6. International Balkan Studies CONGRESS

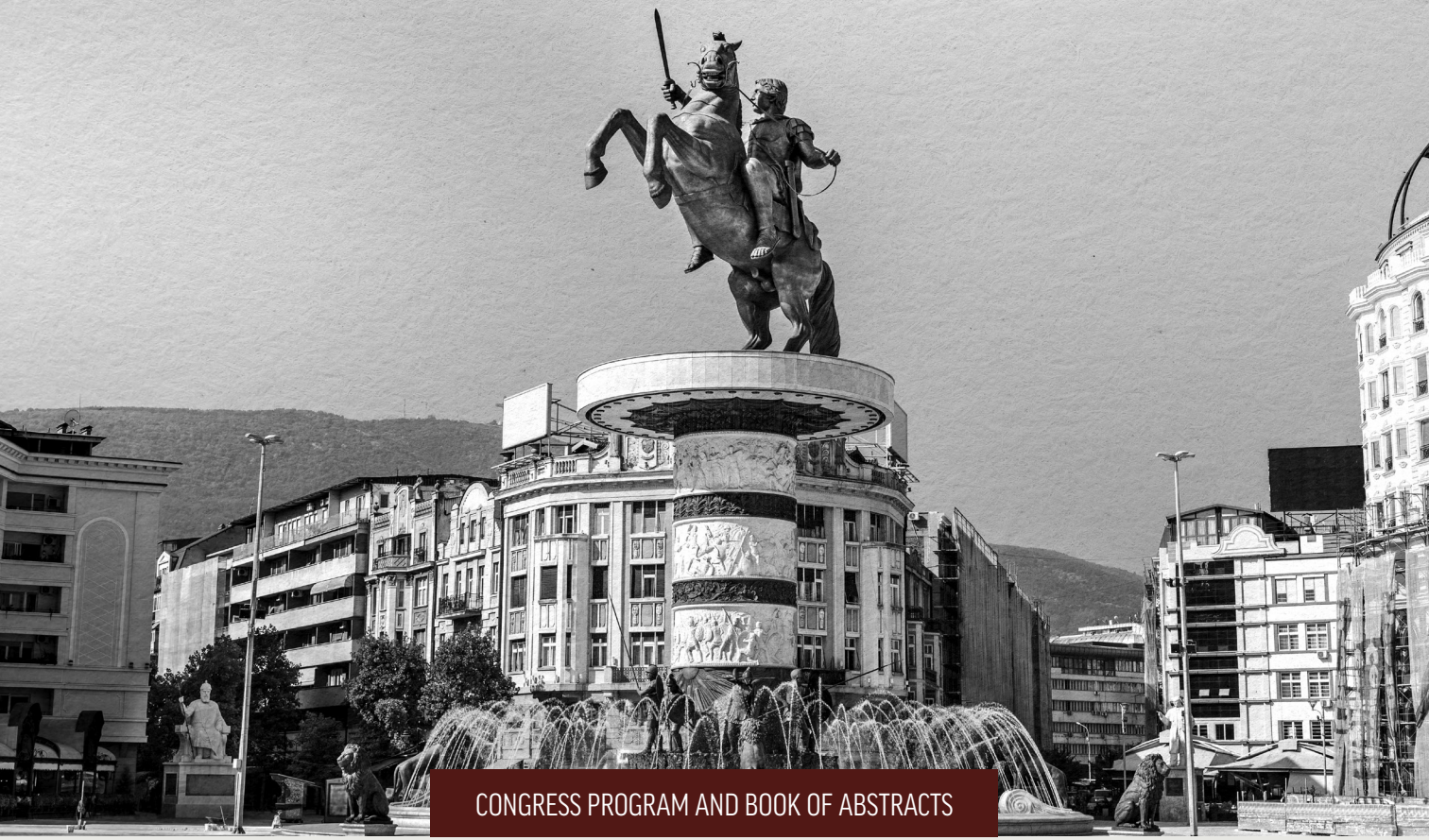
Меѓународен Конгрес за Балкански Студии

Uluslararası Balkan Çalışmaları Kongresi

Kongresi Ndërkombëtar për Studime Ballkanike

9-11 October 2026

Skopje, North Macedonia



CONGRESS PROGRAM AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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PROGRAM / BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

6TH INTERNATIONAL BALKAN STUDIES CONGRESS

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BSF BALKAN STUDIES FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOREWORD

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

The 6th International Balkan Studies Congress, scheduled for October 9-11 at Balkan Studies Foundation in Skopje, North Macedonia, convenes researchers from diverse disciplines to engage in a comprehensive exploration of the Balkan region's complexities. This book of abstracts presents the scholarly contributions that will be discussed during the congress, encompassing a broad spectrum of topics within Balkan studies.

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

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

CONGRESS PROGRAM

9 October 2026, Friday | Yunus Emre Institute-Skopje	
14:30-15:00	Opening Speeches
15:00-16:15	Opening Panel
16:30-17:45	Session I
18:00-19:30	Session II
10 October 2026, Saturday | Balkan Studies Foundation	
09:00-19:15	Sessions III-XV

6TH INTERNATIONAL BALKAN STUDIES CONGRESS, 09-11 OCTOBER 2026, SKOPJE-NORTH MACEDONIA

Opening Speeches, 9 October 9, 2026, 14:30-15:00, Yunus Emre Institute-Skopje

Opening Panel: Biography in Balkans, Chariman of Session: Assist. Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Kaşıkçı, 09 October 2026, Friday 15:00-16:15, Yunus Emre Institute-Skopje, HALL A

Rukiye Kaymakçı	Tercümeihâl-i Resmîden Tercümeihâl-i Hususiye: Hersekli Ârif Hikmet Bey (1839-1903) Üzerinden Kemâlü'l-Biyografi	History	Türkiye
Dilruba Kocaışık	Hazim Bey'in Manastır Valiliği ve Makedonya Meselesi Bağlamında Islahat Tasavvuru (1903-1906)	History	Türkiye
Dr. Kübra Tolak	Manastır'dan Şam'a: Mehmed Nazif Paşa'nın Balkanlardaki İdari Tecrübesi	History	Türkiye
Özge Kahya	Bir Meşrutiyet Âliminin Rumeli Sahnesi: Manastırlı İsmail Hakkı Efendi'nin Biyografisinde Kosova Sahrası Mev'izası	History	Türkiye

I SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Prof. Dr. Gülfettin Çelik, 09 October 2026, Friday 16:30-17:45, Yunus Emre Institute-Skopje, HALL A			
Anıl Göç	1876 Bulgar İsyanına Dair Blacque Bey ve Youvantcho Efendi'nin Tahkikat Raporu	History	Türkiye
Günay Kayarlar	1876 Bulgar İsyanı'nın Avrupa'daki Yankıları ve Walter Baring'in Raporu	History	Türkiye
Yağmur Sedef	Eşkiyalığın Toplumsal Algısı: Bulgaristan'da "Korku" ve "Kahramanlık" Arasında	History	Türkiye
Assist. Prof. Dr. Fırat Küskü	Balkanlarda Cülûs Kutlamaları (1876–1909)	History	Türkiye
II SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Assist. Prof. Dr. Sevba Abdula , 09 October 2026, Friday 18:00-19:30, Yunus Emre Institute-Skopje, HALL A			
Dr. Nalan Karaöz	İhtida ve İktidar: İşkodra'dan Kalkandelen'e Koca Receb Paşa Hanedanının Ayanlık Serüveni	History	Kosovo
Esra Kıraç	Bulgar Milli Kimliği ve Osmanlı Bürokratik Kimliği Arasında Kalan Bir Şahsiyet: Dimitraki Pandorof Efendi	History	Türkiye
Alper Kağan Kıraç	Tiranlı Bayram Duka: Bir Arnavut İhtidâsının Serencâmı (?-1723)	History	Türkiye
Eren Atala Eriş	Üsküp Fatihi Paşa Yiğit Mehmed Bey ve Rumeli'de Serhad Düzeninin Teşekkülü	History	Türkiye

III SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Dr. Özlem Yılmaz, 10 October 2026, Saturday 09:00-10:15, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL A			
Dr. Ayşenur Erdoğan	Kilit Taşını Yerinden Oynatmak: Yeniçeri Ocağı'nın Kaldırılmasının Balkanlara Yansıması	History	Türkiye
Dr. İsmail Yurdakurban	Hacı Adil Bey Riyasetindeki Islahat Heyeti'nin Rumeli'deki Faaliyetleri	History	Türkiye
Dr. Betül Sezgin	Sosyalizm ve Nizam-ı Kadim: Ahmet Cevdet Paşa'nın Perspektifinden İki Dünyanın Çatışması	Philosophy	Türkiye
IV SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Prof. Dr. Faruk Bal, 10 October 2026, Saturday 09:00-10:15, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL B			
Ahmet Keleş	Osmanlı-Rus harbinde (1768-1774) Filibe Kazası'nın Sefer Organizasyonuna Katkısı	History	Türkiye
Faris Filipović & Meldin Kesetovic	Pan-Islamic Discourse in the Bosnian Periodical Biser (1912-1918)	History	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Hayriye Çelik & Gürsoy Şahin	XIX. Yüzyılın İkinci Yarısında Üsküp ve Çevresinde Avrupalı Araştırmacılar	History	Türkiye

V SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Assist. Prof. Dr. Elmin Aliyev, 10 October 2026, Saturday 10:30-11:45, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL A			
Dr. Nermin Genç	Fotoğraflar Işığında İşkodra Halkının 19. Yüzyıldaki Kıyafet Kültürü	History	Türkiye
Dr. İbrahim Akkurt	Osmanlı Askerî Modernleşmesinde Bir Sanayi Hamlesi: Üsküp Güherçile Fabrikası	History	Türkiye
Dr. Yunus Emre Aydın	Dönemin Rus Askeri Savaş Tarihi Yazarı Mihailovski-Danilevski'ye Göre 1829 Edirne Antlaşması	History	Türkiye
Mehmet Çetinkaya	Kırım Tatarlarının Balkanlara Sevki ve İskânı (1860-1862): Osmanlı Devleti'nin Göç Yönetimi	History	Türkiye
VI SESSION: Economy-History, Chariman of Session: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bujamin Bela, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 10:30-11:45, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL B			
Dr. Ramazan Fetahu	Fılozofia Islame DHE Formësimi i Vetëdijes Qytetërimore Shqiptare	Islamic Studies	Kosovo
Dr. Lum Çollaku	The Impact Of Remittances On Consumptıon and Investment in Kosovo	Economy	Kosovo
Rexhail Mustafi	Islamic Fınance in The Balkans and Its Affect By Non-Economic Factors	Economy	North Macedonia
Damjan Buzarovski	Temporary Labour Migration (Pečalba/Gurbet) From Ottoman Macedonia Across The Ottoman Empire	History	North Macedonia

VII SESSION: History, Chariman of Session: Dr. Nalan Karaöz, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 12:00-13:15, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL A			
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Uygur	Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda Fransa'nın Balkanlar'daki Askerî Varlığı: Selanik Cephesi Üzerinden Güç ve Nüfuz Analizi	History	Türkiye
Dr. Şule İyigönül Atasağun	Saraybosna Terekelerinde Kadın: Gündelik Hayat, Maddi Kültür ve Cinsiyet Eksenli Servet Analizi (1747-1748)	History	Türkiye
Zehra Kumru	Vidinli Hüseyin Tevfik'in Entelektüel Portresi Bağlamında Mebâhis-i İlmiyye ve Osmanlı Bilim Tarihindeki Yeri	History	Türkiye
Dr. Saadet Demiroğlu	Revisiting Bosnian Sufi Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Bosnia: Location and Function	History	Türkiye
VIII SESSION: Literature-Islamic Studeis , Chariman of Session: Metin Xhelil, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 12:00-13:15, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL B			
Assist. Prof. Dr. Tülay Zıvalı	The Spatial Counterpart of Belonging in Sarajevo: A Retrospective Approach	Architecture	Türkiye
Dr. Belma Adžamija	A Few Observatıons in Support of The Study of The Brusa Bezistan and Its Possible Restoration	Architecture	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Semra Özen	Bağbozumu Şarkıları'nda İmge, Derin Yapı ve Masalsı İzlekler Üzerinden Kültürel Bellek	Literature	Türkiye
Faizulla Toltay	Postkolonyal Şiirde Başka ile Karşılaşma: Çağdaş Makedon Şiirine Levinasvari Bir Okuma	Literature	Kazakhstan

IX SESSION: History-Islamic Studeis, Chariman of Session: Assist, Prof. Dr. Sevba Abdula, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 14:30-15:45, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL A			
Assist. Prof. Dr. Ömer Faruk Can	Governing From Yıldız: The 1900 Skopje Crisis and Hamidian Rule in Ottoman Macedonia	History	Türkiye
Assist. Prof. Dr. Semih Çınar	Üsküp Sancağında 1908 Seçimleri ve Üsküp Mebuslarının Meclis-i Mebusan'daki Faaliyetleri	History	Türkiye
Dr. Yunus Güler	II. Abdülhamid Döneminde Rumeli Demiryollarının Askerî ve İstihbarî İşlevi	History	Türkiye
Samet Yıldız	Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda Osmanlı Rumeli Müfrezesi'nin Makedonya Cephesi'ndeki Faaliyetleri (1916-1918)	History	Türkiye
X SESSION: History-Islamic Studeis, Chariman of Session: Dr. İlhan Süzgün , 10 October 2026, Saturday, 14:30-15:45, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL B			
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zohra Aliyeva	From Baku to the Balkans: The Khalwatiyya Sufi Order in the Religious History of Southeastern Europe	Islamic Studies	Azerbaijan
Dr. Zehra Škrijelj	The Folk Oral Tradition as Part of the Cultural Identıty of the Sacred Structures Built in the Ottoman Period in Novi Pazar	History	Serbia
Jani Koçillari	Venice and Ottoman Expansion in The Region Of Durrës Between The Late Fourteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries	History	Albania

XI SESSION: Politcal Science and International Relations, Chariman of Session: Assist. Prof. Dr. Deniz Memedi, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 16:00-17:15, Balkan Studies Foundation,, HALL A			
Dr. Tuna Kuzucan	Batı Balkanlar'da Dijital Dönüşüm ve Medya Etiği	Communication Studies	Türkiye
Dr. Burçak Kadıoğlu	Dijital Medyada Balkan İmgesi: Youtube Seyahat Videolarında Üsküp Temsili	Comunication Studies	Türkiye
Dr. Tuğba Engin & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zerrin Fırat	Regional Competition Through Digital Nomad Visas: A Comparative Policy Analysis of the Balkan Countries	Communication Studies	Türkiye
XII SESSION: Literature, Chariman of Session: Prof. Dr. Ertuğrul Karakuş, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 16:00-17:15, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL B			
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mümine Çakır	Balkan Şehrengizlerinde Güzeller ve Mesleklerine Dair Karşılaştırmalı Bir İnceleme	Literature	Türkiye
Dr. Farida Seyidova	Mısır-Osmanlı-Balkanlar Kültürel-Coğrafi Hattında Gülşenilik	Literature	Azerbaijan
Dr. Taner Güçlütürk	Kosova Türk Şiirinin Türkçü ve Turancı İki Genç Şairi	Literature	Kosovo
Yağmur Alkır	Bulgaristan Türklerinin Millî Kimliğinin Korunmasında Folklorun İşlevi	Literature	Türkiye

XIII SESSION: Literature, Chariman of Session: Dr. Mümin Ali, 10 October 2026, Saturday, 17:30-18:45, Balkan Studies Foundation, HALL A			
Prof. Dr. Özlem Fedai	Üç Kadın Yazarın Romanlarında Boşnaklarda Tarih, Savaş, Muhacirlik ve Kültürel Bellek	Literature	Türkiye
Prof. Dr. Nesime Ceyhan Akça	Aka Gündüz'ün Yaşamında ve Eserlerinde Balkanlar	Literature	Türkiye
Dr. Elifnur Yıldız Yalçındağ	*Sesler* Dergisi Örneğinde Gostivar'a Ait Halk Edebiyatı Ürünlerinin Dilbilimsel İncelemesi	Literature	Türkiye
Dr. Esra Fahriye Poyraz	Kültürel Mirasın Yeniden İnşası: İstanbul Beylerbeyi Sabancı Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü "Pirpiri Kaftan Projesi"	Literature	Türkiye
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Dr. Mustafa Işık	Bulgaristan'da Hak ve Özgürlükler Hareketi (1990-2024): Etnik Siyaset, Avrupa Entegrasyonu ve Dış Politika	Political Science and International Relations	Türkiye
Busejra Daci	The Influence of European Union Integratıon on the Economic Development of North Macedonia	European Union	North Macedonia
Mehmet Emre Yılmaz	Türkiye's Contributions to (Security) Governance in The Balkans During the 1990s: Bosnian and Kosovo Crises	Political Science and International Relations	Türkiye
Feyza Delibalta	Self-Defence Against Non-State Actors: The Case of Bosnian War	Political Science and International Relations	Türkiye
Şengül İnce	The 'Enlargement Fatigue' Discourse in The European Union's Enlargement Policy	Political Science and International Relations	Türkiye

