

## POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND THEIR REASONS IN TRABZON CITY AND OF DISTRICT IN THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

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### ABSTRACT

In this study, considering the world population growth rates, the population mobilities and their reasons are investigated Trabzon city and its old Of district in the Eastern Black Sea Region in Turkey during Ottoman Era. Detailed migrations and their causes, based between the 15th century the 20th century are estimated by analyzing the recorded households Trabzon City and its old Of district in the Eastern Black Sea Region. The amount and causes of human movements around the region are evaluated comparing with the world population growth rates with the same going and going are presented with the main consideration. According to the obtained point, far distances are from internal migrations. Among the reasons such as migrations, wars, occupations, religious reasons, the direction of the states and state resettlement regulations, the general way of migration is economic.

**Keywords:** Ottoman Period, Migration Reasons, Of District Population, Trabzon City Population

## OSMANLI DÖNEMİNDE TRABZON İLİ VE İLÇESİNDEKİ NÜFUS HAREKETLERİ VE NEDENLERİ

### ÖZET

Bu çalışmada, Osmanlı Dönemi'nde Türkiye'de dünya nüfus artış hızları, nüfus hareketlilikleri ve nedenleri göz önünde bulundurularak Trabzon şehri ve Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesi'ndeki eski Of ilçesi araştırılmıştır. 15. yüzyıl ile 20. yüzyıl arasında ortaya çıkan ayrıntılı göçler ve nedenleri, Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesi'nde Trabzon Şehri ve eski Of ilçesinde kayıtlı haneler analiz edilerek tahmin edilmektedir. Bölgedeki insan hareketlerinin miktarı ve nedenleri, dünya nüfus artış oranları ile karşılaştırılarak aynı gidiş ve gidiş ile karşılaştırılarak değerlendirilerek temel olarak ele alınmaktadır. Elde edilen noktaya göre, uzak mesafeler iç göçlerden kaynaklanmaktadır. Göçler, savaşlar, işgaller, dini nedenler, devletlerin yönü ve devlet yeniden yerleştirme düzenlemeleri gibi nedenler arasında genel göç şekli ekonomiktir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Osmanlı Dönemi, Göç Nedenleri, İlçe Nüfusu, Trabzon İl Nüfusu

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Population movements and migration are those that have emerged in every period of history for various reasons such as economic, social and political (Messina and Lahav, 2006, Castelli, 2018). As in every period of history and in various parts of the world, there were some population movements in the Ottoman period. In this study, population movements and their causes were examined in the city of Trabzon and the old town of Of in the Eastern Black Sea region during the Ottoman period. Before and after the conquest of Trabzon, intense political activities were experienced in that region. After Trabzon was conquered in 1461, population movements in the region accelerated. Some people, together with the administrators of the Trabzon Pondic state, were immigrated to Istanbul and the West (İpek, 2019). The desire to settle in the newly conquered lands with a climatic climate provoked migration towards the Trabzon region. Forced population transfers in early Ottoman era are summarized in a study (Hooper, 2003).

During the reign of Shah Ismail, the Safavid state drew some of the people of Eastern Anatolia to the Tabriz side through an earthen valley. However, the 1514 Çaldıran expedition added all of Eastern Anatolia to the Ottoman Empire. After this expedition, migrations from the region to the west increased. Meanwhile, some migrations have been towards the Trabzon region. Bostan made some population studies for the city of Trabzon and collected them in a book (Bostan, 2002). An important study on the population movements of Of was published by Hasan Umur in 1951, based on historical documents (1951). Some other studies were carried out for the same region (Albayrak, 1990; Bostan, 2016; Bostan 2017; Agiralioglu, 2021; Ağiralioglu 2022). Although the household and population records in the region examined in the studies were examined, there were not much research on the migrations in the same regions (Ağiralioglu and Ağiralioglu, 2022). In this study, the number of households and population estimates within the borders of the city of Trabzon and the old district of *Of* during the Ottoman period were examined and the population changes and migration reasons in the region were compared with the world population growth rates in that period.

## 2. HISTORICAL TREND OF WORLD POPULATION GROWTH RATES

Some of the world's population values are given in **Table 1** between 1500-2100. To examine the population movements in the Eastern Black Sea Region during the Ottoman period, the average annual population growth rates of the world population were calculated at intervals of 50 or 100 years after 1500 and added to Table 2. As seen from the table, between the years 1500-1600 and 1600-1700, the annual population increases were 0.1839 and 0.0848 percent, respectively. In the following years, 1700-1750, 1750-1800, 1880-1850, 1850-1900 and 1900-1950 the annual population growth rates were 0.6019, 0.3923, 0.4883, 0.5409 and 0.8584 percent, respectively.

**Table 1: Estimated World Population Between 1500-2100.**

Year	Population (million)	Average annual growth (%)
1500	461	-
1600	554	0.1839
1700	603	0.0848
1750	814	0.6019
1800	990	0.3923
1850	1,263	0.4883
1900	1,654	0.5409
1950	2,536	0.8584
2000	6,163	1.7918
2050	9,735	0.9185
2100	10,874	0.2215

(<https://www.Statista.Com/Statistics/1006502/Global-Population-Ten-Thousand-BC-To-2050/2020>)

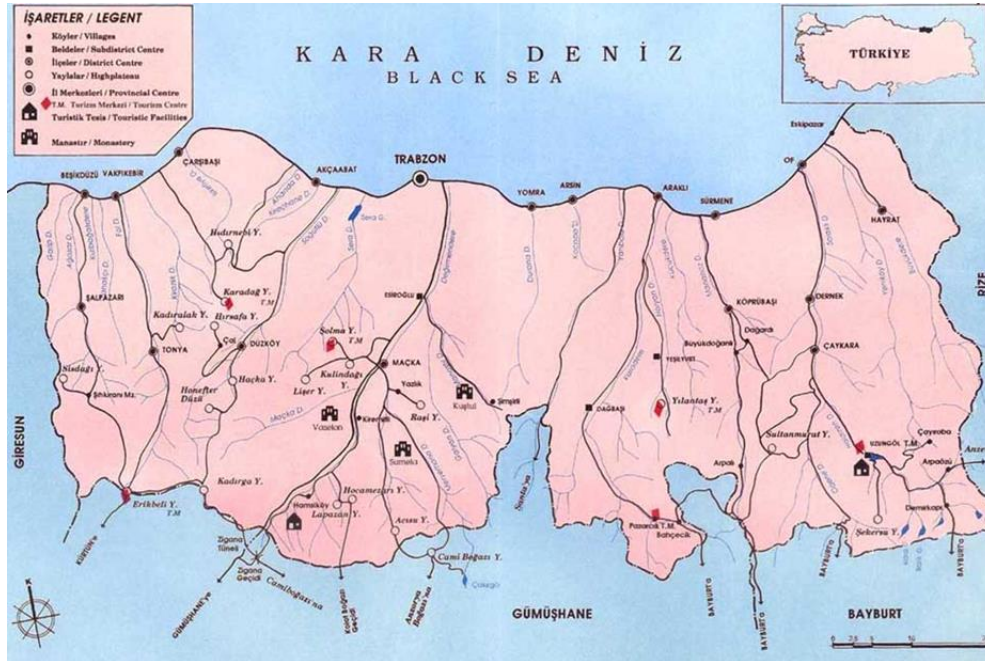
### 3. TRABZON CITY POPULATION AND ITS EVALUATION IN THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

#### 3.1 Trabzon City Population and Evaluation in the 15-17. Centuries

Trabzon Province and its districts in the Eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey are shown in **Figure 1**. On this map, the lands known as Of district during the Ottoman period included the lands of today's Of, Dernekpazarı, Çaykara and Hayrat districts. Spanish traveler Pero Tafur, who visited Trabzon between 1437-1438, wrote that the population of the city was approximately 4,000 people (Kılınç, 2016:153-154).

According to Hanefi Bostan, the first archival material giving information about the population of the city of Trabzon after the Conquest is the “Mufassal Timar Defteri” dated 1486. The author examined the “İcmal Defteri” dated 1520 and the Timar Registry Register containing the records between 1515 and 1532, the “Mufassal Tahrir Defteri” dated 1554 and the “Mufassal Tahrir Defteri” dated 1583 and revealed the Trabzon city population data (Bostan, 2018: 121-122).

After the conquest of Trabzon, Sultan Mehmed II, the Emperor David, his support, prominent rulers and wealthy people proceeded to Istanbul with their families. The population of the deportees, including their families, is around 400-500. Considering that Fatih sent 800 or 1,500 young people to Istanbul and people were deported from Istanbul to other places, the number of Christians deported from Trabzon city reaches between 2,000 and 2,500 people. This constituted a significant part of the population in the city before the conquest (Bulut, 2005; Bostan, 2018: 125).



**Figure 1: Map of Trabzon Province in the Eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey**

A second exile of the 3000-4000 Christians in the city of Trabzon took place between 1515 and 1553 Bostan, 2018: 125. During this second exile, the Christian population was deported to Karadeniz Ereğli, İstanbul, Niğbolu and Tokat. According to the information in the “İstanbul Tahrir Defteri” dated 1540, a total of 297 Christian households, 18 of which were Armenian, were deported from Trabzon to İstanbul. As a matter of fact, while the Christian population in the city of Trabzon was about 6,850 in a record dated 1518, it decreased to 6,000 in the records between 1520 and 1532, and decreased to 3,500 according to the information given in the “Tahrir Defteri” dated 1554.

