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General Information

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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Guidelines for Submission: Each issue will include articles, review essays, and shorter book reviews. All articles are to be submitted in electronic form to the journal editorial board at <http://dergipark.org.tr/balkar>. Submissions are to be up to 8,000 words in length and may be accompanied by footnotes and a bibliography. Transliterations will be kept to a minimum, and when used will follow the standard adopted by the appropriate scholarly bodies in the respective language areas. Articles are expected to be written in English though submissions in other languages can also be considered. Review essays are to be up to 4,000 words in length. They may review one or more books and may also focus on multiple works of a single author, works in a series, or publications around particular historical sources. Book reviews are to be 1,000 words in length.

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 100-200 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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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. Launched in 2018, the journal has published thirteen issues to date. The current, fourteenth issue features three research articles and one book review.

The first article, titled “Siege, Battle, Verse: The Siege of Shkoder During the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913 in the Poetic Memoirs of Mehmed Fahri Pasha” (in Turkish) by Dindar Negiş and Mehmet Beşikçi, examines the unique verse-form memoirs of Mehmed Fahri Pasha. These memoirs provide the only known independent first-hand account of the 1912–1913 Shkodër siege. Through comparative analysis, the article reconstructs the conflict’s events, explores the impact of famine and bombardment, and evaluates the memoir’s contribution to Ottoman military historiography and post-war memory.

The second article, “The Geopolitical Weight of the 1946 Paris Peace Conference in the Balkans” by Onur Köse, analyzes how Balkan regions were represented during the 1946 conference. Employing a method inspired by Caldara and Iacoviello’s geopolitical risk model, the study quantifies references to nearly 2,000 geographic areas across 300 meetings. It highlights shifting geopolitical priorities—especially Russian influence—and lays the groundwork for understanding long-term changes in the geopolitical landscape of the Balkans.

The third article, “Anaklia Project: Strategic Importance and Challenges” by Nasiba Mirzayeva, discusses the Anaklia deep-sea port project in Georgia. Intended to enhance Georgia’s cargo transportation capacity and link East and West, the project has drawn attention due to the limitations of other Black Sea ports such as Poti and Batumi, which cannot rival Turkish and Russian ports. The article outlines the challenges the Anaklia initiative has faced since its inception.

The issue also includes a book review by Mehmet Hacısalıhoğlu on the book “Meždu Anatoliya i Rumeliya. Yurutsite i stopanskoto rayonirane na časti ot Tsentralnite Balkani, sredata na XV – sredata na XVI vek” [Between Anatolia and Rumelia. The Yuruks and the Economic Zoning of Parts of the Central Balkans, Mid-15th – Mid-16th Century] (in Bulgarian) by Milena Petkova.

I would like to thank the authors for choosing to publish their work in our journal. My sincere thanks also go to the referees for their valuable contributions to the peer review process. Finally, I extend my gratitude to the editorial board and to Zeynep Öztürk, the language editor of this issue, for their support in preparing this publication.

Mehmet Hacısalıhoğlu, Prof. Dr.

Editor in Chief