3. Balkan Studies CONGRESS

Kongresi për Studime Ballkanike

Balkan Çalışmaları Kongresi

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS 2023
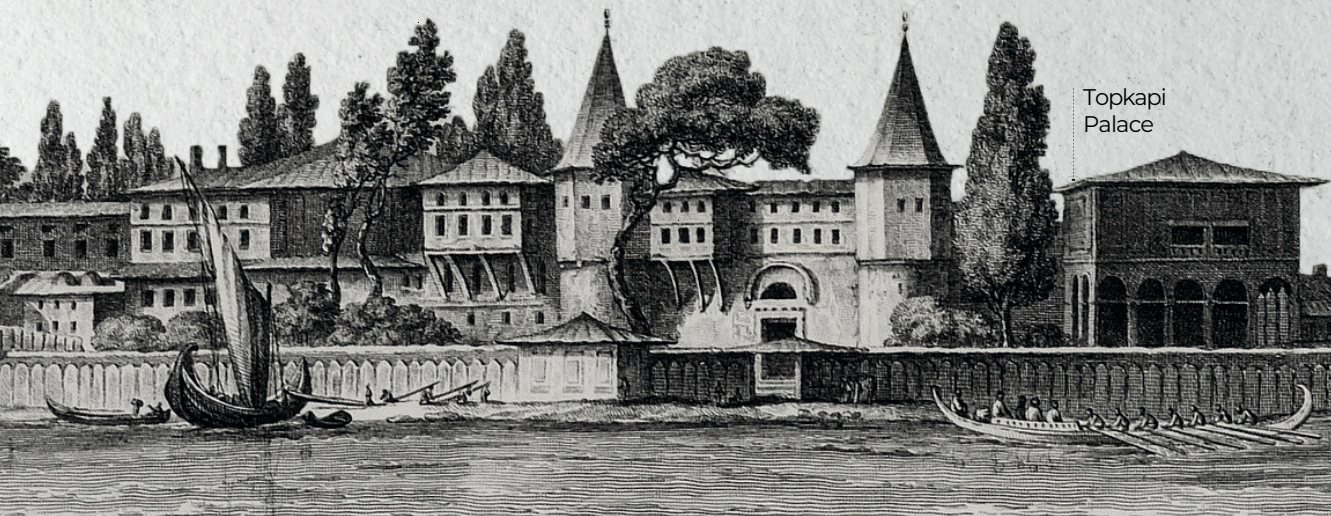
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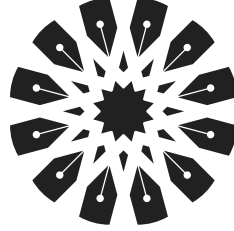# 3rd International Balkan Studies Congress

Book of Abstracts 2023

History, Religious Studies, Literature, Media and Communication Studies, Political Sciences and International Relations, Sociology, Law, Economics

September 1-2 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye

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About Balkan Studies Foundation

The Balkan Studies Foundation, formerly known as the Fettah Efendi Education and Thought Association, has undergone a reorganization to accommodate 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. Three volumes of the journal have been published so far that contain research from various fields in the social sciences. In line with these activities, the center has organized the Balkan Studies Congress. Two congresses have taken place, one in Skopje and another in Tirana, with 60 participants from different Balkan countries, including Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia, as well as participants from Poland, Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and other countries. The center also plans to expand its cooperation with national and international institutions to facilitate the exchange of ideas and policies over concrete projects. Moving forward, the center will continue to focus on conducting research in specific scientific fields and on publishing special scientific journals such as the *Journal for Balkan Politics*, the *Journal for the Balkan Economy*, and the *Journal for the History of the Balkans*. The center will additionally continue to organize congresses with similar themes.

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. This year marks the 14th semester so far, and a framework has been produced in which 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students have observed 100 seminars on over 600 different topics with over 70 academicians and 60 book reviews.

The Fettah Efendi 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 Fettah Efendi, 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.

The Center for Family and Youth Studies focuses on understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by families and young people in the Balkan region. By conducting research and implementing targeted programs, this center aims to contribute to the well-being and development of families and youth.

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

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that We present the *Balkan Studies Congress Book of Abstracts 2023* for the 3rd Balkan Studies Congress. This academic gathering serves as a platform for scholars, researchers, and experts from various disciplines to come together and explore the rich history, cultural heritage, and contemporary issues of the Balkan region.

The Balkan Studies Congress is an international congress organized for the purposes of encouraging interdisciplinary studies in the field of social sciences and for contributing to qualified and original academic output. The Balkan Studies Congress aims to increase the quality of postgraduate studies by allowing for versatile communication and experience to be transferred to young academicians and to increase academic interaction and activity within the region. The congress aims to contribute to developing a common language and method by encouraging interdisciplinary approaches in order to overcome the difficulties with qualified academic output experienced that are experienced in the states and societies facing many troubled areas ahead of them while still trying to recover from the effects of the wars in the Western Balkans since 1990.

With the diverse and intricate tapestry of cultures, languages, traditions, and histories, the Balkans have been a center of immense interest for scholars across the globe. This congress serves as a vital avenue for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives on the multifaceted aspects of the Balkans.

As we delve into the abstracts that grace the pages of this book, we embark on a fascinating journey through a region marked by rich historical legacies, complex geopolitical dynamics, and vibrant sociocultural traditions.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants who have contributed their abstracts to this volume. Their dedication, expertise, and passion

for understanding the intricacies of the Balkans are truly commendable. We are confident that their research will shed new light on the region's history, promote critical dialogue, and inspire further investigation. May this book of abstracts serve as a catalyst for engaging discussions, fruitful collaborations, and new insights into the multifaceted nature of the Balkans and contribute toward a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region's past, present, and future.

Dr. Sevba Abdula

Director
Balkan Studies Foundation
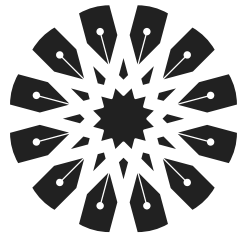
HISTORY

A Local Actor in 18th-Century Salonica: Hazinedarzade Ali Ağa

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Abstract: Since the 16th century, prolonged wars had caused the Ottoman Empire to start having problems recruiting soldiers and collecting taxes, with local dignitary families gaining importance as a result. By the 18th century, these families had started to attain official status, with the government losing power in the periphery. Members of these families even gained high-ranked positions because of the contributions their families made to the central government during hard times and war in particular. The officers that had been sent from Istanbul lacked local knowledge, which played a big role in this development. These families who'd rebelled against the central authority and pressured local society from time to time played an active role in warfare to meet the needs of the army. As the subject of this research, Hazinedarzade Ali Ağa appears to have been a grain-buyer who'd responded to the army's grain demands as well as a recruiter who enlisted soldiers in the army. Thessaloniki was important in terms of human resources and agricultural production and had helped him achieve these two titles. This proceeding will examine the career of Hazinedarzade Ali Ağa, a strong figure from the second half of the 18th century, in the context of local administration. The research will benefit from documents found in assorted sections such as the *Mühimme* Recordsbooks, the *Maliyeden Müdevver* [Treasury-based Circulars] Records, and the *Cevdet Askeriye* and *Cevdet Maliye* sections.

Keywords: Salonica, 18th century, purchasing, soldier recruitment, levying

Ömer Lütfi Pasha: A Commander Who Changed Bosnian History in the 19th Century

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Abstract: The changes in the mid-19th century that marked the beginning of the end of Ottoman rule in this area and the introduction of a new social and political period took place in the Bosnian Province. One of the key figures who marked the collapse of the uprising of the Bosnian nobles was Ömer Lütfi Pasha, better known in Bosnian-Herzegovinian literature as Omer Pasha Latas. As the commander of the Rumelia army, Omer Pasha Latas was tasked by Sultan Abdulmejid I to implement the reforms in the Bosnian Province as envisaged by the Tanzimat. The impossibility of introducing a new military organization, the growing arbitrariness of Bosnian nobles, and the unsettled relations regarding agrarian reform were only some of the problems that had prompted Omer Pasha Latas to restore order in the westernmost Ottoman area with great determination, with the united resistance of local nobles beginning after his arrival under the lead of Ali Pasha Rizvanbegovic. Along with suppressing the uprising, Omer Pasha Latas also irrevocably destroyed part of the Bosnian nobility, causing it to significantly lose its power and political role. Afterward, the urban population began to express itself in political and intellectual life, which would play an important role following the Austro-Hungarian occupation. What had started as an intervention in a complicated social and political situation transformed into a turning point in the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Muslims under Ottoman rule. This paper aims to present the causes, development, and consequences of the 1851 Uprising and its collapse, as well as its main actor, Omer Pasha Latas, by relying on literature in the Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian languages.

Keywords: Bosnian Province, Omer Pasha Latas, reform, uprising

The Dönmeh Schools Opened in Salonica Prior to the Second Constitutional Era

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Abstract: Education was one of the most important areas in which modernization movements were observed in the Ottoman Empire. The 1869 *Maarif* [Education] Regulation paved the way for innovation in education. The opportunities the regulation offered were utilized to the fullest extent by the elements residing in the city of Salonica. The followers of Sebatay Sevi, who were known as the *Dönmeh* [converts] among society and resided extensively in Salonica, both benefited from and contributed to the modernization process by opening various levels of schools in the city. Schools such as Şemsi *Efendi Mektebi* [Shamsi Efendi School], *Feyziye Mektepleri* [Schools of Prosperity], *Terakki Mektebi* [the Progress School], and *Ticaret Mektebi* [the Trade School], as well as the parts of these schools that provided education to girls, took part in modern education and training activities. Meanwhile, the fact that graduates from these schools also took on important positions in the state and bureaucracy during the Second Constitutional Era and again after the proclamation of the Republic made these institutions even more remarkable. Although they were categorized as private Islamic schools in the official state records, these schools had some features that distinguished them from other Muslim schools. As a matter of fact, some of these schools continue to operate today due to their unique structures and institutional foundations. For these and similar reasons, the schools that had mainly been opened in Thessaloniki and have maintained activities to the present day in particular came to the fore in the pre-Second Constitutional Era due to their structures, founders, educational methods, and teachers and were both active in the last period of the Ottoman Empire as well as carried this activity to the Republican period through their graduates. In addition to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, other graduates of these schools include names such as the Minister of Finance Mehmed Cavid Bey and Hasan Tahsin, important figures of the Committee of Union and Progress.