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Lou Zhenyu	The Polarizatıon Trap: Domestic Veto Players, Win-Set Near-Collapse, and Differentiated Integratıon in Bulgaria's EU Governance	Politics and International Relations	China
Deniz Gürkan	Serbian Monasteries as Economıc Institutions: Wealth, Production and Resilience	History	Serbia
Dr. Ditar Kabashi	Brüksel Müzakereleri Bağlamında Kosova-Sırbistan Arasında Anlaşmaların Uygulanması Sorunu ve Etkileri	Law	Kosovo
Livia Xhaja	The Impact of Ottoman Rule on the Customary Codes of the Balkans	History	Albania
Prof. Dr. Ahmet Koçak	Üsküp Doğumlu Şair ve Yazar Yaşar Nabi Nayır'ın *Varlık* Dergisi ile *Balkanlar ve Türklük ve Değişen Dünyamız* Adlı Eserlerinde Balkanlar İmgesi	Literature	Türkiye
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alparslan Kartal	Osmanlı Devleti'nde Balkanların Entelektüel Entegrasyonu: Huzur Dersleri ve Gümülcineli Ahmed Âsım Efendi Örneği	Islamic Studies	Türkiye
Dr. Selma İpek	2000 Sonrası Türkiye'nin Balkanlara Yönelik Dış Politika Söylemi	Political Science and International Relations	Türkiye
Mr. Samir Sinanović	Migrations as an Instrument of Demographic Transformation: The Case of Muhajirs From the Principality of Serbia in Bosnia (1862–1871)	Sociology	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dr. Mustafa Yılmaz	1876 Bulgar İsyanı Sonrasında Osmanlı Devleti'nin Tahkikat Politikası: Sadullah Bey'in Fevkalade Komisyonu	History	Türkiye

ABSTRACTS

The Contribution of the Plovdiv Region to the Organisation of the Expedition in the Ottoman Russian War (1768-1774)

Ahmet KELEŞ

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Abstract: Plovdiv, the second largest settlement in Bulgaria after Sofia, is one of the most important settlements in the Balkans. Plovdiv, which came under Ottoman rule in the 1360s, was opened to reconstruction and settlement in the first half of the 15th century and became the centre of Rumelia Beylerbeylik. Plovdiv, which became an important centre with its increasing population and revived trade, was also very important in the Ottoman military campaign organisation. After the Treaty of Belgrade, the Ottoman Empire entered a thirty-year period of peace, but in 1768, it went to war with Russia due to the Polish issue. Following the outbreak of war, the Russians defeated the Ottomans at Khotyn, captured Wallachia and Moldavia, and advanced as far as the Danube. In response, the Ottoman Empire took measures to reclaim the region from the Russians, recruiting soldiers from various parts of Rumelia, including Plovdiv. This study examines Plovdiv's contributions to the 1768-1774 war. Supplies, transportation vehicles, soldiers, and ammunition were procured from Plovdiv and transported to the designated locations. Particularly in terms of logistics, Plovdiv played a key role in supplying camels and carts for transportation. Additionally, saltpeter, used in gunpowder production, was sourced from Plovdiv and sent to the Gallipoli Gunpowder Mill.

In this study, the relevant regirters and documents in the Ottoman Archives were used and the function of Plovdiv in terms of its contribution to the organisation of the expedition was tried to be revealed. In addition, another aim of the study is to emphasise the operations carried out in the background of the organisation of the expedition, which is a big work, and how the contribution of a place helps to understand the whole. Plovdiv was one of the most important settlements in the Balkans and became a strategic centre for the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Plovdiv, Russia, Ottoman Empire, Expedition Organisation, Logistics

The Image of the Balkans in the Works of Skopje-Born Poet and Writer Yaşar Nabi Nayır: *Varlık* Magazine, (The Balkans and Turkishness, and Our Changing World)

Prof. Dr. Ahmet KOÇAK

Istanbul Medeniyet University, Literature

Abstract: Yaşar Nabi Nayır (1908-1981), who wrote works in many genres such as poetry, stories and novels in Turkish literature, is also the owner of Varlık magazine, one of the longest-running periodicals. Varlık, which published approximately nine hundred issues from 1933 until his death, has an important place in Turkish literature together with the publishing house of the same name. In addition, Yaşar Nabi is among the founders of the Seven Torches Group, which included important names of the period. As one of the important names of Turkish literature in the Republican period, Nayır attracts attention not only with his literary activities but also with his cultural and intellectual tendencies. His view of the Balkans is closely related to the process of reconstruction of Turkish identity in the post-Ottoman period.

The Balkans are both a historical heritage and an important part of cultural continuity in Nayir's world of thought. The identity transformations in the region with the withdrawal of the Ottoman Empire, the weakening of the Turkish presence and migrations are often addressed with a sense of sadness and loss in his texts. In this respect, the Balkans gain meaning not only as a geographical area but also as a "field of lost civilization".

As a result, in Yaşar Nabi Nayır, the Balkans are a place of memory bearing the traces of the past; Turkism appears as a cultural tool to keep this memory alive. His approach stands out as an identity awareness based on literature and culture, rather than a political ideology. In this study, the vision of the Balkans of Nayır, one of the founders of the Yedi Meşaleciler community and the owner of *Varlık* magazine (1933) and *Varlık* Publishing House (1946), is discussed within the framework of the Balkans image through his works *Balkanlar ve Türklük* (1936) (Balkans and Turkism (1936) and *Değişen Dünyamız* (1973) (Our Changing World (1973) and the publishing ground of these works, *Varlık* magazine.

Keywords: Yaşar Nabi Nayır, *Varlık*, Balkans, Image, Culture

Bajram Duka From Tirana: The Story of an Albanian Convert (?-1723)

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Abstract: History cannot be constructed without the presence of human, time, and space. It is the choices made by rational human beings that bring about historical events. At the end of the 17th century, Bayram Duka was an ordinary Ottoman citizen residing in the town of Tirana. Although he descended from a noble family, he held no official administrative position at the beginning of his career. Despite not being part of the Ottoman military class, he managed to expand his influence as a local Albanian. Over time, he entered into a power struggle with the *sipahis* and *beys* who held authority in the region.

Initially, Bayram's sphere of activity was limited to Akçahisar, Eşim, and Tirana, which were annexed to the Sanjak of Ohrid. He violated the laws by forging seals, *fermans, berats* and *jizya* documents, as well as by minting debased coinage. Having amassed significant wealth through these counterfeiting activities, Bayram was appointed as a *jizyadar* and began collecting the region's taxes. Subsequently, he began to expand his zone of influence across Albania. The Ottoman administration closely monitored Bayram's actions and, despite numerous complaints on various matters, attempted to utilize him in accordance with state interests.

Acknowledging Bayram's influence over the region, the administration supported a controlled increase of his power. In this relationship based on mutual interests, Bayram was expected to recruit soldiers, maintain public order, and collect taxes. Bayram, in turn, sought to validate his influence through titles and administrative posts with the support of the central government. As a result of this interaction, Bayram took possession of the Sanjaks of Kavala and Vize in 1716. In 1718, he was appointed as the *Mutasarrıf* of Ohrid and began to be addressed with the title of Pasha. In 1719, he was assigned to the Sanjak of Shkodra; however, he was dismissed in the same year, and his title of Pasha was revoked the following year. Consequently, Bayram revolted in an attempt to regain his lost prestige. Due to the insurrection he instigated in Tirana and Akçahisar, he was executed in 1723, and his assets were confiscated.

This study examines the life of Bayram Duka. Shedding light on a local figure who engaged in both positive and negative activities in Albania is of great significance for regional history. The study is analyzed within the context of micro-history. The data were predominantly obtained from archival documents and evaluated through a comparative analysis method. Thus, this work contributes to the existing and future research on Albanian and Ottoman history.

Keywords: Bajram Duka, Ottoman, Albania, Tirana, Bandit

The Inspection Report of Blacque Bey and Youvantcho Efendi Concerning the 1876 Bulgarian Uprising

Anıl GÖÇ

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Abstract: Independence of many Balkan nations in the 19th century, began with uprisings against the Ottoman Empire. The uprising that broke out in Plovdiv and its environs in 1876 represents one of the turning points of this era. The insurrection begun on May 2, 1876, in Koprivshtitsa (*Otlukköy*), and rapidly spread throughout the vicinity of Plovdiv. It resulted in the deaths of numerous citizens, regardless of their religion as Muslims or Christians. The uprising followed significantly across European states, particularly in Great Britain, where the events were assumed as a Muslim-Christian conflict and portrayed as a Bulgarian massacre. Prominent figures such as Walter Baring and William Ewart Gladstone disseminated reports of massacres to the British and European public. Due to the Ottoman Empire lost the European hostility because of the Moratorium of 1875, government faced with negative sensations of Bulgarian massacre news.

Consequenlty, the Sublime Porte appointed officials to the region to investigate the incidents, indentify the perpetrators and submit a report. The Ottoman Empire's object was both to investiagate the allegations publishing in the European press and to shape counter-arguments againts political accusations. Edouard Blacque, the Director of the State Press, and Youvantcho Efendi departed from Istanbul on August 16, 1876, for Plovdiv. They toured various districts approximately one month, including Batak, Panagyurishte (*Otlukköy*), Koprivshtitsa *(Avratalan)*, and documented their observations.

This study examines the details and the impact of the report presented by Blacque Bey and Youvantcho Efendi to the Sublime Porte. This report, located in the Ottoman Archives, has not been examined in any previous study. According to the report, the number of casualties was significantly lower then those refered by European observers. On the other hand, Blacque Bey and Youvantcho Efendi's findings revealed the severity of the events around Plovdiv and prompted the Sublime Porte to take more extensive measures. Thus, it laid the predecessor fort he establishment of the Extraordinary Commission of Plovdiv, chaired by Sadullah Bey, to investigate the Bulgarian Uprising in detaily and implement necessary sanctions.

Keywords: Edouard Blacque, Youvantcho, William Baring, Gladstone, Bulgaria, Plovdiv

Dislodging the Keystone: The Impact of the Abolition of the Janissary Corps on the Balkans

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Abstract: The Janissary Corps, established during the reign of Sultan Murad I to meet the army's need for soldiers, gained an important place within the Ottoman military organisation due to its structure and prestige. However, over time, this structure has strayed from its founding purpose and is no longer able to servet he military. Although the state undertook numerous efforts to reform the deteriorating order of the Janissary Corps, it was unsuccessful. Consequently, the unconrollable actions of corps members brought about the well-known outcome. On 16 June 1826, as a result of the call to jehad issued by Sultan Mahmud II, the Janissary Corps was abolished. Subsequently, decrees were sent to all corners of the empire announcing that the institution had been abolished and ordering that the necessary measures be taken. By order of the Sultan, activity has also begun in the Balkans. While letters of the satisfactions were being sent to the capital by the administrators, efforts were beign made to swiftly eliminate elements associated with the Janissary Corps. Traces of the Janissary Corps have been erased from the castles, and those attempting to continue the Janissary tradition have been prevented. However, some provinces resisted the order from the capital for a long time. The purpose of this presentation is to reveal what happaned in the Balkans after the abolition of the Janissary Corps, using archival documents and sources from the period.

Keywords: Janissary Corps, the Auspicious Incident, Rumelia, Balkan, Bektashi

A Few Observations in Support of the Study of the Brusa Bezistan and Its Possible Restoration

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History and Art History

Abstract*:* It is known that the Brusa Bezistan was founded by Rustem Pasha in the XVI century, time of flourishing trade in the Bosnian Eyalet. The Brusa Bezistan is also the most significant preserved building among those that Rustem Pasha endowed in Sarajevo. Its function was changed from its original commercial function on multiple occations from the Austro-Hungarian occupation in 1878 until 2001. In 2001 the preserved Bezistan became one of the buildings of the Museum of Sarajevo. Formalization of this last function of the building was preceeded by two major restoration projects, the first one in 1967-1969 when the dilapitated outer peripheral shops were given today's restored look, and the restoration project in 2000-2001 when the results of the previous restoration were more or less established and cosmetic changes were carried out for the purpose of exhibiting the future permanent display of the Museum.

Since the last restoration, the Brusa Bezistan has had a dual function: the main building is a museum and the restored outer peripheral shops have preserved their commercial character. Due to the dual function that the Bezistan continues to have today and based on the concise outline of the building's history, conducted restoration projects and their results, the paper examines the possibility of its potential restoration as well as the possible future appearance of its façades, or rather the outer shops as its inseparable entity.

Keywords: Rustem Pasha's waqf, architecture of bezistan, Ottoman architecture in BiH, cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo bezistan, Baščaršija, restoration

Socialism and Nizam-i Kadim: The Clash of Two Worlds From the Perspective of Ahmet Cevdet Paşa

Dr. Betül SEZGİN

Istanbul University, Philosophy

Abstract: This study aims to examine the historical contextualization of modern socialist ideology by Ahmet Cevdet Paşa (d. 1895), a cornerstone of 19th-century Ottoman intellectual life, through his manuscript treatise titled "Sosyalistlere Dair Bir Makaledir". Rather than perceiving socialism as a 19th-century nouvelle movement, Cevdet Pasha traces its origins back to the radical traditions of the fifth century AH, such as Mazdakism and Batinism. This approach demonstrates that the author perceived socialism not merely as a political doctrine, but as a "universal social aberration" recurring throughout various historical epochs.

The conceptual core of this study is formed by the ontological contrast between the image of socialism as a "spectre" haunting Europe, as characterized by Karl Marx (d. 1883) in the *Communist Manifesto*, and Ahmet Cevdet Paşa's definition of the same phenomenon as an inherited "ancient fitna" (kadim fitne). Paşa discusses the emergence of socialism in Europe and its potential detrimental effects on the Ottoman-Turkish social fabric through the lenses of religion, politics, and the traditional social order (nizam). In this direction, the study analyzes how the philosophical and praxis-oriented heritage infiltrating Europe from the East articulated itself with modern ideologies.

Ultimately, by comparing Cevdet Paşa's critique of socialism with the Marxist theoretical framework, this study traces the strained relationship between the history of Turkish thought and modernity.

Keywords: Ahmet Cevdet Paşa, Socialism, Mazdakism (Mazdakites), Batinism, *Communist Manifesto*, Ottoman-Turkish Thought

The Image of the Balkans in Digital Media: The Representation of Skopje in Youtube Travel Videos

Dr. Burçak KADIOĞLU

Yozgat Bozok University, Faculty of Communication- Journalism

Abstract: Digital media platforms have become increasingly influential in the promotion of tourist destinations and the formation of destination perceptions. In particular, video-sharing platforms such as YouTube enhance the international visibility of cities and regions through user-generated content while simultaneously contributing to the production of cultural meanings and representations associated with these places. Travel vlogs are no longer merely records of individual travel experiences; rather, they function as digital narratives through which destination images and spatial identities are reconstructed. This study aims to examine how Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia, is represented in YouTube travel videos. Specifically, it investigates the historical, cultural, and spatial discourses through which Skopje is portrayed and explores how these representations differ between Turkish and foreign content creators. The study adopts a qualitative research design, using ten YouTube travel videos as its data source, including five produced by Turkish content creators and five by foreign creators. The videos were selected through purposive sampling and analyzed using qualitative content analysis. The analysis comparatively examines the spatial focal points emphasized by the content creators, the discourses they employ, the historical and cultural references they make, their economic evaluations, and the meanings they attribute to the destination. Although the existing literature provides extensive research on digital media, user-generated content, and destination image, comparative studies examining the representation of Balkan cities through YouTube travel videos from the perspectives of content creators with different cultural backgrounds remain limited. In this respect, the study seeks to contribute to the literature on destination image, digital tourism communication, and representation by examining how the image of the Balkans is constructed in digital media through the case of Skopje from a communication studies perspective.

