

Abstracts

MAGDALENA ELCHINOVA

Demographic Trends among the Orthodox Bulgarians of Istanbul

The paper discusses some demographic trends that have shaped the Bulgarian Orthodox community in Istanbul over the last century. These trends have turned Istanbul, once called “the biggest Bulgarian city in the second half of the 19th century” (e.g., the city with the largest concentration of inhabitants of Bulgarian origin), a home of a tiny, and to a large extent “invisible” community of Orthodox Bulgarians. Having been officially unrecognized as a distinctive minority and classified by the Turkish state under the larger category of “non-Muslims,” they are not registered by any statistics. The demographic trends I discuss here, referring to such things as birth rates, life expectancy, family type and structure, emigration and marriage, are studied on the basis of a qualitative research conducted among community members, as well as on records kept by the community leaders themselves. The impact of ethnic and national politics in Turkey, as well as of the shifting Bulgarian-Turkish relations on the outlined demographic trends is further discussed in the text. In addition, comparison is drawn where possible with the Greeks of Istanbul, with whom Orthodox Bulgarians are most often associated by the Turkish public along religious lines.

IOANNIS S. CHALKOS

The 1912 Ottoman elections and the Greek element in the Vilayet of Adrianople:

A view from the Greek Archives.

The political development of the Ottoman Empire was crucial for all the people under Ottoman rule. The 1912 elections clearly point to all the rifts within Ottoman society that would cause the destabilization and the fall of the empire in the near future. This paper discusses the political behavior of the Greek-Orthodox element during the electoral process in the Vilayet of Adrianople. The Greek electoral strategy (alliance with the Liberals and the Bulgarians against the Committee of Union and Progress) was decided primarily in Athens but it was not easy to implement it at a local level. The Greek Consuls and Vice-Consuls were at pains to overcome the opposition stemming from the personal interests of the local elites and to impose on them the “national” line. Furthermore, the tough rhetoric articulated by all sides during the election campaign and the illegal means used by the CUP to win the elections further alienated the Greek-Orthodox population from

the Ottoman context. Based on research of primary sources, this essay intends to shed some light on the complex process that marks the transition to a post-imperial reality of nation-states in the Balkans.

BULENT GOKAY – DARRELL WHITMAN

NO RACISM HERE: Modern Turkey and the question of race and national identity

Many in Turkey, including its political leaders, don't accept there is racism in Turkey. They will say they are proud of their traditional hospitality and generosity towards foreigners. Similarly, academic accounts also generally assume Turkish nationalism is neither ethnic nor cultural nationalism, but rather an inclusive civic nationalism. We directly challenge this conviction by arguing there is a dark side of Turkish nationalism, based on clear evidence there is an ethnic and racial discourse that shaped Turkish nationalism from the early years of the republic, and that this discourse plays a significant role in defining modern 21st Century Turkish nationalism. Thus, this modern Turkish nationalism includes, rather than excludes, an ethnic and racially defined narrative, which is a central tenet in defining modern Turkish identity. Modern Turkey was established on two essential principles of 1920s nation-states: white supremacy, and division of the world into "superior" and "inferior" races. This foundation has never been questioned critically, allowing racism to remain embedded within the Turkish state and society. Until this foundational aspect of racism is acknowledged, Turkey, or any other "modern" nation-state built on this foundation, one cannot fully and effectively deal with racism in the 21st century.

KATERINA NIKOLAOU

**Byzantium and Byzantine women
in the mid-twentieth century Greek "Classics Illustrated" comic books**

In 1951 Pechlivanidis Publications, a house with a long tradition in printing as well as in children's books, decided to publish in Greece a series called "Κλασικά Εικονογραφημένα" ("Classics Illustrated"), based on the original US edition. The latter first circulated in October 1943, initially under the title *Classic Comics* and with the aim of publishing adaptations of classical works of world literature in comic-book form. From the 34th issue the title changed to *Classics Illustrated* continued to be published until 1962, when it went out of circulation.