Keywords: Ottoman, Committee of Union and Progress, education history, Second Constitutional Era

Institutional Efforts Toward Orphans in Crete

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Abstract: The Ottoman Empire was a state where people of different languages, beliefs, and ethnicities lived together for many centuries. One important turning point in the history of this long-standing state was the French Revolution and the nationalist thought that accompanied it. The *Tanzimat Fermanı* [1839 Edict of Gülhane] and *Islahat Ferman* [Ottoman Reform Edict of 1856], which is associated with the *Tanzimat Fermanı*, had important consequences for the Ottoman social structure that had been shaped within the framework of the *millet* [nation] system, for the *Tanzimat Fermanı* stated that, in terms of personal rights, it would be applied to all Ottoman people without distinction between Muslims and non-Muslims, while the *Islahat Fermanı* extended this application to political rights. This situation led to unrest and conflicts in places such as Lebanon, Syria, and Crete, where Muslim and non-Muslim people lived together in great numbers. The separation of Greece and its expansion against the Ottomans can be shown as one of the first consequences of this situation, something which also prevailed in the Balkans. The island of Crete was one of Greece's main targets in line with its expansion and was first transferred to an autonomous structure through the *Islahat Fermanı* on the grounds that it had been poorly managed, after which Greece annexed it. Migration was one of the most significant issues in the final years of the Ottoman Empire and also had an important place in Crete's agenda as well. Its population had reached serious numbers, and related problems such as housing, nutrition, and health had been among the most important socioeconomic problems the Ottomans had to struggle with. Meanwhile, women and children, especially orphans, had certainly been among the primary victims of these issues. Therefore, this study will attempt to reveal Ottoman

institutional efforts such as *Eytam Nizamnamesi* [Regulations on Orphans], *Evkaf and Eytam* İdaresi [Foundations and Orphans Administration], *Emval-i Eytam Sandığı* [Orphan Assets Chest], *Aile Meclisleri* [Family Assemblies], and *Darüleytam* [orphanages] that had been established for the segments that constitute the study's main focus. The study will use various sources, especially period archival documents, in an attempt to detail the role these measures and institutions had in the life of orphans residing in Crete pre- and post-separation, as well as the services they had provided.

Keywords: Crete, orphans, orphanages

The Balkan Deadlock of World War I and the Ottoman-German Alliance

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Abstract: The secret military alliance treaty signed between the German and Ottoman Empires in the early days of World War I led the two states into a partnership of destiny. In the first stage, the Ottoman Empire declared its neutrality while starting mobilization preparations and also requesting material and financial support from Germany for war. Although the Ottoman Empire had become involved in the war *de facto* in the following period, the fact that the two stated had yet to be able to establish a shipment connection between them through the Balkans and this situation practically being locked became a source of great concern for the Ottoman and German Empires in the first half of 1915 once the Entente States threatened Istanbul in front of Çanakkale. Germany put forth diplomatic and military efforts to break through this deadlock that had prevented the shipment of war materials through the Balkans to ensure the connection between the two empires. Under the conditions of the period, the shipment connection could only be established through Serbia-Bulgaria or Romania-Bulgaria. While the attempt was made to persuade Romania and Bulgaria through diplomacy, it was necessary to organise an operation against Serbia since it was on the side of the Entente. In this worrying process for the Ottomans, only small-scale shipments could make it through the Balkan route through unofficial means, while the primary need for the shipment of heavy artillery ammunition could not be made to the desired extent. The Balkan deadlock was broken with the accession of Bulgaria to the alliance and the Serbian campaign in the autumn of 1915; only after this did the expected amount of material support for the war begin to reach the Ottoman Empire. This paper will discuss the German Empire's official and unofficial efforts at opening the Balkan route alongside alternative shipment opportunities drawing on the special assignments and organizations reflected in German archival records.

Keywords: World War I, Ottoman-German Alliance, Balkan deadlock, Balkans

The Cretan Unification Movement of 1908 and Its Connection to Events in the Broader Region

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Abstract: This paper deals with the impact the Young Turks Revolution of 1908 had on Crete, which was practically autonomous but had been under Ottoman suzerainty since 1898. More specifically, the paper examines how the Cretan unification movement of September 24- October 7, 1908 was organized and carried out by analyzing the differences and similarities with the other two coups that had taken place during the same time, namely Bulgaria's declaration of independence between September 22-October 5 and the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary between September 23-October 6. The paper examines whether the movement in Crete had been endogenous or encouraged by Athens and Vienna, as well as whether or not it played out as planned. The paper also examines how the movement's leaders saw and treated the Muslim population and how the Greek and Ottoman governments reacted by making particular reference to the *sokak politikası* [street politics], then to the Young Turks and the economic embargo that was applied to all Greek and Austro-Hungarian products and companies. Last but not least, the paper aims to answer whether and in what sense the Cretan unification movement of 1908 had succeeded or failed. The subject is virtually unknown to international academia, therefore the paper hopes to attract further interest and research so as to assist the formation of a complete and comprehensive narrative of the events and conditions of the time.

Keywords: Young Turks, Ottoman Empire, Crete, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, powers

Constitutional Developments in Serbia and an Evaluation of Prince Mihailo Obrenović's National-Oriented Politics (1860-1868)

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Abstract: Prince Mihailo Obrenović started his second reign in 1860 with the aim of fundamentally changing the constitutional status of the Principality of Serbia. The Constitution of 1838 (i.e., Turkish Constitution) was still in force in the Serbian state, which had an autonomous status in the Ottoman Empire. Prince Mihailo was able to abolish the Constitution of 1838 through a series of constitutional laws. In 1861, the Law of the Council of State was passed in Parliament, whose members answered to the prince. The Law of the National Assembly was also adopted, though the National Assembly only had advisory jurisdiction. With these changes, the prince clarified that he would rule Serbia as an absolutist. Under the authoritarian regime, power was in the hands of the prince, thus eliminating the Sublime Porte's influence over Serbian domestic policy. During this period, reforms were made regarding education, the judiciary, and state administration. The culmination of Prince Mihailo's work on modernizing Serbia was certainly the great reform of the armed forces. The prince's national policy was focused on liberating Serbian and other Balkan peoples from Ottoman rule. The prince believed in the idea of an alliance of the Balkan people, in which Serbia would play a unifying role. In this context, Serbia signed alliance agreements with Montenegro in 1866, with the Greece and Bulgarian Secret Central Committee in 1867, and with Romania in 1868. The main purpose of the Balkan Alliance system was to liquidate the Ottoman Empire's rule over the Balkans. Although the union of 1866-68 had failed to achieve its goal, this idea facilitated the formation of the alliance of the Balkan states in 1912.

Keywords: Principality of Serbia, Mihailo Obrenović, constitutional laws, absolutism, First Balkan Alliance

The Formation of the Ottoman Military Frontier in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 16th and 17th Centuries

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Abstract: Although the concept of a frontier had a very broad meaning in the minds of Ottoman intellectuals and subjects, in the eyes of the administrative officials, it referred to the edges being in a constant state of battle with mutual raids, looting, and cross-border smuggling. Following the decisive victory at the Battle of Nicopolis in 1396, almost half a century after the Ottomans first crossed into Rumelia, it became evident that the Ottomans could not be repelled from the Balkans. With the fall of the Serbian Despotate in 1454–1459, the conquest of the north of the Peloponnese region in 1461, the conquest of Herzegovina and the southern parts of the Bosnian Kingdom between 1463–1481, and finally the capture of Kili and Akkirman fortresses in 1484, the Ottomans had established their first military frontier in the Balkan peninsula. The Ottoman conquests of Bosnian and Croatian lands were halted in the middle of the 16th century, and just before the Long Turkish Wars (1593-1606), they were able to push their military frontiers as far as Bihać. The Ottoman frontier in Bosnia was formed by the strategic decision-making power of the local sancak-beys and the renowned Ottoman logistical capabilities. The Ottomans took several factors into consideration while establishing their borders, including defense priorities, geographical conditions, taxation possibilities, and, most significantly, the suitability of these borders for further conquests. This paper will evaluate the military strategies and defense policies used by the Ottomans against the Habsburgs in the Sanjak of Bosnia and later in the Eyalet of Bosnia, based on archival records and contemporary sources, and aim to provide new insights into the formation of the Ottoman frontier system.