Keywords: Digital media, YouTube, North Macedonia, Skopje, tourism

The Influence of European Union Integration on the Economic Development of North Macedonia

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Abstract: The trajectory of North Macedonia's economic development is fundamentally anchored in the structural imperatives and conditionality of European Union (EU) integration. This research provides a critical longitudinal analysis of the causal relationship between the EU accession process and domestic macroeconomic performance, focusing specially on the shift from the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) to the strategic implementation of the 2024-2027 Reform Agenda. By synthesizing high-frequency data on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and sectoral valuated, the study investigates how "Europeanization" has catalyzed trade liberalization effectively integrating North Macedonia manufactures into German and Central Europe automative and electronics value chains while simultaneously exposing systemic domestic vulnerabilities. Central to the analysis is the "Convergence Paradox", the persistent disparity between North Macedonia's high level of legislative alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire* and its lagging real GDP per capita relative to the EU-27 average. Implementing an institutional economics framework, the paper evaluates how Growth Plan for the Western Balkan acts as a fiscal catalyst to bridge this gap. Conversely, the study argues that structural bottlenecks-specifically the high rate of informal economy participation (estimated at 23% of GDP), judicial inefficiencies in contract enforcement and chronic labor market mismatches continue to act as "brakes" on the multiplier effects of EU pre-accession assistance. Additionally, the research addresses the "Human Capital Drain" phenomenon, where increased labor mobility within the integration framework paradoxically depletes the domestic talent pool required for high-tech industrialization. The analysis concludes that while the €6 billion regional Growth Facility offers a roadmap for doubling the size of the national economy within a decade, its efficacy is contingent upon mitigating political uncertainty and achieving deep-seated fiscal reforms. Ultimately, the influence of the EU is characterized not merely as a diplomatic objective, but as a total restructuring of North Macedonia's economic and global competitiveness.

Keywords: European Union, North Macedonia, Economic Convergence, Structural Reform, Institutional Economics

Temporary Labour Migration (Pečalba/Gurbet) from Ottoman Macedonia Across the Ottoman Empire

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Abstract: This paper examines the phenomenon of temporary labour migration from Ottoman Macedonia. This practice, whereby individuals temporarily left their place of residence to earn a livelihood and later returned to their hometowns, is known in Macedonia as *pečalba* or *gurbet*. Over time, temporary migration became increasingly significant for the economic development of certain regions of Macedonia. The paper analyses the initial factors that prompted this form of migration and seeks to determine when labour emigration began and whether it followed an upward or downward trend over time. It also explores how the loss of imperial territories, the formation of new states in the Balkans, and the wars of the nineteenth century influenced labour migration from Macedonia. Furthermore, the study identifies the regions of Ottoman Macedonia most affected by temporary migration, estimates the number of labour migrants, examines the professions they pursued, and addresses other related aspects. The paper focuses primarily on temporary labour migration from Macedonia within the Ottoman Empire. It is based on both primary and secondary sources. Due to the scarcity of primary sources, memoirs of nineteenth-century temporary workers and foreign travelogues constitute particularly important materials for reconstructing this phenomenon.

Keywords: Labour, migration, economic migration, migrant workers

Serbian Monasteries as Economic Institutions: Wealth, Production and Resilience

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Abstract: The monastic economy remains an under-explored field at the intersection of economic history, institutional analysis, and religious studies. This paper provides a structured overview of the economic organization of Serbian monastic estates, tracing the evolution of Serbian monasteries from religious institutions to multi-layered economic entities across Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Ottoman period. From their foundation, these monasteries accumulated landed property, income rights, and broad legal immunities, enabling them to operate as autonomous economic actors. Their estates encompassed arable land, vineyards, fisheries, urban properties, and craft production centers, making them central nodes in both rural and urban economic networks. The paper further examines how monasteries participated in the monetization of the Balkan economy through mining revenues and market activities, demonstrating that their economic role extended well beyond subsistence agriculture. A key dimension of this analysis is the fate of monastic estates under Ottoman rule. Rather than narrating a straightforward story of decline, the evidence points to a dynamic process involving legal negotiations, fiscal adaptations, and institutional continuity. By leveraging privileges, tax arrangements, and incorporation into Ottoman legal frameworks, monasteries managed to preserve substantial economic autonomy while navigating new administrative realities. Ultimately, the paper argues that the monastic economy cannot be reduced to a simple feudal model based on land ownership. It must instead be understood as a flexible institution integrating agriculture, trade, craft production, religious endowments, and symbolic capital.

Keywords: Serbian monastic economy, landed estates, Ottoman rule, Serbian monasteries, Balkan economic history

Ebubekir Hâzım Bey's Governorship of Monastır And His Conception of Reform in the Context of the Macedonian Question (1903-1906)

Dilruba KOCAIŞIK

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Abstract: This study examines the administrative and intellectual activities of Ebubekir Hâzım Bey, who served as the governor of Monastir between 1903 and 1906, within the context of the Macedonian Question. As a representative of the new generation of provincial administrators trained during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II, Hâzım Bey's governorship of Monastir marked a significant turning point in his bureaucratic career. His administrative performance was recognized not only by the Ottoman central authority but also through decorations awarded by states such as France, Romania, and Greece.

The period corresponds to the intensification of nationalist movements in Rumelia, particularly Bulgarian revolutionary activity, alongside the growing fragility of the region's multi-ethnic structure. In this environment, Monastir became a center of political tension shaped by inter-communal rivalry and Great Power interventions. Conflicts among Bulgarian, Greek, and other groups directly influenced provincial governance.

Drawing on Hâzım Bey's experience in Monastir, this study analyzes his conception of reform in Rumelia through his work *İdari-İctimai Sânihat*, written during his later governorship in Beirut. The work includes assessments that offer a field-based critique of the Ottoman reform policies carried out under external pressure. Hâzım Bey argues that post-Treaty of Berlin reforms failed to resolve the Macedonian Question and instead reinforced nationalist tendencies. He attributes the root causes of conflict not to the weakness of Ottoman administration, but to the independence-oriented aspirations of local populations.

This case highlights how late Ottoman provincial administrators could develop perspectives informed by local conditions, offering insight into both internal critiques of reform policies and the transformation of administrative mentality in Rumelia preceding the Second Constitutional Era.

Keywords: Hâzım Bey, Governorship of Monastir, Macedonian Question, Administrative Reform, Provincial Bureaucracy

The Implementation of Kosovo-Serbia Agreements in the Context of the Brussels Process: Challenges and Implications

Dr. Ditar KABASHI

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Abstract: The Kosovo-Serbia negotiations, conducted under the facilitation of the European Union since 2011, constitute a distinctive example of a multilayered negotiation process in which diplomatic negotiations, institutional transformation, and, to a limited extent, processes of legal harmonisation intersect within a post-conflict context. Initially focused on technical issues, the negotiations gradually evolved into a broader process encompassing the principal political disputes between the parties. Although numerous agreements have been concluded, their implementation has emerged as the weakest and most contested dimension of the process. Indeed, the delayed or partial implementation of a considerable number of agreements has created a significant gap between negotiation and implementation.

This study analyses the implementation challenges associated with the agreements reached between Kosovo and Serbia within the framework of the Brussels Process and examines their implications for the normalisation of relations. The findings demonstrate that these challenges cannot be attributed solely to technical shortcomings. Rather, they are shaped by factors such as political dynamics, the lack of mutual trust between the parties, and the absence of sufficient political will to achieve a comprehensive settlement. In particular, the implementation process has remained largely dependent on political will, thereby limiting its predictability and sustainability.

The analysis further indicates that delays, divergent interpretations, and only limited implementation have become recurring features of the process, pointing to what may be described as an "implementation gap". This gap affects not only institutional functioning but also public trust and perceptions of legal certainty.

The study concludes that the success of the Kosovo–Serbia negotiations depends less on the number of agreements reached than on their consistent and sustainable implementation. In this regard, implementation should be understood not merely as a technical continuation of negotiations but as the decisive stage of the overall process.

Keywords: Kosovo–Serbia negotiations, Brussels Process, implementation challenges, normalisation

A Linguistic Analysis of Folk Literature Products From Gostivar in the Example of *Sesler* Journal

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Abstract: Sesler journal has played a decisive role in the development of Macedonian and Kosovan Turkish language and literature, serving as one of the fundamental publications ensuring the continuity of Turkish literary and cultural production in the region. Published between 1965 and 2001, the journal not only featured literary texts but also collected studies in the fields of language, folklore, culture, politics, society, and economics, thereby making significant contributions to the institutionalisation of the Turkish written language and literary tradition in the Balkans. In this respect, Sesler is one of the main sources reflecting the linguistic and cultural memory of the Turks in the region. In this study, the phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics of the Gostivar Turkish dialects are examined, based on fairy tales and folk song texts published in Sesler journal as part of Gostivar folk literature. The focus of the research is on a systematic phonological analysis of the vowel phenomena identified in the folk literature products, along with an examination of the prominent morphological elements and sentence structure. In this context, phonetic phenomena observed in fairy tale and folk song texts, such as vowel epenthesis, vowel deletion, vowel narrowing, vowel broadening, rounding and flattening, have been examined in detail; prominent morphological features, particularly case suffixes and tense suffixes, have been illustrated with examples, and syntactic structure has been evaluated in broad terms. The findings have been evaluated from a comparative perspective, considering both Turkish dialects in Turkey and Balkan Turkish dialects. Thus, the study aims to reveal the distinctive features of the phonological, morphological, and syntactic structures of the Gostivar Turkish dialect and to present original data that will contribute to the phonological, morphological, and syntactic systems of the regional dialects.

Keywords: Sesler Journal, Gostivar, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax

Paşa Yiğit Mehmed Bey, Conqueror of Skopje, and the Formation of the Frontier System in Rumelia

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Abstract: This article examines the historical figure of Paşa Yiğit Mehmed Beg, the conqueror of Skopje, and his role in the formation of the early Ottoman frontier order in Rumelia. Rather than treating him merely as an akıncı commander who conquered Skopje, the study situates Paşa Yiğit Mehmed Beg as a founding frontier lord whose activities shaped the political and military landscape from the Vardar basin and Skopje to Bosnia, Zeta, Shkodra, and the Adriatic after the Battle of Kosovo. The article seeks to clarify several historiographical confusions surrounding his identity, especially his conflation with Emir Paşa Yiğit of the Turahanoğlu family, Meddah Baba, and later figures bearing the name Gümlüoğlu Paşa Yiğit. To this end, it brings together Ottoman chronicles, waqf records, inscriptions, tahrir materials, and urban memory. The article argues that the conquest of Skopje should not be understood as a single military achievement of the central Ottoman army, but as the outcome of a broader conquest coalition involving the dynasty, frontier lords, Saruhanid Turkmens, akıncı families, abdals, Sufi-warrior circles, and local aristocratic actors. It further argues that İshak Beg was not Paşa Yiğit's biological son or a converted slave, but an aristocrat from the Kutluşâh family of Amasya who became integrated into Paşa Yiğit's legacy through marriage, patronage, and political succession. The transition from Paşa Yiğit to İshak Beg is therefore read as a process of frontier institutionalization.

Keywords: Paşa Yiğit Mehmed Beg, Skopje, Rumelia, Frontier Order, İshak Beg

Reconstruction Of Cultural Heritage: Istanbul Beylerbeyi Sabanci Maturation Institute "Pirpiri Kaftan Project"

Dr. Esra Fahriye POYRAZ

Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, Turkish Literature

Abstract: As a garment specific to the culture of Balkan Turks and widely used in social life, the Pirpiri kaftan was also common in Istanbul, especially in the Ottoman palace, throughout the historical process. Covering the upper body, with a round neckline, sleeveless and open front, a wide flared skirt, wavy-cut edges and embroidery decoration, this traditional attire has a distinctive design. Within the cultural continuity extending from Central Asia to Anatolia, it became enriched in the Balkans and turned into a remarkable element of Turkish clothing culture both aesthetically and socially.

The focus of the study is the "Pirpiri Kaftan Project" conducted by the Istanbul Beylerbeyi Sabancı Maturation Institute. Within the scope of the project, addressing fashion design, handicrafts, culture and art history and museum professionals, the place of the Pirpiri kaftan in Turkish clothing culture was researched and a special 20-piece collection was produced in accordance with its original form and reinterpreted with a contemporary fashion approach. In this process, local producers, the Institute's research workshops, ethnography museums, libraries and academics worked in coordination, enabling both the preservation of the garment and the revitalization of patterns and embroidery through different designs.

In this context, the products being presented as diplomatic gifts, the kaftan being preferred on international platforms, made visible through exhibitions and offered for sale in Bohça stores indicate that it has been reproduced and reintroduced into circulation.

The study aims to consider the Pirpiri kaftan as a "cultural text" that builds a bridge between past and present and gains new meaning within the framework of the reconstruction of cultural heritage and representation processes.

Keywords: cultural heritage, construction, Balkan culture, pirpiri kaftan, Beylerbeyi Sabancı Maturation Institute

A Bureaucrat's Dilemma: Dimitraki Pandorof Efendi Between Bulgarian Nationalism and the Ottoman Bureaucracy

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Abstract: This study analyzes the career of Dimitraki Pandorof Efendi, who held important positions in the 19th century Ottoman bureaucrat. It examines his position between imperial loyalty and growing Bulgarian national identity, and how this tension affected his work. He served in positions such as Assistant Governor of Kırkkilise and translator for the Ministry of Police. In recognition of his service, he was granted the Order of Medjidie and the rank of Mütemâyiz. As a respected Ottoman bureaucrat, he also maintained significant influence within the Bulgarian Exarchate. He also became prominent in minority press activities as the proprietor of the Bulgarian-language newspaper *Novini*, published in Istanbul between 1890 and 1896.

Dimitraki Efendi's performance in bureaucratic duties and publishing activities clearly reveals how he was caught between his identity as a "loyal civil servant" and his Bulgarian national identity. In 1897, while serving as the Assistant Governor of Kosovo, it was discovered that he had subscribed to the banned newspaper *Svoboda*. The subsequent events led to his dismissal on the grounds that his conduct was incompatible with his official status. The allegations of spreading Bulgarian propaganda, combined with the Bulgarian Exarchate's attempts to intervene in his promotions and re-employment, portray Dimitraki Efendi as a person caught between two sides.

The toleration shown during the disciplinary investigations against Dimitraki Efendi and the process of correcting his record reflects the state's desire to maintain administrative order. Nevertheless, the fact that his presence in strategic regions was deemed a security risk confirms that the Ottoman administration approached minority bureaucrats with a mixture of trust and strict surveillance. In light of Ottoman archival documents and current academic studies, this paper aims to examine how bureaucratic affairs, perception of loyalty, and minority policies functioned during the late imperial period through the personal and administrative identity of him.

Keywords: Dimitraki Pandorof, Bulgarian nation, Bulgarian press, Ottoman Empire, Bulgarian Exarchate

Encountering the Other in Postcolonial Poetry: A Levinasian Reading of Contemporary Macedonian Poetry

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Abstract: The Balkan region has historically been shaped by a complex, multilayered context in which the disintegration of empires, the processes of nation-state formation, ideological regimes, and cultural conflicts intertwine. This intricate experience has significantly influenced the region's literary production; in particular, poetry has emerged as a discursive space where social traumas, fragile identities, collective memory, and ethical responsibilities converge. In this context, Macedonian poetry stands out not merely as an aesthetic form of expression but as a practice of thought carrying historical and ethical burdens. In the postcolonial period, the poetic subject was long positioned around ontological questions such as identity, existence, and belonging, with poetry often functioning as a space for responding to the question, "Who are we?" However, in contemporary Macedonian poetry, this ontological framework appears increasingly insufficient, and the subject is now more often defined through the ethical relationship and sense of responsibility established with the Other. This orientation is closely aligned with Emmanuel Levinas's approach that "ethics is first philosophy." According to Levinas, the subject is constituted not through its immanent consciousness but in the moment of encountering the face of the Other, compelled to respond to an ethical summons. In this study, Levinas's concepts of the "face," "infinite responsibility," and "ethics against totality" are employed as a theoretical framework for reading contemporary Macedonian poetry, arguing that the poetic discourse transforms from a closed structure centered on the subject into a relational and ethical field of expression.

Keywords: Postcolonial poetry, Other, Levinas, Macedonian literature, Ethics

Pan-Islamic Discourse in the Bosnian Periodical Biser (1912–1918)

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Abstract: The authors of this paper examine the Pan-Islamic discourse through the writings of the Bosnian periodical *Biser* (1912–1918), situating their analysis within the broader context of the presence and development of Pan-Islamic discourse in Bosnia and Herzegovina under Austro-Hungarian rule. Through an examination of the periodical's translated and original texts, as well as its editorial policy and the individuals behind it, the paper provides insight into the fundamental elements of Pan-Islamic thought and the formation and shaping of such discourse among the Bosnian Muslim population. Topics such as religious reformism, education, modernism, connections to the wider Islamic world, the caliphate, women's issues, among others, found their place within this periodical. Through a comprehensive analysis of this discourse, it becomes possible to situate the periodical within the broader chronological development of Pan-Islamism in Bosnia. Both earlier and more recent historiographical approaches and developments are taken in consideration, along with differing perspectives and interpretation of the Pan-Islamic movement in Bosnia. Contrary to older assessments that viewed Pan-Islamic ideology as anachronistic in light of competing South Slavic national movements, this paper offers a more nuanced perspective on the self-identification of Bosnian Muslims as members of the wider Islamic world within the context of an imperial (Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian) political and social framework.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pan-Islamism, *Biser* (periodical), Pan-Islamic discourse

France's Military Presence in the Balkans during the First World War: A Power and Influence Analysis Through the Salonika Front

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Abstract: The First World War was shaped not only by military confrontations on the main fronts but also by struggles for influence conducted by great powers in strategically significant peripheral regions. In this context, the Balkans were regarded by France as a critical component of its strategy to encircle Germany and Austria-Hungary. With the opening of the Salonika Front in 1915, the region became a central arena of French military and political intervention. The Armée d'Orient, established under the command of General Maurice Sarrail, institutionalized France's military presence in the Balkans while simultaneously becoming an effective instrument for influencing the political balance of the region.