In response to the non-Muslims expelled from the city of Trabzon, some Muslim Turks were also deported to Trabzon and settled in places evacuated from the Christians. As for the inward housing; According to the information in the “Mufassal Tımar Defteri” of 1486, the majority of the first Muslim Turks settled in the city of Trabzon through exile, and the rest settled voluntarily. Sultan Mehmet II gave the order of resettlement through exile.

Muslim Turks settled in Trabzon city through exile are in 202 households and these are Niksar, Sonisa, Kalanik, Lâdik, Amasya, Bafra, Osmançık, İskilip, Çorumlu, Gümüş, Merzifon, Tokat, Samsun city, Samsun township, Turhal, Zile, Göl-Canik, Salesmiş.

The Muslim Turks who settled in the city of Trabzon voluntarily have 56 households and there is no information in the narrow records where they are from. A total of 118 Muslim castle guards who served in the Trabzon castle were brought from other sanjaks and assigned.

In the light of this information, as a result of the settlement policy followed in the city of Trabzon after the conquest, a Muslim Turkish group consisting of approximately 2,000 people was settled in the city (Bulut, 2005; Bostan, 2018: 125-130).

The Muslim Turkish population should have increased between 1486 and 1520, on the contrary it decreased from approximately 2,000 to 1,700. In this period, the decrease in the Muslim population may have been caused by the fact that there was a state of war with the Safavids and the Kölemens, so the transfer of the people stopped, and on the other hand, the reasons such as the transfer of households out of Trabzon.

The third resettlement movement related to the settlement of the Muslim Turkish population in the city of Trabzon is included in the cadastral records dated 1554. According to this book, the newly settled Muslims in the city consisted of 297 households and 51 mucerred (unmarried, alone).

In the records dated 1554-1564, it is understood that approximately 1550 Muslims were settled in the city of Trabzon.

Information about the placement of the Muslim-Turkish population in the city for the fourth time is also found in the census records dated 1583. The Muslim population of the city, which consisted of 574 households and 142 mücerreds in 1554, increased to 1,134 in 1583.

As a result of the fourth resettlement movement, a Muslim-Turkish population of approximately 850 people was settled in the city of Trabzon.

According to the records in the “Tahrir Defteri” dated 1554, a Christian population of 650 people, consisting of 112 households and 66 mücerreds, was settled in the city. While it is stated that one of the newly settled Christian population in the city is from Karaman and one of them is from Canik, it is not specified from which sanjak the remaining majority of them were brought and settled in the city of Trabzon.

According to the records dated 1583, a Christian population of 30 households and approximately 150 people was settled in the city. No information is given about where this last Christian group was brought from and settled in the city (Bulut, 2005;).

After the conquest of Trabzon, the populations determined in the city of Trabzon according to what was written in the census book (registered to the Ottoman tax system) between the years 1486-1583 are given in **Table 2** (Topalidis, 2015; Bostan, 2018; Özdemir, 2017: 71). According to this table, there were 7,080 people living in Trabzon in 1486. The change in the population of Trabzon city over time is shown in **Figure 2**. These population figures do not include the sanjak, township and villages of Trabzon, but only reflect those living in the city center.

The populations of the following years were calculated (projected) based on the population number of 1486 and the annual increase rate of the world population was 0.1839% between the years 1500-1600 and added to **Table 2**. As it can be seen from this table and **Figure 2**, the population in Trabzon was lower than expected in 1523, much lower than expected in 1553, and very high in 1583.

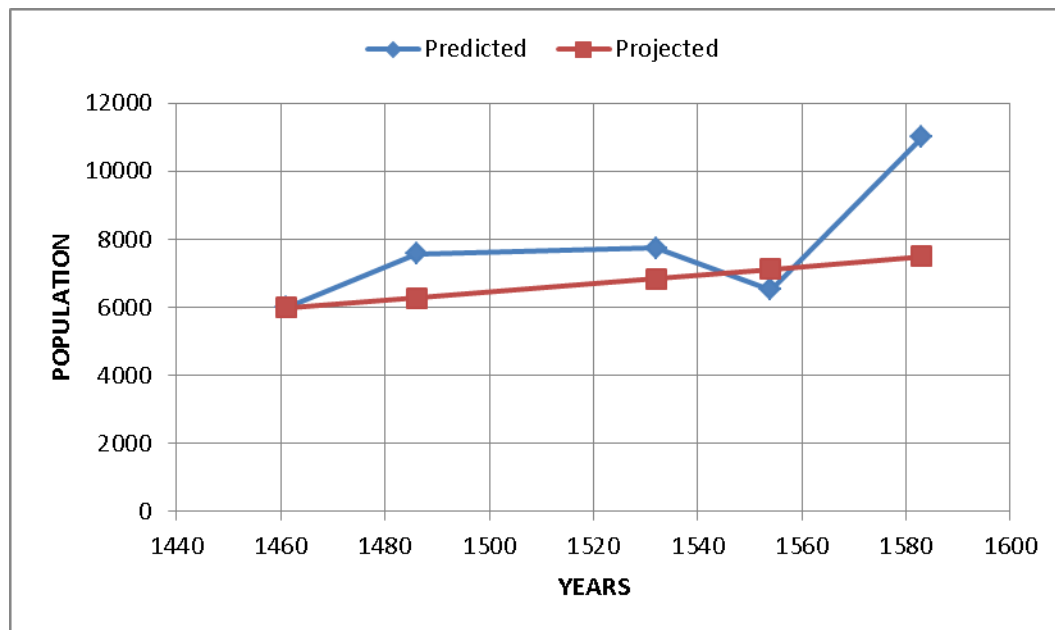
Between 1486 and 1523, for about 40 years, the population remained almost constant. The fact that the expected increase in the population did not occur between these years can be explained by the migration of approximately 2,000 Christian people to the West and Istanbul.

Between 1523 and 1553, there was a 14% decrease in the population of the city and the population decreased to 6,100. This decrease shows that there is a significant migration wave out of the city.

The population increased by 73% to 10,575 between 1553 and 1583. This rapid increase in the total population can be explained by the placement of population in the city from the inner parts of the country such as Samsun, Amasya, and Tokat.

**Table 2: Estimated population in Trabzon city Between 1486-1583** (Bostan, 2018: 122-123)

Year	1461	1486	1532	1554	1583
Estimated Population	6,000	7,575	7,750	6,525	11,000
Projected Population	6,000	6,282	6,836	7,118	7,508



**Figure 2: Population Change Graph Between 1461-1583 in Trabzon City**

### 3.2. Trabzon Population and its Evaluation in the 18-20. Centuries

There are no population records of the city of Trabzon dating to the 17th century. The population of the city in the mid-17th century is estimated at 13,000 (Bostan, 2018: 131-132).

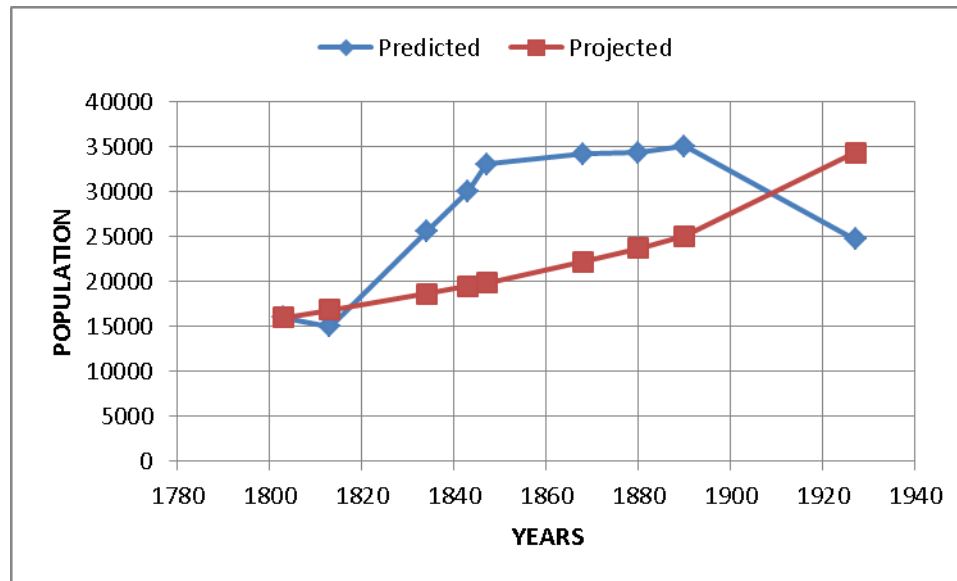
The population determined in the first census of the Republican period, based on the estimates of researchers and travelers in the city of Trabzon between 1803-1927, are shown in **Table 3** and **Figure 3**. As it can be seen from **Table 3**, in 1927, the first census of the republican period, there were 24,634 people living in the city of Trabzon.

Based on the population of 1803, which is 16,000, and considering the annual increase rate of the world population of 0.4883% between the years 1800-1850, 0.5409% between the years 1850-1900, and 0.8584% between the years 1900-1950, the populations of the following years were also calculated (projected) and added to **Table 3**.

