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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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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.

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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 started the journal in 2018 and have published six issues until now. The sixth issue includes three research articles and a special issue consisting of six articles.

The special issue on “*Powershifts, Practices and Memories of Violence in the Balkans*” focuses on the problematic of violence in the Balkans during the “short” 20th century. Military occupations during the World Wars and repressive policies of militarist or socialist regimes in the Balkans caused countless human sufferings. Following an introduction by *Prof. Dr. Nathalie Clayer* (Paris) five authors deal with this problematic in this issue: *Jovo Miladinović* (Berlin), *Dr. Franziska Zaugg* (Bern), *Dr. Paolo Fonzi* (Vercelli), *Dr. Isabel Ströhle* (The Hague) and *Dr. Danilo Šarenac* (Belgrade). I would like to thank *Dr. Franziska Zaugg* and *Jovo Miladinović* for the preparation of this valuable thematic issue and for their collaboration with us.

The first article of the issue 6 titled “*Bulgaria’s Secret Empire: An Ultimatum to North Macedonia*” by *Dr. Tomasz Kamusella* discusses the Bulgarian political attitude towards the Republic of North Macedonia. The author analyses the political tensions between two countries within perspective of nationalism and Bulgarian national motives in the region.

The second article of the issue 6 titled “*The Problems of Studying Ottoman Heritage in Serbia*” by *Miloš Todorović* deals with the Serbian historiography on the Ottoman Empire and the Ottoman heritage in Serbia. He shows that although there are numerous studies dealing with the Ottoman period of the Serbian history there are still obstacles to study the Ottoman heritage because of a general negative attitude towards the Ottoman past.

The third and last research article of the issue 6 titled “*Kosovo: From the Ottoman Empire through Yugoslavia to Independence*” by *Dr. Sylë Ukshini* provides an overview on the historical background and emergence of the Republic of Kosovo from an Albanian perspective.

The issue also includes one book review. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu’s

book titled *The House of Sciences: The First Modern University in the Muslim World* (Oxford University Press, 2019) was reviewed by Prof. Dr. Tuncay Zorlu.

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 Hacısalihođlu, Prof. Dr.

Editor in Chief