France's activities in the Balkans were not limited to military operations; they also involved a multidimensional strategy of influence through diplomatic initiatives, propaganda, and engagement with local political actors. The transformation of Salonika into a major military and logistical hub ensured the permanence of the French presence and laid the institutional foundations of French influence in the region. During this process, France played a decisive role in the reorganization of the Serbian army, intervened in Greece's internal political developments, and sought to establish a regional balance of power in accordance with its strategic interests.

The breakthrough of the Salonika Front in 1918 significantly influenced the overall course of the war by forcing Bulgaria's withdrawal and precipitating the collapse of the Central Powers' defensive line in the Balkans. This development demonstrates that France's military presence in the Balkans produced not only tactical outcomes but also broader strategic consequences.

This paper analyzes France's military and political activities in the Balkans through the Salonika Front and evaluates the role of this intervention in the wartime process and in shaping France's postwar policy of regional influence.

Keywords: Macedonian/Salonika Front, Armée d'Orient, Franchet d'Espèrey, Zeitenlik Camp, Noemvriana (1916)

The Gülşenî Order in The Egypt-Ottoman-Balkans Cultural-Geographical Trajectory

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Abstract: This study examines the cultural-geographical network established by Gülşeniyye – one of the most significant branches of the Khalwatiyya tradition, which gained its institutional identity through Seyyid Yahyâ Şirvânî in the Shirvan region of Azerbaijan – across the Egypt-Ottoman-Balkans axis, along with its multifaceted impacts on the region. Shaped initially around Egypt following the migration of the order's founding master (pîr), İbrahim Gülşenî, from Tabriz to Cairo due to Safavid pressure, this school later transferred to the Balkan geography via the Istanbul and Edirne line. Expanding into Rumelia simultaneously with the Ottoman conquest policies, the Khalvatî-Gülşenî network acquired an institutional identity beyond mere religious guidance through the lodges (tekke and zâviye) it established in strategic centers such as Gjirokastër (Ergiri), Plovdiv (Filibe), Trikala (Tırhala), Heraklion (Kandiye), and Corinth (Gordus). These Sufi institutions facilitated the adoption of Islam in newly conquered regions, organized social solidarity, contributed to urbanization efforts, and laid the groundwork for a peaceful culture of coexistence with the non-Muslim populace (reaya).

The most distinctive characteristic of Gülşeniyye is its enrichment of Turkish Sufi literature through a dense cohort of poets and musicians emerging from within its ranks. During the order's historical course in the Balkans, the lyrical understanding of wahdat al-wujud (the unity of being) espoused by Hasan Sezâî-yi Gülşenî – who is considered the second master (pîr-i sânî) – and the regional elements introduced into Divan poetry by the judge-poet (kadı-şair) Nazîr İbrâhim of Edirne directly determined the consolidation of Ottoman Turkish as a permanent language of aesthetics and culture in the Balkans. The literary production in question proves that the dervishes went beyond a dry transmission of faith, constructing instead an original artistic vision and worldview. Furthermore, the spiritual structure of the order, which eschewed ostentation, prioritized inner purification, and stood close to the Malamî disposition (meşrep), formed a unique vein in Balkan spiritual wisdom (irfan), and this spiritual joy (neşve) maintained its vitality in the region until the twentieth century. Consequently, sprouting in Egypt, blended in Edirne, and bearing fruit in the Balkans, Gülşeniyye became one of the most dominant Sufi mechanisms shaping the religious, literary, and cultural landscape of the Rumelian lands throughout the Ottoman period by means of its lodges, literary circles, poetic guides, and administrative cadres.

Keywords: Khalwatiyya, Gülşeniyye, The Balkans, Sufi Literature, Hasan Sezâî, Nazîr İbrâhim

Self-Defence Against Non-State Actors: The Case of Bosnian War

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Abstract: The Charter of the United Nations grants states the right of self-defence under Article 51 in the event of an armed attack. However, one of the most debated issues in international law concerns how this right should be interpreted under certain circumstances. One of the most significant of these circumstances is when the attacks are carried out by non-state actors. Since the Charter was drafted during a period in which states were considered the primary actors in international relations, the right of self-defence in response to attacks by non-state actors remains controversial. The definition of "armed attack" which triggers the right of self-defence is also debated. This study examines the concept of attribution through the frameworks of "overall control" and "effective control" in the context of the Bosnian War which took place between 1992 and 1995.

The article first discusses how the armed attack and the right of self-defence are defined traditionally in international law. It then examines the broader perspective and compares it with the traditional view. These two distinct interpretations of self-defence are analyzed in relation to the "effective control" and "overall control" criteria.

In particular, the relationship between Serbia and the Bosnian Serb forces - which were not formally part of the Serbian state- will be examined in order to assess whether the actions of these forces could be legally attributable to a state and thus potentially give rise to the right of self-defence to the victim state. In this context, the article aims to contribute to the debates on the limits of the interpretation of armed attack and self-defence by examining the criteria of attribution.

Keywords: Self-Defence, Armed Attack, Non-State Actors, Attribution, Bosnian War

Accession Celebrations in the Balkans (1876–1909)

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Abstract: This study examines the reflections of the accession (cülûs) celebrations, marking the enthronement of Ottoman sultans, in the Balkans between 1876 and 1909. Originating in the political traditions of the Central Asian Turkic states and later institutionalized in the Ottoman Empire, accession ceremonies reached their most developed form during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II. In this period, they evolved beyond being merely palace rituals and became multifaceted instruments serving political, social, and cultural purposes. Adopting a Balkan-centered perspective, the study explores how accession celebrations were organized and conducted throughout the Ottoman Balkans, from the preparatory stages to the ceremonies themselves. It examines not only the regions that remained under Ottoman administration but also territories that had effectively been lost or had acquired semi-independent status, demonstrating how the tradition of celebrating the sultan's accession continued in these areas. In this context, celebrations held in Ottoman-controlled cities such as Tirana, Komotini, Pristina, and Skopje are examined alongside the diplomatic and public celebrations organized in independent or semi-independent Balkan states, including Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, through a comparative approach. The study analyzes the role of accession celebrations in shaping local society through measures such as the pardon of prisoners, the inauguration of public buildings, financial assistance, and symbolic ceremonies, while also considering their function as a means of preserving Ottoman influence in the region. Particular attention is given to the role of accession celebrations in shaping urban space through architectural elements such as clock towers, fountains, and public buildings, as well as to the tangible legacy these commemorations have left behind. The research is primarily based on Ottoman archival documents as its principal primary sources. Contemporary newspapers and memoirs are also employed to reveal the political significance of accession celebrations in the Balkans, their role in international relations, and their place in everyday social life. In this respect, the study aims to evaluate the manifestations of the symbols and representations of imperial authority, which were employed with particular emphasis during the reign of Abdulhamid II, within the Balkan context.

Keywords: Balkans, Accession, Abdulhamid II, Power, Symbolism

The Echoes of the 1876 Bulgarian Uprising in Europe and Walter Baring's Report

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Abstract: The separatist uprisings that broke out in the Balkans in the 19th century constituted one of the greatest crises of the period for the Ottoman Empire. The economic, political and military weakness of the Ottoman Empire at the time necessitated seeking out the support of other great powers of the period, such as relying on British support against Russia. On the other hand, the nineteenth-century developments in press, communication and transportation made it necessary for states to try to influence foreign public opinion as well; that is, to engage in public diplomacy. The Baring report, which this paper focuses on, is a product of such a context.

The Ottoman Empire quickly suppressed the Bulgarian uprising of April-May 1876. During the revolt, various massacres occurred, during which both Muslims and Bulgarians lost their lives. The events were reported in European press in an anti-Ottoman and one-sided manner and the Ottoman state's actions were dubbed "the crime of the century", which caused an uproar against the Ottomans in European public opinion. In England, fierce debates took place between the Liberal opposition leader William Gladstone (d. 1898) and the Conservative prime minister Benjamin Disraeli (d. 1881). Gladstone, who strongly supported the independence of Christian minorities under Ottoman rule, harshly criticized Disraeli, who took a pro-Ottoman and cautious stance towards this uprising that would strengthen Russia's hand. Consequently, Disraeli appointed Walter Baring (d. 1915), second secretary at the British Embassy in Istanbul, to travel to the region and write an impartial report in July 1876. Baring's report was first debated in the British Parliament, and subsequently published in *The London Gazette* on 19 September 1876. Seeing that the report could be useful for Ottoman Empire, Musurus Pasha (d. 1891), the Ottoman Ambassador in London, shared it with Safvet Pasha (d. 1883), the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Although Baring's report confirmed certain offenses involving Ottoman forces, it also revealed that some of the claims circulated in the European press were unfounded and that the Bulgarian side had also committed serious offenses.

Baring's report has not previously been the subject of an independent academic study. Therefore, this paper will examine the report from a holistic perspective in terms of its content and consequences within the historical context summarized above, drawing on Ottoman archival documents and periodicals of the time.

Keywords: nationalism, Bulgarian uprising, Baring, public diplomacy, balance of power policy

European Researchers in and Around Skopje in the Second Half of the 19th Century

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the search for antiquites by European researchers operating in Skopje and its surroundings, one of the important centers of Ottoman Macedonia in the 19th century, within the framework of the relationship between archaeology and diplomacy. During this period, the Balkan geography attracted attention not only with its historical and cultural riches but also with the increasing political and scientific interest of European states. In this context, Skopje and its surroundings became an important research area for travelers, archaeologists, and diplomatic representatives from different European countries. The strategic and cultural importance of the region shaped both the scientific and political goals of European states. The study examines in detail the activities of researchers such as French, English, German and Austria, as well as Russian archaeologists in particular. These activities were not limited only to scientific curiosity and archaeological discoveries. They were also considered as an indicator of diplomatic and cultural competition. The surface surveys conducted by researchers, attempts to collect antiquities, the systematic collection of documents, and their relations with the local administration were examined together with the attitude of the Ottoman central government and the approaches of the local authorities in the region.

The primary sources of the research were the Ottoman archive documents of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey State Archives. These documents provided a comprehensive understanding of the activities in both their scientific and diplomatic dimensions. The study aimed to reveal the mechanisms of the complex interaction between archaeology and diplomacy and the effects of this process on regional power balances. In conclusion, archaeological activities carried out in and around Skopje were not merely a matter of scientific curiosity, but were seen as part of a multi-layered process and cultural diplomacy practices shaped within 19th-century international relations. In this context, the research emphasized the historical and scientific importance of the region and comprehensively revealed the European states' pursuit of influence in Ottoman Macedonia.

Keywords: Skopje, antiquities, diplomacy, archaeology

An Industrial Initiative in Ottoman Military Modernization: The Skopje Saltpeter Factory

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Abstract: Saltpeter, the fundamental component of black powder -one of the oldest explosives known in history- was a strategic raw material that had to be supplied regularly and without interruption for the continuity of the Ottoman military organization. Therefore, it held an important place within the state's logistical network. One of the most critical centers of this supply chain in the Balkan geography was Skopje, which became the main hub of saltpeter production from the 15th century onward. Archival records document that the presence of saltpeter in this region dates back to the reign of Mehmed the Conqueror. Production activities in the region acquired an institutional character under the administrative control of the Skopje Directorate, which took shape toward the end of the 16th century, and continued for centuries; supplying the raw material needs of the gunpowder mills in Thessaloniki, Gallipoli, and Istanbul. In the early periods, saltpeter production was carried out with traditional methods in various locations -primarily in Çayır Plain- within refining houses and furnaces. However, in the 19th century, when military modernization efforts and strategies to strengthen central authority came to the forefront for the Ottoman Empire, this production was transformed into a modern industrial structure in parallel with increasing demands and developments in firearms technology accompanying both political and military transformations.

The focus of this paper is the Skopje Saltpeter Factory, whose construction was completed in 1839 and which brought the dispersed production network within the Skopje Directorate under institutional discipline and centralized supervision. Within the scope of this study, the process through which saltpeter production -initially carried out using traditional methods- was transferred to an industrial facility will be examined, thereby presenting new data regarding the industrial history of the region. In light of archival documents, issues such as the architectural plan of the factory, its internal spatial organization, the repairs it underwent, the procurement of raw materials, and the transportation processes of the manufactured product to the Imperial Gunpowder Mill (Baruthâne-i Âmire) will be analyzed. In doing so, its place within the modernization initiatives carried out in the Ottoman defense

industry will be evaluated. In this context, the factory will be considered not only as a production facility but also as a spatial testament to the Ottoman industrial heritage.

Keywords: Ottoman Military Industry, Skopje Directorate, Saltpeter, Gunpowder Production, Industrialization

Real-Life Stories Leaking From Revolutionary Activities in the Balkans: The Twin Story of Bloscò and Jabłoński

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Abstract: The issue of the Hungarian and Polish refugees who had taken refuge in the Ottoman Empire in 1849 began to produce side effects starting by 1859. In connection with political developments in the Italian peninsula, an uncontrolled mobility of refugees took place across the Balkans. The principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia became gathering points for hundreds of refugees. While some fled from Transylvania under Habsburg rule, others attempted to enter from the Ottoman Balkans. These refugees mostly aimed to reach Italy by sea. To contain this mobility, Austrian intelligence worked hard. In cooperation with them, the Sublime Porte simultaneously instructed local administrators to interrogate Hungarian and Polish refugees. Although these interrogation records in the Ottoman Archives provide valuable data for political history, they also allow for an alternative reading. This paper examines two such cases: Giuseppe Bloscò and Wiktor Jabłoński. Following the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution, Bloscò sought asylum in the Ottoman Empire in 1849, though he soon moved to Europe. After years of service in the Sardinian army, he resigned and returned to Constantinople in 1859. While attempting to cross the Danube after roaming in the Balkans, he was interrogated. Wiktor Jabłoński was also among the refugees who had taken refuge in the empire via Hungary, yet he was of Polish origin. Having settled in Istanbul to work as a decorator and coachman, Jabłoński served as a steward during the Crimean War. After traveling through various Greek cities, he intended to reach Tulcea with a travel permit but was likewise detained. Following their interrogations in Ruse, both Bloscò and Jabłoński were deported toward Italy. While political historiography generally loses interest after the resolution of diplomatic crises, their stories are significant in terms of providing insights into the subsequent lives of Hungarian and Polish refugees.

Keywords: Interrogation Protocols, Subversion, Hungarian and Polish Refugees, Kingdom of Sardinia, Tanzimat

The Activities of the Reform Commission under the Presidency of Hacı Adil Bey in Rumelia

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Abstract: In the period following the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Era, one of the greatest challenges faced by the Ottoman Empire was the restoration of shaken public order in the Rumelian territories and the containment of increasingly potent separatist movements. Within the framework of seeking solutions to this chronic issue, the comprehensive tour of Rumelia conducted in 1912 by the reform commission, established under the presidency of the Minister of the Interior, Hacı Adil Bey, represents one of the empire's significant attempts to maintain its presence in this strategic geography.

This study aims to analyze the activities of the commission–covering critical provinces such as Janina, Shkodra, Kosovo, Bitola, and Thessaloniki, as well as strategic centers like Prizren, Pristina, and Skopje–through prepared reports and intensive correspondence. The commission's engagements went beyond a mere administrative inspection, reflecting a multi-layered state projection ranging from civil service allocations and parliamentary elections to military fortifications, education, and public works (nafia). This research examines the efforts to re-establish the severed ties between the state and the local population, gauge public opinion, and reconstruct government authority at the local level. Ultimately, the journey in question is evaluated as the final major and holistic move to halt administrative and political disintegration in the region on the very eve of the Balkan Wars.

Keywords: Hacı Adil Bey, Rumelian Reforms, The Balkans, Albanians, Political Stability.

