments erected as part of this project. To provide a better understanding, the general cultural policy followed by North Macedonia is summarized. Finally, the thesis presents a proposal to achieve more effective and fruitful implementation of the Prespa Agreement regarding the management of monuments that fall under the cultural heritage of the Greek state.

Keywords: Monuments, cultural heritage North Macedonia, Skopje 2014, Prespa Agreement



Jewish Refugees from Eastern Europe in the Ottoman Territories in 1888

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Abstract: The Jewish people, who had been persecuted in Russia and many other regions of Europe, especially in Eastern Europe, began their mass exodus to Ottoman territories. The Palestine area, under Ottoman sovereignty, was one of the places where the Jews sought to settle. The main purpose of this study is to present the request to establish Jewish communities from Eastern Europe on Ottoman territory at the end of the 19th century, a process facilitated by the Ottoman consulate in Constanța (Köstence, as it appears in the documents of the time). Additionally, the study outlines the institutions of the Ottoman and Romanian states involved in this process, based on official documents held in the Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi (Ottoman Archives attached to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister) [Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi, henceforth BOA] and the Hariciye Nezareti register (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). This essay highlights the role and contribution of the Ottomans in settling Jewish refugees in Ottoman territory at the end of the 19th century. The article discusses Laurence Oliphant's visit to Palestine between 1879 and 1882, the initiatives related to the Jewish refugee settlement project in the area, and the response of the Ottoman State. In other words, the study examines the situation of non-Muslim citizens living in Ottoman territories during the political crisis of the Ottoman State, particularly during the reign of Abdülhamid II (1876-1909), and his response formulated in May 1880.

Keywords: Abdulhamid II, Laurence Oliphant, non-Muslim citizens, Jewish settlement in Ottoman territories, Ottoman State



Special Features of the Architectural Plan of the Altun Alem Mosque Built in Novi Pazar in the 16th Century

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Abstract: The Altun Alem Mosque was built in Novi Pazar between 1518 and 1528. According to the mosque's foundation charter, the patron of the mosque was Muslihudin Abdul Gani-Muezzin Hoja el Medini. The same patron also constructed a similar, but larger, mosque in Skopje, Macedonia during the same period. The architectural plan of the Altun Alem Mosque's prayer hall is square. On the left side of the northwest wall is the mosque's main entrance, and in front of this wall is a narthex covered with two domes. When comparing this architectural plan with mosques built throughout the Balkans in the 16th century, it is evident that most mosques from this period are designed in the typical Classical Ottoman architectural style. However, the Altun Alem Mosque is an exception; it is constructed in the Early Ottoman architectural style. Although this is not the first instance of using such an architectural plan, the unique aspect of the Altun Alem Mosque lies not just in its architectural design but in the period during which it was built. Given that the mosque was constructed during the reign of Sultan Suleiman I, a time of significant Ottoman Empire expansion, it is quite surprising to find this early architectural style in a mosque from the 16th century. Considering all these factors, it is clear that the reason for building this type of mosque in the 16th century in Novi Pazar extends beyond initial impressions. The Altun Alem Mosque, like a pearl hidden in a shell, today proudly represents a rare example of Ottoman architecture in Serbia.

Keywords: Ottoman architecture, Ottoman heritage through Balkans, mosques

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**



Bulgarian-Russian Relations After the Accession of Bulgaria to NATO in the Period from 2004 to 2024

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Abstract: Bulgaria and Russia, formerly united in the Communist bloc, share similar political, economic, and cultural values and interests. However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, the Russian Federation was significantly weakened, and its former allies in Central and Eastern Europe turned towards the capitalist West. In 1989, Bulgaria underwent a political revolution and regime change. Subsequently, it shifted its political alignment from the Eastern communist regime to a democratic system. It aspired to join NATO and the EU. In 1994, Bulgaria submitted a request for NATO membership, and in 2004, it became a full member. Despite Bulgaria's integration into NATO, relations between Bulgaria and Russia continued. After Vladimir Putin became the leader of Russia, he initiated plans and strategies to develop the state both politically and economically. The paper analyses the relationship between Bulgaria and the Russian Federation after Bulgaria's integration into NATO and how this relationship subsequently evolved. The research aims to explain the link between Russian economic investment projects and diplomatic relations to regain dominance in Bulgaria. However, after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the start of the Russian-Ukrainian War in 2022, NATO and EU imposed sanctions on Russia to reduce its dominance in the Balkans and the Black Sea region, including Bulgaria. As a result, Bulgarian-Russian relations deteriorated. The article analyses Bulgaria's relations with Russia after Bulgaria's full NATO membership, covering the period between 2004 and 2024.