As can be seen from **Table 3** and Figure 3, the city population of Trabzon increased more than expected between 1813 and 1847. But the main decline was experienced between 1890-1927. This decrease was caused by the deaths and migrations in the region as a result of the First World War, the occupation of Trabzon by the Russians, the War of Independence and the population exchange between Turkey and Greece.

**Table 3: Estimated Population in Trabzon City Between 1803-1927**

Years	1803	1813	1834	1843	1847	1868	1880	1890	1927
Predicted	16,000	15,000	25,500	30,000	33,000	34,131	34,300	35,000	24,634
Projected	16,000	16,799	18,608	19,442	19,824	22,202	23,687	25,000	34,299



**Figure 3: Population Estimates for Trabzon City Between 1803-1927**

#### 4. OF DISTRICT POPULATION AND ITS EVALUATION IN THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

##### 4.1. Study Area

Since geography has very important effects on the social, economic and cultural structures of a region, firstly, the geography of the Of district, which is the study area, was discussed. The lands of the old Of district consisted of two stream valleys named Solaklı and Baltacı. These both valleys are divided into three sub-basins from north to south. Accordingly, the 80 km long Solaklı basin will be evaluated in three basins as Lower Solaklı Basin, Middle Solaklı Basin and Upper Solaklı Basin. Similarly, the 60 km long Baltacı Basin was evaluated in three parts as Lower Baltacı Basin, Middle Baltacı Basin and Upper Baltacı Basin.

The Lower Solaklı Basin is the part of the basin that starts from the town center of Of (Solaklı) on the Black Sea coast, continues for about 20 km and ends at the Ulucami Stream Observation Station.

In this valley, whose slopes are relatively less inclined near the sea, the slopes become steeper as you go south and the valley becomes a narrow passage at the Ulucami Stream measurement station. The map of Solaklı Valley is given in **Figure 4**. (Ağırlioğlu et al. 2009; Agiralioğlu, 2015).

Middle Solaklı Basin is the part from Ulucami Stream Observation Station to the head of Uzungöl. In this part, Holo Stream joins Solaklı Stream just south of Dernekpazarı. In the Middle Solaklı basin, the narrow valley continues to the south of Dernekpazarı and after about 7-8 km, Çaykara lands begin. A small stream joins the Solaklı creek from the east in Çaykara district center and the lands of the valley expand. Gorgora, Holayısa, Paçan villages, were recorded in 1486 in the oldest historical sources in the Middle Solaklı Basin.

Today's Dernekpazarı district is located in the Middle Solaklı basin. In the Trabzon detailed Timar book dated 1486, the villages of Zeno, Kondu, Paçan-Kaçça, Oflera took place within the borders of this district.

In the Middle Solaklı Basin, 10 km above the Çaykara district center, Köknar Stream joins Solaklı from the west. In this valley, there are two old villages such as Aşağı Ogene (Köknar) and Yukarı Ogene (Karçam). Some of these old village names can be seen on the map given in **Figure 4**.



**Figure 4: Solaklı Basin (Ağırlioğlu et al., 2009)**

The Upper Solaklı Basin is located in South of Uzungöl. After the lake, the valley gets narrower and there is no organized settlement in the 20 km long valley. This narrow valley is covered with forests. Two historical villages, Haldizen and İpsil, are located in the last 20 km of the Upper Solaklı Basin.

The Lower Baltacı Basin starts from the Eskipazar settlement on the coast and covers an area of approximately 10 km from the coast. In the Upper Baltacı Basin, Aso, and Yente villages are located.

#### **4.2. Population Data in Of District During 15-17. Centuries**

The determined household numbers of 75 villages or neighborhoods in Of district in 1515, 1554 and 1583 which are deduced from the sources (Umur, 1951; Albayrak, 1990) are shown in



**Table 4.** After the conquest of Trabzon in 1461, there are two townships in the Of district in the Ottoman archives. These are Of township and Kalipravel township. The settlement, which was mentioned as a township in the “Trabzon Tahrir Defteri” dated 1486, also included the regions named Kadahor and Kalipravel.

In the records dated 1486, there were a total of 2492 households in 30 villages and 1 castle of Of and Kadahor. This number increased to 2516 households in 1515 and 3181 households in 1554 in 43 villages and 10 hamlets. As can be seen from **Table 4**, there were 4222 households in 75 settlements in 1583.

**Table 4: Villages in Of County and Number of Households by Years**

No	Township	Village	Years			
			1486	1515	1554	1583
1	Of	İşkenaz		80	56	131
2	Of	İşkenaz-Leka		54	77	78
3	Of	İşkenaz- Karakeşiş		23	84	34
4	Of	İşkenaz		64	28	34
5	Of	Yığa-Maki		58	68	137
6	Of	Yığa-Likoz		41	43	37
7	Of	Yığa-Korkot		45	48	66
8	Of	Yığa-Anahor		46	35	60
9	Of	Alano-Simlos		61	56	121
10	Of	Alano-Balcı Hamza		39	52	56
11	Of	Alano-Makedo		79	117	143
12	Kalipravel	Vuzak-Kavalalar		103	87	126
13	Kalipravel	Vuzak		59	97	71
14	Kalipravel	Vuzak-Varalit		51	87	62
15	Of	Çufaruksa-Balaban		39	84	102
16	Of	Çufaruksa-Lazo		19	13	12
17	Of	Çufaruksa-Çalek		52	53	96
18	Of	Çufaruksa-Balabani Küçük		13	17	14
19	Of	Çufaruksa-Kono		8	17	19
20	Of	Hanlut-Yordam		-	-	15
21	Of	Mesoraş		-	17	90
22	Of	Haldizen		-	11	16
23	Of	İpsil		-	8	18
24	Of	Ogene		-	5	54
25	Of	Yente		-	14	72
26	Of	Kolkik		-	-	10
27	Of	Sürahte		-	-	12
28	Of	Devasir		-	-	4
29	Of	Polite (Humrit)		-	-	15
30	Of	Likoz (Mahurit)		-	-	14
31	Of	Madiryas		-	-	6
32	Of	Odon Tavla		-	-	7
33	Of	Yışa-Aleksi		51	55	60
34	Of	Alana-Kono		24	26	26
35	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Rusikebir		54	67	59
36	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Kavalalar		32	57	73
37	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Kusi Küçük		48	47	31
38	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Tirone		31	33	31
39	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Harvel		28	28	44

40	Kalipravel	İsporyani-Mahurit		41	53	45
41	Kalipravel	İsporyani-KusiBüyük		7	65	67
42	Kalipravel	Moroz-Kalisato		46	72	102
43	Kalipravel	Moroz-Cemal		19	38	36
44	Kalipravel	Moroz-Sila		61	14	15
45	Of	Mapsino-Zinahe		15	14	15
46	Of	Mapsino-Lazo		34	63	87
47	Of	Mapsino-zimaha		13	?	?
48	Of	Kondu		49	56	59
49	Of	Oflare-Vizir		46	59	51
50	Of	Oflare-Veyse		47	38	70
51	Of	Oflare- Kırınta		41	69	86
52	Of	Oflare-Cemal		18	22	15
53	Of	Oflare-Harsin		30	64	64
54	Of	Paçan-Hopkin(Hopşera)		9	15	15
55	Of	Paçan-Sero (Şur)		26	45	99
56	Of	Paçan-Kaçlı(Kaçal)		27	40	25
57	Of	Polyale (Pulala)-işkane		46	50	54
58	Of	Pulala-Hohol		61	32	58
59	Of	Pulala-Kildiler		35	61	44
60	Of	Zisino-Makidano		43	51	86
61	Of	Zisino-Haksa		32	38	38
62	Of	Nokano (Yerakar)-Bulala		61	65	114
63	Of	Nokano (Yerakar)-Hol		27	37	31
64	Of	Nokano (Yerakar)-Humrik		26	26	37
65	Of	Halman-Zevayit		35	36	75
66	Of	Halman		66	87	78
67	Of	Gorgora-Bacan)		31	68	92
68	Of	Holayısa		45	73	98
69	Of	Limno		100	109	95
70	Of	Holo		62	69	93
71	Of	Holo-Kolisar		-	-	31
72	Of	Melinos		18	15	35
73	Of	Kono-Kuriç		56	49	74
74	Of	Hanlut		-	51	111
75	Of	Zeno		41	50	71
		Number of Estimated Household	2492	2516	3181	4222
		Number of Projected Household	2492	2628	2824	2978

For the villages in the district of Of, 5 people per household are assumed and the estimated populations are given in **Table 5** for the dates 1486, 1515, 1554, 1583 and 1681 (Bostan, 2016). Since the annual population growth rate of the world between 1500-1600 is 0.1839 percent, and between 1600-1700 is 0.0848 percent, the expected population in the region was calculated (projected) based on average annual growth rate and added to the table.

