



SH.LUJ "UNIVERSITETI  
MARIN BARLETI"



## **International Scientific Conference**

*"Strategic Relations between Balkan Countries, Common Values and Globalization"*

HEI "Marin Barleti University", Campus no 1, 17.03.2018, Tirana

**Abstract's handbook**

Political Sciences Department in collaboration with the “Albanian Institute of Public Affairs” (AIPA) at HEI “Marin Barleti University”, in Tirana

*organize*

the International Scientific Conference:

**“Strategic Relations between Balkan Countries, Common Values and Globalization”**

The conference intends to join in the roundtable a discussion forum from all Balkan countries, but also to address and touch upon the special and common issues that different Balkan countries are facing today.

Possible themes to be treated by the conference (but not limited to) are as follows:

1. Historical heritage, values and common problems.
2. Opportunities and perspectives of strategic cooperation in the Balkans.
3. Balkan Market; opportunities and perspectives.
4. Education as an integrating component of Balkan Countries.
5. Challenges of Balkan Democratization.
6. Integration of Balkan Countries in Europe.

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(Vice-Rector HEI “Marin Barleti University”)

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## IDENTICAL DICHOTOMY

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### Abstract

Paradoxically, postmodernism has brought two tendencies to today's society; on the one hand, increasing globalization and, on the other, the tendency for strengthening of identities, proving that the socio-political process in which we are, are overwhelmed with the integration, nationalist and convergent issues. The countries of Southeast Europe (the Balkans) are burdened with these problems more than other European countries. History, but also geopolitics, has placed this part of Europe in a political pressure that has occasionally emerged in extreme nationalism, but has created a space where cultural intertwining is so varied that it can be called a magnifying mirror of a "civilization of intermediate "between the east and west. In these circumstances, the question arises: Can we find elements of our culture that can help reduce the divisions of national identities in the Balkans? A stratified analysis of identity dichotomies in the Balkans can help us find these elements. The study takes the case of Albanian-Turkish cultural identities and evaluates some elements that can build sustainable structures that help create a convergent space by reducing nationalist manifestations.

**Key words:** cultural identity, taxonomy of political culture, national identity, nationalism, cultural diversity

# RELIGION AND NATIONALISM AS DEFINING (DE) STABILITY FACTORS IN THE BALKANS

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## Abstract

Religion has always been an important element both in personal and social terms and as well a factor of political and strategic alliances. Though it was thought that in the global age the role and importance of religion would be blurred by leaving the place to the economic factor, many theorists still think that the religion factor still remains determinant in regional and global equilibrium. The echo of Huntington's civilization crash theory, in addition to the many debates he produced, once again brought to the attention the religion element as a determinant factor in many of today's issues faced by human society. In this context, as in the past, now days and in the future, religion seems to remain important in the balance, the relationship and peace in the Balkans.

The collapse of the bipolar system, the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of Yugoslavia, bloody wars, the long and unfinished process of democratization of the Balkan countries and the socio-economic problems of these societies have characterized some of the most decisive challenges of this region in the last decades. The Balkans has been one of the hottest areas of nationalist clashes, a phenomenon that continues to be evident despite the fact that some of the Balkan countries have become part of the European Union and the rest are at different stages of this integration process.

From this point of view, our paper tries to address the interaction of the religious and nationalist factors in a multifaceted and multiethnic region, focusing both on the Balkan inter-state relations and on the policies of the third actors in this region. In this paper we will also try to highlight the role of religion and nationalism in the regional (de) stability.

**Key words:** Nationalism, religion, the Balkans, (de) stabilization

**TOWARDS COMMON ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND: A PROPOSAL OF THE BALKAN  
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ISLAM**

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**Abstract**

About two decades ago, many complaints were expressed by well known international scholars of Islam regarding the lack of English language references for the history of Islam and Muslim's manifestation in Southeast Europe and the Balkans in particular. Most materials on Islam and Muslims in this part of the world are scattered, improperly indexed, intellectually biased and are not readily available to the academic world. With regard to the 20th century, the studies or rather objective works are almost blank and unrecorded. A history of the Balkans in general is an inseparable part of Islamic history and civilization. The common history is documented and preserved in millions of written records presently kept in the Ottoman archives in Turkey, and in various Balkan countries.