Keywords: Bulgaria, Russia, NATO membership, Diplomatic relations, Economic Relations



Analysis of Türkiye – Bosnia and Herzegovina Relations in the Smart Power Perspective

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Abstract: Türkiye-Bosnia-Herzegovina relations are often characterized by clichéd rhetoric, such as references to the legacy of the Ottoman State, mutual trust, shared religion, and the Srebrenica genocide. This rhetoric also underpins academic studies and political discourses regarding interstate relations. While these common narratives exist, it is evident that Türkiye and Bosnia-Herzegovina have deep and multifaceted relations across various fields, including politics, economy, education, culture, defense industry, and public diplomacy. Additionally, historical, political, biological, and cultural ties significantly influence the history and present of their relations. This research analyzes Türkiye’s policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina through the lens of smart power, which combines hard and soft power strategies. It also examines the impact of stereotypical rhetoric on the bilateral relations between the two countries. The research seeks to answer questions such as whether stereotypical rhetoric negatively affects Türkiye’s Bosnia-Herzegovina policy and whether Türkiye’s approach is based on smart power principles. Methods employed in the research include literature review, discourse analysis, and statistical data. The findings indicate that stereotypical rhetoric limits the comprehensive and inclusive nature of Türkiye’s Bosnia-Herzegovina policy and reduces Türkiye’s influence on Bosnia-Herzegovina’s three founding nations. Additionally, Türkiye’s Bosnia-Herzegovina policy largely aligns with effective communication techniques in diplomacy, public diplomacy approaches, economic integration, technology, and innovation, which are among the ten fundamental methods of smart power. However, Türkiye has yet to successfully implement methods such as the international alliance/partnership model, geographical-ethnic and religious inclusion, the use of trained public diplomacy experts, global development strategies, cooperation between state-private sector-non-governmental organizations, and feasibility reports. Consequently, Türkiye has not demonstrated competence in these areas.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, foreign policy, rhetoric, Türkiye, smart power



China's Influence on the EU Integration Process of Western Balkan Countries

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Abstract: Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Kosovo make up the Western Balkan countries, all of which have been renewing their applications for EU membership for many years. They are working to address problems stemming from their internal dynamics and striving to meet the conditions for integration into the EU. The EU values the geostrategic location of these countries and expresses a desire for regional cooperation. It encourages adherence to EU norms and values and supports projects aimed at contributing to the stability and prosperity of the region. However, the EU's lengthy expansion process and stringent bureaucratic requirements create opportunities for countries seeking diplomatic and economic closeness with the region. In contrast, China views these countries from a geostrategic perspective due to their proximity to EU markets and their relatively weak economies that require support. Adopting a multi-layered approach, China is increasing its cooperation with the Western Balkan countries in various areas, including politics, economy, culture, and education. While the EU remains the primary trade partner for these countries, China has become the third-largest trade partner. Countries that can serve as a balancing factor with the EU are significant for China's growing investments in the Balkans and its efforts to extend its influence into Europe. This study examines the rise of diplomatic and economic relations between the Western Balkan countries and China, and the positive and negative impacts of this development on the EU membership process. On one hand, the prolonged EU membership process diminishes the EU's influence and desire for these countries; on the other hand, China deepens its relationships with them through its economic power. Indeed, the potential for long-term Chinese economic investments may solidify China's influence in Europe. Therefore, China's increasing influence could potentially act as a covert obstacle to Western Balkan countries fulfilling the conditions for EU membership.

Keywords: Western Balkans, EU, Integration, China, Economics



Information Warfare in the Balkans: The Role of Serbia and the Comparative Analysis of Russia and the United States

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Abstract: The rapid technological advancements and the widespread use of the Internet following the Cold War have transformed contemporary conflicts, as information has gained a cross-border nature. This transformation is described through the concept of information warfare, which involves efforts to achieve information superiority among adversaries using information and communication technologies. Particularly after the Cold War, actors such as the United States and Russia, aiming to expand their regional spheres of influence, have sought to maintain their power through information warfare tools like cyber operations and psychological operations. Serbia's pivotal role in this strategic region is significant for both states due to its historical and geopolitical importance in the Balkans. Serbia's stature as a key player, with its strategic position and influence in the region, makes it a focal point for manipulating public opinion. This manipulation can be linked to Russia's efforts to weaken Western influence in the Balkans or America's attempts to counteract Russian influence within the region. The main purpose of this article is to provide a comparative analysis of the information warfare policies of the United States and Russia, focusing on Serbia within the Balkan information warfare landscape. This paper aims to contribute to understanding the dynamics of information warfare in the Balkans by examining the information warfare strategies employed by the United States and Russia concerning Serbia.

Keywords: information warfare, Balkans, Serbia, comparative analysis



Yugoslavia-Soviet Union Relations in the Context of Hierarchy Approach (1945-1948)

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Abstract: Yugoslavia, with its unique understanding of communism and its foreign policy balancing between the Western Bloc and the Soviet Union, occupied a significant place in Cold War international politics, disproportionate to its resources and power. As the first country to adopt communism without external intervention following the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia advanced towards becoming an independent power in Southeastern Europe with its own distinctive interpretation of communism. This progress disturbed both the Soviet Bloc under Stalin's leadership and the Western Bloc. This paper aims to explore the relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1948 using the Hierarchy approach, which is a significant challenge in recent International Relations discipline. Within this framework, the paper will examine why Yugoslavia, under the rule of Josip Broz Tito, challenged the Soviet Union's hierarchy at the system, state, and individual levels. The examination will cover Yugoslavia's support for communist rebels during the Greek Civil War, its divergence from the Soviet Union on the Trieste issue, and the factors surrounding the formation of the Balkan Federation. The study argues that Yugoslavia's attempt to challenge the Soviet Union's hierarchy stemmed from a culmination of pressures and disparate policies of the Soviet Union towards Yugoslavia, which convinced the Yugoslav leadership that Stalin's Soviet Union posed a threat. Various reasons for this challenge will be discussed at the system, state, and individual levels.