Keywords: Ottoman history, military history, Bosnia and Herzegovina, frontier, fortress, garrison

The Fate of Exchangeable Muslim Properties in the City of Drama

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Abstract: The city of Drama was an important center of tobacco production and trade at the end of the 19th century; it was connected to the new Thessaloniki-Alexandroupolis railway line and had Muslim population of 70.2%. Because the Muslims had mainly been obliged to emigrate after the Lausanne Convention (January 30, 1923), they left behind a multitude of urban houses, shops, workshops, and fields. The Lausanne Convention had provisions stating that emigrants would receive property in the country in which they settled of value equal to that of which they had abandoned in the country from which they had left. However, based on the decision of the Mixed Commission from December 7, 1923 and supplemented by a decision from the Governments of Greece and Türkiye made in Athens on June 21, 1924), the properties that had been abandoned in both countries were placed at the disposal of the Governments of Greece and Türkiye without being assessed or cleared by the Mixed Commission. In the spring of 1925, the National Bank of Greece signed a convention with the Greek state, according to which the state ceded all the exchangeable Muslim properties in the cities to it in order to allow the Bank to pay the emigrants who had not yet been rehabilitated an advance payment up to repayment of the value of the property they had left in Türkiye. All the exchangeable Muslim properties the National Bank of Greece received were ascertained, identified, assessed, and recorded in a book called the National Cadastre. The main purpose of this work was to present the record of the exchangeable Muslim real estate properties as maintained by the Real Estate Service of the Regional Unit of Drama under the title of the National Cadastre and to investigate through this record what fate had befallen the Muslim properties in Drama.

Keywords: Drama, Muslim properties, National Bank of Greece, General Land Register

What's Up in Ottoman Studies in Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina?

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Abstract: When the *Turkish Studies Association Journal* changed its name to the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* almost ten years ago, Virginia Aksan marked this new beginning with a reflection in her article "What's Up in Ottoman Studies?" in which she presented the state of the field concerning Ottoman studies predominantly from the field of history and published within the preceding decade. The current article sets a similar task. After the establishment of the University of Sarajevo and the Oriental Institute in 1950, a significant expansion and deepening of Ottoman research has occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with numerous Ottoman sources having been translated and published. On May 17, 1992, the Oriental Institute and its archives were set on fire, which consequently led to a short interruption and slowdown in terms of the publication of research results. The aim of this work is to present the most recent trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding Ottoman research. In its preparations, this work has consulted the publications and journals headed by the Oriental Institute as well as those headed by the Institute of History, the Faculty of Philosophy, and the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of the University of Sarajevo, in addition to the Gazi Husrev-Bey Library, the Historical Archive of Sarajevo, and other Bosnian Archives. The goal is to present the most important institutions and researchers, as well as the topics that have been addressed and sources used in their works. Presenting the situation around the framework of Ottoman studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be particularly useful by bearing in mind that it is a small country and that the achievements of its historians often remain unfairly unnoticed among international researchers due to the language barrier.

Keywords: Ottoman studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 21st century, history

From the Russo-Turkish War to the Balkan Wars: Immigrant Teachers

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Abstract: The Ottoman Empire witnessed wars and rebellions that sparked mass migrations during the late 19th century and early 20th century. The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 and the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913 in particular had caused the Ottoman State to lose lands and led to more than one million people coming to the Ottoman territory as immigrants. This study discusses the experiences of teachers who'd immigrated from the Balkan region regarding performing their profession again in Ottoman lands. The primary sources used in this work come from the Presidency Ottoman Archives in Istanbul. This article investigates the reappointment process of the immigrant teachers working in the Ottoman State after the Russo-Turkish War and the Balkan Wars and the formal regulations regarding their salaries. Some immigrant teachers were centrally appointed by the Ministry of Education, while other teachers applied to the local educational councils and took a professional examination for teaching. After the Balkan Wars in particular, the Ottoman State tried to record the previous duties, salaries, educational levels, and new work places of the immigrant teachers who'd come from the Balkans. Immigrant teachers played a significant role in meeting the need for teachers in the Ottoman State, and these teachers from the Balkans were understood to have been assigned to replace other teachers who'd resigned, retired, transferred, or passed away. By shedding light on this overlooked topic in the literature, the study unveils many instances of how immigrant teachers were integrated into the Ottoman education system as it developed bureaucratization. In addition, the study contributes to the historiography of migration along the Balkans-Anatolia axis and to the history of education in the late Ottoman period.

Keywords: Russo-Turkish War, Balkan Wars, immigrant teachers, Ottoman education system

Yenibosna District's Establishment Through the Migrations from Bosnia to Istanbul

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Abstract: The history of Istanbul's historical district of Bahçelievler has yet to have received enough academic study and generally been evaluated alongside the history of neighboring Bakırköy. In the light of sources contrary to general knowledge, this article will show Bahçelievler to have also been present in the Byzantine era and to have been called Aphameia. The region came under Ottoman rule shortly before the conquest of Istanbul and is seen to have been known as Bosna Village in court records as of 1557. The documents in the Ottoman Archive show the name of Bosna Village to have transformed into Viranbosna and Viransaray after 1858 and into Yenibosna after 1892. This article will chronologically discuss the development of the region and explain the migrations from the Balkans to the region in light of archival records, as well as how the Yenibosna neighborhood formed. As a topic not yet included in the literature, the study will also examine the migrations to the Bahçelievler region from the Balkans, especially from Bosnia after the Treaty of Berlin, through the regions two oldest-surviving tombstones dating from 1893 and 1925.

Keywords: migration, Bosna, Yenibosna, Viranbosna, migration from Bosnia to Istanbul, migrations from the Balkans to Istanbul

History Textbooks in North Macedonia - What Students Learn About Islam in High School

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Abstract: History textbooks can and primarily should contribute to strengthening students' awareness of universal human values. Contrary to the goals of education, however, history textbooks can also deepen divisions, prejudices and uncritical attitudes. The learning periods in elementary as well as secondary education are of utmost importance for the development of every human. To this end, history largely shapes the perceptions of every individual through the contents of the past. Because humans live in multiethnic and multiconfessional societies, I have decided to conduct an analysis of the high school textbook curricula related to religion. Another reason for the analysis involves the role of religion in the formation of the Balkan nations, which have made religion one of the key elements of their national identities. Based on the large volume of content related to religion, as well as the mere fact that Muslims are the second largest religious group in North Macedonia, I have decided to analyze high school textbook content that is related only to the Islamic religion. The goal is to look for both the positive and negative aspects in this content as found in the history textbooks of high schools affiliated with state institutions, which are supposed to be concerned with developing the competitive, creative, progressive, and ethically formed human potential. The critical review will provide additional impetus to the efforts at eliminating those parts of the curriculum that create divisions and prejudices, especially in history textbooks, thus allowing studying to become the key factor in the building of trust between people of different religions.

Keywords: Islam, religion, students, history textbooks, education

Two Post-Ottoman Bilingual Newspapers Published in Skopje

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Abstract: The period between the World Wars I and II in Skopje saw two newspapers published for a few years whose pages included texts in two languages: Serbian and Turkish. These newspapers were *HAK* and *Pravi Put*. They were published at different periods of time, *HAK* between 1920-1924 and *Pravi Put* in 1937. These newspapers were published during different eras of the newly established state of the Kingdom of Serbians, Croatians, and Slovenians, later renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. *HAK* was published in the first years of the state as a politically oriented newspaper representing the political thought of the Muslim political organization Djemijet, while the other newspaper, *Pravi Put*, was published in 1937, the last era of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Two common things among both newspapers were the languages and alphabets with which they were published. Both newspapers were published half in the Serbian language with the Cyrillic alphabet and the other half in Turkish with Arabic script. Compared to *HAK*, which was more politically oriented and treated a wider spectrum of topics, *Pravi Put* was more oriented toward religious topics representative of the Association of Imams of the Skopje region. During recent times, the contents of these newspapers have not been subjected to publication or research due to any remaining copies being very rare and none having yet been digitized. This article will attempt to provide information about the nature of the contents of these newspapers that were published in Skopje in the post-Ottoman period and that were dedicated mostly to Muslim readers.

Keywords: Skopje, *HAK*, *Pravi Put*, bilingual newspaper, Serbian-Turkish newspapers, 1920-1924, 1937

How the History of the Ottoman Empire Was Presented in Albanian Journals Between World Wars I and II

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Abstract: Albanian historiography features important periods in its formation and development, one of these being the period between World Wars I and II, also known as the period of nationalist historiography. This period shows the first attempts of the intellectuals of that time at writing history using critiques and scientific requests, albeit nowhere near reality. Apart from the different publications of the period on the history of Albania and the Albanians, this period also featured publications from different journals and periodicals such as *Hylli i Dritës*, *Leka*, *Agimi*, and *Dituria*. Despite these journals being far removed from what is commonly understood and perceived as scientific journals, they still have great value for that time. The contents of these journals were diverse, with one of the topics of course being history. This article will study and analyze how the Ottoman Empire time was addressed in these journals in terms of the main topics that were studied and which national figures occurred in these journals.