**Table 5: Estimated Population of The Villages in Of District in The 15th, 16th and 17th Centuries**

No	Village Name	Years					
		1486	1515	1520	1554	1583	1681
1	Gorgora, n.d.* Paçan	249	247	247	378	455	110
2	Holayısa	257	251	251	388	442	240
3	Paçan	335	307	301	322	375	420
4	Zino (Zeno)	456	351	361	370	329	170
5	Kondu	249	260	260	201	233	180
6	Paçan-Kaçal	263	213	213	215	121	
7	Oflare, n.d*. Visir	1,210	1,413	1,416	1,413	501	80
8	Yiğa	1,335	1,451	1,441	1,252	1,631	260
9	İşkane	1,075	1,417	519	1,700	774	100
10	Polyala, n.d.* İşkane	244	287	1185	291	451	
11	Zisino	309	602	622	718	850	500
12	Nogano, n.d.* Yerakar	552	726	716	691	714	90
13	Alano, n. d.* Kono	1,057	1,030	984	960	1,256	
14	Melino	678	580	700	120	617	80
15	Çufaruksa, n.d.* Balaban	634	919	914	989	1,027	360
16	İsporyani	1,252	1,642	1,647	885	1,438	
17	Bolala-Bolalas	559	705	691	636	241	100
18	Halman	600	656	640	718	716	170
19	Polite	131				67	
20	Mako(i)dano	303					
21	Kono	216	294	540	468	497	
22	Vazak (Vüzak)	477	1,364	1,364	1,250	718	
23	Moroz	528	526	538	680	752	140
24	Mapsino	335	417	422	429	621	240
25	Nefs-i Kabahor	0	250	250			
26	Mahora	0	130	130			
27	Ciro	0	115	115			
28	Honduca (Hunduca)	338	315	315			
29	Eksanid		80	80			
30	Haya		35	35			
31	Ladosil			0			
32	Holo		346	346	373	548	530
33	Hanlud				191	531	180

34	Mesoraş				77	430	100
35	Yente				51	736	100
36	Haldizen				22	72	-
37	İpsil				32	82	60
38	Aso				41	145	70
39	Yukarı Ogene				95	-	-
40	Aşağı Ogene				25	257	140
41	Oflare, n.d.* Cemali					796	50
42	Vuyduk (Vuzak)					321	
43	Sarahte (Sürahte)					60	
44	Kolkik					46	
45	Paçan, n.d.* Hapgin (Hopşera)					67	200
46	Paçan-Siro (Şur)					545	300
47	Uzuntarla					35	
48	Mavriyas					30	
49	Likoz, n.d.* Mahorid					66	
50	Devaser n.d.* Öküzlü					20	
51	Nogano, n.d.* Hol					155	125
52	İşkane, n.d.* Leka					726	
53	Hanlud, n.d.* Eğridere					75	
54	Balek (Kıyıcık)						30
55	Malbet (Korucak)						120
56	Yavan with Sinan						110
57	Visir (Gülen)						80
58	Türk						40
59	Değirmenci						20
60	Kazarite						40
61	Hastikoz						80
62	Papalisinas						40
63	Zaryo						20
64	Anahor						60
65	Çoruk tabi-i Melino						30
66	Çoruk with Visir						80
67	Zevaid (Taşhan)						100
68	Zinaha						60
69	İsporyan-1 Can						60
70	İsporyan-1 Çalik						80

71	İsporyan-ı Humrik						130
72	Hunduy						210
73	Hundez						30
74	Kırınca (Çatalsöğüt)						60
75	Alano Sahod						295
76	Alano Makod						100
77	Hankova tabi-i Alano						120
78	Balaban						140
79	Miço (Tavşanlı)						120
80	Zeneşka						70
81	Kancı						20
82	Arsen tabi-i İsporyan-i Humruk						110
83	Maki (Dereyurt)						210
84	İştihaz						80
85	Rafinoz						60
86	Conos						140
87	Keler (Korkut)						80
88	Politler						20
89	Haksa (Ovacık)						80
90	Terveli						80
91	Harvel with Muzkar						200
92	Samri						200
93	Darıca						100
94	Kalis (Konuklu)						50
95	Korkot (Yırca)						120
96	Harankos						90
97	Mavrand with Kilinda						140
98	Mavrand (Fındıkoba)						180
99	Humruk -Karakeş						120
100	Nefs-i Kono						70
101	Kono-Harko						60
102	Kono-Yazıcı						60
103	Kona-Kuriç						60
104	Tirgona						40
105	Halt						20
106	Nefs-i Vuydak						140
107	Savan						110

108	Vuydak-ı Kavalâr						180
109	İřtiloz tabi-i Vuydak						130
110	Kalkomat mea Hayrat						90
111	Nefs-i Kavalâr						40
112	Valarid						80
113	Komarit						70
114	Hapsosizm						70
115	řerah						60
116	Kadahor						120
117	Fotinos						180
118	Zeleka						50
	Total Estimated Population	13,642	16,929	17,243	15,981	20,569	11,130
	Total Projected Population	13,642	14,389	14,521	15,457	16,303	17,716
	Number of Village	27	29	30	31	43	87
	Number of Household	2,490	26,35	2,774	2,285	3,948	2,200

n.d.\*: nam-ı diđer: means the other name.

#### 4.3. Population Data in Of Distrit During 18-20. Centuries

In 1583, there were a total of 4,222 households. Based on 5 people in each household, the number of people in 1583 can be calculated as 21,110. The 1831 count of the population counted 18,940 men. If the population of Of distrit is taken into account with the number of 18,940 males recorded in 1831 and the numbers of males and females are considered equal, the population of Of distrit in 1831 must have increased to 37,880 in 250 years.

According to the 1869 Trabzon Province yearbook, 23,183 men lived in Of distrit. According to the 1880 Trabzon Province Yearbook, 26,387 men were counted in the same distrit. In the 1881-1982 Ottoman census, 30,163 women and 29,697 men were counted in Of distrit. The fact that men are less than women may be due to the fact that some men go out of the region to earn seasonal money. According to the 1903 Trabzon Provincial Yearbook, a total of 68,853 men and women lived in Of. After about a quarter of a century, the population of Of distrit decreased to 64,885 according to the 1927 census (Çakıcı, 2018).

Population movements in the district of Of during the Ottoman period were evaluated by examining existing household and population records and based on world population growth rates. This assessment described in the following subtitle is based on the basins in the region.

#### 4.4. Evaluation of the Population Movement in Of Distrit during 15.-17. Centuries

##### 4.4.1. Evaluation for the Lower Solaklı Basin

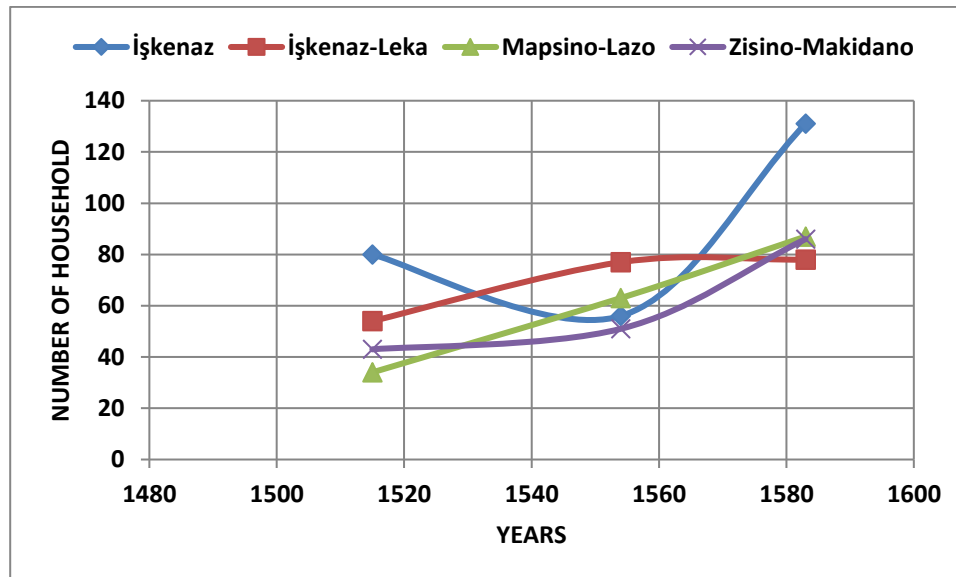
This basin, which starts from the seaside, is approximately 20 km long, and its geography and climate are suitable for living. Here, the villages were established at a height of 100-200 meters from the sea and the riverside in terms of life and property safety. The household numbers of the 4 villages, İřkenaz, İřkenaz-Leka, Mapsino-lazo and Zisino- Makidano are selected from **Table 4** for this basin and are shown in **Table 6**. The change of these villages by years is given in **Figure**

5. Based on the population of 1515, if the population increases by 0.1839% between the years 1500-1600 and by 0.08480% between 1600-1700, the expected populations are calculated and added to **Table 6**.

While the number of households in İşkenaz village decreased rapidly between 1515 and 1554, the number of households increased rapidly in the same village between 1554 and 1583. There is a continuous increase in the number of households in the other 3 villages. This increase can be explained by mass migrations from east and south directions.