However, the major figures in the Balkan philosophy and history are not known among world scholars and researchers. The history of Islamic literature and thought remains generally confined to the Middle East, Iran, North Africa, Malay Archipelago and Urdu speaking world. Most writers do not include the Balkan world in their studies, except in rare passing remarks. Neither has the Balkans received its proper recognition as an integral part of the Muslim world. In short, the entire field of knowledge requires a long overdue reconstruction. We witness from Turkey, for instance, Turkiye Diyanet Islam Ansiklopedisi (The Turkish Diyanet Encyclopaedia of Islam), where for this project it has been dedicated a huge estate and building for the purpose, containing a specialized library and over hundred permanent in-house researchers who tirelessly receive contributions from thousands of participants globally. So far, 44 volumes of the encyclopaedia in Turkish language have been designed, compiled, published and distributed all over the world. We witness a similar project Iran, namely The Great Encyclopaedia of Islam, as well as many similar projects from the Arab world in Arabic language, Urdu and Malay speaking worlds. An encyclopaedia is the main gateway for research on the intellectual tradition of any given culture and geographical area. It is the main reference for making policies, developing curriculum, embarking on global communications, searching out clues for foreign policies and nation building. In addition, it would be a safeguarding project from any kind of foreign cults and religious ideologies that was imported recently to the Balkan regions; as a result,

it has created a “fury and fire” in the recent history of the Balkan Muslims. In order to maintain the local religious identity from any threat of any “terrorist” organizations and ideological cults, such as ISIS, Alqaida, FETÖ, it is the primal authority before one reaches for other references and the point of entry for identifying other worlds. The Balkan Encyclopaedia of Islam (BEI) will become the major bridge that enables unification for the Balkan cultures and traditions, and a tool for further research and identification. While the geographical boundaries between nations become smaller, the breadth of culture, tradition, history, languages and beliefs are subsumed and the factors that bind people coherently require an extended perspective. This encyclopaedia can do all this and more for the English speaking milieu.

**Key words:** islam encyclopaedia, language, balkan, religious background

# CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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## Abstract

Education remains undoubtedly one of the most debated tools in the Albanian reality to respond to new challenges. This debate is even more difficult when it comes to military education, especially referring to education for regional military education under the conditions and under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Organization that Albania adopts since 2009.

Promoting a new culture of security in the region and beyond through military education at all levels requires a common approach. Albania's Armed Forces have undergone a series of transformation processes for the last two decades. They have significantly reduced their power as a result of the end of the Cold War and entering under the umbrella of NATO.

This paper seeks to analyze that, precisely on the basis of the principle of "common defense" (Article 5 of the Washington Treaty), the military education should be achieved at European integration levels. The first step remains the integration of military education systems in the region, where Albania has the ambition to play an important role in the field of security and defense.

To support the above idea, the paper sheds light on some of the reforms in military education before and after NATO membership and on the role and responsibilities of the Academy of Armed Forces as an institution of Higher Education for the education and training on contemporary challenges that affect the regional security system not only for military personnel but also for civil leadership.

**Key words:** security, military education, NATO, challenge

# STRATEGIC CO-OPERATION AND BALKAN INTEGRATION IN EUROPE, THROUGH CORRIDORS AND TRANSPORT NETWORKS

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## **Abstract**

Throughout the history, we find models and instruments of cooperation in the Balkan countries, as there are numerous and distinct social and natural divisions.

Through the presentation, I will focus on the models and tools that unite us from a perspective of strategic cooperation, common market and Balkan integration in Europe. More specifically, I will identify, compare and analyze strategic interaction and cooperation in the Balkans, through corridors and transport infrastructure networks. I will consider them as the social, economic and geopolitical communication instruments set up in the institution through the Pan-European Corridors as well as Transport Infrastructure Networks.

Furthermore, in the presentation I will consider the above instruments as opportunities and perspectives to develop the economy and to create wellbeing and prosperity for the Balkan peoples. To achieve this mission, I will argue and evaluate that policies, strategies and collaborative development programs are required to be drafted by the Balkan countries' societies and political representatives.