Venice and Ottoman Expansion in the Region of Durrës Between the Late Fourteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries

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Abstract: This paper examines the region of Durrës in the medieval period as one of the principal contact zones of the eastern Adriatic, shaped by the long confrontation between Venice and the Ottoman Empire from the late fourteenth century to the conquest of the city in 1501. Rather than focusing exclusively on the city itself, the study considers the broader territorial setting extending around Durrës, including the routes connected with the Via Egnatia, the basin of the Erzen, secondary landing places, fortified points, and the rural settlements that sustained the economic and strategic role of the port. By drawing together Venetian documentation, Ottoman sources, historical cartography, and toponymic evidence, the paper seeks to show that the importance of the city did not depend solely on its urban and maritime character, but also on its place within a broader and closely interconnected territorial framework. This area ensured the supply of resources and goods, while at the same time serving as a corridor between the Adriatic coast and the Balkan interior. In this context, Venice sought to preserve commercial relations, local alliances, and defensive arrangements, whereas Ottoman advance gradually affected the same territory, reshaping its political balance, economic order, and strategic functions. Particular attention is given to the interplay between commercial interests, military pressure, demographic contraction, and the reordering of space. It emerges that the transition from Venetian to Ottoman rule cannot be understood simply as the fall of a coastal city, but rather as a broader process of territorial transformation, affecting lines of communication, settlement patterns, fortified sites, and the relations between the coastal belt and the inland districts. From this perspective, the case of Durrës offers a valuable point of observation for understanding the formation of frontier zones in the late medieval Balkans.

Keywords: Durrës, Venice, Ottoman Empire, eastern Adriatic, frontier zones

From Monastir to Damascus: The Administrative Experience of Mehmed Nazif Pasha in the Balkan Provinces

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Abstract: Mehmed Nazif Pasha was born in Monastir in 1825 and served in various capacities within both the central and provincial Ottoman bureaucracy for nearly half a century. Having begun his career at the Rusçuk Correspondence Bureau, he spent much of his service in the Balkan provinces, serving as mutasarrıf (district governor) and governor in regions such as Bosnia, Skopje, Prizren, Janina, and Kosovo. Appointed as governor of Syria during the reign of Abdulhamid II, Nazif Pasha died in Damascus while still serving as governor. The long career that unfolded between Monastir, his birthplace, and Damascus, where he died, constitutes a remarkable case that illuminates both the geographical and bureaucratic dimensions of nineteenth-century Ottoman provincial administration.

This paper aims to examine Mehmed Nazif Pasha's administrative experience in the Balkans through a comprehensive analysis of his career. The trajectory that begins with his role in the implementation of Tanzimat reforms in Bosnia under Omer Lutfi Pasha, continues through his appointments as mutasarrıf of Skopje and Prizren at the recommendation of Midhat Pasha, and extends to his governorships of Bosnia, Janina, and Kosovo, is analyzed within the framework of patronage networks and center-periphery relations. The reform initiatives Nazif Pasha undertook in the Balkan provinces, the bureaucratic difficulties he encountered, and the relationships he cultivated with the prominent figures of his era offer valuable insights into the functioning of Ottoman central and provincial administration from the Tanzimat to the Hamidian era. This paper adopts a biographical approach, drawing primarily on Ottoman archival sources.

Keywords: Mehmed Nazif Pasha, center-periphery administration, Balkan provinces, patronage networks, biography

The Impact of Ottoman Rule on the Customary Codes of the Balkans

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Abstract: Over the centuries, the Balkan Peninsula became an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, where imperial rule profoundly shaped the region's political, social, administrative, and legal structures. The longevity of Ottoman governance, coupled with its sophisticated administrative organization and the extension of state authority into peripheral territories, created a complex legal environment in which Ottoman law coexisted and interacted with long-established local customary traditions. Rather than entirely displacing indigenous legal practices, the Ottoman legal system often accommodated customary norms, resulting in a dynamic relationship between imperial legislation and local legal culture.

This study examines the Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini, the customary code of northern Albania, as a representative case of Balkan customary law. The Kanun constituted a comprehensive body of unwritten legal principles governing family organization, kinship relations, property rights, social obligations, dispute resolution, and the exercise of local authority. Throughout the Ottoman period, it continued to regulate the everyday life of many communities, functioning alongside Ottoman judicial institutions and contributing to the maintenance of local governance and social order.

The principal objective of this study is to assess the extent and character of Ottoman influence on the Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini. By examining the interaction between Ottoman legal institutions and Albanian customary law, the study seeks to determine whether Ottoman rule transformed the substance of the Kanun or merely influenced its practical application. It contributes to the understanding of legal pluralism in the Ottoman Balkans and the coexistence of imperial and customary legal traditions in the autonomous regions of the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Balkan, North Albania, Ottoman Empire, customary law, Kanunname

The Polarization Trap: Domestic Veto Players, Win-Set Near-Collapse, and Differentiated Integration in Bulgaria's EU Governance

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Abstract: Why does domestic political polarization produce persistent governance failures at the European Union level? This paper develops the concept of veto transmission—the mechanism through which domestic partisan and institutional veto players project their blocking power onto the international stage—and applies it to Bulgaria's post-2020 political crisis. Drawing on Putnam's two-level game framework, Tsebelis's veto player theory, and the differentiated integration literature, the paper theorizes a causal chain from domestic polarization through win-set near-collapse to EU governance failure, and identifies a feedback loop through which the EU's institutional accommodations of domestic constraints reinforce the polarization that produced them. The empirical analysis draws on a Manifestoberta topic coding of 106 parliamentary stenograms (2023–2025), Chapel Hill Expert Survey and Manifesto Project party positioning data, Eurobarometer survey results across six waves, and qualitative process tracing of three policy domains: Schengen and eurozone accession, energy security, and structural fund absorption. The analysis reveals a parliamentary landscape dominated by institutional authority discourse (median salience 0.21; spiking to 0.478 during the Q4 2024 government formation crisis), with EU integration occupying a paradoxically marginal position (mean salience below 1%). The societal win-set—as revealed by Eurobarometer data showing 37–38% EU optimism against 17–21% national optimism—is substantially wider than the elite win-set, indicating that the binding constraint on Bulgaria's EU policy is elite polarization rather than public opinion. Process tracing identifies three distinct veto transmission channels—institutional, partisan, and administrative—operating across the three cases, producing differentiated integration as the EU's adaptive response. The paper concludes by identifying the polarization trap: a self-reinforcing equilibrium in which differentiated integration becomes easier to enter than to exit, and in which the EU's own institutional accommodations contribute to the persistence of the constraints they were designed to address.

Keywords: veto players, differentiated integration, democratic backsliding, Bulgaria, European Union, polarization, two-level games

The Impact of Remittances on Consumption and Investment in Kosovo

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Abstract: This study examines the impact of remittances on consumption and investment in Kosovo, using aggregated quarterly secondary data for the period 2010Q1–2026Q1 (65 observations), obtained from the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo (CBK). This research uses two dependent variables at the national level. Consumption is represented by economic activity in wholesale and retail trade, transport and storage, and accommodation and food services, while investment is represented by economic activity in construction, financial and insurance activities, and real estate activities. Both variables are measured as sectoral GDP in thousands of euros, while remittances serve as the main explanatory variable, measured in millions of euros.

Based on the New Economy of Labor Migration (NELM), the study investigates whether remittances function mainly as a short-term dampening mechanism of consumption or contribute to long-term capital formation and investment. Given the non-stationary nature of the first-order integrated time series data, as confirmed by the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test, the analysis uses the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds testing approach together with the Error Correction Model (ECM). The models control for time trends and quarterly seasonality.

The bounds test confirms a long-run cointegrating relationship between remittances and both dependent variables. The results show a statistically significant positive long-run elasticity between remittances and consumption (approximately 0.46), while the relationship with investment is weak and statistically insignificant (approximately 0.10). The error correction coefficients are negative and significant in both equations, indicating rapid adjustment towards long-run equilibrium. Robustness tests reveal evidence of endogeneity, a structural break associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and a significant decline in the remittance-consumption effect after controlling for the pandemic period. Overall, the findings support the consumption dampening hypothesis more strongly than the view of remittances as a driver of productive investment in Kosovo, contributing to the debate on remittance dependence and informing policies on channeling remittances towards productive uses.

Keywords: Remittances, Consumption, Investments, Kosovo

The Dispatch and Settlement of Crimean Tatars in the Balkans (1860–1862): Ottoman Empire's Management of Migration

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Abstract: This study examines the migration of Crimean Tatars to the Balkans between 1860 and 1862 and the Ottoman Empire's management of this large-scale population movement based on Ottoman archival documents. It analyzes the causes of migration, the transportation of migrants across the Black Sea to Balkan ports, temporary accommodation and settlement processes, and the administrative, financial, and logistical challenges encountered by the Ottoman administration. Drawing upon correspondence between the Grand Vizierate, the Immigrant Commission, and provincial authorities, the study highlights the coordination between the central government and local administrations. The findings demonstrate that the Crimean migration cannot be explained solely by religious motivations. Rather, it resulted from the combined effects of Russian political pressure, economic deprivation, insecurity, Ottoman settlement incentives, and migrant social networks. Despite significant challenges related to transportation, relief, housing, and settlement, the Ottoman government developed new administrative mechanisms to manage the increasing influx of migrants. The study concludes that the Crimean migration represented not only one of the largest population movements of the nineteenth century but also a formative experience in the development of Ottoman migration management and settlement policies.

Keywords: Crimean Tatars, Crimean Migration, Ottoman Empire, Balkans, Immigrant Commission, Settlement Policy, Migration Management

Türkiye's Contributions to (Security) Governance in the Balkans During the 1990s: Bosnian and Kosovo Crises

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Abstract: With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the international system began to evolve into a more complex order. During this time, globalization emerged as an integral part of daily life, although the concept itself was not new. Globalization also introduced new concepts into the field of political science and international relations, and its literature. One such concept is '(security) governance'. The complex international order has increased the need for this form of international cooperation. Throughout this process, Türkiye has participated in security governance. Through two of its most prominent instruments and organizations, the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Türkiye has made various contributions. Türkiye has played an active role and has also not shirked her international responsibilities. During the Yugoslav Wars that emerged after the end of the Cold War and the breakdown of the bipolar world system, her foreign policy efforts and initiatives aimed to establish, protect, and maintain peace, stability, and security in the Balkan region. This research examines Türkiye's role in the UN and NATO in the context of her Balkan policy during the 1990s, by focusing specifically on the Bosnian Crisis and the Kosovo Crisis. The research also aims to evaluate Türkiye's effectiveness in terms of her participation in and contributions to security governance throughout the decade.

Keywords: (security) governance, Türkiye's Balkan policy, the UN, NATO, Bosnian Crisis, Kosovo Crisis

Intellectual Integration of the Balkans in the Ottoman Empire: The Huzur Lessons and the Case of Gümülcineli Ahmed Âsim Efendi (D. 1305/18870)

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Abstract: The Balkans constituted one of the most strategically and culturally significant regions of the Ottoman Empire, serving as a vital bridge between the imperial center and Europe. Recognizing this importance, the Ottoman administration implemented various military, political, and economic measures to maintain control and stability in the region. However, such measures alone proved insufficient to sustain long-term integration. The empire also relied on intellectual and cultural mechanisms to reinforce its presence and influence. Among these, the Huzur Lessons (Huzur Dersleri) stand out as one of the most prominent scholarly institutions of the late Ottoman period. Held annually during the month of Ramadan in the presence of the sultan, the Huzur Lessons brought together leading scholars of the empire and functioned as high-level forums of Qur'anic exegesis and scholarly debate. A considerable number of scholars of Balkan origin participated in these sessions, reflecting the integration of the region into the Ottoman intellectual sphere. One such figure is Gümülcineli Ahmed Âsım Efendi, whose participation and preserved lesson notebooks provide invaluable insight into the structure and content of these sessions. Given the scarcity of written records on the Huzur Lessons, Âsım Efendi's notebooks represent one of the rare extant sources that allow for a detailed examination of the discussions held in these gatherings. This study analyzes the subjects addressed in these lessons, including the interpretation of selected Qur'anic verses through references to hadith, kalām, and legal reasoning. Furthermore, it explores whether and to what extent contemporary political and social issues of the late Ottoman period were reflected in these scholarly discussions. By focusing on the example of Gümülcineli Ahmed Âsım Efendi, this paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the intellectual dimensions of Ottoman rule in the Balkans.

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, Huzur Lessons, Gümülcineli Asım Efendi, Balkans, hadith

A Comparative Study of Beautifuls and Their Professions in Balkan Şehrengizs

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Abstract: Classical Turkish literature is a 600-year-old tradition comprising works written in various poetic forms and genres. From the Balkans to the remotest regions of Anatolia, many poets have produced works within this tradition. In these works, poets have artfully expressed their emotions, thoughts, experiences, the geography they inhabited, and various aspects of life through verse, prose, and sometimes a blend of both. In classical Turkish literature, şehrengizs are among the foremost works that depict daily life, the people within that life, and the geography in which they live, serving as a testament to history and geography. A şehrengiz is a poetic genre that describes a city's beauties, its merchants, its social life, and its various occupational groups in a literary style. It is typically written in the mesnevi poetic form. In şehrengiz works, the "beautifuls" of a city refer to the merchants and prominent figures who are recognized for the qualities admired within that city's social life.

A significant portion of the şehrengizs written about cities under Ottoman rule pertain to Balkan cities. The Balkan cities for which şehrengizs were written include Mostar, Sarajevo, Skopje, Belgrade, Shkodra, Vardar Yenicesi, Edirne, İştip, Siroz, Buda, Yenişehir, and İnebahtı. These şehrengizs contain important historical notes regarding the cities in question.

This article will examine the individuals described as "beautiful" in city guides of Balkan cities and the professions they practiced. Within the framework of the classical Turkish literary tradition, artisans and their professions–depicted through elements associated with a "beautiful"–will be analyzed and evaluated in a comparative manner. By examining the social status of these individuals and the nuances of their professions, the economic structure of the city and the functioning of guild organizations will be addressed. This study will highlight the fact that the şehrengiz genre is an important literary and cultural document.

Keywords: Balkan Cities, Şehrengiz, Beautifuls, Professions

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms in Bulgaria (1990–2024): Ethnic Politics, European Integration, and Foreign Policy

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Abstract: This study analyzes the impact of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) in Bulgaria on domestic and foreign policy between 1990 and 2024 within the framework of neoclassical realism. Founded in 1990 to defend the rights of the Turkish and Muslim minority in Bulgaria, the MRF has evolved over time from an ethnic movement into a national political party. This study comprehensively examines the roles the MRF has played in Bulgarian politics, its electoral performance, its foreign policy orientation, and its relations with the European Union (EU).

MRF's influence in domestic politics is particularly evident in its efforts to protect minority rights and ensure ethnic peace during Bulgaria's democratization process. By securing representation in parliament, the party has served as a stabilizing force and played an active role in the country's EU and NATO accession processes. By participating in various coalitions while maintaining a balance among governing parties, the MRF has been a decisive actor in ensuring political stability and facilitating transitions of power. At the same time, the MRF has secured an influential position in international relations by serving as a diplomatic and political bridge between Turkey, Bulgaria, and the EU.

In foreign policy, the MRF operates along liberal-democratic lines in the European Parliament and emphasizes Bulgaria's strategic position in Western Balkan and Black Sea policies. While supporting the EU and NATO accession processes, the party has adopted a foreign policy discourse that promotes regional cooperation. Conducted from a neoclassical realism perspective, this analysis explains MRF's domestic and foreign policy actions through both structural and actor-based dynamics. This study aims to evaluate MRF's political development and the influence of the Turkish and Muslim minority on domestic and foreign policy within a theoretical framework.

Keywords: Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), Neoclassical Realism, Minority Politics, Bulgarian Foreign Policy

The Ottoman State's Investigative Policy After the 1876 Bulgarian Uprising: Sadullah Bey's Extraordinary Commission

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Abstract: Nationalist ideas disseminated by the French Revolution, along with Russia's Pan-Slavist policies and the Serbian and Greek uprisings triggered by financial and social deterioration, dealt a severe blow to Ottoman rule in the Balkans. Although the Ottoman Empire attempted to restore its authority, these efforts were often obstructed by the provocative activities of European powers. One of the clearest examples of this agitation was seen among the Bulgarians. Encouraged by Russia and influenced by nationalist ideas, they launched an uprising in Avratalan on 20 April 1876, which quickly spread to nearby villages such as Derbend, Perushtitsa, Bratsigovo, and Otluk.

Following the 1876 Bulgarian Uprising, the Ottoman Empire initiated both investigative and diplomatic measures to restore order and respond to European public opinion. Initially, Edip Bey, Şakir Bey, and Blacque Bey were assigned to examine the situation. However, as these inquiries proved insufficient, an extraordinary commission with expanded authority was established, headed by Sadullah Bey and based in Filibe.

This study analyzes the activities of this commission, its assessments of regional security, and its relationship with international interventions, based on telegrams and reports sent by Sadullah Bey to the Sublime Porte preserved in the Ottoman Archives. These documents provide detailed information on events in Derbend, Batak, and surrounding villages, including the organization of the uprising, local committees, and the course of conflicts.