Keywords: Albanian historiography, nationalist historiography, history of the Ottoman Empire, journals, *Hylli i Dritës*, *Leka*

British Newspaper Reports on the Bosnian Uprising of 1831-1832

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Abstract: During the 19th century when the Ottoman Empire began facing its end, the Empire had started to implement reforms. The need for these reforms was mostly advocated by other colonial powers, especially the British Empire. The general state of decay in the Ottoman Empire, as well as the new charge for reforms, led to the creation of an unstable environment in the Empire. This instability led to numerous uprisings across the Empire during the 19th century, one of these being the Bosnian Uprising of 1831, also known as the Great Bosnian Uprising. While the events of the uprising are for the most part explored within historiography, the influence and perception of these events in the other Empires has seldom been explored. The aim of this paper is to explore contemporary British newspaper reports on the Bosnian Uprising of 1831-1832. The importance of this topic lies in how newspapers helped form public perception, with the focus here on perceptions toward certain issues in the Empires of the time. The foreign powers, especially the British Empire, had gotten more and more involved with Ottoman internal affairs. These intrusions had started at the beginning of the 19th century and slowly progressed until escalating with the Congress of Vienna. The culmination occurred during the early 20th century, coming to the point where these Empires decided the fate of the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Bosnia, uprising, Ottoman Empire, British, newspapers

World War I and Its Impact on Political Events in Albania: The Case of Rebellion in Central Albania (1914-1915)

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Abstract: In the history of the independent Albanian state, the Rebellion in Central Albania (1914-1915) was an event that evolved and developed under the influence of the atmosphere on the eve of the outbreak of World War I and its subsequent advance. The rebellion was conceived as a religious movement opposed to the decisions made at the Conference of Ambassadors in London (1913) on establishing an independent Albanian state, in which the six Great Powers agreed it would be headed by a Christian prince. The rebellion unfolded through three main phases that developed under the influence of several factors related to World War I and the fragile condition of the Albanian state. This paper aims to analyze and identify the factors that influenced the conception, development, and eventual extinction of the rebellion, including the policies related to Albania as an independent state that were followed by the Great Powers, particularly Austria-Hungary and Italy, as well as those of the Ottoman Empire and Balkan states such as Serbia and Greece. The paper also considers the Ottoman Empire's involvement in World War I and the progression of the Austro-Serbian war that led to the withdrawal of the Serbian army from Albanian territory as contributing factors. This article additionally aims to develop a three-dimensional analysis, one at the individual level of the decision-making process that includes the perceptions and activities of the political figures who'd influenced the rebellion in Central Albania, another at the state level on the groups of interest within the state and including national interests, and the third at the systematic level for examining external factors, specifically the policies of the Great Powers and Balkan states.

Keywords: World War I, rebellion, antinational movement, Albania, Ottoman Empire, Great Powers

The Spanish Adventurer: Ottoman Surveillance on Aladro Kastrioti, The Pretender for the Albanian Throne

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Abstract: This work delves into the intriguing case of Juan Pedro Antonio Aladro, a Spanish individual whose claims to the throne of Albania captivated European newspapers in 1902. Through an analysis of historical sources and contemporaneous newspaper articles, this paper explores Aladro's background, his alleged aristocratic connections, and his self-proclaimed lineage as a descendant of George (Alb. Gjergj) Kastrioti Skanderbeg, a renowned Albanian warrior. This work investigates the response from the Ottoman Empire, specifically the surveillance the Ottoman Foreign Ministry conducted in light of Aladro's claims. The paper highlights the dismissive view the ministry held toward Aladro's ambitions that characterized him as an adventurer driven by personal gain rather than as a credible contender for the Albanian throne. The Ottoman authorities closely monitored Aladro's movements, from his travels to Corfu, an island near mainland Albania where he held meetings with associates, to his subsequent journey to Naples that created a state of uncertainty regarding his exact whereabouts. By examining historical records and newspaper accounts, this article attempts to shed light on how Aladro was perceived, as well as the broader context of the Albanian situation at the time. The paper explores the intricate interplay between European diplomacy and Aladro's quest for an independent Albania, as well as the skepticism expressed by foreign powers toward his claims.

Keywords: Aladro Kastrioti, Albania, Ottoman, surveillance, espionage

The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in Albania Between 1949-1955

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Abstract: After breaking away from Yugoslavia in 1948, Albania became dependent on Soviet aid and know-how. In February 1949, Albania joined the communist bloc in order to coordinate economic planning, with Tirana soon entering into trade with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and the Soviet Union. Soviet and Eastern European technical advisers were stationed in Albania, and the Soviet Union sent military advisers to Albania to build a base on the island of Sazan. After the Soviet-Yugoslav dissolution, Albania and Bulgaria remained the only countries the Soviet Union could use to aid the communists fighting in Greece. However, even the little amount of strategic importance Albania offered had diminished with the development of nuclear weapons technology. In working to get things done, the Albanian government implemented elements of the Stalinist economic system. In 1949, Albania adopted the basic elements of the Soviet fiscal system and paid its contribution to the treasury according to the profits from all other enterprises, keeping only an approved part for self-financed investments and other purposes. The Albanians also tried to restore diplomatic relations with the USA in 1949 to neutralize its poor economy. During this period, Great Britain also joined alongside the USA in the action to overthrow the communists. With Albania's admission to the UN in 1955, the course of diplomacy changed and opened the way for the exchange of commercial culture with a democratic country.

Keywords: communist regime, diplomatic relations, Yugoslavia, Soviet Union, USA

The Protestant Movement's Impact on Albanian National Development in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

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Abstract: The 1830s mark the beginning of the Albanian National Movement. This movement, known as the National Renaissance in Albanian historiography, had the aim of reawakening the Albanian national consciousness. The Tanzimat reforms that were undertaken starting in the late 1830s and ending in 1876 brought reformation to the Ottoman Empire. As a result, a kind of growth occurred regarding national movements and the expression of nationalism in different nations, including the Albanian nation. In this framework of events, the Protestant Movement, which had actually started earlier, developed in the same time frame as the National Movement. This study aims to examine the Protestant element and its influence on the Albanian National Movement. The treatment of this element will focus on Albanian nationalism and how it influenced and contributed to the issue of the state-forming character of the Albanian nation. How did the Protestant element affect the Albanian National Movement? How did the activity of the reformers who'd embraced this element evolve up until the Balkan wars? How did Albanian nationalism adapt to the Protestant Movement? The drafting of this has study relied upon broad literature in Albanian, English, and Turkish. Most of the sources are English documents from the archives of various Protestant societies and organizations that had existed at that time.

Keywords: Albanian National Movement, Protestant element, Albanian nationalism, Balkan wars, conversion

The Balkan Wars in the Columns of the Humor Magazine *Karagöz*

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Abstract: Humor magazines have an important place in historical studies in terms of examining subjects from different aspects and the viewpoint of the public toward the subject of a certain period. The expressive power of humor magazines and cartoons has a different effect on the reader when describing a subject, as they follow a path different from a straight narrative. Cartoons reveal the intellectual accumulation of a period, as well as their thought-provoking and entertaining aspects. Cartoons and humorous articles in magazines present readers with the political events of the period by interpreting them in a witty way. Various cartoons and humorous articles about the Balkans War were published in the major humor magazines of the period that took place about 100 years ago. These cartoons also reflected society's perspectives on the war, which resulted in a very tragic outcome in terms of Ottoman history. The ideas published in these journals during the Balkan Wars gradually began to weaken the idea of the previously dominant state system (i.e., Ottomanism), where Muslim and non-Muslim societies had lived side by side with the ideas of equality, justice, and fraternity. During the period of the Balkan Wars, the concept of Ottoman society was then gradually replaced by the idea of Turkish nationalism. In this context, the Second Constitutional Era of the Ottoman Empire also forms an important source. The voice of humor, which believed in the power of the Ottoman army regarding the course of the Balkan Wars, criticized the government and its policies when addressing its defeats. This study mainly uses the humor magazine *Karagöz* [Black Eye], as well as other humor magazines from the archive of *Hakkı Tarık Us* as needed.

Keywords: Constitutional Era, Balkans, caricature, *Karagöz*

The Change in the Ottoman Empire's Pattern of Expression Toward Those in Warfare

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Absract: Much time has passed since academic studies started on Ottoman military history. However, studies that have been done on the topic, especially in last 20 years, have contributed a great deal toward a better understanding of Ottoman military history. These studies have clearly presented the doctrinal changes that occurred regarding military and technological developments in the arms industry and increased as result of these developments. The effect from these relatively new military groups, some of whom were le*vend*s, *nefir-i amm* soldiers, and *ayan* soldiers, did more than just grow the size of the army. Because of this growth, the Ottoman Empire had to provide more provisions and transportation vehicles. Accordingly, by the mid-18th century, the public was playing a bigger role in assembling and supporting the army. This situation must have affected the relationship between the public and the empire, and communications must have changed between the two groups compared to previous centuries. This research aims to identify this transformation in order to examine how the Ottoman Empire had addressed to the public during the Ottoman-Hadsburg War of 1593-1606 compared to the Russo-Turkish War of 1787-1792 and the Austro-Turkish War of 1788-1791. The study simultaneously will both quantitatively and qualitatively analyze the change in the empire's pattern of expression. The main sources of the research are the *Mühimme Defterleri* [Records of Degrees]. The entries in these records provide valuable information on the relationship between the people and the empire as well as many other subjects in the centuries prior to the Tanzimat, due to these notebooks containing registers of war-related issues during both periods of war. As a result, benefit is had in utilizing these source documents.

Keywords: Ottoman-Hadsburg War of 1593-1606, Russo-Turkish War of 1787-1792, Austro-Turkish War of 1788-1791, provisions

Epidemics of the Plague in Rumelia from the Mid-15th Through 16th Centuries and Their Effects on Istanbul

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Abstract: Infectious diseases have manifested themselves throughout history and occurred as epidemics affecting every aspect of the masses. One of these epidemics was the plague, also known as the Black Death. It emerged in 1347 and seriously depleted the world population. Although the period when the epidemic was felt the most occurred between 1347-1352, it continued its effect with aftershocks. By the mid-16th century, one place where these aftershocks were effective was the geography of Rumelia. The disease had passed to Ottoman lands and spread to Istanbul mostly through commercial, military, and social relations. Because the trade relations between Europe and the Balkans were mostly provided through the Adriatic, the plague passed to Rumelia through the goods arriving at ports such as Durres. This transition took about a century. At the end of this long period, the disease had made its effects felt in Macedonia, Bosnia, and Albania, reaching Istanbul in the early 16th century. Therefore, the correct understanding of how the plague epidemic spread in Rumelia is valuable in terms of fully understanding the period in question. This study explains the effect of the plague epidemic into 16th-century Rumelia while also attempting to state how the epidemic ultimately reached Istanbul. In this sense, by focusing on aspects of the 16th century parts, the study will present examples from records in the Topkapı Palace Museum and the Directorate of State Archives. With regard to the 15th-century narrative, the study will use monographic European histories of the period and classical political history narratives in an attempt to reveal Rumelia's rule in the Ottoman Empire, its early periods, epidemic policies, treatment methods, and results.