Secondary and primary sources, methods of comparison, analysis and generalization, quantitative and qualitative data and estimates will be used to realize the presentation. Applied methodology with resources will support the idea that corridors and transport networks create opportunities and perspectives of strategic cooperation, as well as the integration of Balkan countries in Europe.

**Key words:** strategic co-operation, transport infrastructure, the Balkans & European Union

**POLITICS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS:  
*EURO-SCEPTICISM OR EURO-ENTHUSIASM?***

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**Abstract**

The EU and the European Integration has been a difficult and controversial issue for political parties and public opinion in the countries of the former Yugoslavia because of all the fundamental political and state dilemmas that have shaped the Euroscepticism in these states mainly after the violent disintegration and wars in the region. In the post-conflict period, political parties and public opinion of these states has been transformed due to European integration by shifting their views and their approach towards EU membership and the strengthening of the relations with the EU. Finally, the overall societal stance on the European integration process in Western Balkan countries is questioned by the rise of Euro-sceptic attitudes. In order to understand whether and when political parties and public opinion in the Western Balkans have changed their position towards EU and European Integration, we will refer to the data from expert surveys on political party positions and data from the opinion polls on the public perception on EU membership.

**Key words:** euroscepticism, euro-enthusiasm, Western Balkans

# TO WIN HEARTS AND MINDS OF PEOPLE THROUGH SOFT POWER: TURKISH PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN ALBANIA

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## **Abstract**

This paper analyzes Turkish "soft power" in Albania. Attention will be paid to the reasons why after the 2000s throughout the Balkans, and specifically in Albania, Turkey decides to recycle the threads of the past through the instruments of public diplomacy. Yunus Emre Institute, TIKA, Anatolian News Agency are among the key players to exercise this soft power.

The author seeks to shed light on the key elements of the "strategic depth" theory, the so-called Doctrine Davutoglu, and to present Turkey's vision for a new role in the Western Balkans through soft power and cultural seduction.

**Key words:** Turkish Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy, TIKA, Junus Emre

# **BETWEEN ISLAMOPHOBIA, EXTREMISM AND REASONS WHY BALKAN YOUTH GOES TO ISIS**

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## **Abstract**

In modern times, especially after the 1990s, with the onset of conflicts in the Balkans and the transformation of societies from communist to liberal ones, the arrival or influx of religious groups has begun. At this point, religious groups have created a pretty good influence in society and especially among young people. But the arrival of new religious groups in the Balkans was characterized by some practices and thoughts that by then were not very popular in society, at least not among ordinary people. Practices that were "foreign" in a very short time spread to society and began to influence at least the lives of people who practiced religious rites. While at this time, the beginning of the destruction of Yugoslavia could be called decisive, with the creation of a liberal and free atmosphere, Balkan's Muslims began to feel their feelings printed by the earlier regime more openly in public. It is noted here that Balkan's Muslims on one hand are trying to preserve their national and cultural identity and, on the other hand, the spiritual need for religion began to rediscover and display again publicly. In such an atmosphere, which also interferes with the growing trend of Islamic world groups, there is a slight increase in the spirit and Islamic thoughts in the Balkans with an Orthodox background and character where Islam has been experienced over the centuries and can be called Tradition Islam.

With the launch of the so-called Arab Spring at the end of 2010, the new situation and new conjunction created in the world, as it did in other parts of the globe, begins to reflect on the Balkans as well. As the beginning of the crisis in Syria in March 2011, it attracted the attention of the public around the world. As most of the world's population did, most Balkan societies and especially young people began to focus on developments in the Middle East. On the other hand, during the developments in the last 20 years in the Balkans, the rise of the Salafite school, the traditional ethnic clashes, the problems that followed with the wrong economic liberalization, the increase of individual depression as a result of aggressive modernism, had an effect on Balkan societies and individuals.

In such a chaotic situation were the radical groups that used the most to recruit young people. At a time when communication tools have reached the culmination of development

and their use by ISIS, they have been used very effectively, during the years 2013-2015 many young people from the Balkans have taken the lead to radical groups such as ISIS.