Keywords: Yugoslavia, Soviet Union, hierarchy, challenge



The Transformation of Minority Issues in the Balkans in the Post-Communist Period: The Case of Bulgaria

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Abstract: With the process of nation-state formation, the Ottoman Empire's efforts to maintain order among the ethnic and religious diversity in the Balkans were jeopardized. Minority issues became a primary concern for the new Balkan states in the post-Ottoman period. After 1945, Eastern European and Balkan states, under the influence of the USSR, suppressed minority issues due to security-oriented state policies. Soviet ideology triggered new assimilation processes by imposing its own citizenship model on the region. These policies led to severe interventions, including repression and forced migration, particularly affecting Turkish and Muslim communities. Concrete examples of these policies include the forced migrations from Bulgaria to Türkiye (1951, 1968 Migration Treaty, and 1989 Forced Migration). The end of the Cold War and the collapse of communist regimes in 1991 brought minority issues in the Balkans back to the international stage during the transition to democracy. Managing ethnic diversity and social structure became a significant challenge for the region during this period, with ethnic conflicts and crises characterizing the 1990s. The lack of a supreme authority in the region led to ethnic conflicts and the emergence of intractable problems, underscoring the difficulties in managing ethnic and religious diversity and their impact on international relations. During this period, the EU and NATO membership processes were viewed as mechanisms that could contribute to resolving minority problems both in Bulgaria and in other Balkan countries. This study analyzes the role of minorities in addressing domestic and foreign political issues, assuming that the political transformation in the Balkans coincided with the diversification of minority problems. The transformation process in the Balkans poses challenges for minority rights, the prevention of ethnic conflicts, and the peaceful management of diversity at both regional and international levels.

Keywords: Minority Issues, Bulgaria, Postcommunist Studies, Balkans, Turkish and Muslim Minorities



Current European Union security policy on the Balkan Peninsula

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Abstract: Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, trends of globalization, integration, and interconnectedness have become increasingly important in world politics. The growing role of non-state actors in international relations is a natural continuation of these processes. One of the most notable examples of a new type of interaction between countries in the political arena is the European Union. The European Union's ambitions in the economic, political, and cultural spheres have expanded both geographically and conceptually. This expansion has been made possible through its own efforts and a favorable global environment. Today, the Union wields a significant amount of "soft power," and it seems logical to project its capabilities further into the security sphere. Additionally, the member countries of the European Union are interested in maintaining stability and order both within their own borders and in adjacent regions. Consequently, they are increasingly using the EU's potential and the power capabilities of NATO, the world's largest military alliance, to address emerging problems not only through rhetoric but also through concrete actions. The Yugoslav crisis served as a test for the European Union in this regard. The devastation it caused was among the most tragic events of the twentieth century. During the conflicts in the territory of the former SFRY, the European Union played a leading role in efforts to resolve the crisis. While the organization's positive contribution to ending the brutal wars is undeniable, not all actions ultimately achieved success. Nevertheless, the EU continues to significantly influence the political climate of the Balkan region, aiming for the gradual integration of the six partner countries into the Union.

Keywords: international security, European Union, Western Balkans



Sexual Violence During War: Foča Case

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Abstract: In light of recent events, specifically the allegations of sexual abuse committed during the conflicts in Ukraine-Russia and Palestine-Israel, it is necessary to discuss sexual abuse in war, its historical treatment, and its current standing in international law. Sexual abuse, in all its forms, has accompanied warfare since ancient times and has often been considered an inevitable aspect of conflict. The shift in international perception regarding rape in war is relatively recent and emerged with the atrocities of the final decade of the 20th century, particularly in two countries that were initially small in size and appeared to have limited impact on international relations: Bosnia and Rwanda. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were the first to recognize mass rape as a threat to national and international security. This perspective was later incorporated into international law with the Rome Statute. Today, Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute classify rape during war as crimes against humanity and war crimes. This paper aims to provide a succinct analysis of the developments regarding sexual abuse in war in Bosnia and its impact on international law, highlighting the case of the Foča camp, arguably the most well-known instance of mass rape and sexual enslavement, where victims included even underage girls.

