



**Uğur Özcan – Abidin Temizer: Turkish Ambassadors and consuls in Montenegro from the Ottoman Empire to Republic, Öncü Kitap, Ankara (Turkey), 2012, 148 pages.**

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Turkish researchers, Assit.Prof. Dr. Uğur Özcan and Assit. Prof. Dr. Abidin Temizer, after a number of years researching in the archives and libraries of Turkey various resources of historical literature came together to write a book titled:“ Turkish ambassadors and consuls in Montenegro from the Ottoman Empire to Republic”. The book was published from the Turkish publisher “Öncü Kitap”, in 2012 and contains 148 pages.

The study presented in the book it is a great achievement both for the authors and for the Turkish historiography relating to the history of the Ottoman Diplomacy from the XVIIIth to the beginning of the XXth century. Researchers and readers can use this book in the understanding of the history of diplomacy between the Ottoman Empire and Montenegro.

Uğur Özcan and Abidin Temizer provide a detailed analysis to reach their scientific conclusions relating to the importance that the Ottoman Empire had devoted to the development and maintenance of diplomatic relations with other countries, especially with Montenegro. Turkish and foreign researchers have found among Turkish historiography a number of books and studies about the historical creation, growth and development of Ottoman Diplomacy at different points in history. Among these authors are: Ali İbrahim Savaş, Cezmi Karasu, Faik Reşit Unat, Namık SinanTuran, Nuri Yurdus, Ömer Kürkçüoğlu, Sinan Kunalp, Şenol Kantarcı etc., They have greatly contributed to the understanding of the history of Ottoman Diplomacy; however different from other studies this book does not have a general tone but it is

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specifically concentrated on the diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and Montenegro.

The book is also written in both English and Turkish thereby making it a great source of information even for researchers who are not familiar with the Turkish language but are interested in the field of Ottoman studies.

The book contains an introduction and three chapters. In the introduction, the authors voice the general historical value of the political relations between the Ottoman Empire and Montenegro during the period of Fatih Sultan Mehmet, which is when Montenegro entered the Ottoman Empire administration. With the Berlin agreement in 1878 Montenegro won its own independence. After this event, Uğur Özcan and Abidin Temizer, describe a short history of relations between the two countries which last until 2006, when Montenegro, has no longer ties to the Republic of Yugoslavia. In 2008, the Turkish Republic re-opened its embassy again in Montenegro after it was closed in 1912 because of the Balkan wars. Between the years 1879- 1912 there were about 13 ambassadors in Montenegro with consuls also in Bar, Ulcinj and Podgorica. In the book, the authors compare the foreign politics of the Ottoman Empire with those of European countries. These differences are mainly seen in the principles and rules followed in the development of foreign politics with other countries. Moreover, differences are also seen in the style of writing during correspondences. The authors conclude that the Ottoman Empire being isolated from the rest of Europe, managed to bring forward both changes and development in international relations by building embassies and consulates. At the beginning of the XVIIIth century, the Ottoman Empire sent out ambassadors to resolve various conflicts or to mediate communications. In its early years, The Ottoman state did not have any temporary embassies in other foreign countries. Instead it had developed a limited diplomacy upon the subordination of the extension of its territories, only sending out ambassadors when it was deemed necessary. When reforms started taking place between the XVIIIth until the XIXth century, in order to monitor the current

developments at the time more closely, as well as in order to be in closer and more constant contact with Europe, the Ottoman Empire started changing its outlook on diplomacy. Sultan Selim the IIIrd found it necessary to establish more permanent embassies around Europe. In 1792, Yusuf Aga is sent to London as an ambassador, followed by more ambassadors sent to Paris and Berlin. During the reign of Sultan Mahmud II(1808-1838) , there were Ottoman embassies open in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Teheran. The authors, also state that during this evolution in Ottoman diplomacy, terms such as “nameres”, “sergeant”, “ambassador”, “ambassador superb”, “legation” also started evolving.

Uğur Özcan and Abidin Temizer, in the first chapter of the book provide a description of the Ottoman ambassadors in Montenegro from March 1879 until December 1912. The first ambassador of the Ottoman Empire in Montenegro was Babanzade Halil Halid(1879-1880), who was also known for the foundation of diplomatic relations between the two countries. HalilHalid was later followed by Halil Halid, Sermet, Mehmet Rıza, İsmail Pasha, Ahmed Cevat Pasha etc, who also played an important role in furthering the development and maintenance of relations between the two countries and in solving various conflicts. The Ottoman embassy was localized in Cetinje.

In the second chapter of the book, the authors have included the consuls, who were also representatives of the Ottoman Empire in Montenegro. The Ottoman consulates were open in Bar –Ulcinj, and Podgorica. Consuls such as Ahmed bey, Aleksandr Bey, Fevzi Bey, Gregor Bey, Hayri Bey, Kostaki Petropulo Bey, Mehmed Ali Bey, played a pivotal role in the protection of İslam citizen rights as well as in solving commercial disputes . The term “consul” in the Ottoman Empire started being used after the revolution that took place in 1908. Before this, the most commonly used term was “shehbender”.

The authors also provide a great source of information about the life, education and official assignments of the Ottoman ambassadors and consuls appointed in Montenegro. These representatives spoke a number of languages including Turkish, English and French as well as they came from different ethnic backgrounds including Albanian, Armenian, Circassian and Greek. In the end, the book cites a rich bibliography and record copies that researchers had used during their work.

To conclude, the book prepared by Uğur Özcan and Abidin Temizer provides an immense contribution in terms of knowledge and historical value pertaining to the Ottoman Diplomacy in Montenegro. Furthermore, researchers interested in the field will find in this book a great source of archival and bibliographical studies. Finally, this book recognizes the importance of Ottoman Diplomacy for Turkish Historiography, as well as it honours the work and dedication of Ottoman ambassadors and consuls who played a pivotal role in the Ottoman administration.