In this paper, the focus is on the psycho-social, cultural and political causes and factors that have influenced the Balkan youths in the most dangerous places in the world such as Syria and Iraq. At this point, in order to make a sound analysis in addition to the geo-political interests of national states, we must understand the nature of political regimes in the Balkans, some historical breakdowns and the social composition of the societies in question.

At this point it is important to emphasize that to understand the motives of joining the Balkan youth in ISIS, at the same time we need to understand the ideology that promotes ISIS, but at the same time the background of the youth, because to illustrate the issue only from the aspect religion cannot produce sound results. Because the world we are living in, and the problems in this regard are more the result of the inability to survive the global depression, the existential personal crisis, and the epistemological crisis than the theological problems with the fact that many crises that figuratively derive from theology are hostage to political crises. In this regard, it is important to find the reasons behind the youth in ISIS. Because joining the youth in ISIS should be seen as the result (consistency) of the crisis in question.

**Key words:** Balkan youth, ISIS, crisis, extremism, Islamophobia

# CONTRIBUTION OF ROMANIA AND ALBANIA TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE REGION

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## Abstract

Human society and their states have for more than a century a common enemy, terrorism. States as first step endorse endless laws in the field of national security some countries have even formed specific national units or authorities that deal with data collection, prevention of acts of terrorist behaviors. At international level from 2001 onwards, have been undertaken a lot of measures on signing international treaties acts or even regional and bilateral agreements, but it seems that no common international instrument has been found to combat such phenomenon.

Actually, no international body or authority in the fight against terrorism is formed yet, and this fact has its own difficulties.

This paper aims to highlight regional co-operation in the fight against terrorism, and especially between the two countries that have always had fruitful exchanges such Albania and Romania. It is even more interesting, that Romania is the first country in the world, which since 1926 provided in the Criminal Code the offence of terrorism. Even more nowadays it is Romania and Spain that in November 2015 proposed the establishment of the International Court against Terrorism.

This paper will be focused not only on political connotations, but will also make an analysis of the legislation of these two countries in this field.

**Keywords:** terrorism, cooperation, legislation, court

# **BUSINESS INTERESTS AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY, THE CASE OF TURKISH INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA**

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## **Abstract**

Over the past 10 years, Albania has undergone a difficult transition by being involved in a series deep economic and political reform. Obviously, during this period, the political and economic situation is also reflected in the level of foreign investments in Albania. But during the last four years, along with the strengthening of diplomatic relations between Albania and Turkey, prima facia economic diplomacy has also been working at the same pace, where a significant increase in Turkish strategic investment in Albania is noted. The Albania-Turkey economic strategy partnership seems to have recently included in the debate the political class where MPs have opposed strategic investments by Turkish companies. The scope of this paper is an in-depth analysis of the relationship between the level of democracy, political and economic stability and strategic investments, particularly focused on Turkish businesses. A deep analysis will focus on the last ten years and how government policies have contributed to the promotion of Turkish strategic investment, the types of investments, and the ways of obtaining them (public concession/service contracts or other forms). A complete analysis of doing business in Albania by Turkish investors and the connection with economic diplomacy will be part of this paper as well. It also will be in focus identification of the economic and legal challenges of current and expected investors.

**Key words:** Investment, Albania-Turkey, economic challenges, law, stability, politics

# DETERMINING THE HISTORICAL DIALECTS OF TURKISH THROUGH THE HELP OF BALKAN LANGUAGES

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## Abstract

As peoples start to live together due to incidents such as migration, deportation, asylum, they naturally learn a lot from one another. Tangible and intangible cultural elements are borrowed after people get to know and like them. They learn the cuisine of the others, they imitate the clothes, share happiness and sorrows by going to their weddings or funerals. Marriages between them start to increase and they turn out to be relatives. If the neighborhood among them is a one lasting for centuries, they will even have common ideals. In this paper, I will not talk about what is mentioned above that is familiar to almost all. As a linguist and dialectologist, I will try to determine the phonetic characteristics of the historical dialects of Turkish through the help of Balkan Languages.

It is easy to determine the characteristics of a living dialect. Interview recordings are conducted in a region and depending on these records phonetic and morphological characteristics and vocabulary of the region in question are determined. It is, however, quite difficult to determine the dialectological features of a region in a specific time in the history. There is as yet no method for that.