Keywords: sexual violence, wartime rape, Bosnia, ICTY, Foča

ISLAMIC SCIENCES

Metaphysical Foundations of God-Human Relationship in Usûlî's Poems

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Abstract: Usûlî is a Divan poet who grew up in Yenice-i Vardar, a town founded by the Evrenosoğulları near Thessaloniki. As he approached the end of his madrasa years, he went to Egypt, became affiliated with İbrahim Gülşenî, and embarked on the path of Sufism. The literary atmosphere of Yenice in the 16th century, the madrasa education he received, and the Sufi identity inherited from İbrahim Gülşenî significantly influenced Usûlî's poetry. At the heart of these influences are God, the universe, and man—central themes in the Islamic tradition of thought. In this context, while Usûlî adopts a position between theological and Sufi traditions regarding God, he aligns more with theologians' views on the universe, especially concerning creation ex nihilo. Regarding humanity, Usûlî emphasizes the concept of fanâ (annihilation) from Cüneyd-i Bağhdadî in the journey to God, while also highlighting the idea of hakikat-i Muhammediyye (the Muhammadan Reality) by following Ibn Arabî and his followers in his understanding of the Prophet. Additionally, he explains God's creation process through divine names in a manner similar to Ibn Arabî. Finally, Usûlî criticizes theologians and jurists regarding the concept of love in some of his couplets. According to him, theologians focus on theoretical issues and jurists on worldly matters, leaving the love for God in the background. In contrast, dervishes like him disregard these issues and concentrate on divine love. Poetry, in his view, is the best means of expression that both encompasses theoretical implications within the theme of love and encourages actions that bring one closer to God. This perspective is evident throughout his Divan.

Keywords: Usûlî, metaphysic, Sufism, poem, human



A Journey of Science from the Balkans to Istanbul: Head Scholar of Huzur Lessons Debrelî Vildan Fâik Efendi and His Hadith Scholarship

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alparslan Kartal

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Abstract: Throughout history, certain cities have served as centers of civilization, trade, and science. These cities, which attract people from surrounding regions, have also been focal points for brain drain. In Islamic history, cities such as Mecca, Medina, Damascus, Baghdad, Cordoba, Bukhara, Juzjan, Merv, Nishapur, Tabriz, Maragha, Urmiyya, Ardabil, and Zanjan are notable examples. During the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul remained a center of science for centuries. Many scholars from the Balkans, a region close to Istanbul, migrated to receive education in Istanbul's madrasahs. Although some returned, most settled in the capital, rising to prominent scientific positions and taking on significant roles. Debrelî Vildan Faik Efendi (1853-1925), a scholar of the 2nd Constitutional Monarchy period, was born in Debre, which was part of Albania during the Ottoman period and is now a town in North Macedonia near the Albanian border. At a young age, he migrated with his family to Istanbul, a major center of science at the time, and spent the remainder of his life there. He studied under prominent scholars and later worked as a müderris (teacher). Known to have supported the Constitutional Monarchy, he was invited to the Huzur Lessons, which were held in the presence of the Sultan every Ramadan. During these lessons on Quranic interpretation, hadiths were occasionally referenced and commented upon. While some records of the Huzur Lessons are preserved in our libraries, the work in which Vildan Faik Efendi collected and reviewed these lessons, published under the title *el-Mevâizu'l-Hisân fî mâ Kurrire Beyne Yedeyi's-Sultan*, is exceptional for its publication. From his works, it is evident that Vildan Faik, who produced scholarly work in various fields of Islamic sciences, had a certain level of expertise in hadith science. In his Huzur Lessons, he cited and interpreted hadiths as evidence. It is apparent that he was influenced by the political currents of his time when interpreting hadiths. The use of hadiths to promote the idea of the Constitutional Monarchy can also be observed in the works of other scholars of the period.

Keywords: Balkans, Vildan Fâik Efendi, Huzur lessons, Ottoman State, hadith



The First Commentator of al-Zarnuji's *Ta'lim* in the Ottoman Empire: Was Skopje Kılıççızade the Author of *Mir'at at-Talibin*?

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Abstract: *Ta'lim al-Muta'allim*, written by Burhan al-Din Zarnuji (d. late 6th/12th century), a Hanafi fiqh scholar, is considered one of the most important sources in the history of Islamic education. Although it has been cited by various thinkers since the 18th century, it was the Ottoman madrasas that propelled this work to its true fame. Initially, Abdülmecid b. Nasuh b. Israil's (d. 887/1482) *Irşad al-talibin* and later Jaleb Mustafa al-Üsküdari's *Tercüme-i Ta'lim al-Muta'allim*—the sharhs (commentaries) and hashiyas (marginal notes) written by Ottoman scholars on the work, which was translated into Turkish—created a unique literature, and *Ta'lim* gained the identity of a classical education book that is still taught today. Contemporary researchers primarily refer to Ibn Ismail's *Sharh Ta'lim al-Muta'allim* and Ismail b. Osman Osmanpazari's *Tafhim al-Muta'allim*. The literary contributions of scholars such as Ibrahim b. Ali al-Karsi (*Lu'lu' al-mansur*) have not been sufficiently investigated, even at the level of attribution. Moreover, the commentary written by Ibn Ismail (d. after 996/1587-88) in 996/1587-88 for the education of the princes of Sultan Murad III (d. 1003/1595) is considered to be the first commentary on *Ta'lim al-Muta'allim*. The primary aim of this paper is to conduct a holistic analysis of the *Ta'lim al-Muta'allim* literature and to question the possibility that *Mir'at at-Talibin*, attributed to Ishak b. Ibrahim, is the first commentary by Kılıççızade Ishak Çelebi. For this purpose, all commentaries constituting the relevant literature will be classified according to references in bio-bibliographical sources and the copyright/intensive records of manuscripts. Additionally, the relationship of *Mir'at at-Talibin* with other *Ta'lim* commentaries and other works of Kılıççızade Ishak Çelebi will be analyzed in the context of its sources and in-text citations. Thus, while proposing a new chronological order for the commentaries on *Ta'lim al-Muta'allim*, the existence of a previously unknown work by Ishak Çelebi will also be discussed.

