

Venetians and Ottomans in the Early Modern Age

Essays on Economic and Social Connected History

edited by Anna Valerio

Introduction

The present volume is a collection of some of the papers presented at the 14th International Congress of Ottoman Social and Economic History (ICOSEH) held in Sofia, 24-28 July 2017. The decision of compiling such a book is mainly due to the wish of bringing together those papers that deal with the topic of Venice and the former Venetian colonies, in particular Crete and Cyprus, which passed to the Ottoman Empire during the Early Modern Age. The book is divided into two parts. In the first one, there are the papers about Ottoman economy and trade as reported by some Venetian sources from XV and XVI century, whereas the second part presents the articles that deal with Crete and Cyprus after their conquest by the Ottoman Empire. The book aims at showing the intertwined relationships between the Venetians and the Ottomans regarding, in particular, their economic and social contacts from a wide range of events and facts which result from the extensive and accurate work of scholars carrying out their research in institutions around or near the Mediterranean regions. Essays are written in both English and Turkish language.

In the first essay, Snezhana Rakova presents some of the earliest Venetian sources containing important information about the income and expenses of the Ottoman state during the XV century, resulting in emphasizing the undeniable dominant role of Venice in Christian Europe. In the second article, Maria Pia Pedani aims at refuting ancient historiographical theories according to which Muslims excluded themselves from the international trade preferring to have Jews and Christians handle it, by providing extensive documentation that proves the presence of Ottoman merchants in Venice during the Early Modern Age. Another aspect of trade between the Ottoman state and Venice is represented by Iassen Vanev and his analysis and comparison of two inter-state commercial charters. In the last article of this first section, Levent Kaya Ocakaçan builds his argument around the strong tie between economic and social life in the Ottoman Empire during the early modern period, when the Ottoman Empire was a dynastic state with its own peculiar system and succession strategies. The narrative around the celebration of the *şehzade* and his posting describes in detail the function of dynastic strategies in determining the continuity and the 'centralization' of rule and governance by the Sultan.

Moving on to the second part of the book, the reader is introduced to the four remaining articles each covering a different aspect of the economic

and social continuity and change of Crete and Cyprus after their conquest by the Ottomans. Elias Kolovos presents the transformation of Venetian Candia into the new Ottoman Kandiye, occurred in the XVII century, by investigating the register where information about the spatial arrangement of the city under the new rule is contained. This is, however, only a preliminary study of a wider project which aims at digitalizing all the information available in the register in order to study the spatial evolution of the city. Crete and its strategic role in the trade of goods like wine, soap and olive oil across the Mediterranean make up the background of Ayşe Adıyeke's article where the author focuses in particular on the investigation of wine production and trade on the newly conquered island. Nuri Adıyeke's article is a detailed study of the registration of some villages on the island of Crete in three Ottoman surveys run respectively in 1650, 1670 and 1704. The author aims at making a comparison between these data and the ones regarding other villages in the same sources in terms of their demographic and economic structures. In conclusion, Cyprus and its commercial activities during the XVIII century is what is presented in Özgür Oral's article. In particular, it is underlined the role of the port of Larnaca in the Eastern Mediterranean for the Western world, Venice included.

This book offers the possibility to retrace the relationship between Venetians and Ottomans in terms of their economic and social history from the end of the XV until the XVIII century showing the permeability of the ruling forces of these two great empires within a continuous and changing stream.

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