

Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies

Year 7, Issue 13

December 2024

e-ISSN: 2667-470X

editors



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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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Design and Page Setting

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Review of Submissions: All submissions are evaluated through a double-blind review process and include review both by editorial board members and external reviewers. *Publishable Copy:* Articles are to be submitted via electronic means in Word format and accompanied by a copy in pdf format. The pictures and figures should be sent separately in 200 dpi resolution in tif format.

General Style Rules: 1. The text must be formatted with 1.5-inch margins and be double-spaced. 2. A separate cover sheet must be included with the manuscript title, author's name, ORCID iD Number, professional affiliation, complete mailing address and telephone number. 3. A short abstract of 70–100 words in English (including also five key words) should accompany the article. 4. Capitalization: authors should be consistent in their use of capitalization. 5. Italics: the titles of works and periodicals should normally be italicized. Foreign words should also be italicized. 6. In general, foreign words and phrases, both in main text and footnotes should be provided in translation. All non-Roman alphabets should be transliterated according to the rules of international transliteration. 7. All articles should include footnotes. 8. All articles should have a bibliography at the end of the article. 9. Illustrations, tables, maps and figures must be numbered consecutively in the text and captions identifying the source of any image or data should be used. Figure title: below the picture; Table title: above the table. 10. For further reference, The Chicago Manual of Style Online (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>) is recommended.

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Journal Website: <http://dergipark.org.tr/balkar>

Postal address:

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Hacısalihoglu

Yıldız Technical University,

Davutpaşa Campus, İİBF,

34220 Esenler, Istanbul-Turkey

e-mail: mhaci@yildiz.edu.tr

Tel: +90212383 68 33

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Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2013, 611 s.

Tolga Karpuz,

Ankara University

Editorial

The *Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies* is an Istanbul-based publication dedicated to fostering academic exchange among social scientists from Turkey, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Eastern European countries. We launched the journal in 2018 and have since published twelve issues. The current, thirteenth issue includes five research articles and one book review.

The first two articles in this issue, edited by our guest editor *Dr. Adrian Gheorghe*, focus on the military history of the Balkans. These papers were initially presented at the international workshop "Culture(s) of War between Transcarpathia and the Bosphorus, 14th-16th Century," held online in July 2024 by the Institute for Middle Eastern Studies at Munich University.

This one-day event explored the transformation of war cultures in Eastern and Southeastern Europe during the 14th to 16th centuries, a period marked by the rise of the Ottoman Empire and significant geopolitical upheavals. Adopting a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, the workshop examined the region's military organizations and warfare practices within a broader transregional framework. Key discussions centred on the evolution of war culture, tracing its shift from pre-Ottoman traditions to its integration into the Ottoman Commonwealth. Participants analysed the interplay between military structures, the transfer of knowledge, and cultural practices of war, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence across the region.

The first article, "Warfare in the Serbian State from the Late 14th to the Mid-15th Century" by *Miloš Ivanović*, explores the transformation of Serbian military organization under Ottoman pressure. It examines how rulers like Despot Stefan Lazarević restructured local governance and expanded the pronoia system to bolster defences. The study highlights advancements in fortifications and weaponry, as well as the adaptation of military service to meet the demands of Ottoman suzerainty.

The second article, "War, Innovations and Cultural Transfers in East-Central Europe: The Army of Transylvania in the Age of Transition from Voivodship to Principality" by *Florin Nicolae Ardelean*, investigates military evolution in Transylvania during the 16th century. It discusses the interplay of medieval traditions with foreign influences, such as Ottoman and Habsburg practices, and the adaptation of recruitment

methods, light cavalry, and infantry models. The article situates these changes within the broader political and cultural context of a borderland under Ottoman suzerainty.

In addition to these two thematic contributions, there are three other research articles on various aspects of Southeast European history:

The third article of the issue by *Bilgin Çelik* on "Some Assessments of the Habsburg Ambassador J.M.V. Pallavicini in the Process of Diplomatic Polarisation in Europe in His Istanbul Mission and Reports before the Balkan War" (in Turkish) discusses Pallavicini's tenure as the Habsburg ambassador in Istanbul during a period of heightened international tension over the Macedonian Question. The article highlights his diplomatic challenges, particularly during the 1908 Bosnian annexation, and his respected role as a senior Great Power diplomat amidst rising tensions before the Balkan War.

The fourth article by *Elçin Macar*, titled "Shifting Identities as a Strategy to Remain in the Homeland: The Remarkable History of Kurfalı, Eastern Thrace's Last Bulgarian Village," examines the history of a village inhabited by Bulgarians. Based on Ottoman and Turkish archival sources, it describes the population's response to various population exchange policies. To remain in their village, they initially declared themselves as Greeks. During the population exchange period, they identified as Bulgarians. This strategy allowed them to stay in their village until the 1930s, when they were exchanged with a Muslim village in Bulgaria.

The fifth article of the issue by *Tamás Dudlák* on "Southern Opening: Turkish Soft Power in Sub-Saharan Africa" examines Turkish policy in Africa from 2002 to 2016, analyzing it from political, economic, and cultural perspectives. It highlights the role of Turkish institutions, including governmental, humanitarian, and public initiatives, in shaping relations. Key to understanding this policy are non-governmental actors, such as the so called Anatolian Tigers, whose influence contributed to Turkey's broader engagement and the democratization of its foreign policy in Africa.

Finally, *Tolga Karpuz* offers a comprehensive review of the Turkish translation of Nathalie Clayer's book "The Origins of Albanian Nationalism: The Birth of a Muslim-Majority Nation in Europe".

The articles in this issue offer important contributions to our

understanding of both historical and contemporary issues in the Balkans. First and foremost, I would like to thank the authors of these excellent articles for choosing to publish in our journal. I also wish to express my gratitude to the referees for their valuable efforts during the evaluation process. For the preparation of this issue, I extend my thanks to the editorial board members and Dr. Adrian Gheorghe, the guest editor of this issue, for their support.

Mehmet Hacısalihođlu, Prof. Dr.

Editor in Chief