Keywords: al-Zarnuji, Ishak Çelebi, *Ta'lim al-muta'allim*, education



Sheikh Yuyo (Şejh Jujo): A 17th Century Ottoman Scholar and His Tomb in Mostar

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Abstract: Eyyubizade Mustafa, known as Mustafa al-Mostari in the Ottoman scholarly world and gaining fame as Sheikh Yuyo (Şejh Jujo) in his hometown of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was a scholar and intellectual who lived in the 17th century. Having received his initial education in his hometown, he later went to Istanbul and studied for four years at the Sahn-i Seman Madrasa, where he became a scholar. After completing his education, he stayed in Istanbul for about fifteen years, teaching in several madrasas and publishing around sixty books alongside his scholarly activities. Upon the death of the mufti of Mostar in 1104 (1692), he returned to his hometown as the new mufti and continued his scholarly activities there until the end of his life. In addition to his role as the mufti of Mostar, he taught at the Karagoz Bey Madrasa and other madrasas. He produced works in various fields, including philosophy, theology, language, literature, Islamic jurisprudence, and its methodology. Due to Sheikh Yuyo's significant contributions to education, Mostar became a renowned cultural and educational center in the Herzegovina region, nurturing many scholars. After his demise on 15 Rabi' al-Awwal 1119 (July 16, 1707), he was buried in the Muslim Cemetery in Mostar. Since his death, his grave has become a revered pilgrimage site where people pray and make supplications. The tomb, constructed in a rectangular plan and covered with a metal-caged, dome-shaped roof, is a variation of the typical baldachin structure. It was built around 1247 (1831) by Ridvanbeyzâde Ali Pasha (Ali Pasha Ridvanbegovic), 124 years after Sheikh Yuyo's passing. The tomb, which was damaged during the Bosnian War (1992-95), has been restored and has reached the present day in good condition, reflecting the characteristics of the period in which it was originally built.

Keywords: Sheikh Yuyo, Şejh Jujo, Ottoman scholar, Ottoman tomb, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

ECONOMICS



A Pathway to Environmental Sustainability: Does Globalization Moderate the Relationship Between Natural Resources and Ecological Footprint?

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Abstract: Globalization has led to increasing interdependence among countries, driven by international trade, technology transfer, investment flows, and finance. This interdependence has resulted in a strong integration of the world's economies, with significant repercussions for the trade and exploitation of natural resources. Despite the far-reaching implications of globalization, which may have not only economic but also profound environmental consequences, the joint environmental impact of natural resources and globalization has not been thoroughly investigated. Against this backdrop, this study builds on the Stochastic Impacts by Regression on Population, Affluence, and Technology (STIRPAT) theoretical framework to examine the direct impact of energy use, economic development, population, resource consumption, and globalization on ecological footprint. Using annual panel data from 1999 to 2020 for nine key oil producers, the study explores whether natural resources promote environmental sustainability through the channel of globalization. The empirical results reveal a positive association between economic development, energy use, population growth, and resource consumption with ecological footprint. In contrast, globalization shows a negative association with ecological footprint, suggesting that globalization enhances environmental sustainability in the studied context. Additionally, the negative coefficient of the moderator indicates that resource consumption can support environmental sustainability through globalization to address environmental challenges. These findings underscore the need to transition towards sustainable production methods that conserve resources and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts associated with resource extraction and waste management, thereby contributing to the goals of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

Keywords: ecological footprint, globalization, natural resources, environmental sustainability



The Concept of the Digital Shadow Economy from the Perspective of Consumers: The Case of Kosovo

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Abstract: The strong growth of e-commerce also implies the emergence of a digital shadow economy. This leads to a fiscal deficit due to the non-payment of VAT, excise duties, income tax, and unpaid customs duties, as well as distorting competition for domestic and foreign companies that adhere to e-commerce regulations. In addition to taxation problems, the digital shadow economy also brings damaging issues for society, such as electronic money laundering, e-piracy, and illegal virtual gambling. The number of such activities occurring through e-commerce platforms is increasing each year, leading to interest from both the public and private sectors in developing means for their prevention and control. Although the issue of the digital shadow economy is typically analyzed from the perspective of suppliers as the main agents of the shadow economy, the role of consumers cannot be underestimated. Consumers are agents who generate demand. Therefore, the aim of this article is to investigate consumer attitudes towards the concept and characteristics of the digital shadow economy in Kosovo and to conduct a comparative analysis of the results. The research was conducted among the population of Kosovo students. To achieve the research objectives, survey methods were applied using Google Forms for data collection. Considering the role of consumers as demand-generating actors in informal markets, this type of research can provide new insights into the theory of the digital shadow economy. The findings may contribute to the development of the definition of the digital shadow economy in the future and assist in the detection, prevention, and evaluation of its impact.