**Table 6: Number of Households in The 4 Large Villages Selected in the Lower Solaklı Basin**

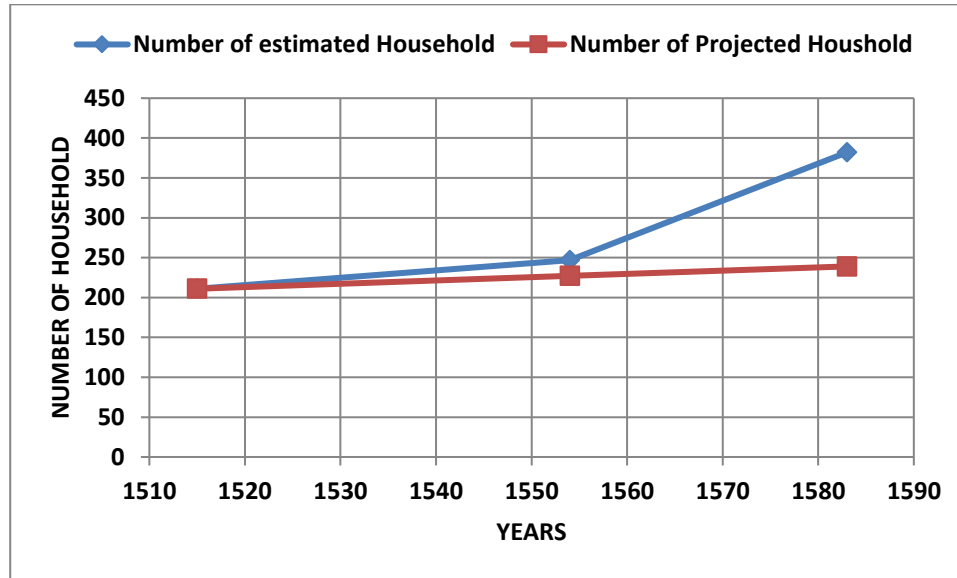
Village	Years		
	1515	1554	1583
İşkenaz	80	56	131
İşkenaz-Leka	54	77	78
Mapsino-Lazo	34	63	87
Zisino-Makidano	43	51	86
Number of estimated Household	211	247	382
Number of Projected Houshold	211	227	239



**Figure 5: Household Numbers of 4 Villages in The Lower Solaklı Basin**

Taking into account the number of households recorded in 4 villages in the Lower Solaklı Basin, the annual world population growth is calculated as 0.1839 percent compared to the population in 1515, and it is shown in **Table 6** together with the number of households registered in Of district. The same household numbers are evaluated graphically in **Figure 6**. As seen in **Figure 6**, the number of households estimated between 1515 and 1554 was higher than projected

number. Between 1554 and 1583, the number of households measured increased much more than expected. This situation is an evidence of significant immigration from abroad to the region.



**Figure 6: Estimated and Projected Total Number of Households for 4 Villages in The Lower Solaklı Basin**

#### 4.4.2. Evaluation for the Middle Solaklı Basin

There are population records in the 4 old villages as Gorgora, Holayısa, Paçan and Zeno in the Middle Solaklı Basin in 1485, 1515, 1520, 1554, 1583 and 1681. The household numbers of these 4 villages established in this basin were evaluated. The populations of these villages are shown in **Table 7** and compared with the world population growth rates in the same period, they are added to the table as expected population. Their population were determined as 5 people per household. In addition, the graphs of these data are drawn in **Figure 7**.

**Table 7: Population of The old 4 Villages in The Middle Solaklı Basin by Years**

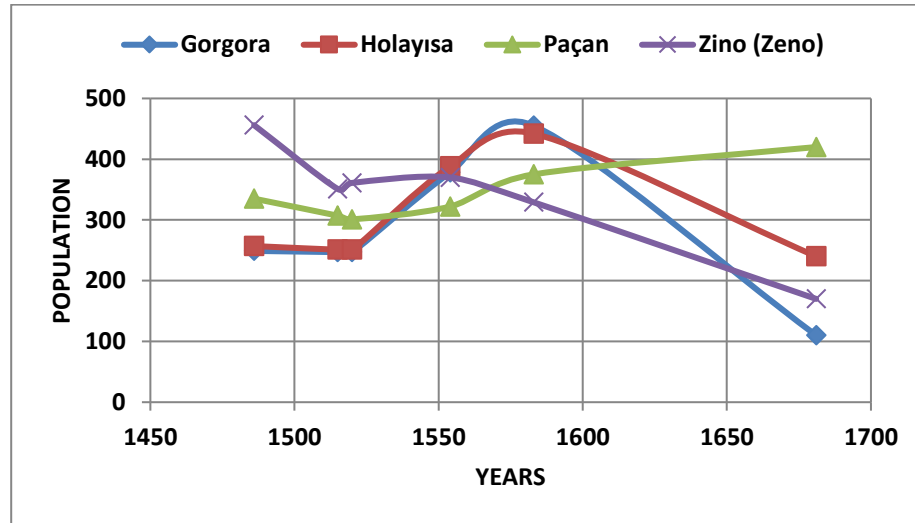
Village Name	Years					
	1486	1515	1520	1554	1583	1681
Gorgora	249	247	247	378	455	110
Holayısa	257	251	251	388	442	240
Paçan	335	307	301	322	375	420
Zino (Zeno)	456	351	361	370	329	170
Total Estimated Population	1,297	1,156	1,160	1,458	1,601	940
Total Projected Population	1,297	1,368	1,381	1,470	1,550	1,856

The population of the 4 villages studied decreased between 1486-1515 and increased between 1515-1554. Here, the probability of an outward migration in the first period and an inward migration in the second period is strong. Between 1554-1583 and 1583-1681, there was a great decrease in the village of Gorgora, the population decreased from 455 to 110. Similar decreases were observed in Zeno and Holayısa villages. It is seen that there is a continuous increase after



1515 only in Paçan village. It is estimated that there was a significant amount of out-migration in Gorgoras, Zeno and Holaysa villages after 1583.

Between the years 1486-1681, there has been an intense population mobility within the borders of today's Middle Solaklı Basin for about three centuries. As a matter of fact, the population of the region, which consisted of 1297 people according to the records of 1486, decreased by 10% while it should have increased in about thirty years.



**Figure 7: Population changes of 4 villages in the Middle Solaklı Basin by years**

The total population estimates and expected (projected) values of these 4 villages are shown in **Figure 8**. Between 1486 and 1515, there was a significant decrease in the population of these four villages. This situation shows that there was a significant outward migration from the region between these years. This decrease may be related to the exile of the Christians to the west by Sultan Mehmet II.

Although there were significant population increases in all four villages between 1515 and 1554, the extreme increases in Gorgora and Holayısa villages are remarkable. It is understood that there are significant external migrations to the region. This increase may be due to the Muslim population migrated to the region instead of the Christian population exiled to the West. In addition, there may have been mass migrations from the south and east to this region. Between 1454-1583, the number of households and population continued to increase considerably in all 4 villages. This is an indication that there were inward migrations during this period.

Between the years 1583-1681, there was a significant population decline in the villages of this basin. This situation shows that there were mass migrations outward in this period in the basin.

The graph of the number of households by years of the villages of the Middle and Upper Solaklı Basins is shown in **Figure 9**. Here, in all villages, the increase in the number of households dated 1583 is very high. Especially in high altitude villages such as Yente, Yukarı Ogene and Aso, the increases are higher than others. This is an indication that the region has received a significant amount of immigration from abroad. These migrations lead to the opinion that they came from the south of the region.

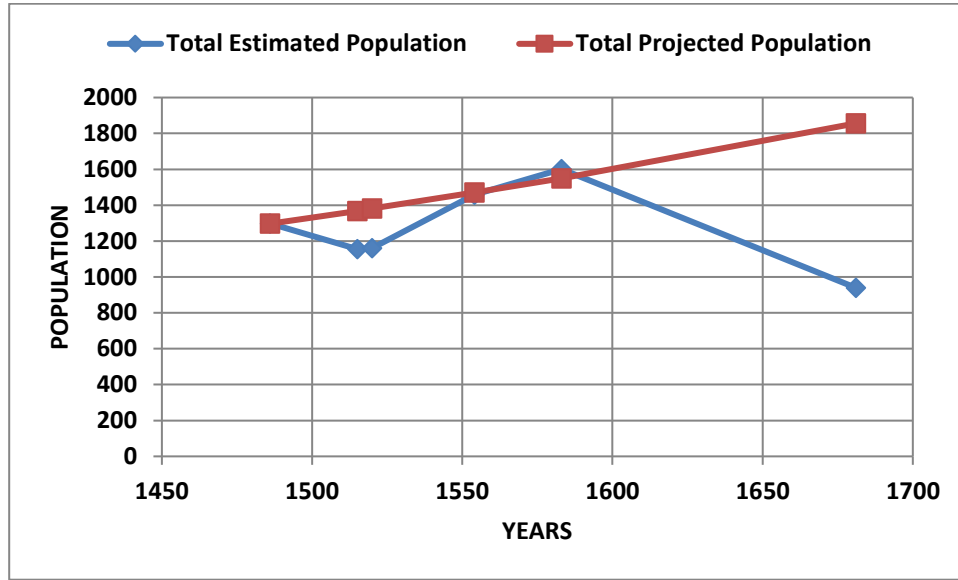


Figure 8: Change of Population of 4 Villages Over Time in the Middle Solaklı Basin