Keywords: epidemic, plague, Rumelia, Istanbul, Ottoman Empire

Traces of the Horasan Ereni in the Balkans: Bektashism in Thessaloniki

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Abstract: Thessaloniki is one of the significant regions where Bektashism had operated after coming under Turkish administration. The Bektashi dervishes started their order with the formation of the monotheques of Sarı Saltuk in Rumeli in the 13th century and participated in the conquests alongside the Janissaries. They were effective at relocating the Turkmen-Yörük tribes of Bektashili to Thessaloniki and its surroundings. In the Fatih period, Bayezid Baba and his caliphs draw attention for the monocles they opened around Thessaloniki, as did the Kara Baba, Musa Baba, Süleyman Dede, and Aydin Baba dervish lodges and the representatives of the Bektashi sect in the center of Thessaloniki. The sect spread out into settlement units such as Katerin, Serez, Ustrumca, Vardar, Kesrin, and Kesendire in connection with the Province of Thessaloniki. In 1826, however, Thessaloniki monks were also affected by the ban of Bektashism and the Janissary Corps. The chambers of the Bektashi monks were destroyed and their property captured in this process. The Bayezid Baba Tekke was transferred to the Rifai order, the Kara Baba Tekke to the Halveti order, and the Hasan Baba Tekke in the Esarlik village of the town of Yenice-i Vardar to the Kadiri order. Thus, Bektashism, which had been interrupted in Thessalonica, revived over time. On the other hand, the situation of Muslim people in the region had worsened due to the emergence of Thessaloniki and its environs from the Turkish government. During the National Struggle in particular, the Greeks started to massacre Muslims in the region. In 1922, Bektashi shahi Hasan Baba and other prominent people were also martyred. After the population exchange in 1924, Bektashism in the region was in danger of being completely destroyed. Ghis study attempts to reveal the Bektashi tekke and the examples that operated throughout its history in the province of Thessaloniki in the light of archival documents.

Keywords: Rumeli, Balkans, Thessaloniki, Bektashism, Bayezid Baba, Kara Baba, Musa Baba, Abdullah Baba

On the Borders of the Empire: Bosnian Tekkes and Power in the 19th-Century Ottoman Administration

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Abstract: The Ottoman government issued many institutional, military, administrative, and economic reforms in order to restore central power in the 19th century. The peoples on the borders of the Islamic territories who had lengthy experiences living under highly organized Islamic authority encountered these new rules and regulations and responded on a provincial basis. In particular, Bosnia was counted as the great wall of Ottoman Eastern European politics, where tekkes constituted crucial importance for establishing Ottoman rule. The tekkes allowed dervishes to survive and brought them together in contact with villages and towns; thus, tekkes could create a basis for sharing common events and help manage the long-term relations within the community. This paper explores tekkes' autonomy, influence, collaborations, and negotiations, shedding light on their role in Bosnia's sociopolitical and cultural dynamics. The study analyzes historical documents, including correspondences and official decrees, in order to understand the complex interactions among religious leaders, local administrators, and the central authority. The findings highlight the significance of tekkes as centers for spiritual guidance, community support, and cultural preservation. The study also explores the impact political changes had on the relationship between tekkes and the central power by considering the reforms, governance structures, and periods of centralized and decentralized rule. Furthermore, the study seeks to reveal how the Sufi orders remained outside the realm of mainstream politics through forms of religiosity that proliferated from modern power, as well as how they presented themselves as such. The analysis of Bosnian tekkes provides valuable insights into the intricate relationship between religious institutions and the central power, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the sociopolitical dynamics within the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Bosnian tekkes, dervish lodges, Ottoman religious administration, power dynamics, sheikhs

The Diversity of Sufi Formations in the Balkans in Light of Münîrî Belgradî's Work *Nisâbu'l-İntisâb ve Âdâbu'l-İktisâb*

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Abstract: The real name of author of the works studied here was İbrahim b. Iskender. Münîr was his pen name. He was originally from Bosnia and had received his spiritual training from Mevlana Ali Efendi and Aziz Mahmud Hüdayi. He spent most of his life in Belgrade, where he busied himself with his scientific studies. His work *Nisâbu'l-İntisâb ve* Âdâbu›l- İktisâb is registered at Istanbul University Library under Turkish Manuscripts as A 6803, with 59 leaves and a copy from 1066/1656. This study occurred in various phases and has benefited by evaluating folios 55a-59b. The author was a judge of ibaha and heresy obtained by Melâmiyye, Kalenderiyye and Haydâriyye in his work; Groups such as Yûnusiyye, Çakıriyye, Adeviyye, Hurremiyye, Rifâiyye, Hayrâniyye, Sinaniyye, Bedeviyye, Sûfiyye-i Halvetiyye, Hubbiyye, Ulyâniyye, Şemrâhiyye, İbâhiyye, Hululiyye, Huriyye, Vâkızıyye, Mütecahiliyye, Mutekahiliy. Later, he also mentions groups living in the region, such as the Hamzavis and the Simavis. At the same time, some of the provinces he was in were in the conversation of the saints, making friends with the Forties, and Hz. He claims that they spoke with the spirit of Ali, and as some of the state dignitaries gained prestige in all, he believed that even the mufti believed in one of them, whereas some of them did not even pray. In addition to the Rifai and Bektashi dervishes who belong to the Sari Saltuk tradition of the region, as reported by M. Belgradi, I. Safavid, Halveti, Bayrami and Melâmî dervishes, who come from the Zahid Geylani tradition, lead their religious-mystical lives. The work conveys to us with various details of mystical life in the Balkans. The author also included his own views by making criticisms from time to time. With the movement in this last part of the work, we have an effort to reveal the diversity and periodical cultural structure of the Sufi genre in the Balkans.

Keywords: Belgrâdî, Balkans, Sufism, culture

Some Khalwati Lodges in Greece According to Archival Documents

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Abstract: Ottoman rule of Rumelia in 1356 when raiders under the command of Şehzade Süleyman Pasha landed in Gallipoli. However, the pre-Ottoman Seljuks Kaykaus II and his descendants, as well as Sarı Saltuk Baba and his dervishes, settled in Dobruja between 1261-1264. Although this was not a conquest, it does indicate the Muslim Turkish presence there to date back around 90 years before the Ottoman Empire. Sarı Saltuk Baba being a Sufi connoisseur may also suggest that he had contributed to forming conditions suitable for Rumelia's conquest. Over 325 lodges are seen to have existed during the Ottoman Empire within the borders of modern Greece, with 56 lodges in Thessaloniki, 42 in Serres, 18 in Crete, 2 in Trapolice, and one or two lodges each in Mora, Modon, and Balya-Badra (Patras). More than 20 of these are affiliated with the Khalwati Sufi order, with Bektashi, Qadiriyya, Mevlevi, Rifaꓔi, Naqshbandi, Sa'diyya, Bayramiye, and Melami Sufi lodges also present. Unfortunately, the number of lodges found to be affiliated with the Khalwati and its branches, as well as the information about these lodges, is unfortunately quite limited. Khalwati lodges other than the ones examined in this paper certainly existed. However, precisely determining the names and locations of where these lodges are in Greece is very difficult. This paper has identified various archival documents, and more detailed information can probably be obtained upon examining the foundation books and land registry books.

Keywords: Sufism, Greece, Thessaloniki, Mora, Khalwati, tekkes

The Newspaper *Silah* and the Balkans in 1909-1912 of the Second Constitutional Era

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Abstract: The newspaper *Silah* [Arms] started publication in Thessaloniki in 1909 and was issued by Hasan Tahsin, who was referred to as the *Silahçı* [Armorer] due to the newspaper's name. The newspaper continued to be published until 1912 through the freedom of the press brought by the Second Constitutional Era. It also became an influential media organ among the people. The newspaper *Silah* was closely interested in the political events of the period. The Committee of Union and Progress also had an important place in the Thessaloniki press due to its closeness to society. In its early days, the newspaper *Silah* stood out as a newspaper for soldiers, in which military information was shared. In any case, Hasan Tahsin left his military service and started his press activities. With his closeness to the Committee of Union and Progress, however, he later on became very interested in the political events of the period. In this political environment, the newspaper also featured the situation in the Balkans, with Macedonia being found among the very first issues A series of articles was also written about the Balkans. In addition, the newspaper contained extensive information and news about the events developing in the Balkans. The newspaper had the policy of covering the gangs that developed in the Balkans events, as well as the relations between Balkan and European states, and other political events. The newspaper *Silah* walked a firm line and did not shy away from the events, fights, and struggles in the Balkans. *Silah* appeared to have been successful at raising awareness and encouraging the public The newspaper also included news about other regions besides the Balkans, with the common point seen in the news being the protection of the unity and integrity of the homeland. With the news that all kinds of activities for this purpose would not be delayed, *Silah* had chosen how to raise its readers' awareness by covering the developments in the Balkans. This is seen to have had an important place in terms of giving information about events.