This paper is based on the scientific project I carried out titled “A Trial for a Method to Determine the Historical Periods of Turkish: A Sample of 18th Century Western Rumelia”. I established 4 main ways to determine the dialectological features in a historical period. They are as follow:

- ✓ Making use of transcribed texts written in different alphabets belonging to that region and that period and making use of travel books.
- ✓ Making use of archaic- peripheral features of that dialect.
- ✓ Making use of works of poets and writers of that region of that period.
- ✓ Making use of the words borrowed by the neighboring languages.

In this paper, I will try to show the phonetic characteristics of the Balkan Turkish through “making use of the words borrowed by the neighboring languages” that I mentioned in the fourth place above.

**Key words:** Balkan languages, Turkish, dialects of Balkan Turkish

# NECESSITY OF COMPILING BIBLIOGRAPHIES FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES ON HISTORICAL, LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BALKANS AND TURKEY

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## Abstract

For this paper, we have relied on our personal experience and participation in a scientific project aimed at compiling the bibliography of Albanian researchers on historical, linguistic, cultural, literary, folk, architectural, ethnographic and religious relations between Albania and Turkey throughout the centuries.

These relationships that existed and continue to exist between Turkey's Balkan countries over the centuries are undeniable facts. Balkan and other philologists have been intensively engaged in studying these relationships, with their specific problems, with official documents, with direct and indirect influences, with questions that have emerged constantly about the existence and intensity of these relationships, with the terminology and labels used for them, etc. It has taken studies published over the years, but remains in some of the libraries' sects, because of the importance of the problems it dealt with, long ago deserves more attention. In our paper we will clarify the necessity of extending this project to all Balkan countries and its usefulness.

Based on the Bibliography materials, not only can be made a reevaluation of previous studies, but as well of unresolved issues, which are non-compulsive, politically and non-realistically addressed, also may raise questions about issues of common scientific interest, and can be drafted theses and oppositions. All of these will encourage joint scientific studies (maybe even expeditions) between scholars and students from all Balkan countries, roundtables, conferences and symposia, where sound scientific thought will find answers to the dark points and the controversial issue, in the common issues that cover the philological sciences of our countries.

**Key words:** Balkan, dictionary, bibliography, relationship, philologist

# HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF TURKISH EDUCATION IN KOSOVO AND MACEDONIA

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## **Abstract**

The Turks living in the southern east Europe are Macedonia and Kosovo Turks. We will strive to describe the history of Turks' education and the influence amongst Macedonia and Kosovo Turks. The Turks continue their existence in Balkan geography starting from the Ottoman period to the present day. Not forgetting the varieties from country to country, Turks have the right on education in their own language, within the scope of minority rights. Nonetheless, following the Ottoman period, education in Turkish language became obstructed, Turks being forced into assimilation or migration. Ottoman Empire during the five-hundred-year presence in these lands has produced many poets from Zari from Skopje to the poet of contemporary Turkish poetry Yahya Kemal Beyatli. However, with the Balkan wars, Turks of this region came to the point of being muted. In this study we assessed and defined the levels the Turkish education is given, the course being compulsory or elective, in general the problems faced in Turkish education, offering the solution suggestions.

**Key words:** Balkans, mother tongue, Turkish education

# TURKISH IN THE BALKANS (UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATION AND NECESSITY OF JOINT SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS)

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## Abstract

Turkish is a very important language for Balkan countries. This importance comes as a result of the common history and the current state of affairs.

In our speech, we will focus on four fundamental issues that shed light on the real state of Turkish dissemination in the Balkans, the Turkish language influences on the Balkan languages, the real efforts that have been made in the last twenty years for the spread of Turkish in Balkan countries and in particular we will stop at presenting a new vision regarding university collaborations and joint scientific projects, which would create the right ground for a more qualitative step. For this: first of all, we will clarify how present and how it has been and continues to be Turkish in the Balkans. As an official language of the Ottoman Empire for centuries it has been not only a bridge between the Ottomans and the Balkans, but also between the Balkans of different nationalities.