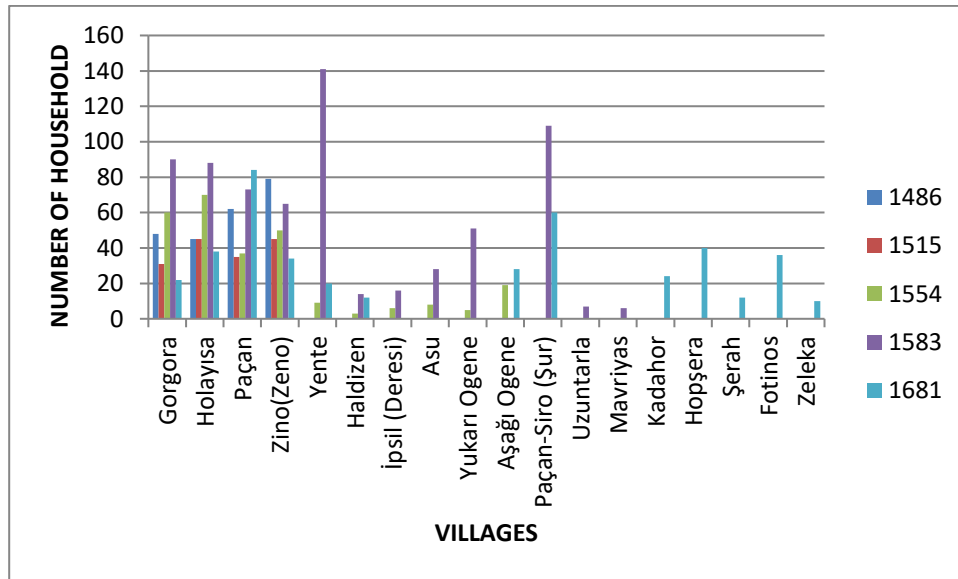


Figure 9: Graph of The Number of Households of The Villages of The Middleand Upper Solaklı Basins by Years

In the western part of the Middle Solaklı Basin, there is an old village called Ogene in the valley of Köknar Stream. This village was divided into two as Aşağı Ogene and Yukarı Ogene over time. There is no village record between 1486 and 1515. This region, which is quite high from the sea, may have been opened to settlement late.

Between 1554 and 1583, the population of Ogene village increased from 120 to 257. This population increase in 30 years can only be possible with immigration from abroad. Between 1583

and 1681, the population of Ogene decreased from 257 to 140. This shows that there is significant outward migration in the region.

All these examples show that social and economic migrations are frequent in the region.

#### 4.4.3. Evaluation for the Upper Solaklı Basin

The Upper Solaklı basin starts from the beginning of Uzungöl and extends to the summit of Demirkapı Mountain. At the head of this basin, which is about 40 km long, was a narrow, impenetrable valley that used to be 20 km long, covered with uninhabited forests. Access to this basin is extremely limited due to its height from the sea and the mountains around it, and it is a closed basin to the outside. There is no settlement in this basin in the records of 1486 and 1515.

The changes in the population determined in Haldizen and İpsil villages in this basin were recorded in a one village. In the 30 years between 1554 and 1583, the population of these two villages increased from 52 to 217. These values show that there is a high increase in these villages and there is a wave of migration from outside. It is estimated that this migration wave was carried out from Eastern Anatolia via the Çoruh valley.

Between 1583 and 1681, the population in Haldizen and İpsil villages decreased from 217 to 60. The extreme decrease in this nearly 100 years is an expression of a significant outward migration. It is estimated that people who settled in this region before migrated from here to the coastal part.

#### 4.4.4. Evaluation for the Lower Baltacı Basin

The climatic and geographical conditions of this basin are similar to the Lower Solaklı Basin. An example of the village with 4 large populations in this basin is given in **Table 8**. **Figure 10** shows the number of households in these 4 villages by years.

**Table 8: Number of Households in 4 Villages in the Lower Baltacı Basin**

Discript	Villages	1515	1554	1583
Of	Çufaruksa-Balaban	39	84	102
Of	Çufaruksa-Lazo	19	13	12
Of	Çufaruksa-Çalek	52	53	96
Of	Çufaruksa-Balabani Küçük	13	17	14
	Total	123	167	224

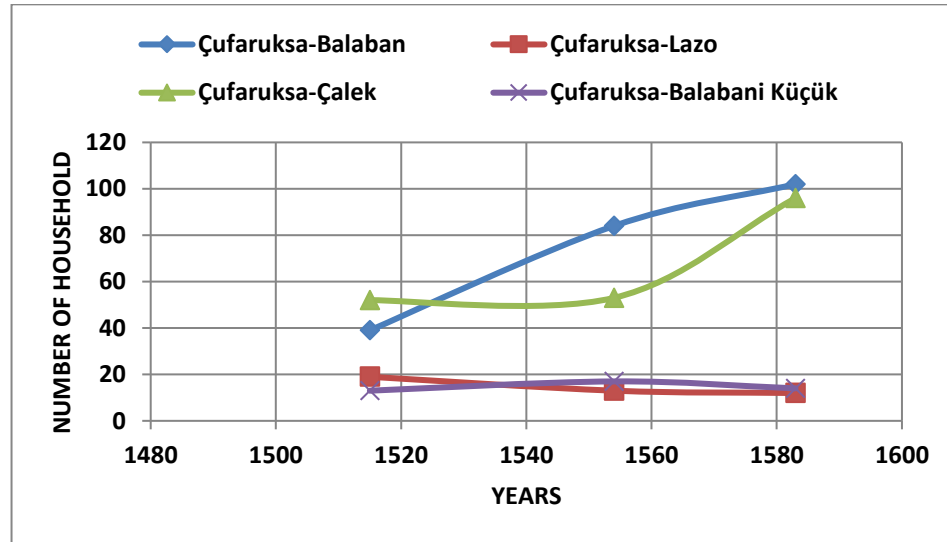
Between 1515 and 1554, the number of households in 3 villages in this region decreased, only that of Çufaruksa- Balaban Village increased.

Between 1554 and 1581, the number of households in Çufaruksa -Balaban and Çufaruksa-Çalek villages increased, while the other two continued to decrease. It is understood that the villages with decreasing number of households emigrate, while the increasing villages receive significant immigration from abroad

#### 4.4.5. Evaluation for the Middle Baltacı Basin

In this basin, the population movements of two high altitude villages, Hanlut and Mesoraş, were examined. Due to their high altitudes, the names of these two villages are not found in the archives of 1486 and 1515. Accordingly, these two villages were established after 1515. In 1554, there were 17 households in Mesoraş village, 51 in Hanlut, a total of 68 households, while in 1583, 90, 111 and 201 households were identified in the same villages and in total, respectively.

Between 1554 and 1583, the number of households in these two villages increased exponentially. These two villages have received very significant internal migration during this 30-year period.



**Figure 10: Change in The Number of Households in 4 Villages in The Lower Baltacı Basin**

#### 4.4.6. Evaluation for the Upper Baltacı Basin

The population movements of Yente and Aso villages located here were evaluated. The populations of Yente and Aso villages between 1554 and 1583 increased from 51 and 41, respectively, to 736 and 82 in 1583, respectively. The increase in this and especially Yente village has increased almost 15 times. It is estimated that this 30-year increase came to the village from the outside and especially from the south, east and Çoruh valley of the region.

During the population movement between 1583 and 1681, the population of Yente decreased from 736 to 100. No record has been found for Aso Village in 1681. Perhaps Yente and Aso may have been recorded together in 1681. This great population decrease in the region during this period indicates that there was a significant outward migration from the region. In any case, the altitude and topography of the land indicate that the Yente area is not in a position to sustain a large population in the long term. This shows that the migration movement is towards the lower parts of the basin.

#### 4.4.7. Evaluation for All Basins in Of District

The number of households determined in all the basins of the district of Of is also significant in terms of migration. Based on the data of **Table 5**, the change in the number of households in the district of Of by years is shown in **Figure 11**.

Considering the whole survey area in **Table 5**, while there were 2,490 households in 27 villages in the region in 1486, the number of villages increased to 29 in 1515 and to 2,635 households. In 1520, the number of villages was 29 and the number of households was 2,774. While the number of villages was 31 and 43 in 1554 and 1583, respectively, the number of

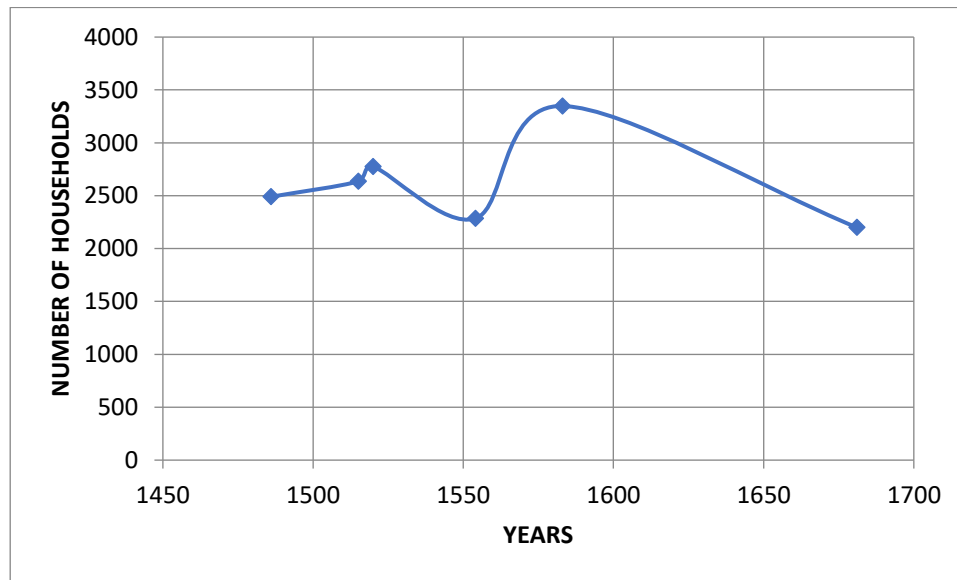
households decreased and became 2,285 and 3,948, respectively. In 1681, approximately 100 years later, the number of villages increased to 91, but the number of households decreased to 2,200.