In conclusion, these documents constitute important primary sources for understanding both the events in the region and the attitudes and provocations of European powers. The study also highlights the interaction between Ottoman administrative practice and international diplomacy, offering an original contribution since these materials have not been previously examined in detail as an independent corpus.

Keywords: Rebellion, Sadullah Bey, the Bulgarians

Conversion and Power:
The Ayanlık Journey of the Koca Receb Pasha Dynasty from Scutari to Kalkandelen

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Abstract: The heavy defeat suffered by the Ottoman Empire in the 1683 Second Siege of Vienna created a significant military and administrative vacuum in the Balkans, paving the way for the rise of the *ayan* (local notables) in the provinces. Specifically, the military campaigns of the Habsburg (Austrian) armies under General Piccolomini between 1689 and 1690 profoundly destabilized the demographic and political balances of the region. Piccolomini's diplomatic maneuvers and collaborations with local populations, particularly with Albanian tribes, led to widespread destruction creating a "fine line" that forced local power centers to either shift their allegiances or undergo structural transformations.

At this historical turning point, a family emerged that would later be known as the "Pashas of Tetovo" (Kalkandelen Paşaları). The origins of this dynasty trace back to the Shala tribe, a Catholic Albanian clan from the Shkodra region. Gerg Bib Shala, a member of this Catholic tribe, left his ancestral village to settle in the Luma region, where he converted to Islam following his marriage to a Muslim woman from the Kolosiyen tribe. Taking the name "Dervish Shala" after his conversion, this founding figure radically altered the regional power dynamics upon the family's migration to Tetovo. By skillfully combining military prowess with local tribal affiliations, the family eventually integrated into the Ottoman administrative system, evolving into an influential "pasha" dynasty.

The most distinguished and prominent figure of this dynasty was undoubtedly Receb Pasha, also known by the epithet "Koca" (the Great). Governing these vast territories with various high-ranking titles, Receb Pasha ensured the security of the people against rebels and meticulously coordinated the provision of soldiers and military equipment required by the central state. The formidable legacy he established was carried forward by his sons Ali Hifzi, Abdurrahman, Celaleddin, and Hasan Pashas further consolidating the absolute dominance of the family and its lineage in the region. This study reveals the saga of a Catholic tribe from Shkodra that, through conversion and migration, successfully embedded itself into the Ottoman administrative fabric to become a loyal, powerful, and deep-rooted *ayan* dynasty in Tetovo.

Keywords: Receb Pasha, Ayanlık, Skopje, Kalkandelen, Ali Hıfzi

The Clothing Culture of the People Of Shkodra in the 19th Century as Reflected in Photographs

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Abstract: This paper aims to examine the clothing culture of the people living in Shkodra in the 19th century in light of visual and written sources. The primary sources of the research are the provincial yearbooks of the period and the photographs of Shkodra in the Albums of Abdulhamid II, which were compiled during the reign of Abdulhamid II and are considered one of the most comprehensive archives of Ottoman visual modernisation. Known as the Yıldız Albums, these albums consist of thousands of photographs taken by local and foreign photographers and contain images from different regions as well as the Ottoman geography. In this respect, the albums constitute an important visual archive documenting the social, cultural and architectural structure of the period. One of the collections featured in these albums contains photographs taken by Italian photographer Pietro Marubbi; these images offer an opportunity to evaluate the clothing culture of the period in the context of different social and religious groups.

This study examines the clothing elements and the use of jewellery and accessories by the local population in Shkodra during the 19th century, based on selected photographs from the Albums of Abdulhamid II. These photographs, taken by Marubbi, offer an opportunity to evaluate the clothing of the local population in Shkodra within the framework of gender, religion (Muslim–Christian), and location (urban–rural) distinctions. The fact that some of the photographs in the albums were later hand-coloured by court painters or artists contributes to a clearer identification of the colours and visual details used in the clothing of the period.

Within the scope of this research, photographs are treated as the primary visual source; however, the demographic and social structure of Shkodra and its relationship with clothing culture are also analysed by evaluating the provincial yearbooks and population data of the period. In this context, it is revealed that clothing is not merely an element of daily life, but also an important cultural indicator reflecting religious affiliation, social status, and local identity. Consequently, this study examines the clothing culture of 19th-century Shkodra society within its historical context by analyzing photographic archives and written sources together, providing valuable insights into the social structure of the period.

Keywords: Shkodra, Albums of Abdülhamid II, Clothing Culture, Pietro Marubbi, Ottoman Balkans

The Balkans in Aka Gündüz's Works and Life

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Abstract: Aka Gündüz (nickname *Enis Avni*) is one of the prolific writers with Ömer Seyfettin, who are considered among the pioneers of National Literature in Turkish Literature. Aka Güzdüz who was born in Rumelia (Elassona) completed his primary education in Serres and Thessaloniki. While Aka Gündüz was a student at Kuleli Military High School, he was expelled from the school for allegedly getting involved in politics and returned to Thessaloniki. Aka Gündüz, who began writing for various magazines named *Çocuk Bahçesi (Children's Garden)*, *Genç Kalemler (Young Writers),* and *Kadın (Woman)* in Thessaloniki as starting from 1903 has become well-known. Artistic life of Aka Gündüz, who wrote works in the genres of poetry, story, novel, theatre, memories, and newspaper articles, can be examined in two parts: the period before and after the Republic. Aka Gündüz gained his fame during the National Literature period through his Turkist (Turkish Nationalist) and fighting (bellicose) works, written during the hot war periods of the Ottoman Empire. The writing process gained momentum with the loss of Tripoli and Balkans is in the style that Ömer Seyfettin and Ziya Gökalp expect from the writers and poets of the era. In years World War I and National Struggle, it is always possible to find Aka Gündüz prominently featured in the press, sometimes under his own name or sometimes under a pseudonym. Aka Gündüz always maintained a sensitive attitude towards the Balkan lands with the motivation that comes from it being ancestral homeland throughout his writing career. His stories existing in *Türk'ün Kitabı (Turk's Book)* in 1913, and poems in *Bozgun (Defeat)*, detachedly, reflects the devastating effects of the Balkan Wars on him. We should point out that the idea of Turkishness and love of homeland play a dominant role in both books. The author does not only mourn the lost lands and homeland forced to be abandoned but also mourns history, women who have been harassed, betrayal of neighbours and those believed to be friends until yesterday. Many of realistic stories that give the feeling of having just happened are like camera records of the time. In Aka Gündüz's poems about the Balkans, the concepts such as love of homeland, migration, and idea of Turkishness have taken their place in the history of Turkish Literature in a lyrical atmosphere. Even just the poem called *Bozgun (Defeat)* is capable of bearing all emotions and the pain of the Balkan Wars within itself. In this paper, traces of a Turkish son, who was separated from his homeland, and his grief over his lands that were burned, destroyed, and left in enemy hands were followed and examples of Balkans existed in the works of Aka Gündüz were evaluated using a text-content analysis method.

Keywords: Aka Gündüz, Balkans, Türk'ün Kitabı (Turk's Book), Bozgun (Defeat), story, poem

Governing From Yildiz: The 1900 Skopje Crisis and Hamidian Rule in Ottoman Macedonia

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Abstract: This article examines the 1900 Skopje standoff as a close, micro-historical case study of Hamidian crisis management in Ottoman Macedonia. In February 1900, some two thousand people gathered before the Kosova government konak amid complaints against the mayor, Salih Bey, and the governor, Hafız Mehmed Paşa. Istanbul responded by sending imperial aides-de-camp, additional troops, and instructions routed through the Mâbeyn; yet the result was not decisive action on the ground but a five-week tactical deadlock. Drawing on Ottoman palace correspondence and British consular reports, the article argues that this deadlock was not simply a symptom of Hamidian weakness. It was also produced by the way authority was organized: decisive choices were kept close to Yıldız, while responsibility was devolved to civil, military, and yaverân officials in Skopje who operated with overlapping mandates, no settled local hierarchy, and no clear means of resolving rivalry among themselves. This created an acute gap between authority and responsibility. The arrest of İdris Hoca, carried out on the authority of a palace telegram, reignited the confrontation and made his return the crowd's central demand. British consular reports are indispensable for reconstructing the chronology and political texture of the crisis, but they also reveal the limits of an external official perspective on local authority. Ottoman palace sources, read alongside the retrospective testimony of İdris Hoca's son, recover both his crisis-centered importance and the way the episode was remembered locally. The crisis ended not through coercive dispersal but through concession: amnesty, a new governor, and tax reduction. The episode thus reveals one cost of governing by supervision from Yıldız: the concentration of authority at the center could preserve ultimate control while narrowing the capacity to act in the province and weakening the state's standing on the ground.

Keywords: Hamidian rule, Ottoman Macedonia, Skopje / Üsküp, Yıldız Palace, yaverân, institutional deadlock, Hamidian centralization

A Scholar of the Second Constitutional Period on the Rumelian Stage: The Kosovo Field Sermon in the Biography of Manastırlı İsmail Hakkı Efendi

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Abstract: This paper examines the biography of Manastırlı İsmail Hakkı Efendi, a prominent figure of the late Ottoman learned establishment (*ilmiye*), within the context of Sultan Mehmed Reşad's 1911 Rumelian journey and the sermon delivered at the Kosovo Field. Born in Monastir and intellectually formed in Istanbul, Manastırlı served as a preacher in the capital's grand mosques and taught at modern Ottoman educational institutions such as the Mekteb-i Mülkiye, Mekteb-i Hukuk, Mühendishane, and Darülfünun. Producing works on Islamic jurisprudence, kalām, and creed, and eventually rising to membership in the Meclis-i Âyan (Senate) following the Second Constitutional Period, he stands as a rare scholar whose influence simultaneously spanned the mosque, the academy, the press, and the political arena. The sermon he delivered in the sultan's retinue at the Kosovo Field should be evaluated as a biographical apex where his scholarly authority, Rumelian origins, and political representation intersected. Employing historical contextualization and document analysis as qualitative research designs, this study analyzes the sermon text not merely as religious advice, but as the core of the discourse on unity, loyalty, and legitimacy that the late Ottoman state sought to construct in Rumelia. By focusing on the imperial edict read immediately after Manastırlı's address—which announced a general amnesty and a 30,000-lira payment from the Privy Purse to settle local blood feuds—the research reveals that this religious ceremony was, in fact, a masterfully orchestrated strategic political performance (*mise-en-scène*). Concurrently, by addressing the translation crisis between the language of the speech (Ottoman Turkish) and the local vernacular (Albanian), the paper explores the structural limits the imperial center faced when communicating with the provinces. Ottoman archival documents, SALT Research records, the printed text of the sermon, contemporary press, and memoirs collectively illuminate the various layers of this biographical portrait and historical moment of representation.

Keywords: Manastırlı İsmail Hakkı Efendi, Sultan Mehmed Reşad, Rumelian Journey, Kosovo Field Sermon, Meclis-i Âyan, Ottoman biography

History, War, Migration, and Cultural Memory of Bosnians in the Novels of Three Female Writers

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Abstract: Novels, through artistic fiction, hold up a "mirror" and "lamp" to the historical, political, and social events and cultural memories experienced by individuals or societies. While real events are presented to the reader through the author's imagination and fiction, the cultural memory of the society is also conveyed. The historical and political events, wars, and migrations experienced by the Bosnians, who lived under Ottoman rule in the Balkans for nearly five centuries, as well as their traditions, the suffering of displacement, memories, rituals related to their beliefs and social life, and cultural heritage, have all become subjects of Turkish novels in the Republican era. Novels that deal with the shared cultural memory experienced as members of the same state in the past, and its transfer to Anatolia through migration, have served to enable readers to draw lessons from this shared memory; they have also contributed to the preservation and transmission of tradition. This study focuses on the history of Bosniaks, their lives under and after Ottoman rule, their migrations, their efforts to adapt to their new homelands during the Ottoman and Republic years, and the cultural memory they brought with them as refugees, as reflected in the novels *Sevdalinka* and Umut by Bosniak author Ayşe Kulin, *Beyaz Zambak* by Nurten Ertul, and *Gözüm Yaşı Tuna Selidir Şimdi* by Selma Fındıklı. The study examines how the oral cultural memory of Bosniaks, shaped by their food, music, entertainment, wedding rituals, and beliefs, is conveyed to readers through symbols in these novels.

Prepared using document analysis, this study, based on J. Assman's theory of "Performative Memory," argues that literary works not only function as repositories and reconstructions of past traumas, but also as carriers of "resistance," "materialization," and "memory," playing a role in the formation and transmission of Muslim Bosniak identity through elements/symbols and memory spaces based on oral culture. Thus, the study attempts to reflect the functions of cultural memory elements in the struggle of Bosnian refugees to survive and be reborn in their new homeland.

Keywords: Bosnia, cultural memory, migration, refugee status, novel

Islamic Philosophy and the Formation of Albanian Civic Consciousness

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Abstract: This paper represents a synthetic overview of the doctoral research entitled *"The Influence of Islamic Philosophy on the Formation of Albanian Civilizational Thought"* (April 2025). It examines the ways in which Albanian thought has been shaped within a historical space situated between East and West, where Albanians have functioned as a mediating bridge between cultures and civilizations. This geocultural position has directly influenced the construction of their historical, cultural, and philosophical consciousness, producing a layered and dynamic identity. The study is structured around three main axes of analysis.

First, it addresses the fundamental elements of Albanian civilization, interpreted through the lens of the influence of Islamic philosophy, which was transmitted and institutionalized during the period of Albanian–Ottoman co-governance. In this context, it is emphasized that the epistemological, ontological, and cosmological categories of Islamic thought did not function as external additions, but rather as structuring principles that shaped both modes of thought and the cultural experience of Albanians.

Furthermore, within the Albanian tradition shaped through the interaction between Islamic and Renaissance thought, the human being is understood as both an ethical and aesthetic subject, where morality, honor, besa (word of honor), beauty, and love are not conceived as separate categories, but as dimensions of the same spiritual and existential experience. In this framework, ethics emerges as a mode of being in the world, while aesthetics and love are understood as forms of inner harmony and spiritual perfection, thus forming a philosophical anthropology in which the individual constructs identity through moral consciousness, responsibility, and the relationship with truth, beauty, and transcendence.

Second, through a hermeneutic and philosophical approach, the paper articulates the influence of Islamic thought and mysticism on the poetic consciousness of the *bejtexhinj* and the authors of the Albanian National Renaissance. At this level, an Islamic metaphysical background is identified as a constitutive component of the Albanian cultural imagination, where the Divan tradition and literature in Ottoman and Albanian languages emerge as spaces in which aesthetics, symbolism, and philosophical thought intertwine.

Third, Albanian civilization is conceptualized as an original formation, created through active interaction with both Eastern and Western influences, yet irreducible to either of them. Albanians did not adopt these influences in an imitative manner; rather, they transformed them creatively, constructing an authentic and distinctive cultural model within the Balkan context.

In conclusion, the paper seeks to contribute to the reconsideration of the paradigm of Albanian cultural consciousness by situating it within a broader horizon of philosophical and civilizational interpretation.

Keywords: Islamic philosophy/mysticism, Albanian civilization, Divan literature, epistemology, ontology, cosmology, ethics, aesthetics, and love

Islamic Finance in the Balkans and Its Affect By Non-Economic Factors

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Abstract: Trying to find solutions by escaping from the real causes is the same as being sick and not visiting a doctor. Today's financial system, after chronic crises like chronic disease, needs careful treatment. We attribute everything in finance to the numbers and calculations, but finance is not only about numbers. At the same time, it is not a segregated part of the system, while a system outside of religion proved to be hazardous, like the spread of viruses. The system should be considered in its unity in all aspects, and religion must be acceptable as the system of life. We treated the non- economic factors for the development of Islamic finance in the Balkans, but the same factors apply elsewhere on the planet. Before correcting the numbers that are a technical part of finance, certain issues are of priority. We must apply the cure that is already there, rather than escaping from reality and contributing to the disease.