Second, we will give a detailed picture of the lexical and grammatical impact of Turkish in the eight Balkan languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Greek). Third, we will make a brief glimpse of the efforts so far made for the spread of Turkish in the Balkans by specifically stopping:

- In the branches of Turkish language at the state universities of the Balkan countries.
- In Turkish language courses, organized by the "Yunus Emre" Institute in Balkan countries.
- On scholarships provided by Turkish state institutions and Turkish universities for students from the Balkans.
- TEDA's funding for translation of Turkish literature into Balkan languages.
- In the widespread extent of Turkish soap-opera on Balkan television stations and re-awakening through them of common linguistic, historical and cultural elements, etc.

Fourth, we will especially dwell on our vision of the opportunities and the way of a qualitative scientific cooperation between Turkish and Balkan universities.

**Key words:** Turkish language, university, studies, projects

# ARABIC LANGUAGE AS AN UNIFYING FACTOR IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE REIGN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN ALBANIAN LANDS

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## Abstract

Since 1327, when Orhan Gazi (1281-1362) founded the first madrasah in Izmir, the process of education was transferred from the mosque to the madrasah. With the stabilization of the education system in the Ottoman Empire, the Arabic language deserved a proper place in the curriculum. This Arabic language status in the Ottoman Empire's educational institutions continued until the end of the Ottoman Empire. Throughout the Ottoman Empire, the Arabic language was part of the cultural identity of the Ottoman Empire. Arabic was taught at all levels of education in the Ottoman Empire, ranging from the lowest to the university level.

Despite the Turkish pride in their identity and language, the Arabic language, even before the Ottomans assumed their rule, Arab countries, represented one of the fundamental components of the Ottoman cultural component. The Ottoman Empire never attempted to replace the Arabic language with the Ottoman language. Therefore, the Arabic language being a component of the Ottoman Empire, at the same time, to a certain extent, found the extent of the madrasah inhabited by Albanians.

Since the spread of Islam in the Albanian lands, we have found the first institutions of education, within the Ottoman Empire, where Arabic was taught. At the beginning of this historic era, the levels of educational institutions were of the lowest level, so the focus was mainly on learning the Koran's reading of the Albanians. Texts used in those educational institutions, called Mecca, or Mejtepes, were in Turkish, so they were unique in the entire Ottoman Empire.

**Key words:** Arabic language, Ottoman Empire, educational institution, cultural identity

# CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE IN ALBANIA. PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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## Abstract

Albania is ranked among the countries with rich historical and cultural heritage in the Balkans. Its wealth is quite large and diverse considering the inventory of its buildings, including historical towns, castles of various historical periods, Christian and Muslim cult objects, bridges, archaeological material etc.

An important part of this paper will be the achievements such as the adding to the UNESCO's world cultural heritage list of the historic cities and other architectural objects. But this paper will attend to the problems and shortcomings that the Albanian cultural and historical heritage faces nowadays.

This paper is based on historical records, periodicals and monographs of Albanian and foreign scholars. Descriptive and analytical methods were used to highlight the problems and suggestions for improving the situation of cultural heritage conservation.

**Keywords:** Cultural Heritage, Archaeological Material, Architectural Objects, Historic Towns, problem.

# ALBANIAN-TURKISH STATE RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY

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## Abstract

The balance of relations between the two states for over a century is extremely positive. Turkey in 1920 assisted within Albanian statehood and formerly was among the first countries to recognize it. During Albania's transition from the Republic to the Monarchy, the great, Mustafa Qemal Ataturk tried to influence her performance. Through his influence was done as well the transfer of the Bektashi World Headquarters with all its structure from 1920 until 1929 by Salih Njazi Dede.

Turkey is the only country in the world that protested against the Italian invasion of Albania. After the Second World War, the Turkish state became a shelter for hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanian ethnicities. With his permission in 1952 was created the Albanian association in Istanbul, this was an indirect invitation to the cold war between the two systems for connection with the Albanian communist state. After the breach with the Soviet Russia and until today Turkey continually has displayed alongside the Albanian state. In 1968 and 1997, Turkey, with its categorical warnings, halted the aggressive hand of a neighboring state. In 1990, Turkey supported economically and militarily, the fragile Albanian State. During the 1998-1999 Kosovo War, Turkey provided totalitarian assistance and was among the first in 2008 to recognize the State of Kosovo. The Albanian state in 1974, when Turkey intervened militarily in Cyprus to support Turkish Cypriots, was next to it and was the only state that defended it at the UN. The Albanian state and the Albanian community in Turkey have been and are side by side with the Turkish state. Even in the framework of NATO there is a close interstate cooperation. From 1960 until today, continuous exchanges of delegation visits of all levels and types are continuing. We are confident that the brotherhood between the peoples and the two states as it has resisted the fortunes of today as in the past, will withstand the challenges of globalization in the future.