Keywords: consumer, digital shadow economy, e-commerce, Kosovo, taxation



An Analysis of Türkiye's Official Development Assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina From a Social Policy Perspective

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Abstract: Official development assistance (ODA) is a tool used by developed countries through their national agencies to establish cooperation with less developed or developing countries and contribute to the improvement of their welfare. This tool, which became widespread globally after World War II, is no longer used exclusively by developed countries today. It is observed that Türkiye, especially after the 1990s, has been actively conducting official development activities in various regions of the world, primarily in Central Asia, the Balkans, and African countries, where it has historical ties. Official development assistance can be used for a wide range of purposes, including meeting emergency needs, providing humanitarian aid, fostering solidarity, preserving historical ties, and advancing national, commercial, political, and strategic interests. Türkiye, with its aid model referred to as the “Turkish Model of Development Assistance,” follows a solidarity-based strategy that prioritizes human well-being in line with the tradition of foundations, setting itself apart from traditional donors. With its official development assistance amount reaching \$8 billion, Türkiye ranks first among countries in terms of the ratio of aid to gross national income. When examining the nature of this aid, activities can be found in various sectors such as education, health, administrative and civil infrastructure, production, industry, and trade. These activities can be considered within the framework of social policy. In its broadest sense, social policy refers to policies aimed at all segments of society and addressing all social issues. The focus here is primarily on improving the welfare of those who are socio-economically disadvantaged and vulnerable. It is important to examine how much of the aid provided falls within the scope of social policy. This will facilitate assessing its contribution to the welfare of society and identifying any shortcomings. Based on this, the aim of this study is to analyze Türkiye's official development assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the leading



recipient of Turkish aid among the Balkan countries, from a social policy perspective. In the analysis, data presented in the Türkiye Development Assistance Reports prepared by TİKA were classified to interpret the nature and effectiveness of the aid. As a result, it was observed that the aid provided is concentrated in areas such as education and health, which are key concerns within the broad scope of social policy.

Keywords: social policy, official development assistance, Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina, TİKA



According to Documents in the Dubrovnik State Archives: The Dubrovnik Monopoly in the Eastern Adriatic During the 15th and 16th Centuries

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Abstract: There are relatively few studies on Dubrovnik-Ottoman relations in the 15th and 16th centuries, and those that exist primarily rely on the Ottoman State Archives in Istanbul, focusing mainly on the social, legal, or political aspects of the evolving relationship. In this study, Ottoman documents found in the Dubrovnik State Archives, which have been examined in only a few studies so far, are used as primary sources. The study explores the impact of the economic and financial relations between Dubrovnik and the Ottoman Empire in the 15th and 16th centuries on Dubrovnik's trade. The research examines themes such as trade, taxation, and patronage during the reigns of six different Ottoman sultans, using documents from the ascension of Sultan Mehmed II to the end of Sultan Murad III's reign. It aims to uncover whether there were any changes or continuities over time. Specifically, the study investigates the flexibility granted to Dubrovnik merchants regarding goods such as salt, wax, and grain, which were prohibited for sale (*memnu meta*) during periods of famine and war. It also examines the resulting monopoly of Dubrovnik merchants in the Eastern Adriatic cities, which became their primary trading points as a natural consequence of this flexibility. Additionally, the study identifies tax practices that incentivized Dubrovnik trade and merchants. It was found that these taxes differed from those imposed on non-Muslim and foreign merchants. The nature of Dubrovnik's trade, which increased its commercial influence in the Eastern Adriatic due to the privileges granted in taxation and trade, is analyzed.

Keywords: Dubrovnik, Ottoman Empire, trade, taxation, monopoly

LITERATURE



Deconstructing ‘The Bridge on the Drina’ in the Context of Postcolonial Criticism

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Abstract: Postcolonialism in literature enables concepts that are overshadowed by the dominant themes in the literary text to be re-examined and given new meaning. Postcolonial criticism, therefore, challenges meta-narratives and helps to distinguish between the Same and the Other. More specifically, it demonstrates that silenced subalterns, who are often marginalised and excluded from meaning in history and society, also have the potential to create meaning. From this perspective, postcolonialism is inherently aligned with poststructuralism, which critiques the ‘Eurocentrism’ embedded in classical theories of modernity. In other words, poststructuralism is crucial for deconstructing centralized texts and creating new forms for the subalterns who played an important role in the formation of history but have been erased from history. Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić’s novel ‘The Bridge On The Drina’ is notable for its narrative of the transition from feudalism to capitalism and the subsequent moments of pluralism and change that are produced not only as transitions but also as contradictions. The work portrays the lifestyle and diversity of the heterogeneous society living around the bridge over a long period. It illustrates the society’s resistance to political events that threaten Otherness and push it towards Sameness within the framework of a Eurocentric set of values. In this study, we explore the resistance of the subalterns who, despite being involved in significant political and social events, remain marginalized. Naturally, postcolonial criticism questions the position of the subject and the other in Western and non-Western societies and tries to completely deconstruct the dominant paradigm.

