Abstracts

Dorin-Ioan RUS

Forest Conservation Initiatives and Practices among Transylvanian Saxons in the 18th Century

The article focuses on the endeavors of Transylvanian Saxons to conserve forests in the eighteenth century. It will, thus, reveal whether this ethnic community promoted similar principles and ideas as in Western Europe on forest sustainability, as well as how the Austrian administration influenced them from 1699, when the province came under Hapsburg rule, to 1868, one year after the Compromise (Ausgleich) of 1867. However, the article will also discuss the ideas pertaining to forest conservation that circulated in the period leading up to the establishment of Hapsburg rule.

Evangelos P. Dimitriadis – Dimitris P. Drakoulis

The Ottoman Railway Network in the Southern Balkans and Asia Minor and the New Railway Ports at the End of the 19th Century. The Role of the European Powers in West-Middle East Relations

The study of the transportation network in relation to historical space is the subject of transport geography, as well as historical geographical space, a branch which examines human geography, and, in particular, the sub-branch of historical human geography, or historical geography. Thus, we have established the scientific framework of this work, which is directly connected with the related branch of economic history and social anthropology.

The arrangement of the railway network in the late Ottoman Empire is examined in relation to society, the economy, though, mainly the geopolitical situation in the southern Balkans and Asia Minor at the end of the 19th century. Therefore, knowledge of the historical dimension (historical-geographical framework) is crucial. A basic element of the study is the role of railway transport as a factor in geographical changes (e.g.

its influence on the agrarian hinterland, on urban development, on the siting of industry).

Kriton Kuci – Emilio Cika

Narrating Albanianism. Primordialist and Perennialist Themes in Albanian Historiography

Nationalist narrative plays a crucial role and is integral to the social construction of the nation and national identity. Homi Bhabha considers the nation a form of narrative nation, is constructed through narratives. However, official nationalist narrative reflects balances of hegemony, therefore national histories are continually subject to change. In this sense the nation itself is always subject to change.

Although in the recent years, efforts have been made in order to review some periods and issues of the Albanian history traditionally presented through a nationalistic narrative, the nationalist discourse remains dominant. The official Albanian historiography offers a "glorified" explanatory scheme of the reasons for the emergence of the Albanian Nationalism using terms such as "nation rebirth," "revival of the nation," or "awakening of the nation," which resemble the terms used by nationalists or primordial scholars of Nationalism.

This paper initially aims to offer a theoretical elaboration in the relationship of narrative and the social construction of the nation. In turn, it intends to analyze how primordialist and perennialist themes such as common origin, common territory, common language and the continuity of the nation are presented by the Albanian historiography during and after the communist era. Our analysis will focus on the examination of important editions of Albanian history issued during and after the communist era.

Ledia Dushku

"Let's Take our Eyes off Turkey"! Perception on the Ottoman Turks in the Discourse of the Provisional Government of Vlora (1912-1914)

Secession from the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the Albanian independent state in 1912 placed institutions and their organization within a new political, legal and administrative reality. In the external discourse of the provisional government of Vlora the perception about Ottoman Turks holds diplomatic and institutional connotations. Although with somewhat dim tones, constituent part of the external discourse of the provisional government of Vlora are also the state secularization, religious pluralism, equality of religious communities before the law and state, as characteristics that would grant a European spirit to the newborn state, thus bringing it closer to the West and away from the East.

In internal discourse of the government of Vlora assumes the civilizing mission to the Albanian society. Although a significant part of Albanian intellectuals constituted a part of the Ottoman context of state reformation, they strove to separate from the past, by differentiating Albanians from Ottoman Turks. The Ottoman institutional legacy, especially in the justice system, is viewed as the main barrier to channel Albania on the western line.

Anastasia Yiangou

Anglo-Hellenic Relations in Cyprus: Exploring the 1940s

This paper offers an overview of the development of relations between Greek Cypriots and the British during the 1940s, a period which proved fundamentally crucial for the course of the Cyprus Question. To begin with, the experience of the Second World War transformed political realities on the island and had a profound impact on the way the British and the Greek Cypriots viewed each other. Furthermore, the second half of the 1940s witnessed a hardening of attitudes of both Greek Cypriots and the British: the former demanded forcefully the union ("Enosis") of

Cyprus with Greece, whereas the latter where not prepared to give in to such demands for reasons which this paper will discuss. This study will further explore the role of the acting archbishop, the bishop of Paphos, Leontios (1933-1947), elected as archbishop of Cyprus in June 1947. Leontios remained a key figure of developments of Cypriot politics during the 1940s until his sudden death, a month following his enthronement. Undeniably developments that occurred during this decade – not least events concerning the acute polarization between the Cypriot Right and Left – had far reaching consequences for the future of the island.

Spyros Tsoutsoumpis

Governance and Violence during the Axis occupation of Greece: A New Approach

The present article will focus on one of the least explored aspects of life inside "Hitler's Greece;" the formation, development and role of the "counter-states" created by the Resistance forces between 1942 and 1944. Nazi-occupied Europe has been often presented as a monolithic entity that was ruled efficiently and tyrannically by the Wehrmacht and its assorted agencies. However, "fortress Europe" was much more penetrable and fragmented that suggested. The Wehrmacht had to rely on a series of often undependable allies that included fascist parties such as the Croatian Ustasha, hyper-conservative clerics such as Cardinal Tiso, ultra-right aristocrats like Admiral Horty and semi-criminal militias such as the French Milice and the Greek Special Security Service of Colonel Lambou. Accordingly, the most distant and impenetrable areas of Europe; forests, swamps, mountains and working-class slums, remained consistently outside the control of the Wehrmacht. These areas provided ideal hiding places for resisters in the early period of the occupation and served as the basis for the development of a number of shadow-states that ranged from the Byelorussian forest fief of Bielski to the Maquis redoubts in the wastes of Vercors and from the partisan republics set up by Tito's guerillas to the Resistance's outposts in the Cretan White Mountains, where British Liaison Officers moved about in full uniform in broad daylight.