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OTTOMAN HUNGARY AND SANJAK OF ZVORNIK: A STUDY OF INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE MID 17TH CENTURY

The aim of this paper is to illuminate certain aspects of the life in the Ottoman-Habsburg borderlands in the period following the cessation of hostilities between the Ottomans and the Habsburgs after the Peace Treaty of Zsitvatorok in 1606. More specifically, I am interested in exploring how the war frontiers functioned when there was no war proper. The main source for this paper is the Sharia Judge Court Record of Tuzla in Bosnia which covers a period roughly 1630s-1650s. My main goal is to provide a case study of the interregional dynamics of life in the Ottoman Balkans and in the Ottoman Central Europe. The Bosnian governors during 17th century were in double-sided subordination, they reported both to the central administration in Istanbul and to the Governorial office in Buda. All those dynamics are exceptionally nicely illustrated in the Sharia Court Record of Tuzla. Besides Buda, the main loci which impacted Bosnia were Belgrade, Temeschwar, Szigetvar, Pecs, Eger, Kanizsa. The connections of those centres with Bosnia were manifold. People went forth and back; as soldiers, craftsmen, artisans, wage workers. There were complicated tax and financial connections. These are only couple of facets of a very layered interconnectedness and interdependency. This type of sources opens a vista on interregional connections. All of this impacted also the Ottoman-Habsburg relations on the frontier. There was a shared Slavonic idiom on both sides of the war frontier and that made people able in such an idiom to be leaders in the frontier. Both Ottomans and Habsburgs preferred people with such competences. This interconnectedness was not narrowed to one social strata. It permeated all strata and this is nicely visible in our source.

The empirics provided by record entries will be interpreted along the new paradigms of a historical anthropology of border lands where a special attention is paid to the different ways of interconnectedness, go-betweens, double loyalties, cultural crossings, cultural exchanges etc.

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Dissertation (in English) in progress, titled: *A Sufi Provincial Müfti Müniri-yi Belgradi (d. ca 1620-1628) and His Work: Nisab'ül Intisab ve âdâb'ül İktisab*

Master's Degree (2010-13): Faculty of Letters, Department of History Istanbul University, Republic of Turkey; specialization in Early Modern History, under supervision of Prof. Dr. Fikret Sarıcaoğlu

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Finished projects: -*Critical edition of "Sidjil of Tuzla 1643-1646" with analysis* (in Bosnian).

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Selected publications:

- Nihad Dostović, "Waqfs of Tuzla / Memlehatayn in the Zvornik (İzvornik) Sanjak According to the Tuzla Sicill from 1644-1646: An Overview", *Vakıflar Dergisi*, 60, Ankara, December 2023, pp. 73-88.

- Nihad Dostović, "Beogradski muftija Munirî Belğrādî i Hamzevije" [Mufti of Belgrade Munirî Belğrādî and Hamzevis], *Anali Gazi Husrev-begove biblioteke*, XLI, Sarajevo, 2020, pp.157-175.

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- Nihad Dostović, "Nove vijesti o Bahši-begovom vakufu u Zvorniku i istočnoj Bosni"[New Information about Bahši Bey Waqf (Endowment) in Zvornik and Eastern Bosnia], *Anali Gazi Husrev-begove biblioteke*, XXXIV, Sarajevo, 2013, pp.83-102.

- "Program of the Yugoslav Muslim Organization", prepared by Nihad Dostović in *Modernism Representations of National Culture; Discourse of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945), Text and Commentaries*, III/1, ed. by Ahmet Ersoy, Maciej Górny and Vangelis Kechriotis, Budapest; New York, Central European University Press, 2010, pp.274-280.

- "Resolution of the Muslims of Banjaluka", prepared by Nihad Dostović in *Modernism Representations of National Culture; Discourse of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945), Text and Commentaries*, III/2, ed. by Ahmet Ersoy, Maciej Górny and Vangelis Kechriotis, Budapest; New York, Central European University Press, 2010, pg.387-392.

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Life on the Ottoman-Hungarian Border

Despite the fact that sources on the history of the Balkan peoples are fragmented and less well-preserved, the past of this region is equally important for understanding the European Middle Ages. The goal of my presentation is to provide an outline of the life of border societies on the Ottoman frontier. My focus will be on the central part of the Ottoman-Hungarian borderland, particularly the territory around the Sava and Danube rivers, as well as the Hungarian counties in the Tisa and Maros valleys.

Although this region was home to several ethnic groups, my research specifically examines the lives of the Serbian population. The remaining source material allows us to construct a picture of the mentality and living conditions in this area, which was often an unending battlefield. For the scope of this research, I have chosen the early 15th century as the starting point, marked by the first waves of Serbian migration to Hungary, and 1541 as the endpoint, when the Ottoman conquest of Buda transformed the political landscape and shifted the borders rapidly, turning the former center of the Hungarian state into a frontier between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires.

As a methodological framework, I employ the theory of the border, which examines the area between two entities as a dynamic process. In my view, documentary sources serve as a solid foundation, but narrative sources provide far richer details. Notable examples include writings by Đurađ Sremac, Jakob Unrest, *Memoria Rerum*, Serbian chronicles, and other works that shed light on the daily lives of people living in a constantly shifting frontier environment.

I hope the results of this research will inspire further studies that illuminate the medieval life of this region and its broader historical significance.

Key words: *Ottoman-Hungarian border, Serbs, mentality, culture, society*

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Abstract:

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Hungarian-Ottoman diplomatic negotiations in Late Medieval Hungary

The subject of the title has long been of interest to scholars, and several case studies have been carried out. A number of peace treaties have been studied, a number of envoy missions have been examined, and documents relating to the envoys have been published. The Hungarian-Ottoman peace treaties covering the whole of the Middle Ages have also been extensively analysed.

The presentation does not aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the subject in the light of existing publications, but focuses on issues that have not been addressed by previous researchers. In particular, the language of armistice treaties and other bilateral diplomatic documents will be discussed. These were typically written in Slavic in medieval Hungarian-Ottoman diplomacy. Some treaties still exist in both Latin and Slavic versions, so that the texts can be compared. Treaties written in Turkish have also survived. What can the translations tell us about the workings of diplomacy? What sources do we have about translators? This last topic has been studied several times by researchers using early modern Hungarian examples, but not yet in the pre-1526 sources - partly because of the small number of data and partly because of the unpublished sources. The question also has important cultural-historical implications. An understanding of the functioning of Hungarian-Ottoman diplomacy in this period also opens up the possibility of comparative studies with, for example, the Polish-Ottoman or Venetian-Ottoman treaties of the same period.