Keywords: *Silah* newspaper, Hasan Tahsin, Balkans, Macedonia, Crete
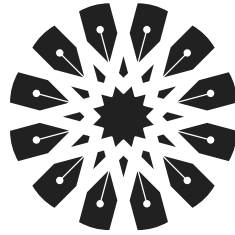
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Problems in Balkan Countries' Accession to the European Union

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Abstract: This article deals with the set of problems that enable the Balkans to be positioned in the context of pan-European development, primarily the so-called unlimited expansion of the European Union, entry into which is the goal of the post-socialist countries of the Balkan region and Southeastern Europe. Currently, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the post-Yugoslav states of Slovenia and Croatia, have become full members of the EU. Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Albania are still at various stages of the process of joining the European Union. Accession to the EU is the logical conclusion of the social, political, economic, and legal transformation of the Balkan countries, as both they and the EU as a whole, as well as its individual states, are interested in this for geopolitical and geoeconomic reasons. The Balkan states have histories associated with an authoritarian socialist past, and thus their the accession to the European Union (or return to Europe) includes not only the reform of their economic and political systems, but also a change in their value orientations. Nevertheless, while a Western European corporate civic identity has formed in the founding countries of the EU, the basis of public consciousness is still largely ethnic identity in the countries of the former Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Keywords: European Union, Southeast Europe, Balkans, identity, geopolitics, geoeconomics, foreign politics

Why Albania Does Not Need A Sex Offender Registry

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Abstract: In June 2020, the case of a 15-year-old girl who had been raped, blackmailed, and used for pornographic material for years by a school guard and three boys from her neighborhood in the suburbs of Tirana sparked wide popular protests. The online petition for a national sex offender registry at change.org received over 40,000 signatures, while the physical petition received over 20,000 signatures. Civil society took the momentum and started two parallel movements for approving the legal basis for a sex offender registry in Albania. Two draft bills were presented: one non-public registry that imposed movement and employment restrictions and one public registry. Faced with two different draft bills, the Parliament merged them into one legislative procedure. On July 21, 2022, the Parliament adopted the Law on the Sex Offender Registry, which was based primarily on the first draft. As of the time of this article, the registry has not yet been created. This paper aims to examine the proposed draft bills, the legislative procedures that were followed, and the approved law for establishing a sex offender registry in Albania as a criminal policy measure, as well as the likelihood of its effectiveness at preventing sex crimes in Albania. To be able to make this analysis and draw conclusions, the paper has been structured in three parts. The first part covers the historical background and will analyze the various models for sex offender registrations, the rationale behind them, and how they function regarding the respective legal traditions. The second part is a critique of the existing models for sex offender registries. The review will include the literature and research on the effects registries have on crime levels, as well as privacy concerns, concerns related to juvenile offenders, and other criticism directed at sex offender registries. The third section entails an analysis of the two draft laws that were proposed in Albania, as well as an analysis of the adopted law. In addition

to the general discussion on the effectiveness of various models and the applicable EU and ECHR framework, I will also look into the adopted law's compatibility with Albania's constitutional framework. I will also use historical documents to discuss the legislative intention and analyze the impact the chosen legislative process has regarding the contents of the adopted law.

Children's Right to Religion and Religious Education

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Abstract: Children's rights include the right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, an adequate standard of living, and protection from abuse and harm. Children's rights cover their developmental and age-appropriate needs that change over time as a child grows up. Four general principles are found that underpin all children's rights: non-discrimination, best interests of the child, the right to survival and development, and the views of the child.[1] Meanwhile, education is not always viewed as a children's rights issue. At the same time, despite education is recognized in numerous international treaties as more than just an issue for children but a matter of social importance that ties in with a country's need for an educated population and workforce. In that respect at least, how education is organized more generally as well as with respect to religious freedom is important to everyone. The right to education is one of the oldest rights in international law and among the most widely protected.[2] In Kosovo, the right to the best interests of the child also includes the right to religion and religious education. Rather than freedom from religion, descriptions are found for freedom for religion. Everyone, including children, has the right to choose the religion that suits them and theirs. This right includes freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The access to religious education must be seen as a human right, specifically connected to the rights of children and as described in UN conventions, the EU Charter, and the Kosovo Constitution. This

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1   https://www.childrensrights.ie/childrens-rights-ireland/childrens-rights-ireland

2   https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/download/pdf/kilkelly_religion_and_education_a_childrens_rights_perspective.pdf

paper will analyze the manifestation of children's rights as well as children's rights regarding religious education in European Countries and the Balkans, with the focus on Kosovo and according to the law on religious freedom, societal practices, and the religious communities in Kosovo.

Keywords: Children's rights, religious education, freedom of religion and belief, non-discrimination, the law on religious freedom, religious communities

The Impact of Brain Drain on Education in Croatia

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Abstract: The global phenomenon known as brain drain has impacted numerous nations, including Croatia. A nation's educational system can be significantly impacted by the departure of highly educated and competent people. Croatia is a small Southeast European country that has experienced a severe brain drain since the 1990s, with many of its educated inhabitants leaving the country in search of better prospects elsewhere. Since Croatia's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the country's educational system has undergone substantial changes. With fewer experienced instructors remaining in the country, the burden on those who remain has greatly increased. Furthermore, the departure of highly qualified persons has resulted in a decrease in the number of students seeking higher education in the country, which has had long-term economic ramifications. This has significantly impacted the quality of education in Croatia, especially in terms of the availability of skilled instructors and researchers, research funding, and the creation of cutting-edge educational techniques. The nation has made significant investments in education, particularly in the growth of its higher education system. Nonetheless, the brain drain issue has had an impact on the nation's educational system due to the number of educated and skilled people who have left the nation in quest of better prospects overseas. The importance of this study rests in its potential to illuminate the basic reasons for Croatia's brain drain and its effects on Croatia's educational system. This study also aims to shed light on alternative solutions to the brain drain problem and its detrimental impact on education in Croatia.

Keywords: brain drain, education, Croatia, higher education, migration

Why is the Town of Kamenica in Kosovo Significantly More Peaceful than the Rest of Kosovo in Terms of Interethnic Relations?

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Abstract: Unlike many other places in Kosovo, the town of Kamenica is unique for its seemingly healthy interethnic relations between the Albanians and Serbs living there. For example, Kamenica is almost never mentioned among the frequent media reports on interethnic conflicts in Kosovo, unlike the towns in the north of Kosovo. The main goal of this paper is to investigate which factors affect the quality of interethnic relations in Kamenica, with geographical, geopolitical, demographic, economic, sociopolitical, and historical factors having been explored. The study attempts to answer the following questions: Does Kamenica have good interethnic relations because of the overall natural aspiration of the locals to live in peace and harmony, or are other factors present that affect locals' peaceful coexistence? Is the lack of interethnic tensions, when and if they occur, resolved by specific economic measures such as new jobs? Are interethnic tensions being covered in order to have the image of Kamenica's good interethnic relations and being a peaceful place attract economic investments? From a theoretical viewpoint, the results of this research will contribute to the theory of peacebuilding and peace studies. The study builds on the extensive field work conducted in Kamenica in 2021 and 2022, namely archive analyses, media reports, and interviews.

Keywords: Kamenica, Kosovo, post-conflict society, interethnic relations, peacebuilding

On the Centennial of the Treaty of Lausanne and Other Bilateral Treaties on the Protection of Minority Rights: The Case of the Balkans

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Abstract: What are the determinants that shape the accommodation and/or exclusion of national minorities in their home-states? Are they determined by bilateral laws? Can external powers play an important role in increasing the protection of their rights? After World War I, minorities and the protection of their collective rights came to the fore, with these principles having since been added to both bilateral and international agreements. For Türkiye and Greece, which were both established on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, the provisions concerning the protection of national minority rights were included in the Treaty of Lausanne signed in 1923. Bulgaria and Türkiye signed Friendship and Cooperation Agreement in 1925, which guaranteed the rights of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Since then, however, these articles have been violated by the home states with minimal international review. The end of the Cold War brought the minority issue and identity politics back to the agenda with newly erupted ethnic conflicts, with the Council of Europe's (1992) Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities emphasizing their importance. Today, laws and organizations are still limited at protecting the cultural and physical continuation of minorities. When considering their relatively small population, especially in terms of the elderly and their proximate relations, these group became the most threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne's signing, this paper aims to map the conditions regarding accommodation versus exclusion for the national minorities in five Balkan countries (i.e., Greece, Türkiye, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Albania) in order to display the influence of bilateral treaties, with the belief that this will help highlight a model for the future. The study shows the conditions of minorities to be closely related to the historical agreement in which their rights were recognized,

the existence of a cognate country, the bilateral relations between these countries, and the EU membership process. While only religious minorities are recognized in Türkiye, Greece, and Bulgaria based on the Treaty of Lausanne, North Macedonia and Albania also grant wider minority status to different ethnic groups.

Extremism That Leads to Terrorism and Its Social Consequences: The Case of Kosovo

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Abstract: Extremism and radicalization can happen in many ways, and importance is had in defining and understanding their different types. Radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism are complex phenomena that do not occur in a vacuum. According to the European Union Commission (2008, p. 32), "The fight against terrorism is one of the greatest challenges the Union is facing today." Terrorist organizations tap into real or perceived political, economic, social, cultural, and historical grievances to recruit followers. Meanwhile, Kosovo has the highest number of foreign fighters per capita in Europe, and as such has been and continues to be very affected by this phenomenon. This article aims to analyze the phenomenon of extremism in Kosovo, the participation of Kosovars in foreign wars, and how social war can potentially bring about such a phenomenon. The study will also elaborate on the social consequences related to reintegration, education, and employment. The article will also address the state's strategy against terrorism, as well as the social connection in the fight against this phenomenon. While the government mechanisms for preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in Kosovo work on P/CVE issues, they should collaborate more actively with faith and community leaders with regard to deradicalization campaigns.