**Key words:** Turkish state, Albanian state, bilateral relations

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBANIA-KOSOVO STRATEGIC RELATIONS: BILATERAL CO-OPERATION VS. THE EU'S REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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## Abstract

The paper seeks to analyze the regional dimension of Albania Foreign Policy with particular focus on Albania-Kosovo relations. Regional cooperation has constituted an important part of the overall EU policy with regard to EU accession of the Western Balkans and also envisaged a feature of foreign policy of Balkan countries, but Albania-Kosovo relations represent more than just a case of EU conditionally neighbor bilateral cooperation. Instead they are strategic for both countries in national and regional context, toward approaching each other and EU enlargement process as well. Drawing from these discussions, the study will focus on how the EU Regional Cooperation perspectives have impacted Albania foreign policy in the region and particularly the bilateral relations with Kosovo. It question further about what have been the challenges and opportunities for Albania's role development in the region and toward developing strategic bilateral relations with Kosovo. The study will draw theoretically within regionalism vs. European integration perspective discussions. Methodologically the study first will apply a tracing process of important actors and processes identification and then an evaluating process of concrete policy results using gathered primary data by Albanian, Kosovo and EU official institutions. The study findings attempt to emphasize that Albanian political elite envisaged regional cooperation almost singularly as a mean for acceding to the EU, but even though there is a lack of competitiveness in Albanian regional foreign policy and toward development of strategic status of Albania-Kosovo relations.

**Key words:** Albania Regional Foreign Policy, European Integration, Regional Cooperation, Western Balkan Countries, Albania-Kosovo Relations

## TURKISH IMPACTS IN BALKAN LANGUAGES

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### **Abstract:**

Turkish is one of the oldest languages in the world. Throughout history she has had links to many other languages, whether they are early or dead, such as Sanskrit, Tatar, etc., whether they have had more vibrant cultural links like Arabic and Persian, and then English and French.

Initially, Turkish borrowed from the Persian alphabet (about 2500 words) and than from the Arabic (about 1981 words). In addition to lexicon loans, visible are also grammatical borrowings, borrowings of word-forming surpluses from the Turkish language.

In our paper we will focus on the influences of Turkish language in Balkan languages (in Bulgarian, Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian-Croatian and Greek), addressing both the lexical and the grammatical influences in each language.

**Key words:** Turkish language, impact, Balkan

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS AS A LEGAL AND POLITICAL INSTRUMENT IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

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## Abstract

In this paper is carried out a comparative analysis to highlight the impact of the association agreements in the European integration process. The association agreements constitute not only the legal instrument with a binding character both in international and European law, on which the relations between EU and aspiring countries are sustained, but they are also widely used as an important foreign policy instrument by both the Union and the member states themselves. In this context are considered the Association Agreements with the countries that aspired to join the EU and is analyzed their impact on the process and achievement of membership or integration of these countries into the EU.

The paper highlights the importance of association agreements in the Union's relations with associated countries as a legal instrument that contains one of the most important political instruments, that of providing a perspective for membership.

In this regard the providing prospect of membership, in this paper, is assessed as a political instrument that has a great impact on the establishment and management of political, diplomatic, economic and legal relations between the EU and the Balkan countries.

**Key words:** association agreement, integration process, EU

# EUROPEAN UNION LAW AND THE DOMESTIC LAW: HARMONIZATION OF DOMESTIC LAW WITH EUROPEAN UNION LAW

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## Abstract

European Union law is a legal discipline with a rapid and continuous development. The purpose of this paper is to argue in an individual perspective the European Union law and the problems of institutional domestic law that carries on the ambition to make a contribution to the recognition of the current legal order and the functioning of European Union law.

