

Preface

Conflict, Change and Cooperation in Southeastern Europe and in the Middle East (17th – 20th centuries)

The notion of conflict has been almost proverbially bound to the region of Southeastern Europe (as commonly known, to the Balkans) and to the Middle East in the European conscience for about two centuries now. Despite earlier encounters, like the crusades or commercial relations, this geographically wide region, which was mostly identical to the greatest ambits of the late Ottoman Empire, has become synonymous with ethnic and religious tension and with perennial discord and conflict in the modern period – at least on the mental map of European public opinion. This notion has barely changed nowadays yet.

Conflict was one of the keywords of the one-day PhD Student conference, hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Szeged. Our aim with this conference was to bring together a group of young scholars to discuss the developments behind this notion and to investigate the diverse history of this vast territory. To this end, the conference markedly had an interdisciplinary character due to the participants from the fields of literary studies and history. In their thought-provoking presentations, all participants also emphasized change in relation with conflict and cooperation.

Tibor Tóth (*Eötvös Loránd University*) guided us back to the Habsburg – Ottoman Wars of the 17th century, and meticulously described the perceptions of military volunteers from the British Isles about the Ottoman military capacity and also local conditions. In her study, Roxana-Voichița Martin (*West University of Timișoara*) analyses the literary images of Jules Verne's Castle of the Carpathians, and shed light on the Orientalist repertoire of Verne's popular novel. Dorottya Mihályi (*University of Szeged*) introduces us to the contemporary perception of tourism in Morocco. She convincingly demonstrates the contradictory relationship between "commercialized" and the "original" traditions represented in Moroccan tourism. Alexandra Fluerașu (*West University of Timișoara*) carefully enumerates the lingual cultural exchange between the Romanian and the Ottoman-Turkish languages by listing the adopted common words in given periods.

The second part of the present volume contains articles from the field of history. Balázs Balatoni (*University of Szeged*) gives a sketch on the diplomatic scrambles of the first years of World War I in the Balkans by displaying the activities of the Buxton-mission to Bulgaria. In his well-detailed article, Anastas Bezha (*University of Szeged*) reconsiders the evolution of the Albanian national movement in the context of the discrepancies of Ottoman modernization. The article of Levente Szabó (*University of Szeged*) is investigating an 'unlikely' event, the Japanese naval involvement in the Mediterranean during the First World War. József Kádár's (*University of Szeged*) article offers us a brief insight into the forging of Jordanian nationalism. The volume ends with Dániel Ferenc Domján (*Pázmány Péter Catholic University*) study about a communist show-trial in Zagreb. He persuasively

demonstrates the circumstances of the trial by utilizing a substantial amount of archival documents.

Finally, I would like to express our special thanks to those without whom the conference would never have been realized. We owe special thanks to our Professors who encouraged us to organize this symposium, despite the many difficulties we faced at the beginning. We are indebted to *Dr. Péter Ákos Ferwagner* and *Dr. Péter Vukman* for chair the sections of the conference. We are grateful for the support of The Department of History and Political Science of the Hungarian Association of PhD and DLA Students (DOSZ TePo) for helping make this conference possible. In particular, we thank the valuable assistance and guidance of Vivien Apjok, vice-president of DOSZ TePo. We are also very grateful for the contribution of *Dr. Zoltán Vajda*, Vice-Dean for International Relations, *Dr. Richárd Szántó*, Head of Institute of History, *Dr. Sándor Papp*, Head of Doctoral School of History, *Dr. László J. Nagy*, *Dr. Sándor Csernus*, and *Dr. Ágnes Tamás*.

Balázs Balatoni
Szeged, 2nd August 2019