Keywords: extremism, terrorism, social consequences, Kosovo

The Transformation of Bulgarian-Russian Relations in the Post-Communist Era: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis

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Abstract: Within the framework of the realist approach, power changes in world politics generally occur as a result of great wars . In line with these power changes, the Balkan states are seen to have followed policies along the axis of security. Small states generally follow a policy in line with the central policies of a great power in the international system while executing their foreign policies. During the Cold War, the Communist Party and ideology were the main factors determining the relations between the USSR and Bulgaria.. This situation not only facilitated the execution of foreign policy, but also contributed to the system of alliances that formed within the international system. The systemic effects that took place after the Cold War, the changes in Bulgarian domestic policy, and the emergence of new leaders have placed Bulgarian-Russian relations on a new level. This study will use neoclassical Realist theory to discuss the change in Russian-Bulgarian relations in the context of leaders, as well as internal and external factors. While the changes that occurred in the international system after the Cold War caused the disintegration of the USSR, Bulgaria's foreign policy as a satellite state led to a structural change. This process of change and transformation has not only remained in a systemic dimension but has also affected the internal political structures of the states and their leaders' profiles. Moving away from the influence of Russia, Bulgaria has drawn a new foreign policy framework with the EU and NATO membership processes. These changes that took place in the post-communist process have been a turning point in Russian-Bulgarian relations, with Russia, the closest ally of Bulgaria historically, having lost its decisive power over the Balkans and Bulgaria.

**Keywords:** foreign policy, internal factors, leaders, Bulgaria, Russia

Implications of the Sociopolitical Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Turkish Aspirations in the Country

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Abstract: The constitutional arrangement, highly fragmented political situation, complex legal framework, divided society and other issues that mark the sociopolitical situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have affected the space for Turkish aspirations and involvement in this country. Due to these two states having a centuries-long mutual history, the Republic of Türkiye has been an important partner and investor in BiH, as well as its supporter in the Euro-Atlantic Integration path and post-conflict recovery period. This paper analyzes the fluctuations in Turkish engagement through state and private capital that have arisen as a consequence of internal conditions in BiH from the early 1990s until 2023, using a mixed methodological approach of collecting and analyzing quantitative data followed up by further explanation using qualitative data collection and analytical methods. The results show that, although BiH has made some improvements in its legal framework and financial contributions for interested investors, its negative and insecure sociopolitical environment has been repulsive to outside influences. Despite certain systemic obstructions, numerous possibilities still exist for deepening Bosnian-Turkish cooperation. This is because the anomalies in the Dayton Agreement do not prevent the development of cooperation between the two countries' private sectors, local communities from greater cooperation, NGOs from working on joint projects, or further investments in tourism. While these sectors have freedom and space in terms of interstate cooperation, their issue lies in the lack and breadth of vision.

Keywords: Türkiye and the Balkans, constitution, society, cooperation, investments
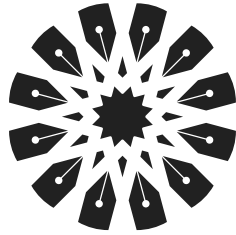
ECONOMICS

The Political Economy of the Investment Climate in the Balkan Countries: The Transformation of Economic and Social Institutions

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Abstract: This study investigates the reasons why foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the West Balkan transition economies (WB-6: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia), which have experienced a radical economic transformation after the Cold War, remain below their potential. The WB-6 countries have followed a strategy that will provide cost, time, and geographical advantages to multinational enterprises in order to increase FDI inflows, which is the most important source of external financing for development and contributes significantly to the level of technology, production knowledge, and quality of human capital. This economic/fiscal-based approach, which involves such things as tax holidays, tariff reductions, and salary subsidies, puts significant pressure on public revenues while also risking the reform agenda for improving institutional quality being put on the back burner by favoring preferential policies in regulations. This is because European Union member Balkan countries gain a competitive advantage over WB-6 countries by pursuing agendas such as transparency, quality of regulations, rule of law, and control of corruption, as these improve institutional quality, build confidence among economic actors, and contribute to a stable investment environment in the long run. Therefore, although each of these states has their own conditions, the need has been argued for focusing on public sector reforms in accordance with the principle of transparency and in a balanced manner in order to maintain some of the fiscal and financial advantages WB-6 countries have within a paradigm not subject to regional competition and more importantly to improve the business and investment environment by making and implementing regulations for the transformation of social and economic institutions in order to reach the full potential for FDI inflows.

Keywords: Balkan countries, foreign direct investment, investment climate, institutions, institutional transformation

Globalization's Impact on Balkan Economies: Opportunities and Risks

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Abstract: The role of Globalization has served as a transformative force in the 21st century by shaping economies, society, and culture around the world. Globalization is believed to have brought about unprecedented opportunities regarding economic growth, innovation, and development, while also exposing nations to new form of risks and challenges. Thus, globalization has had a profound impact on their economic landscape by reshaping markets, industries, and trade patterns in the Balkans region, which has had a complex history and diverse cultural heritage. Globalization has brought both benefits and challenges to the Balkans. On one hand, it has made room for new markets, increased trade and investments, and stimulated economic growth, while on the other, it has exposed the region to greater competition, volatility, and external shocks, making it more vulnerable to economic downturns and financial crises. The findings reveal the role of globalization to have created new opportunities for Balkan economies such as increased trade and foreign investment but to negatively pose significant risks such as rising inequality, environmental degradation, and social dislocation. The study concludes by recommending that more comprehensive and coordinated efforts are needed to address the challenges globalization poses to the Balkans in order to ensure a more equitable and sustainable economic future for the region.

Keywords: Balkan economies, globalization, financial crises, regional cooperation, economic growth and challenges

Emigration's Impact on Education in Albania

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Abstract: Emigration is a global phenomenon that has affected nations all over the world. Over the years and centuries, Albanians have emigrated to other parts of the Balkans and abroad in search of better economic opportunities, stabler governments, and greater security. One of the earliest migratory patterns in Albania can be traced back to the Ottoman Empire, which spanned from the 15th through the early 20th centuries. As part of the empire's expansion, Albanians traveled to various parts of the Ottoman Empire during this period, mainly to the Balkans and Anatolia. These emigrations resulted in the creation of significant Albanian diaspora communities in regions such as Kosovo, Macedonia, and Türkiye. However, the largest emigration wave occurred from Albania during a period of social turmoil, political unrest, and economic instability after the fall of communism in 1991. Both the quality of education in Albania as well as the educational prospects for emigrants have been significantly impacted by migration. Around 41,000 emigrants, or 1.5% of the total population, were counted in the 2011 Albanian Census. Recent years have seen a rise in immigration, which can be attributed to the political and economic unrest in nearby nations as well as Albania's promise of higher living standards. The study's findings will provide vital insights into the impact of emigration on education in Albania and will enlighten policymakers on how to offset emigration's detrimental effects on the country's education system.

Keywords: Albania, brain drain, education, migration, quality of education

Remote Work's Impact on Job Satisfaction: The Case of Kosovo

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Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many distortions and transformed modern organizations' ability to operate in difficult situations. The practices of working from home and hybrid work are highly present in different industries today, especially those focused on technology and customer service. In the post-pandemic era, the current debate among scholars and industry experts has been focused on the impact remote working has on employee job satisfaction, organizational success, employees' willingness to return to an office workplace, and the future of work environments by considering recent developments. This paper aims to identify the relationship remote work has with job satisfaction. In other words, the study examines the influence remote working has on employee satisfaction. The study will collect data through online questionnaires from 120 employees in Kosovo who mainly work in the information and communications technology (ICT), marketing, and customer service sectors and who have worked remotely for at least a year in order to analyze their job satisfaction. Despite the presence of remote work in different sectors, the number of studies on remote work's impact on employee job satisfaction in Kosovo is limited. In addition, this study can serve as a reference for organizations that operate in similar industries in Kosovo for identifying the impact remote work has on employee job satisfaction, understanding employees' challenges related to remote working, and building strategic human resource management plans that influence employee performance, turnover, and retention, as well as organizations' strategic plans.

**Keywords:** remote work, job satisfaction, Kosovo

Research on Doctorate Studies About Careers in Türkiye

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Abstract: The concept of careers has an important place in people's lives and has been the subject of many scientific studies. In this context, the aim of the study is to make a descriptive analysis of doctoral dissertations in Türkiye related to the field of careers and to determine the changes and orientations of the relevant contents over time. In addition, the study aims to provide information to researchers who plan to conduct research in this field. The study uses the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education as a data collection tool. The research identified 146 doctoral dissertations that had been published in the Thesis Center of the Presidency of Higher Education of Türkiye between 1995-2022 and that had the word "career" in the title; of these, 138 were included within the scope of the research. Due to no available permissions for the other eight dissertations, they were excluded from the study. As a result of detailed examination, six studies were determined to be outside the relevant field; thus, the remaining 132 dissertations were included in the analysis. The study classified the dissertations based on publication year, publishing university, related department, title of the thesis advisor, article language, number of pages, methods used, and findings. According to the results of the research, most dissertations were conducted in the fields of business administration and education. These dissertations were mostly published at Gazi University. In addition, these published dissertations mostly occurred in branches affiliated with the social sciences institute and had mostly been written under the department of business administration. The number of dissertations published in Turkish was higher than the number published in other languages. Meanwhile, the average number of pages in the dissertations is 215, with quantitative research methods having been preferred more and the sample groups more commonly being formed of employees in a business. The dissertations also mostly focused on the topics of career compatibility, career decision making competence, and organizational commitment.