October 1953 saw the publication of the first issue of a "domestic" series, which eventually comprised more than 60 issues and drew its subject matter from Greek mythology and the history of Greece (ancient, medieval/Byzantine and modern).

The aim of this paper is, on a first level, to study the expediencies that motivated the selection of specific topics and personages from the history of the Byzantine state in the milieu of post-civil war Greece, as well as the ways these subjects were used to educate the youth.

On a second level and as the subject matter included five female individuals as opposed to eight male ones, a sketch of Byzantine women in these works will be presented. Particular emphasis will be given in answering the question whether the scriptwriters –most of them literary authors– and artists were influenced by contemporary perceptions and stereotypes regarding Byzantine women or ignored even those perceptions and stereotypes along with the historical truth.

SPYRIDON PLAKOUDAS

The Impact of the Arab Spring on the Security and Stability of the Balkans

The Arab Spring, the equivalent to the European “Springtime of the Peoples” in 1848 for the Arab World, affected drastically the physiognomy of the Middle East and North Africa after 2011. The Balkans, in particular, an inter-mediate region between the Arab World and the Old Continent, experienced the after-shocks of the Arab Spring (and the ensuing Islamic Winter) as the refugee crisis in 2015 demonstrated evidently. How did the Arab Spring affect the security and stability of the Balkans, both a transit route for a tidal wave of refugees in the 21st century and a battlefield of sectarian wars in the previous century? This article intends to examine in a critical way the various threats to security and stability (e.g. terrorism by ISIS) in the Balkans in the wake of the Arab Spring.

GEORGIOS TSOTSOS – ELENI GAVRA

Route network of Asia Minor in early 20th century

From a scientific perspective of the historical human geography, the study of the transportation network of the Ottoman Empire in the period before the First World War presents an interest, since it contributes to the approach and understanding of the spatial phenomenon related to two other interrelated phenomena: the European economic intrusion in the area of the Ottoman Empire and the attempt of the Ottoman state to cope with the demands of the era, including among others the modernization of the transportation network of the Empire.

The land transportation network includes the road and rail networks. In this paper, our objective is to compile a complete picture as possible of the Asia Minor route network. Because the railway network has been studied extensively, while for the road network there is a gap in contemporary special studies, we try to iden-

tify the routes of the main road network, i.e. the main road axes of the Asia Minor area, and trace them on maps. At the same time, are explored issues such as the historical development of the construction of the road network from the middle of the 19th century until 1914, the state of the road network and transport conditions, the rail network in relation to road, and the impact of the state of the road network on the region's economy.

JEAN-LUC ARNAUD

Topographie de l'Europe centrale et des Balkans à la fin du XIXe siècle, une source méconnue

This paper deals with a particularly rich cartographic source for the history of Central Europe and Balkans at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is shared into three parts. After a general presentation of its context of production and the features relating to its distribution in the map libraries, the second part considers the cartographic series as a whole. It examines the fundamental features of the series that are independent of each sheet peculiarities. The last part is dedicated to the sheets level. It addresses the challenges related to the dating of sheets and the abundance of information they record.

MANOLIS G. VARVOUNIS – NIKOS RODOSTHENOUS

**Religious Traditions of Mount Athos
on Miraculous Icons of Panagia (The Mother of God)**

At the monasteries and hermitages of Mount Athos, many miraculous icons are kept and exhibited, which are honored accordingly by the monks and are offered for worship to the numerous pilgrims of the holy relics of Mount Athos. The pilgrims are informed about the monastic traditions of Mount Athos regarding these icons, their origin, and their miraculous action, during their visit to the monasteries and then they transfer them to the world so that they are disseminated systematically and they can become common knowledge of all believers. In this way, the traditions regarding the miraculous icons of Mount Athos become wide-spread and are considered an essential part of religious traditions not only of the Greek people but also for other Orthodox people.