Between 1520 and 1554 the population decreased by 18%. The effect of an outward migration wave is seen in this decrease. Between 1554 and 1583 the total population of Of increased by 73%. This increase shows that there is a significant outward migration wave in Of district.

Between 1583 and 1681, the number of villages increased a lot, but despite this, the population decreased by 44%. This indicates that there is an important migration wave from the region to the outside.

Significant decreases in the number of households in Of district between 1520-1554 and 1583-1681 indicate that there were significant outward waves of migration from the region during this period.

The significant increase between 1554 and 1583 indicates the migration from the outside towards the region. In particular, a decrease of 44% between the years 1583-1681 draws attention. It is understood that there was a significant outward migration wave from the region in this period.



**Figure 11: Change in The Number of Households in Of County Between 1486-1681**

It has been evaluated that there is a correlation between village numbers and names and population rights. In the course of time, the number of villages increased by dividing the villages in the district of Of or opening new settlements. The total number of villages, which was 27 by 1486, became 29, 30, 31 and 43 in 1515, 1520, 1554 and 1583, respectively. It doubled to 87 in 1681, that is, in about 100 years. It is possible to understand that many villages are derived from old villages from the village names. For example, the historical change in the number of villages in the Middle Solaklı Basin draws attention in population movements. In the records dated 1486, 1515 and 1520, there are only eight villages called Gorgora, Holayısa, Paçan, Zeno, Kondu, Paçan-Kaçal, Oflare, and Holo in the Middle Solaklı Basin. In 1554, Yente, Haldizen, İpsil, Aso and

Yukarı Ogene and Aşağı Ogene villages were added to the list. These 6 villages are geographically higher than the previously existing villages in the vicinity. Therefore, it is known that these villages were opened to new settlements in the 1530s (Bostan, 2016).

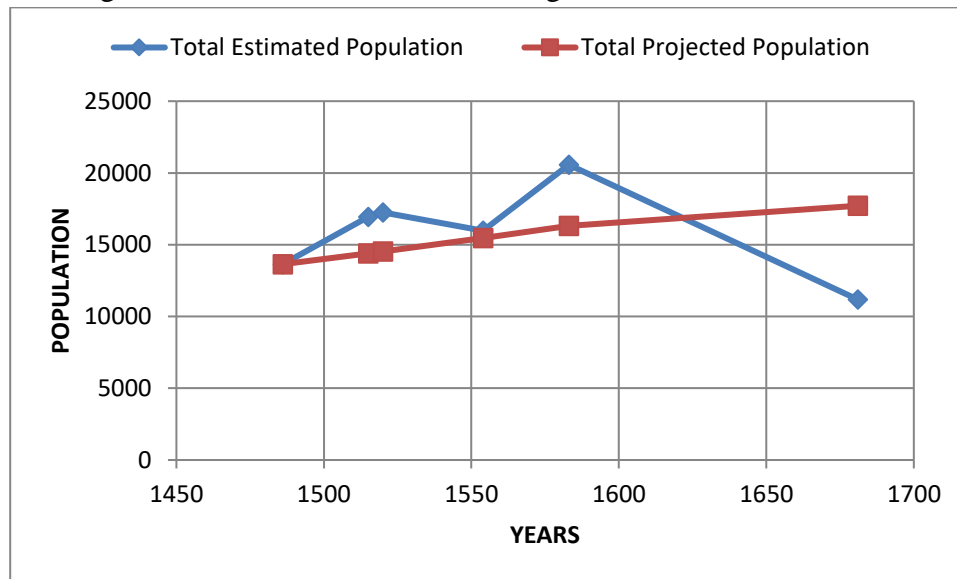
In the 1681 record, it is seen that some new villages were included in the lists. It is also understood that some villages were divided. An example of this is the Middle Solaklı basin. Except for the high-rise villages, most of the villages in the Middle Solaklı Basin emerged with the expansion or division of registered villages in 1486. It is possible to understand this from their names in historical records.

Villages derived from Paçan: Nefs-i Paçan Şinek-i Paçan, Anaso-ı Paçan, Coroş-ı Paçan, Şur-i Paçan, Paçan-Hopkin. Çamlıbel is separated from Şinek.

Villages derived from Holayısa: Nefs-i Holayısa, Kadahor, Zeleka, Fotinos, Limni and Baltacılı villages. Huşo, a hamlet of Kadahor, was separated from Kadahor in a later period.

The emergence of new villages can be explained by the placement of people from outside or the spread of people from existing villages.

Populations determined by years and expected population values in the settlements of Of district were evaluated graphically and shown in **Figure 12**. As can be seen from this figure, the total population of the region increased more than expected between 1486 and 1515, and the population decreased rapidly between 1520 and 1554. A rapid increase is observed in the population between 1554 and 1583. But between 1583-1681 the population of the region decreased a lot. It is understood that this situation is caused by immigration. A similar decrease was experienced in the center of Trabzon and other its districts. It is considered that the migration of Christians from the region was the main factor in this migration.



**Figure 12: Total Predicted and Projected Population in the Of District, Between 1486-1681**

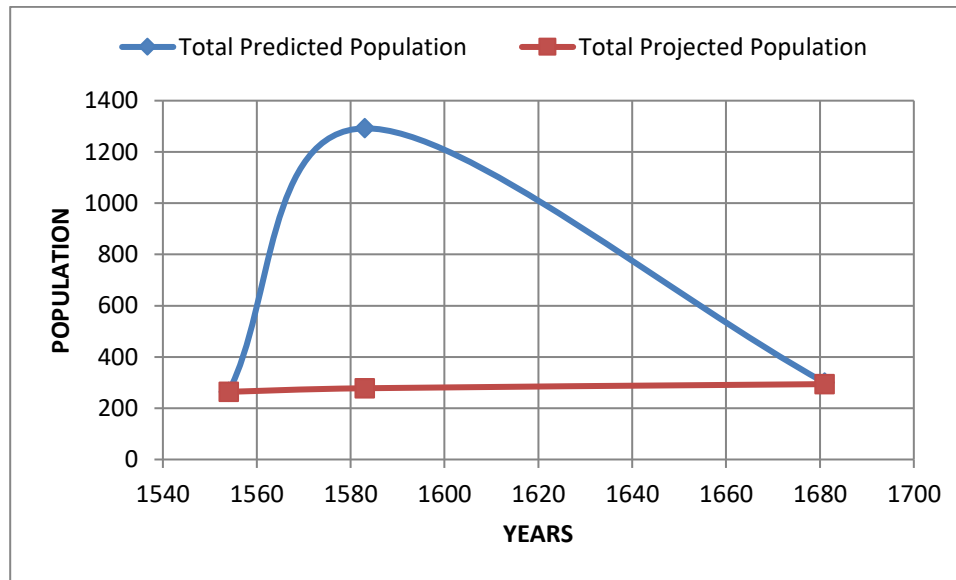
The high altitude villages in the region were evaluated together. The total populations of Haldizen, İpsil, Yukarı Ogene, Aşağı Ogene, Yente (with Aso) villages at high altitudes are given in **Table 9** and the change of these populations over time is shown in **Figure 13**. As it can be understood from this table and figure, these villages were not named in the censuses in 1486 and 1515.

The populations measured between 1554 and 1583 increased a lot. This shows that in this 30-year period, large migration waves from the south and southeast of the region came to this region.

Between 1583 and 1681, there was a great decrease in population in high altitude settlements. The reason for this decrease shows that the families migrated to the coastal area due to more suitable climatic conditions during this period.

**Table 9: Total Population in High Altitude Villages Between 1554-1681**

Years	1554	1583	1681
Total Predicted Population	264	1292	300
Total Projected Population	264	278	294



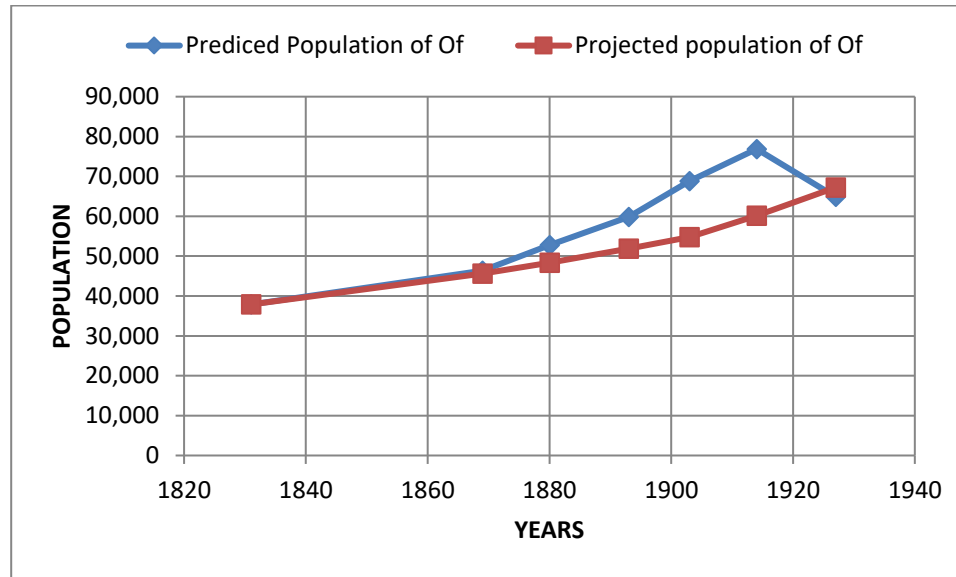
**Figure 13: Population Change in High Altitude Settlements in The Of Distrit**

#### 4.5. Population Data and Evaluation Of Distrit in 18-20. Centuries

The total population was estimated by multiplying the male population determined in the yearbooks by 2, and these values are given in **Table 10** according to their dates. Population growth percentages in Of have been calculated and added to the table. In addition, the expected population in the region has been calculated based on the world population growth percentages since 1831. Accordingly, the world's population growth rate was 0.4883% between 1800-1850, 0.5409 between 1850-1999 and 0.8584 between 1900-1950. **Figure 14** shows the population movements in Of.