Keywords: Islamic, System, Issues, Religion

From Official Biographies to Private Biographies: A Comprehensive Biography of Ārif Hikmet Bey of Herzegovina (1839–1903)

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the transition from official biographies to private biographies in Ottoman biographical writing, using the example of Hersekli Ārif Hikmet Bey. Ārif Hikmet Bey was an Ottoman poet and jurist born in Mostar in 1839. His grandfather was Ali Pasha of Istolça, the governor of Herzegovina, and his father was Zülfikar Nāfiz Pasha. His life, shaped by his family's migration from Herzegovina to Bosnia and then to Bursa following the deaths of his father and grandfather, entered a new phase with the education he received in Istanbul. He subsequently held various administrative and judicial positions and assumed important roles in appellate and supreme courts. However, Ārif Hikmet Bey distinguished himself in literary circles not only as a statesman but also as one of the prominent figures of the Encümen-i Şuarā. The study focuses on why and how the biography of Ārif Hikmet Bey was constructed by Ibnülemin Mahmud Kemal İnal (d. 1957), who knew him well. In this context, the biography in question will be examined in terms of accuracy, relative objectivity, and historical authenticity. Furthermore, considering that studies on Ārif Hikmet Bey to date have largely been limited to the information provided by Ibnülemin, this paper will discuss the extent to which this information is corroborated by archival documents, as well as potential gaps and interpretive elements in his biography. Ultimately, this paper aims not only to analyze İbnülemin's approach to biography writing using the example of Ārif Hikmet Bey -who holds a special place among the biographies he authored- but also to offer new insights into Ārif Hikmet Bey's biography based on archival documents.

Keywords: Biography, Ottoman, Mostar, Ārif Hikmet of Herzegovina, Ibnülemin Mahmud Kemal İnal

Revisiting Bosnian Sufi Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Bosnia: Location and Function

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Abstract: This study explores the Sufi institutions in nineteenth century Ottoman Bosnia in relation to their embedding within the local administrative landscape. Rather than reducing their roles as "functional socio-religious instruments" of central government as much of the existing scholarship has tended to do, it asks whether Bosnian Sufi institutions in fact occupied a single and stable position within the Ottoman provincial order.

In Bosnia, the spatial setting of Sufi tekkes is crucial for understanding their institutional behavior. A GIS-based approach will be used here to raise questions about how location may have shaped these institutions. Earlier assumptions suggest that the geographical context of tekkes could reveal their "functions". To illustrate, if a tekke was built along a trade route, this tekke was assumed to have caravanserai-like spaces of open hospitality, or if a tekke was established in an urban area, this tekke was portrayed as more entangled in political networks than their rural counterparts.

In this respect, this study maps the thirty-four tekkes which remained active in nineteenth century Ottoman Bosnia according to the Ottoman archival records into the ArcGIS program. By bringing spatial analysis into dialogue with archival evidence, the findings suggest that location alone does not determine how these institutions functioned. Instead, Sufi institutions navigated local conditions and adjusted their capacity to negotiate with central authorities. This paper argues for a more complex and multi-layered relationship between the Sufi institutions and central authority, one that cannot be reduced to fixed functions.

Keywords: Ottoman Bosnia, Sufi Institutions, Sufi Tekkēs

The Activities of the Ottoman Rumelia Detachment on the Macedonian Front During the First World War (1916–1918)

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Abstract: The First World War (1914–1918) emerged from the accumulated tensions of the preceding century and was initially perceived as a "European War." The course of the conflict, led by two opposing blocs the Entente and the Central Powers resulted over time in strategic shifts and the opening of new fronts. This situation became evident in the Gallipoli Front, where the defeat of the Entente forces prompted them to place greater emphasis on the Balkans. Consequently, the Galician, Romanian, and Macedonian Fronts in the Balkans became significant theaters of combat. Having achieved victories on the Gallipoli and Iraqi Fronts, the Ottoman Empire experienced a relative easing during the course of the war. However, the intensification of the conflict in the Balkans created difficulties for its allies Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria. In response, the German Empire requested military assistance from the Ottoman Empire. Following the approval of this request, the 15th Corps was dispatched to Galicia, the 6th Corps to Romania, and the 20th Corps along with the Rumelia Detachment (177th Infantry Regiment) to Macedonia.

This paper examines the Rumelia Detachment, a Turkish military unit that operated on the Macedonian Front, one of the theaters of the First World War. Before addressing the main subject, it briefly discusses the outbreak of the war and the negotiations for military assistance between the German Empire and the Ottoman Empire. It then provides information on the establishment of the Rumelia Detachment formed for deployment to the Macedonian Front, including its personnel, equipment, and transfer to the front. Subsequently, the study presents the military activities of the Rumelia Detachment, which completed its deployment by late 1916, covering the period up to May 1918. Focusing on the experience of the Rumelia Detachment, which fought alongside its allies on the Macedonian Front, this study is based on archival documents, maps, memoirs, and photographs from the period.

Keywords: First World War, European Fronts, Macedonian Front, Rumelia Detachment

Migrations as an Instrument of Demographic Transformation: The Case of Muhajirs from the Principality of Serbia in Bosnia (1861–1870)

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Abstract: This paper analyzes the role of forced migrations as a mechanism of demographic transformation in the territory of Bosnia in the second half of the 19th century, with a particular focus on the settlement of Muslim populations (muhajirs) from the Principality of Serbia in the period after 1861. The deterioration of political relations between the Principality of Serbia and the Ottoman Empire resulted in an agreement on the expulsion of the Muslim population from Serbian towns, which led to the organized relocation of thousands of people to the Bosnian Eyalet.

The study is based on the analysis of historical sources and relevant secondary literature, with the aim of examining how Ottoman authorities managed this migration process, including the planned establishment of new settlements (such as Kozluk, Orašje, Bosanski Šamac...) as well as the settlement of existing urban and rural areas. Special attention is given to the spatial redistribution of the population and its implications for local social and ethnic relations.

Drawing on theoretical approaches in the sociology of migration, the paper seeks to demonstrate that these migrations were not merely a consequence of political circumstances, but also an important instrument of demographic and social reorganization of space. The settlement of muhajirs contributed to changes in the ethno-demographic structure of certain areas, as well as to long-term transformations of social relations in Bosnia.

In conclusion, the paper argues that migrations in this historical context can be understood as structured processes with significant social consequences, and that the case of muhajirs from the Principality of Serbia represents an important example for a broader understanding of migration and demographic changes in the Balkans.

Keywords: Bosnia, Ottoman Empire, Muhajirs, Migrations, Demographic transformations

Türkiye's Post-2000 Foreign Policy Discourse Toward the Balkans

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Abstract: This study seeks to examine Türkiye's foreign policy discourse toward the Balkans in the post-2000 period. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the Balkans have undergone significant geopolitical and socio-political transformations and have remained a salient domain of Turkish foreign policy due to enduring historical linkages, cultural affinities, and their geostrategic significance. Since the early 2000s, Türkiye's engagement with the Balkans has increasingly been articulated through a more proactive, multidimensional, and institutionalized discursive framework. Within this context, Türkiye has progressively constructed its regional identity not merely on the basis of historical and civilizational ties, but also as a regional power that contributes to the maintenance of regional stability, assumes a mediatory role in conflict dynamics, and advances a multilateral diplomatic agenda. Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative research design grounded in document analysis. The empirical corpus comprises presidential statements, official discourses of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declarations pertaining to Balkan summits, and speeches delivered by key decision-makers, including Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Ahmet Davutoğlu, and Hakan Fidan, alongside official statements reflected in national and international media outlets. The data were analyzed through thematic analysis in order to identify the principal conceptual and discursive axes structuring Türkiye's Balkan foreign policy narrative. The findings indicate that Türkiye's discourse on the Balkans is organized around four interrelated thematic axes: "historical and cultural affinity," "regional stability and security," "multilateral diplomatic engagement," and "economic interdependence and cooperation." In addition, the discourse is characterized by recurrent emphasis on notions such as a "shared future," "regional ownership," and the role of Türkiye as a "stabilizing actor" within the regional order. In conclusion, the study argues that Türkiye's Balkan policy should be understood not solely through its material foreign policy practices, but also through the discursive production of identity, legitimacy, and regional role conception, all of which collectively shape its positioning within the regional and international system.

Keywords:Türkiye's Balkan policy, foreign policy discourse, discourse analysis, Balkans

The 1908 Elections in the Sanjak of Skopje and the Activities of Skopje Deputies in the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies

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Abstract: The restoration of the parliamentary system with the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Period brought about the participation of the Ottoman Empire's diverse elements in the political process. The Meclis-i Mebusan (Chamber of Deputies) elections held in 1908 represent the first and most critical stage of this political inclusion on the ground. Particularly, the Macedonian geography, characterized by a dense concentration of distinct ethnic and religious groups, serves as a crucial field for observing how the electoral process influenced both local and central politics. This study aims to analyze the political atmosphere during the 1908 elections in the Sanjak of Skopje, the administrative and cultural center of the Kosovo Vilayet, while exploring how local dynamics were integrated into the legislative body and evaluating the correlation between electoral outcomes and demographic realities. Furthermore, by examining the legislative activities of the elected deputies in parliament, it seeks to determine the extent to which local demands were channeled into central politics. The scope of this study is limited to the Sanjak of Skopje, focusing strictly on the electoral process and the parliamentary performance of the elected deputies. Methodologically, the study employs document analysis, a qualitative research technique widely utilized in the social sciences. In this context, the primary data sources consist of the election certificates (mazbata) of the four elected deputies (two Muslim and two non-Muslim) and the Meclis-i Mebusan Zabıt Cerideleri (Official Minutes of the Chamber of Deputies). The certificates provide data on vote counts, the number of voters, and the overall electoral process, while the official minutes allow for a detailed tracking of the deputies' parliamentary speeches and political initiatives. Additionally, contemporary local and national newspapers are utilized to grasp how the political atmosphere resonated within the public sphere. The findings indicate that the election of two Muslim and two non-Muslim deputies in Skopje was not merely a proportional reflection of demographics, but was also shaped by the alliances that the Committee of Union and Progress was compelled to forge with local elements. While the examination of the election certificates documents the legal and administrative procedures of the period, the data regarding the parliamentary activities of the deputies substantiates the roles of Skopje's representatives within general politics and their

contributions to the legislative process. Ultimately, this study aims to offer a local perspective on Ottoman parliamentary history by utilizing primary documents to discuss the provincial mechanisms of the 1908 elections and the nature of parliamentary representation specifically in Skopje.

Keywords: Second Constitutional Period, 1908 Elections, Ottoman Chamber of Deputies, Kosovo, Skopje

Cultural Memory in Bağbozumu Şarkilari Through Images, Deep Structure and Narrative Motifs

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Abstract: Şükrü Erbaş's poems "Züleyha Masalı", "Kehribar" and "Şehrazat", included in his poetry collection Bağbozumu Şarkıları, explore multilayered themes such as loneliness, love, the individual's relationship with society, and the representation of women though narrative figures and symbolic imagery.

The analysis is based on the concepts of surface structure and deep structure, originally developed by the Port Royal School and later reformulated by Noam Chomsky within the field of linguistics. Within this theoretical framework, the images and symbols embedded in the semantic layers of the poems are analyzed to examine the relationship between individual expression and cultural as well as collective consciousness.

Particular attention is paid to Züleyha and Şehrazat, two prominent female figures rooted in the Eastern narrative traditions. Their representations in Erbaş's poetry are interpreted in relation to the modern individual's experiences of loneliness, belonging, alienation and womanhood. Going beyond individual poetic expression, these narrative motifs reveal structural and thematic connections with oral tradition and collective memory. The presence of these figures in the oral culture of the Balkans and in the post-Ottoman narrative memory further enhances the study's comparative literary and cultural significance. In this respect, Erbaş's poetry is evaluated within the context of cultural continuity and shared narrative memory in modern Turkish poetry.

Keywords: Şükrü Erbaş, image, deep structure, narrative motifs, cultural memory, surface structure

The 'Enlargement Fatigue' Discourse in the European Union's Enlargement Policy

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the discourse of "enlargement fatigue" a term frequently invoked in the European Union's enlargement policy–within the framework of Constructivism. The constructivist approach argues that reality in international politics is not objectively given, but rather is constructed through discourses, norms, and identities. In this vein, the study argues that the concept of "enlargement fatigue" is not merely a technical term describing institutional bottlenecks in the enlargement process; rather, it is a discourse constructed and continuously reshaped by the European Union.

The study is based on a qualitative discourse analysis conducted primarily through European Commission progress reports and European Council summit conclusions. By examining how concepts such as "enlargement capacity," "limits of integration," and "public sensitivities" are framed in these documents, the study identifies the contexts in which the discourse of "enlargement fatigue" comes to the fore. Additionally, the study provides an assessment of how this discourse has been legitimized over time among the European public and policymakers.

The study argues that this discourse functions as a tool to legitimize the slowdown in the European Union's enlargement policy and has rendered the accession prospects of Western Balkan countries uncertain. In this context, the article assesses the European Union's enlargement policy not merely as an institutional and technical process, but also as a policy domain constructed through discourse that produces identity-based boundaries. Finally, by offering a constructivist perspective on the literature on EU enlargement, the study aims to make the role of discourses in shaping policy processes more visible.

Keywords: European Union, Enlargement Fatigue, Constructivism, Western Balkans, Integration

Women in Sarajevo Estates: Daily Life, Material Culture and Gender-Based Wealth Analysis (1747-1748)

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Abstract: Sarajevo, one of the most important administrative, legal, and commercial centers of the Balkans, constitutes one of the most unique examples of Ottoman urbanization in this geography with its regional trade networks and developed urban fabric. The main aim of this study is to reveal the socio-economic status, daily life practices, material culture, and property relations of women in this unique Ottoman provincial city in the mid-18th century, based on the inheritance records in Sarajevo Sharia Register No. 4, dated H.1160-1161/M.1747-1748. In order to address the social and economic status of women on a more realistic and balanced basis, a comparative approach between genders has been adopted methodologically in the research, and accordingly, the inheritance records of women and men in the register have been examined quantitatively and comparatively. The aforementioned register contains fifty inheritance records, twenty-seven of which belong to women from Sarajevo and twenty-three to men. The study revealed that women in Sarajevo were not passive heirs, but rather active actors who managed their own wealth and participated actively in the city's economy through domestic means of production. A significant gender disparity was observed in wealth composition. Men tended to concentrate in more fluid, cash-focused, and commercial sectors, while women accumulated their savings in assets focused on security and status, such as real estate, jewelry, and household goods. Material culture elements, particularly in clothing patterns and household goods preferences, provide insights into the aesthetic, spatial, and socio-cultural codes of the period. Ultimately, this research aims to contribute to the literature and microhistory Studies by making visible the ordinary Ottoman women of Sarajevo, through the material cultural elements and numerical evidence they left behind.

Keywords: Sarajevo, Inheritance, Ottoman Woman, Material Culture, Wealth

Two Young Turkist and Turanist Poets of Kosovo Turkish Poetry

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Abstract: This paper aims to analyze the works of Canan Özer and Taner Güçlütürk, two prominent representatives of contemporary Kosovo Turkish poetry, within the framework of Turkism and Turanism through literary analysis. The study examines the poetic universes of both poets in relation to the concepts of collective memory, linguistic consciousness, identity construction, historical continuity, and cultural resistance. Employing a combination of text-centered reading, thematic analysis, and ideological criticism, this research is grounded in the assumption that poetry constitutes not only an aesthetic form of production but also a field of cultural and political discourse.

Canan Özer's poetry is structured upon a powerful construction of identity centered on the Turkish language. In her works, Turkish is positioned not merely as a means of communication but as the cornerstone of history, destiny, homeland, and existence. In poems such as *"Türkler Var" (There Are Turks), "Türk Düşü" (The Turkish Dream), "Türk Eri" (The Turkish Warrior), and "Türkçe" (Turkish),* language is presented as the carrier of collective memory and the guarantor of the continuity of the Turkish nation, while an idealized conception of Turkish identity is constructed through representations of gender roles and society. Another notable feature of Özer's poetry is the interweaving of epic discourse with a didactic tone. While exalting the ideals of Turkism and Turan, the poet simultaneously adopts a critical stance toward cultural degeneration, loss of identity, and historical disconnection. In this respect, Özer's poetry can be characterized both as a "linguistic manifesto" and as a "text of cultural resistance."

Taner Güçlütürk, on the other hand, offers a broader geographical and historical perspective in his poetry, establishing a multi-layered cultural continuity between Rumelia, Anatolia, and Turkestan. In his work, space functions not merely as a backdrop but as a constitutive element of identity. In poems such as *"Yankılanır Debre'den Figân" (Lament Echoes from Debar), "Rumeli Sokağında Matem" (Mourning in a Rumelian Street), "Şimdi" (Now), and "Utanırım" (I Feel Ashamed)*, themes of language, migration, exile, and historical trauma are interwoven to propose a holistic consciousness against the fragmentation of the Turkish world. In Güçlütürk's poetics, Turkish serves as the carrier of a civilizational continuum extending from Orkhon to the Balkans, thereby emerging as one

of the most concrete manifestations of the Turanian ideal. Furthermore, his extensive use of folk literature, the divan tradition, and Sufi imagery creates a synthesis between tradition and modern sensibility.

