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Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies is an interdisciplinary refereed journal focusing on the humanities and social sciences of the Balkan countries and the former Soviet republics. The journal welcomes contributions in the fields of history, economics, politics, international relations, culture, art, geography, literature, theology, ethnography and environmental sciences. The idea behind this initiative is to extend a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary approach over issues of regional importance. Under this light, the journal aspires to act as an academic forum for scholars in historical as well as contemporary context on a wide range of cross-regional issues and to provide the epistemological framework for a comparative investigation, which would enhance our understanding of the Balkan, and Black Sea societies, politics and communities. Furthermore, manuscripts connecting the region with wider scopes, such as technological applications, will be also considered.

The journal is published online with two issues per year (June and December) commencing in 2018 and themed issues are anticipated. Submitted manuscripts should be original and not published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. Their length should not exceed 8.000 words. The manuscript will be subject to anonymous peer-review by at least two members of the scientific committee. The use of graphics and images in colour is encouraged and not subject to limitations (within reason). However, it is the responsibility of the individual authors to acquire copyright permission if needed. The language for manuscripts is English and Turkish. Articles, other than in English or Turkish, will be occasionally accepted. Articles must have an abstract of up to 150 words in English.

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Yayıncılık, 2018.

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Editorial



Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies is an Istanbul-based journal aiming at strengthening academic exchange among social scientists from Turkey, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Eastern European countries. We published the first number of the journal in December 2018 (with six research articles and two book reviews), and the second number in June 2019 (with six research articles, one review article and two book reviews). This issue is the 3rd issue of the journal and includes six research articles (five in English and one in German) and two book reviews.

The first article “Die osmanische Urbanisationspolitik auf dem Balkan: Das Beispiel Eğri Dere Palankası (Kriva Palanka)” by *Machiel Kiel* (Bonn, emeritus professor from Utrecht University), deals with the Ottoman settlement policy in the Balkans. He analyses the case of Eğri Palanka (Kriva Palanka - Republic Macedonia) utilizing the Ottoman archival sources. He shows the process of establishment and development of this strategically important pass in the Balkans during the Ottoman period and the integration of the Christian population into the Ottoman military system.

The second article “The Process of Sedentarization of Semi-nomadic Groups of the Yörüks in Parts of 16th Century Ottoman Rumeli” by *Milena Petkova* (Sofia) discusses the Turkish semi-nomadic group Yörüks who were settled in the Balkans after the Ottoman conquest. The article shows how this group were settled and their nomadic lifestyle changed in the consequence of the administrative measures by the Ottoman administration. The author utilizes Ottoman archival sources, mainly tax registers, to show the process of sedentarization.

The third article “Mapping Enemy’s Land: Russian Military-Topographic Intelligence on 19th Century European Turkey” by *Mihail Simov* (Sofia) deals with the Russian military maps depicting the Ottoman Balkans and the process of their emergence. The article shows how the Russian agents already before the Russo-Ottoman War of 1877-1878 came to the Balkans and started to prepare maps which should serve to the Russian forces during the coming war for their operations in the Balkans. It includes also important details

about how the Austrian geographer Felix Kanitz sold his maps on the Balkans to the Russian government for the use in the Russo-Ottoman War. The article shows the interesting relation between the imperial policy and cartography in the second half of the 19th century.

The fourth article “Remarks on the Prosopography of the Byzantine Administration in Northeastern Asia Minor (7th-11th c.)” by *Pantelis Charalampakis* (Athens) tries to show the social structure and administration of the Pontos. The article gives information about individuals, their positions, careers and families.

The fifth article “The Policy of the Provisional Government of Vlorë between December 1912 and April 1913” *Krisztián Csaplár-Degovics* (Budapest) deals with Albania immediately after the declaration of independence in 1912. It shows the problems and the policy of the provisional government to solve the internal and external problems of the newly emerging state during the First Balkan War.

The sixth and last article of this issue “Women of Orthodox Faith in Cyprus amid Historical Transitions” by *Areti Demosthenous* (Nicosia) deals with the Greek women, their increasing influence in the social and political life, and their contributions to the reconciliation with the Turkish Cypriots.

The issue includes two book reviews, the first book is about the image of Russia in Turkey (in Russian) – reviewed by Resul Turan (Rize) – and the second book on the Turkish minority in Bulgaria (in Turkish) – reviewed by Asım Korkmaz (Edirne).

I would like to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions and all referees for their huge work during the evaluation process of the articles.

Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu, Prof. Dr.

Editor in Chief