Keywords: career, bibliometric analysis, doctoral dissertation analysis
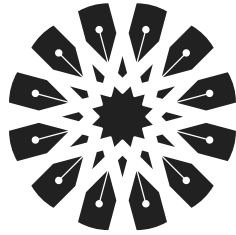
LITERATURE

Turkish Literature in the Albanian Periodicals of the 1930s

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Abstract: The 1920s and 1930s were years of radical transformations for both Türkiye and Albania. Türkiye, once the great Ottoman Empire, had lost much of its glory at the end of World War I and was in a very difficult existential position. While it managed to rise, develop, and flourish thanks to the love, sacrifice, brilliant mind, and strength of a statesman like Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Albania had experienced its European flowering thanks to Albanian intellectuals until the shadow of the communist regime covered it from 1945-1991. The object of this paper is the period of the formation of the Republic of Türkiye and its renaissance under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as having a certain cultural and mental atmosphere, and more specifically the position that Turkish literature inherited and that would be translated into the Albanian periodicals of the 1930s. The article will focus only on one great Albanian figure, Branko Merxhani, who occupies a very important and unique place for the culture and history of the Albanian press. As a publicist, sociologist, critic, literary critic, writer, thinker, and therefore a pure intellectual, Merxhani had great admiration for what was happening in the Turkish Republic in the 1930s; he especially adored the father of modern Türkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Merxhani continuously conveyed writings about Türkiye, Atatürk, and modern Turkish literature to Albanians during those years, guiding Albanian readers toward obtaining the truths and beauty hidden inside the metaphoric language Turkish poets knew how to build, a language full of meditation and aesthetics.

Keywords: Turkish literature, Albanian retrospective periodicals, Branko Merxhani, modern literature, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

National Identity in Ömer Seyfettin's *Memoirs* of the Balkan Wars

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Abstract: In this study, the correlation between the dynamics of war and the psychology of defeat and the construction of national identity will be made visible through Ömer Seyfettin's *Balkan Harbı Hatıraları* [Memoirs of the Balkan Wars]. The article will discuss the visibility of the issue of constructing a national identity in Benedict Anderson's (1983) book *Imaginary Communities* will be discussed with regard to Ömer Seyfettin's other texts and stories, especially his *Memoirs of the Balkan Wars*. In addition, the study will attempt to explain the relationship between the psychology of defeat and the construction of a national identity by referencing Eyal Ginio's (2016) book *The Ottoman Culture of Defeat*. Finally, the study will convey the traumatic effect the loss of the Balkans and of the imperial symbol as a land in the West had on Ottoman intellectuals, specifically on Ömer Seyfettin. The study will examine the *New Language Manifesto* regarding the extent to which these dynamics are related to the Ottoman Empire's psychology of defeat and the trauma of its dissolution and reveal the late nationalization process based on the works of Ömer Seyfettin.

Keywords: nations, nationalism, war, military service, defeat

The Concept of Self in Milazim Krasniqi's Literary Works

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Abstract: Milazim Krasniqi is a writer from Kosovo whose literary works cover all genres and revolve around the concept of self. Seen from the perspective of Islamic teachings, the author argues the reclaiming of the self to only be possible by primarily adhering to Islamic teachings and the opposite. Throughout his works, he supports this paradigm by means of Quranic verses, meditation, and stories around modern man. In addition, he also introduces Quranic allusions and forms of worship. In this research paper, I will explore the concept of self in all of Krasniqi's literary works, be they poetry, novels, or plays. As the object of study, I will address Krasniqi's *Reclaiming the Self*" from his poetry collections, *The Photographs of Memories* from his novels, and *The Frost of Death* from his plays. I will also explore the subsequent topics that emerge from the concept of self. Hence, the study shall explore the concepts of trial, loss of meaning, loneliness, self-alienation, fear, and change. By exploring these topics, I will also endeavor to shed light on the events that actualize and strengthen the concept of self, as well as which events actually weaken or threaten the self. The hypothesis suggests that the concept of self in the works of Milazim Krasniqi as observed from a psychoanalytical as well as Islamic perspective is always drawn between fragmentation and wholeness. The research employs a psychoanalytical criticism as its working methodology.

Keywords: self, meaning, alienation, Islam, loneliness, fear, identity, poetry, plays, novel, psychoanalytical criticism

History of Teaching Turkish in Balkan Turkology Centres

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Abstract: Turkish has always been a matter of curiosity and need outside the borders of the Republic of Türkiye. Turkology investigates Turkishness, the Turkish language and its dialects, as well as Turkish culture, civilization, and history and started to develop as a discipline in 19th-century Europe before quickly gaining prevalence. The study of Turkish as a scientific language in the Balkan geography started after the Ottoman Empire had withdrawn from these lands. The first Turkology center in the Balkan geography was established at the University of Belgrade, and the primary purpose behind its establishment was Serbs' need to know Turkish in order to be able to understand their own language and culture. After Belgrade, Turcology centers were opened in other Balkan cities such as Sarajevo and Skopje, with various studies also being carried out. This study aims to reveal the establishment and historical development of Turkology chairs as a branch of science in central Balkan countries. Alongside the Turkology centers, the study also discusses the history of teaching Turkish as a foreign language in this region by using the qualitative research method of document analysis. Based on the obtained data, two main reasons are seen to have emerged for Turkology studies to begin in central Balkan countries. The first has been concluded as the need for the Turkish language to carry out more detailed studies on their language and culture and the second to be the existence of the indigenous Turkish people living in North Macedonia and Kosovo.

Keywords: central Balkan countries, Balkan Turkology centres, teaching Turkish as a foreign language in the Balkans, Turkology
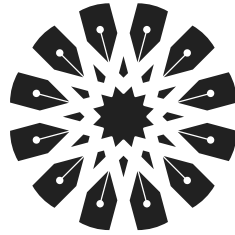
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Terms of Othering Toward Muslims in Balkan Media

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Abstract: Othering in the media refers to the depiction of individuals or groups perceived as being different or as the "other" in some way (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability). This depiction can take many forms, including stereotypical representations, underrepresentation, or outright omission. Othering in the media can also include portraits of people from different cultures, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, or regions. These representations can be positive or negative and are influenced by factors such as the personal biases of the media creators, the target audience, and the broader cultural and political context. Underrepresenting, stereotyping, or negatively portraying groups who are otherized can reinforce harmful societal attitudes and contribute to discrimination and prejudice. Religious otherization in the media refers to the portrayal of people or groups who are perceived as different or "other" because of their religious beliefs and practices. Islamic religious othering refers to the negative or stereotypical portrayal of Islam and Muslims in the media. This can include portraying Muslims as terrorists or extremists, as well as portraying Islamic culture and practices as reactionary or oppressive. This type of representation is one form of Islamophobia and can have a significant impact on how society perceives and treats Muslims. The Western Balkans is a region characterized by a complex religious and ethnic landscape where multiple religious traditions coexist. In the Western Balkans, religious otherness in the media can take many forms, including stereotypical representations, underrepresentation, or complete disregard for certain religious groups. This may be due to the lack of diversity in the media industry, as well as the personal biases of the media creators.

Keywords: media, othering, religious othering, Balkans, terms

The Effective Risk Communication in Public Health Emergencies

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Abstract: Potential public health emergencies caused by a disease, toxin, or attacks can occur and affect populations at the national and/or global level. The consequences of these crises impact the health, wellbeing, and socioeconomic status of communities. Risk communication is a crucial process in public health that involves several actors, from government institutions to media. Each stakeholder plays an important role in addressing misinformation to the population, informing their health decisions, and contributing to reducing exposure, and mitigating risk. The aim of this research is to analyze the actions specific government and non-government actors take during public health emergencies. The methods used for data collection include reviewing different resources, reports, and guidelines that provide instructions on how to communicate uncertainties and risk to public audiences, as well as at-risk communities and stakeholders. The analysis has been conducted over a chronological timeline of events by considering the early recognition of a crisis, monitoring the process of communication, and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions. Risk communication utilizes multidisciplinary teams and various stakeholders in the policy-making process. Community engagement is an effective approach for amplifying intended outcomes regarding preparedness and response activities. Initiatives that develop and increase the risk communication capacity are needed at national and local levels in order to leverage the best practices and reflect the lessons that have been learned from the past as well as from ongoing public health emergencies.

Keywords: Public health, risk, emergency, communication, community

Africa and the Balkan Region: A Comparative Case study on New Media in Nigeria and Türkiye

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Abstract: The system of media outlets has inevitably changed from print to the Internet and mobile platforms in all regions of the world. New media can be defined as the disparate form of communication technologies that share certain features, that have been made possible by digitalization, and that are widely available for personal use on communication devices. Though the media market has experienced rapid progress in all regions, this paper conducts a comparative analysis between Nigeria as a developing country and Türkiye as a developed country of the Balkans. The study compares these two countries in terms of their new media and digital cultures. The study uses a systematic comparison method to compare these two countries, showing digital culture to have experienced more rapid progress in Türkiye, while some challenges have been highlighted regarding Nigeria's digital media space. The cross-comparative study displays evidence that this paper can be used for more in-depth qualitative and quantitative studies between Nigeria and Türkiye. Therefore, future researchers can build upon the study to improve new media acceptance and adaptation in Nigeria based on the differences in the practices between the two countries.

Keywords: media, Africa, Balkans, comparative, digital, Nigeria

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