Based on the analysis of the poets' works, it can be observed that Özer constructs a more ideologically dense and symbolically charged language, idealizing Turkish identity within a normative framework, whereas Güçlütürk develops a broader, more inclusive, and multi-layered vision of the Turkish world through historical and geographical diversity. The fundamental commonality between both poets lies in their treatment of the Turkish language as a matter of existence and in their articulation of cultural resistance through language.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that, through the works of contemporary representatives of Kosovo Turkish poetry, Turkism and Turanism persist not only as historical ideologies but also as dynamic and transformative aesthetic paradigms within contemporary literary production. These poems may thus be regarded as significant texts in which the Turkish presence in the Balkans is reconstructed along the axes of language, culture, and memory.

Keywords: Kosovo Turkish poetry, Turkism, Turanism, Canan Özer, Taner Güçlütürk

Regional Competition Through Digital Nomad Visas: A Comparative Policy Analysis of the Balkan Countries

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Abstract: The rapid global proliferation of remote work has led states to adopt special visa programs for digital nomads as a strategic policy tool. While the existing literature predominantly centers on Western Europe and island economies, Balkan countries have not been adequately addressed in these discussions despite their strategic location and increasing visibility. Aiming to fill this gap, this study examines digital nomad visa regimes from a comparative perspective through the cases of Croatia, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, and Montenegro. The legal foundations, application requirements, provided rights and obligations of the regulations implemented in these respective countries, along with the potential impacts of these regimes on national economies and labor markets, are evaluated using an analytical approach.

The primary areas of investigation are how Balkan countries structure their digital nomad visas within global mobility regimes and how this process aligns with legal frameworks. Based on a comparative policy analysis approach, the study presents a systematic examination of legal regulations, policies, and secondary legal sources. Within the analytical framework, key indicators such as visa durations, income thresholds, bureaucratic processes, and digital infrastructure capacity are taken into account; additionally, the relationship between policy proposals and implementation capacity is evaluated. The study aims to reveal potential discrepancies between normative regulations and de facto practices, and to analyze the structural factors determining the effectiveness of these regimes.

The findings reveal that Balkan countries construct their digital nomad visas upon similar economic discourses, yet they differ significantly in the implementation of these policies. EU membership and candidacy status emerge as determining factors regarding the international credibility of these policies.

In the context of digital nomad policies, Balkan countries are conceptualized not merely as an emerging center of attraction, but also as a multi-layered and asymmetric competitive arena. Furthermore, the study develops a critical perspective by emphasizing

that digital nomad visas not only create economic opportunities but can also produce socio-economic impacts concerning housing markets, local inequalities, and spatial transformation. Ultimately, the study offers significant implications for policymakers aimed at striking a balance between global competition and social sustainability.

Keywords: Digital nomad visa, Balkan countries, remote work, global mobility

The Spatial Counterpart of Belonging in Sarajevo: A Retrospective Approach

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Abstract: Place attachment is widely conceptualized as a relational construct shaped by emotional, social and cultural dynamics. Yet, its spatial dimension often remains implicit. Building on doctoral research that theorizes place attachment within a socio-spatial framework in the multi-ethnic city of Sarajevo, this study adopts a retrospective approach to reappraise the concept through its spatial manifestations demonstrating how belonging becomes materially grounded in Sarajevo.

The empirical basis of the study derives from in-depth interviews in which participants from diverse ethnic backgrounds identify places where they experience a sense of belonging, resulting in a dataset of 47 specific locations. These sites are interpreted not merely as individual preferences, but as spatial articulations of identity, memory and everyday practices. The study develops a typological classification of these places based on their urban position, architectural characteristics and functional roles, thereby situating the concept of place attachment within the urban landscape. Moreover, it suggests seven interrelated morphologies of attachment, each corresponding to a distinct spatial logic of belonging. This spatial reading enables a comparative understanding of how belonging is distributed and experienced across the city.

The findings reveal distinct spatial patterns, with a predominance of movement spaces alongside civic, retail and hybrid public–private environments. Movement and interchange spaces emerge as key settings for social interaction and cohesion, contributing significantly to the formation of the urban identity. The study argues that place attachment cannot be reduced to ethnic identity alone; rather, it is shaped by inter- and intragenerational collective memory, everyday practices and evolving social relations. In this way, the study positions urban space as an active medium through which belonging is produced, negotiated and transformed, contributing to broader debates on identity and social structure in multi-ethnic urban contexts.

Keywords: Place Attachment, Public Space, Sarajevo, Urban Morphology, Collective Memory

Digital Transformation and Media Ethics in the Western Balkans

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Abstract: Over the past decade, media systems in the Western Balkans have become increasingly digital, changing how news is produced, circulated, made visible, and verified. Social networks, search engines, online video platforms, and AI-assisted interfaces have not replaced editorial decision-making, but they have reduced its control over the circulation of news. Questions of why certain stories gain visibility, why others remain less visible, and how public trust is established have consequently become central concerns of media ethics.

The relationship between digital transformation and media ethics in the Western Balkans is considered here within the framework of communication ethics. The current crisis of trust in the region extends beyond the circulation of disinformation. Platformization, algorithmic mediation, institutional fragility, and weak ethical governance operate together and shape the conditions under which journalism is produced and encountered. Particular attention is therefore given to self-regulation and transparency in digital journalism, the capacity of public service broadcasters to adapt to digital change, and the place of media literacy in rebuilding institutional trust.

The research is based on qualitative document analysis and comparative policy analysis. Reports and documents published by UNESCO, the Council of Europe, IFEX, and Journalift are considered alongside regional studies of media and information literacy and academic research on algorithmic auditing, news recommender systems, and the use of artificial intelligence in journalism. Transparency reporting and ethical certification have gained ground in the region, but their implementation remains uneven. Public service broadcasters also differ considerably in their capacity for digital transformation because of financial constraints, limited institutional strategies, and shortages of qualified personnel. Sustainable journalism in the Western Balkans therefore depends not only on the accuracy of news content, but also on transparency, editorial responsibility, accountable algorithmic systems, financial independence, and media literacy. In this context, responsible hybrid journalism offers a model in which human editorial authority is retained, the use of artificial intelligence is disclosed, and public interest remains the guiding principle.

Keywords: Western Balkans, digital transformation, media ethics, self-regulation, transparency, public service broadcasting, media literacy, artificial intelligence.

The Role of Folklore in the Construction of National Identity Among Bulgarian Turks

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Abstract: This paper aims to examine the function of folklore in the preservation of the national identity of Bulgarian Turks. Throughout history, Bulgarian Turks, as a minority community, have faced various political, social, and cultural challenges in the geography in which they live; nevertheless, they have managed to maintain their national identity. In this process, folklore has served as one of the most significant foundations for the preservation of national identity. This study demonstrates that Bulgarian Turks have kept their collective memory alive through folkloric elements, thereby strengthening community consciousness and ensuring intergenerational cultural transmission. It is emphasized that folklore has emerged as an effective carrier of identity, particularly during periods when visibility in the public sphere was restricted, being sustained in a concealed manner within private spaces and everyday life practices. This study aims to contribute to the relationship between minority identity, cultural memory, and folklore in the Balkan context, while also drawing attention to the identity-preserving and transformative role of folklore. In preparing this paper, data obtained from fieldwork conducted in Bulgaria as part of a master's thesis were also utilized.

Keywords: Bulgarian Turks, Folklore, National Identity, Cultural Memory, Minority Identity

The Social Perception Of Banditry In Bulgaria: Between "Fear" And "Heroism"

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Abstract: The bandit uprisings, or the period of the *Kırdzhalis*, which began in 1791 and lasted for nearly two decades, undermined the Ottoman Empire's reputation both internally and externally and gave rise to military, economic, and social problems. Banditry existed not only as a problem of public order, but also as a phenomenon present in everyday life, evoking fear, uncertainty, and, at times, admiration. This study aims to examine the social perception of banditry in the geographical region of Bulgaria during the period of the bandit uprisings. More specifically, it focuses on the concept of "social banditry" and examines how this concept appeared during the period in question.

Eric Hobsbawm's *Bandits,* together with the narratives surrounding "*Ince Stoyan*," whom I examined as a figure of social banditry in my master's thesis, has played an important role in shaping this study. The study explores how the image of bandits was constructed in the eyes of the local population and under what circumstances they were perceived as "threats," and under what circumstances as "legendary" or "heroic" figures. Within this framework, particular attention is paid to the ways in which banditry was understood and given meaning through experiences of crime and violence, rumors, narratives of fear, and local stories.

The aim is to approach banditry not as a political movement or an ideological phenomenon, but as a form of perception shaped through the everyday experiences of society, and to reveal what this perception tells us about social life in Ottoman Bulgaria during a period of decline and disintegration.

Keywords: Bandit, Bulgaria, Mountain Uprisings

According to Mikhailovsky-Danilevsky, the Russian Military Historian of the Period, the Treaty of Edirne of 1829

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Abstract: The Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire clashed on numerous occasions, particularly during the 19th century. One such conflict was the Russo-Ottoman War of 1828–1829. This conflict, which took place mainly in Wallachia, Ottoman Bulgaria and the Caucasus, followed the burning of the Ottoman fleet by the Russians on 20 October 1827 and the Russians' support for Greek independence. As a result of the Ottoman Empire's request for peace during the 1828–1829 war, the Treaty of Edirne was signed on 14 September 1829. Under this treaty, Greece gained its independence, and the Ottoman Empire agreed to pay war reparations. One of the Russian representatives at the treaty negotiations was Aleksandr Ivanovic Mikhailovsky-Danilevsky. Mikhailovsky-Danilevsky, who commanded the 4th Division of the Russian army during the Russo-Ottoman War of 1828–1829, was not only a soldier but also a military historian. He was also the first official historian of the 1812 Franco-Russian War. Mihailovski-Danilevski took part in the peace negotiations alongside the German-born Russian commander I.I. Dibich-Zabalski. Mihailovski-Danilevski's notes on the Treaty of Edirne were published in 1889 in the journal *Russkii Vestnik*, which could be translated as *The Russian Herald*. This article will examine the observations of a Russian military historian of military background who was involved at a high level in the Treaty of Edirne signed between the Ottoman Empire and Russia. The examination of peace negotiations through the lens of a military figure is significant in that it illustrates the Russian military mindset of the period.

Keywords: Treaty of Edirne, Russia, Ottoman Empire, Mikhailovsky-Danilevsky, War

The Military and Intelligence Functions of the Rumeli Railroads During the Reign of Abdülhamid II

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the military and intelligence significance of the Rumelia railways during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (1876-1909). The railway investments carried out specifically in the Balkans are underpinned by the objective of economic development and the aim of reinforcing the state's centralised administrative approach. In this regard, the railways have emerged not merely as a traditional mode of transport, but as a factor that reinforces state authority. In particular, the emergence of independent and semi-independent states in the Balkans following the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, coupled with the interventions of the great powers of the time in the region, gave rise to the need for the Ottoman Empire to restructure its military and intelligence capabilities. In the face of these developments, the state regarded the railways as a critical tool for maintaining its authority in the Balkans and for controlling the flow of information more effectively. In this context, the railways have become one of the key infrastructure elements strengthening administrative, military, intelligence and economic ties between the centre and the provinces. Indeed, the widespread expansion of the railway network significantly reduced travel times between Istanbul and the Balkan provinces, enabling the central government to administer the provinces more swiftly and effectively. This situation has significantly enhanced the state's operational flexibility, particularly with regard to the planning and execution of military operations. At the same time, the railways have also played a functional role in the conduct of intelligence operations. The ability to deploy the army to the region at short notice in the event of potential uprisings and unrest serves as a deterrent, whilst the rapid communication and troop movements facilitated by the railway networks have streamlined the processes of intelligence gathering, transmission and analysis. In this respect, the railways are regarded both as a means of intervention and as a preventive control mechanism. In conclusion, the Rumelia railways played a critical role in maintaining the Ottoman Empire's presence in the Balkans during the reign of Abdulhamid II. It has been used as a multifaceted strategic tool to accelerate military deployments, strengthen central authority and enhance intelligence operations.

Keywords: Intelligence, Railways, Rumelia, Military

Mebāhis-i Ilmiyye and Its Place of Ottoman Science in the Context of Vidinli Hüseyin Tevfik's Intellectual Portrait

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Abstract: This article aims to examine the intellectual identity of Vidinli Hüseyin Tevfik Pasha (1832–1901), who occupies a distinctive place in the history of nineteenth-century Ottoman science and education, alongside the foundation and activities of the Cemiyet-i Tedrîsiyye-i İslâmiyye, and the content and impact of Mebâhis-i İlmiyye – considered the first mathematics journal of the Ottoman period – on the history of Ottoman science. Tevfik Pasha's intellectual identity is analyzed through three interconnected axes: his teaching activities, the international scientific knowledge he acquired during his postings in Paris and Rhode Island, and his original work Linear Algebra (1882). The foundation and activities of the Cemiyet-i Tedrîsiyye-i İslâmiyye in 1864 are assessed as a civil initiative aimed at filling the gaps left by the state in the field of education, with particular attention to the Society's role in the process leading to the establishment of Dârüşşafaka. Mebâhis-i İlmiyye, which began publication under the auspices of the Society in 1867, is examined as a significant periodical that served as a conduit for transmitting modern scientific knowledge to Ottoman intellectual circles and contributed to the formation of scientific terminology in Ottoman Turkish through its content covering mathematics, astronomy, mechanics, and the natural sciences. The article further discusses the journal's publication policy, its interactive structure based on reader participation, and its circulation within the military and technical educational institutions of the period.

Keywords: Vidinli Hüseyin Tevfik Pasha, Mebāis-i İlmiyye, Cemiyyet-i Tedrīsiyye-i Islāmiyye, history of Ottoman science, history of Ottoman mathematics, Darussafaka

The Folk Oral Tradition as Part of the Cultural Identity of the Sacred Structures Built in the Ottoman Period in Novi Pazar

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Abstract: Novi Pazar, located in southwestern Serbia, is a community rich in legends that interconnect with the lives of its residents. The oral traditions in this area play a vital role in interpreting its history and shaping local perceptions of urban elements. This study focuses on the oral narratives about religious structures constructed during the Ottoman era, specifically examining key architectural landmarks like the Lejlek Mosque, the Altun Alem Mosque, the Church of St. Nikola, etc. These edifices inspire legends that aim to provide meaning, rather than just explanations, contributing to the collective historical and cultural narratives of the community. These oral legends foster continuity of norms, values, and ideas from the past into the present, allowing contemporary society to connect with its ancestral roots. By incorporating these narratives into the study of architectural history, one can uncover the complexities of Novi Pazar's cultural landscape and offer a nuanced view of its historical evolution. Oral traditions offer a unique lens for understanding the city's architecture and provide essential social context for material artefacts that might evade scientific examination. This exploration identifies the underlying symbolic, social, and ideological values that are integral to the architecture. The narrative tradition serves as a methodology for assessing available material evidence, avoiding a singular focus on historical "accuracy" regarding the construction of specific religious structures. Instead, the aim is to explore how these oral traditions influence collective memory concerning these buildings, particularly through themes of cultural identity and communal remembrance. This paper seeks to contribute to the interdisciplinary discourse on the interrelations between architecture, history, and oral tradition within the Ottoman cultural heritage of Novi Pazar.

Keywords: architecture, Novi Pazar, legends, mosque, church

From Baku to the Balkans: The Khalwatiyya Sufi Order in the Religious History of Southeastern Europe

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Abstract: This paper examines the historical development and religious significance of the Khalwatiyya Sufi order within the religious history of the Balkans, paying particular attention to Macedonia as a crossroads of Islamic spiritual traditions. Originating in the Caucasus and most closely associated with Azerbaijan, Baku being an important intellectual and spiritual hub on the ancient Silk Road, the Khalwatiyya order played a notable role in the transmission of Sufi teachings across Anatolia and into Southeastern Europe.

Adopting a religious studies perspective, the paper analyses the Khalwatiyya as a mystical movement and an institutionalised religious order that contributed to the formation of local Islamic practices, ethical norms and scholarly networks in the Balkans. Through its emphasis on spiritual discipline (khalwa), moral self-cultivation and structured initiation, the Khalwatiyya had an undeniable impact on religious life in urban and rural settings, taking into account local cultures and existing religious traditions.

Special attention is given to the Macedonian context, where the order functioned as a mediator between Islamic theology, spirituality and social life from the Ottoman period onwards. By tracing intellectual lineages and ritual practices, the paper highlights the role of the Khalwatiyya in sustaining religious continuity whilst accommodating regional adaptation.

The study argues that the Khalwatiyya order represents an important case for understanding transregional religious exchange between Azerbaijan and the Balkans. Its history demonstrates the manner in which Sufi orders functioned as dynamic agents of religious knowledge, cultural interaction and spiritual authority within the ancient Islamic world.

Keywords: Khalwatiyya, Religious Orders, Balkans, Azerbaijan, History of Religions

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