**Table 10: Population Movements in Of in The 18-20. Centuries**

Years	1831	1869	1880	1893	1903	1914	1927
Prediced Population of Of	37,880	46,366	52,774	59,860	68,853	76,869	64,885
Annualy Growth rate (%)	-	0.5334	1.1838	0.9739	1.4095	1.0062	-1.2953
World Annualy growth (%)	0.4883	0.5409	0.5409	0.5409	0.8584	0.8584	0.8584
Projected population of Of	37,880	45,583	48,369	51,883	54,759	60,157	67,227



**Figure 14: Population Changes of Of Distrcit in 18-20. Centuries and Comparisons According to World Population Growth Rate**

As it can be seen in **Figure 14**, the population of Of distrcit increased continuously between the 18th and 20th centuries, but dropped suddenly after 1914. Higher-than-normal increases indicate a migration towards the region. The population of the 1914 Of distrcit was totally 76,869, 75,050 Muslims and 1,819 Christian. In the 1923 Lausanne Exchange, only 1,200 people from Of immigrated to Greece. Therefore, in the years 1914-1927, the mobilization, World War I, and the Rusian invasion of 1916 caused a great decrease in the population of the town of Of. In this period, the decrease in the population is more than 15 percent.

On the other hand, in the 19th century, there were some migrations from the region due to economic reasons. Although some of them settled in the places they went to, most of the migrations were seasonal migrations. Men would go out of the region seasonally to earn an income and after a while they would return to their hometowns. Some seasonal migrations were directed to foreign states, especially Russia. Some of the migrations were made to provinces with more land and income such as Ordu, Giresun, Samsun in the Black Sea, and some to western regions such as Istanbul, Izmit, Balikesir, Manisa and even Varna. Another part of the migration would be into the lands of the Ottoman state such as Yozgat and Ankara in Central Anatolia. In the seasonal places within the state lands, jobs such as tinsmith, sawmill, stonemasonry and religious teacher were mostly done.



In the 19th century, there were more educational institutions in the old town of Of than in other regions, and the level of education and religious knowledge of the people in the region was higher than in other regions. This situation caused more educator migrations from the region to the outside.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, Oflu Yusuf Şevki Efendi held meetings for religious instruction in many villages in the town of Of and in many places outside Of. He recorded the participants in a notebook. The place, date, names and hometowns of the people who attended the meetings held outside the town of Of and who were from Of are shown in the relevant notebook (Yücer, 2010; Ağırlioğlu, 2021; Ağırlioğlu, 2022).

As it is understood from this notebook, 74 people, most of whom are religious scholars, attended the meetings held in 28 places out of the many meetings held outside Of (Ağırlioğlu, 2022). Most of them are ceremonial administrators (Ser-i hatme). Some of them are imams or professors in that settlement. Most of them must have returned after a while. However, few of them settled in these regions later on, taking their families with them.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, firstly, the population movements and migration reasons of Trabzon city in the Eastern Black Sea region during the Ottoman period were evaluated. Then, population movements and migration reasons were investigated by taking the old Of district as an example. Population movements in these two regions were compared and evaluated separately on the basis of world population growth rates in the same periods.

### 5.1. Population Movements in Trabzon City

Between 1461 and 1532, in about 70 years, the population of Trabzon city remained almost constant. The fact that the expected increase in the population did not occur between these years can be explained by the migration of approximately 2000 Christian people to the West and Istanbul.

Between 1532 and 1554, there was a 16% decrease in the population of the city and this population decreased to 6525. In this decrease, it is seen that there is a significant migration wave from the city to the outside.

Between 1554 and 1583, the population of the city increased by 69% to 11,000. This rapid increase in the total population can be explained by the placement of population in the city from the inner parts of the country such as Samsun, Amasya, and Tokat.

Trabzon city population increased more than expected between 1803-1868. But the main decline was experienced between 1890-1927. This decrease was caused by the deaths and migrations in the region as a result of the First World War, the occupation of Trabzon by the Russians, the War of Independence and the population exchange between Turkey and Greece.

### 5.2. Population Movements in the Of District

In the Lower Solaklı Basin, the number of households recorded between 1515 and 1554 was higher than expected. Between 1554 and 1583, the number of households measured increased

much more than expected. This situation is an evidence of significant immigration from abroad to the region.

In the 4 oldest registered large villages in the Middle Solaklı basin, the total population decreased between 1486-1515, the total population increased much more than expected between 1515-1554 and 1554-1583, but the total population numbers decreased excessively between 1583-1681. This decrease can be partially explained by the opening of new settlements. However, the great population decline between 1583 and 1681 can only be explained by out-migration. The main reason for these migrations must be economic.

In the evaluation of population movements in Haldizen and İpsil villages, which are located in the Upper Solaklı Basin and at high altitudes, it was understood that the population of these two villages increased from 52 to 217 in approximately 30 years between 1554 and 1583. This situation shows that there is a high increase in these villages and there is a wave of migration from outside. It is estimated that this migration wave was carried out from Eastern Anatolia via the Çoruh valley. Between 1583 and 1681, the total population in Haldizen and İpsil villages decreased from 217 to 60. This extreme decrease, which took place in about 100 years, is an expression of a significant outward migration. It is estimated that people who settled in this region before migrated from here to the coastal part.

In the Lower Baltacı Basin, the number of households in 3 villages out of 4 examined in this region between 1515 and 1554 decreased, while the number of households in only one village increased. Between 1554 and 1581, the number of households in two villages increased, while the other two continued to decrease. It is understood that the villages with decreasing number of households emigrate to the outside, while the increasing villages receive significant immigration from outside.

Population movements of two high-altitude villages, Hanlut and Mesoraş, in the Middle Baltacı basin, were investigated. Between 1554 and 1583, the number of households in these two villages increased exponentially. These two villages have received very important immigration in this 30-year period.

Population movements of two high altitude villages, Yente and Aso villages in the Upper Baltacı basin, were evaluated. The populations of Yente and Aso villages between 1554 and 1583 increased from 51 and 41, respectively, to 736 and 82 in 1583, respectively. The increase in this and especially Yente village has increased almost 15 times. This 30-year increase is estimated to have migrated to the village from outside, especially from the south, east and Çoruh valley of the region. In the population movement between 1583-1681, the population of Yente decreased from 736 to 100. No record has been found for Aso village in 1681. Perhaps Yente and Aso may have been recorded together in 1681.

The large population decline in the region during this period indicates a significant outward migration from the region. The altitude and topography of the land indicate that the Yente area is not in a position to sustain a large population in the long term. This economic origin suggests that this migration movement is towards the lower parts of the basin.

Evaluation has been made for all basins in Of. Between 1520 and 1554 the population decreased by 18%. The effect of an outward migration wave is great in this decrease. Between 1554 and 1583 the total population of Of increased by 73%. This increase indicates that there is a significant outward migration wave from the Of district.

Significant decreases in the number of households in Of between 1520-1554 and 1583-1681 indicate that there were significant outward waves of migration from the region during this period. Between 1583 and 1681, the number of villages increased a lot, but despite this, the population decreased by 44%. This indicates that there is an important migration wave from the region to the outside.

Between the 18th and 20th centuries, the population of Of increased continuously, but after 1914 it suddenly declined. Higher-than-normal increases indicate a migration towards the region. The population of 1914 Of district was 76869, of which 75050 were Muslims and 1819 Christian. In the 1923 Lausanne Exchange, only 1200 people from Of immigrated to Greece. Therefore, in the years 1914-1927, the mobilization, World War I, and the Russian invasion of 1916 caused a great decrease in the population of the town of Of. In this period, the decrease in the population is more than 15 percent.

In the 19th century, there were some seasonal and permanent migrations into the country due to the scarcity of lands in Of and economic reasons. In addition, it was determined that there were some migrations from the region to Russia due to economic and political reasons in this century.

All these migration movements in Of are in parallel with the population movements in the city of Trabzon at the same time.

As a result, the main reasons for migration in the city of Trabzon and the old town of Of in the Ottoman period are political and economic. Most of the migrations, especially in the old district of Of, are based on economic reasons.

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