Keywords: the bridge on the Drina, Ivo Andrić, postcolonialism, postcolonial criticism, subaltern



Unraveling Historical and Political Narratives in Balkan Literature: Kadare, Andrić, and Markaris

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Abstract: This comparative study delves into the historical and political themes present in the literary works of three distinguished Balkan authors: Ismail Kadare, Ivo Andrić, and Petros Markaris. Firstly, it scrutinizes Ismail Kadare's narratives, which intricately weave through historical events, particularly during the communist era, offering a profound exploration of themes related to totalitarianism. Key works include *Palace of Dreams* and *The City Without Signs*, as well as *The Siege*. Secondly, the analysis extends to Ivo Andrić, whose works delve into the complex historical and political landscape of the Balkans. Notably, *The Bridge on the Drina* captures the region's tumultuous history during World War I and II, among other significant works. Lastly, the study explores Petros Markaris' unique contribution, focusing on his portrayal of contemporary Greek society and politics through the lens of crime novels. His works, including *Deadline in Athens*, *Che Committed Suicide*, and *Bread, Education, Freedom*, unveil the impact of globalization on Greece. As we navigate through the pages of these authors' works, a tapestry of historical intricacies, political turmoil, and societal shifts unfolds, revealing the multifaceted dimensions of the Balkan experience. Through a comparative lens, this research aims to elucidate how each author contributes to a broader understanding of the region's history, politics, and the evolving dynamics that shape its narrative.

Keywords: Balkan literature, history, society, Balkan narratives, politics



Evliya Çelebi's Journey in Kosovo – 1660

Agon Krasniqi

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Abstract: Evliya Çelebi was one of the greatest chroniclers in Ottoman history. His travels to various places worldwide and his descriptions of cities, cultures, and historical events are a primary source of cultural and historical writing from this period. His writings serve as a historical and literary connection, much like those of other Ottoman chroniclers such as Neshri, Aşık Paşazade, Kemal Paşazade, and Tursun Bey. Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname* (Book of Travels) includes the cultural history, folklore, and geography of the places he visited, including Kosovo. Evliya Çelebi's journey to Kosovo took place in the mid-17th century, during the reign of Sultan Mehmed IV (1648-1687). During this journey, Evliya Çelebi, accompanied by Melek Ahmet Pasha, visited cities such as Zveçan, Mitrovica, Vushtrri, Pristina, Kaçanik, and Skopje. In his descriptions of these cities, he recounts their history and the sultans who ruled these regions. For instance, he describes the Mitrovica Fortress as an unfortunate place, known for being where Sultan Murad I was killed. He also mentions mosques, tombs, inns, and lodges in these cities, as well as local foods such as baklava. One of his notable visits was to the tomb of Sultan Murad Hüdavendigâr. Additionally, he explains the etymology of city names, such as how Kaçanik was derived from "Kaçanlar." The primary source for this topic is Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname* and his descriptions of his travels. Other significant works examining Evliya Çelebi's travels include those by Salih Vuçitërrni, Hasan Kaleshi, Franz Babinger, Jup Kastrati, Ahmet Cevdet, Dankoff, and Robert Elsie. Using a scientific methodology, we will draw specific conclusions about Evliya Çelebi's historic journey to Kosovo through these sources.

Keywords: Evliya Çelebi, *Seyahatname*, Murat, Ottoman

LAW



Legal Status of Foreigners of Turkish Descent in Terms of Their Employment in Türkiye

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Abstract: Under Turkish law, foreigners must obtain a work permit from the Ministry of Labor to work. There are specific professions, such as dentistry, pharmacy, and law, which foreigners cannot practice even with a work permit and are reserved exclusively for Turkish citizens. Pursuant to Law No. 2527, foreigners of Turkish descent may work in all professions, including those restricted to Turkish citizens, by obtaining an exceptional work permit. However, their applications for work permits may still be rejected. For example, a foreigner of Turkish descent from Macedonia who applied for a work permit to practice law in Istanbul had their application rejected by the ministries. The rejection was based on the Directive on Citizenship, which specifies that only citizens of Turkish descent from certain countries are eligible for work permits. The Administrative Court, a decision upheld by the Council of State, ruled that since Law No. 2527 is a “special law” compared to the Law on Lawyers, which restricts the practice of law to Turkish citizens, Turkish descendants can exceptionally obtain work permits. On the other hand, in a case challenging the Directive, the Council of State rejected the request for annulment. Additionally, in another case, an application for a work permit based on Turkish ancestry was rejected following the opinion of the Ministry of Interior, and this rejection was upheld by the Council of State as lawful. Despite the provisions in the law, both government practices and court decisions are not uniform. This study will examine the legislation and court decisions affecting foreigners of Turkish descent regarding employment in Türkiye and will reveal their legal status and the applicable practices.

