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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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Ramazan Hakkı Öztan & Alp Yenen (eds.), *Age of Rogues: Rebels, Revolutionaries and Racketeers at the Frontiers of Empires*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021, xxiii+400 p., ISBN: 978-1-4744-6262-4.

Cengiz Yolcu, Arş. Gör.,
İstanbul 29 Mayıs University

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 started the journal in 2018 and have published seven issues until now. The eighth issue includes five research articles, one translated article and one book review.

The first article of the issue titled “Tuna’nın Kuzeyinde İktidar Kavgası: Matei Basarab’ın Eflak’ta Giriştiği Mücadeleler (1632-1654)” by *Dr. Yusuf Heper* deals with the issue that how Matei Basarab came to power after the pro-Greek voivodes with the support of Transylvanian Prince I. Gheorghe Rákóczy and Abaza Mehmed Pasha. In this respect, Basarab acted together with Transylvanian Principality in foreign policy, and he did not hesitate to form an alliance against the Ottoman Empire. On the other hand, he had to struggle against Vasile Lupu who acted with his passion for voivodeship.

The second article of the issue titled “Revised Image of the Ottoman-Turks in the Current Sixth-Grade Greek History Textbook: A Comparative Analysis with the Previous Curriculum” by *Betül Ayanoğlu, PhD.*, traces back the formation processes of established stereotypes and the image of other(s) in relation to forming a positive self-image. Greece and Turkey have long been discussing forming teams of bilateral experts to emend their history textbooks, in particular removing othering and negative other images. The focus of this study is limited to the current sixth-grade Greek history textbook, which launched to displace a history textbook that was used for over two decades.

The third research article of the issue 8 titled “EU Conditionality on Normalization Deal of Serbia and Kosovo: Standards Before Status Approach Still Valid?” by *Pınar Atakara, Phd.*, aims to discuss ‘standards before status’ approach seized by the international community referred to eight main conditionality for Kosovo. The paper argues that complying with standards is still key to the EU conditionality policy implied. Nonetheless, the political developments prove that mutually-agreed solution to the status issue could be referred as the foremost component of the Dialogue.

The fourth research article of the issue titled “Greek-Turkish Relations: The Role of the Media amidst Two Crises” by *Vlasis Vlasidis, et al.* aims to examine the crises that appeared a few days apart, the effort of refugees-migrants from Asia and Africa that are temporarily residing in Turkey to cross the Greek-Turkish border on the Evros/Meric river, and the health crisis caused by the arrival of coronavirus in the other state.

The fifth research article of the issue 8 titled “Karabağ Savaşı Sonrası Türkiye-Azerbaycan-Ermenistan İlişkileri” by *Yıldız Devenci Bozkuş, Prof. Dr.*, focuses on the regional and global effects of the 44-day Karabakh war in 2020, after thirty years of occupation. The author discusses the Russian-Ukrainian war, Turkey’s relations with Russia, the expansion of NATO and the effects of the energy crisis in the world on Turkey-Azerbaijan-Armenia relations in the first place, and then, how the last Karabakh war affected Turkey-Azerbaijan and Turkey-Armenia relations and the global repercussions of the Azerbaijani victory.

The eighth issue of *Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies* includes a translated article. *Olga Ziroyević’s* article, originally titled “Mehmed Pascha Sokolli im Lichte Jugoslawischer Quellen und Überlieferungen” (in German) has been translated into Turkish by *Mehmet Yılmaz Akbulut, PhD.* The research of Olga Ziroyević in the Dubrovnik archive is a new source work for Sokullu Mehmed Pasha. Moreover, the author’s work evaluates the narratives in Serbian legends about Mehmed Pasha as historical data.

The issue also includes one book review, Ramazan Hakkı Öztan & Alp Yenen (eds.), *Age of Rogues: Rebels, Revolutionaries and Racketeers at the Frontiers of Empires* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021) was reviewed by *Cengiz Yolcu.*

I would like to thank the editorial board members of our journal, especially *Cengiz Yolcu*, for their hard work and contributions to this issue. I also thank the authors of the articles and all the referees for their precious efforts during the evaluation process of the articles.

Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu, Prof. Dr.

Editor in Chief