Keywords: Turkish descent, work permit, foreigner, law, administration, council of state



Footsteps of Change in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina? A Review of the ECtHR's Kovačević v. B&H Decision

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Abstract: This study examines the impact of the term “constituent peoples” in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the country’s electoral law through the lens of the European Court of Human Rights’ (ECtHR) Kovačević decision. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an annex to the Dayton Agreement signed on December 14, 1995, which ended the Bosnian War, distinguishes between the constituent peoples—Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats—and the country’s other citizens (those belonging to ethnic minorities, those who do not declare affiliation with any ethnic group due to marriage, mixed parentage, or other reasons). This distinction prevents citizens outside the “constituent peoples” from candidacy in the presidential elections and the elections for the House of Peoples, the upper chamber of the country’s legislature. Slaven Kovačević, a political scientist and advisor to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, filed a petition arguing that these provisions violate several supranational laws, particularly the prohibition of discrimination outlined in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The Court found the application admissible and issued a ruling of violation. The Court emphasized that the current provisions not only exclude certain citizens from the House of Peoples based on their ethnic background but also elevate ethnic considerations above political, economic, social, philosophical, and other considerations and/or representation. This, in turn, exacerbates ethnic divisions within the country and undermines the democratic nature of the elections. The choice to frame the title as “Footsteps of Change?” rather than “Footsteps of Change” is a deliberate one. The study goes on to explore whether this ruling indeed signals a change in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Given that previous ECtHR rulings on the same issue, notably the Sejdić and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina decision, have not yet been implemented, the study examines the substantive differences between these earlier rulings and the Kovačević decision. Finally, the study discusses whether this decision could serve as a driving force for Bosnia and Herzegovina to amend its own Constitution, taking into account statements from the Office of the High Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR) within the context of sovereignty issues.

Keywords: Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Constituent Peoples, Electoral Law, ECtHR, Article 14 of ECHR, Prohibition of Discrimination, Case of Kovačević, Case of Sejdić and Finci



Criminal-legal aspects of military orders in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abstract: Military order represents the basic form of command, but also a sui generis form of everyday communication in the chain of command and control of every military organization. It follows the hierarchical structure of military organizations, and in certain way, represents an axiom, expressed by the phrase „the superior’s order is the law for the subordinate“. The military order followed the dynamics of social changes through the historical context and has also evolved from a strictly closed military structure into a social reality with wider implications, thus becoming a kind of legal institute. The basic subjects of a military order are, on the one hand, persons who are authorised and have the legal rights to issue orders, while on the other hand, there are persons who receive and execute the given order. The relationship between issuing and executing orders, from the aspects of criminal law, takes place in two opposite directions. Failure to comply with an order has always represented a distinct form of socially harmful behaviour, and as such is criminalized as a special kind. On the other hand, the execution of an illegal order represents a very complex and controversial matter, especially in cases where the execution of such an order constitutes a criminal act. Therefore, in modern military organizations there is an obligation not to execute orders that have the characteristics of a criminal offence. In this connection, a special form of criminal responsibility of military personnel known as „command responsibility“ was established, which is correlated with military orders. This paper presents and analyzes the solutions to the criminal liability of military personnel offered in the criminal legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in case of non-execution of orders, i.e. execution of illegal orders. Also, through a comparative review of legal solutions in other countries, similar and different social arrangements, similarities and differences, as well as causes and consequences, will be shown.

Keywords: disciplinary responsibility, command responsibility, criminal responsibility, military order



Guardians or Gatekeepers? Quandaries of the Principle of Non-Refoulement at the EU External Borders

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Abstract: The persistent recourse to pushback practices egregiously flouts the sanctity of international human rights jurisprudence, particularly the venerable principle of non-refoulement, which is considered a jus cogens norm. Despite the solemnity of their legal frameworks, numerous states brazenly contravene the inalienable right of migrants to seek asylum, thereby precipitating affronts to the rights of refugees. The contentious doctrine of the “safe” third country, employed by certain EU member states to divest themselves of asylum obligations and confine migrants beyond the purview of EU borders, is examined in this paper through a legal framework analysis. The strategic closure of the “Balkan route” in 2016, ostensibly undertaken to halt the flow of migrants traversing the Balkans, has, in effect, catalyzed a marked escalation in migratory pressures affecting Bosnia-Herzegovina. Croatia, bearing the burden of perpetrating pushback maneuvers at its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, compounds the tribulations faced by a realm grappling with a dire humanitarian crisis and lacking the necessary infrastructure to manage the influx of asylum seekers. The case law of *S.B. and Others v. Croatia*, adjudicated by the European Court of Human Rights, resoundingly underscores the urgent mandate to address migration control concerns while steadfastly upholding human rights principles. In essence, this paper calls for a profound reflection on adherence to international refugee conventions and the protection of fundamental rights, shedding light on the imperative need to rectify systemic maladministration and transgressions at the EU external borders.

Keywords: non-refoulement, pushbacks, migrants, Croatia-BiH border, violations



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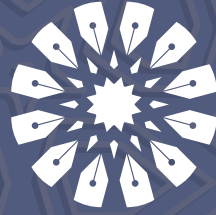
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