Our goal is not to bring a complete analyses regarding this field. As part of the paper, aspects from the idea of creating a European Community to the latest changes of the Lisbon Treaty in the field of environment, peace, protection, guaranteeing and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms will be presented.

The Lisbon Treaty is undoubtedly a step forward in the integration process. This paper deals with the history of European integration since its inception after World War II from the Marshall Plan for Europe to the formation of the European Community and then the creation of Today's European Union.

In this regard, particular attention will be paid to EU institutions, and will be shown the important role that the policies and the pressures of the member states have played on the stages of building a successful Europe, that we see in nowadays.

**Key words:** European Union Law, Institutions, Treaties

# MULTICULTURALISM IN PRACTICE. LINGUISTIC RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES

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## Abstract

Ethnic diversity is a key feature of the Western Balkans countries and it has not been always an enrichment, but rather a justification for the conflicts in the region. The region ethnic diversity is always seen with mistrust, hindering the peaceful coexistence among nations, instead been promoted and valorized as a distinctive asset of the region. An important expression of ethnic diversity is the rich linguistic heritage of national minorities. After the fall of communist regimes, a particular situation was noted in the region where countries previously accorded a range of minority language rights shifted to a policy of official mono-lingualism, which mobilized minorities to either peaceful or violent protests. On the other hand, the protection of minority rights, including the linguistic rights, is one of the key criteria for the accession of the Western Balkans countries in the European Union. Thus, they have been pushed to implement policies guaranteeing the linguistic rights.

The conceptualization of multiculturalism in the region is based mainly on the policies for the management of cultural diversity produced by the presence in the territories of various states of numerous persons belonging to national minorities. Thus, in this paper I propose to analyze the implementation of linguistic policies for the national minorities in the Western Balkans countries using the Multiculturalism Policy Index elaborated by Banting and Kymlicka, which consider two main policies: the official language status, either in the region or nationally and the public funding of minority language universities/schools/media.

**Key words:** National Minority, Multiculturalism, Linguistic Rights, Balkans, Human Rights

# NEIGHBORHOOD STABILITY V.S A CREDIBLE ENLARGEMENT PERSPECTIVE FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

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## Abstract

*“If we want more stability in our neighborhood, then we must also maintain a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans. It is clear that there will be no further enlargement during the mandate of this Commission and this Parliament. No candidate is ready”*  
*JeanClaude Juncker, President of European Commission*

The stability and security are central to the social and political life of communities, regions and the entire world. They allow communities, regions and the world itself to interpret historical facts and to construct present values and norms. It is considered nowadays as a huge and urgent double challenge especially in front of a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans. As a matter of fact the need for international cooperation is urgent, both at global and region level.

Through this paper we try to evidence how it can be a source of political leverage or vulnerability for individual countries, and can promote economic prosperity or instability within the entire region itself. Concepts like national security versus neighborhood stability, geopolitical relations within the Balkans and a future enlargement process will be focus of this paper. What effect would such constraints thus have on the enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans? What geopolitical consequences might these changes in the patterns of acceptance and approval have? And other similar questions will find an answer with this paper.

To this end, the paper also will note all the possible policy responses in regards to domestic and international efforts encouraging a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans.

**Key words:** stability, security, enlargement, Western Balkans, region.

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A CONDITION FOR INTEGRATION IN EUROPEAN UNION ALBANIAN CASE

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## Abstract

In stabilization association agreements between European Union and Balkan countries is included the development of public administration as a condition for their integration in European Union. As students of public administration, by keeping in mind the development of public administration is an "old-important" notion not just for the scholars of public administration, but also for practitioners of this discipline, our interest was triggered to study about what European union means with the development of public administration and how Albanian government understood and implemented this condition. Thus, the conception of the development of public administration according to European Union and how Albanian government understood and implemented this integration condition, are two pillars on which is built this paper.

Following, the methods used for a scientific studying of this "old" notion or issue are the inductive generalization, combined with a natural-history overview, from particular cases, authors, theories and comparisons between different practices and countries.

**Key words:** public administration development, integration conditions, European Union, Albanian Government, Balkan Countries.

# NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALBANIA AND THE EU DURING THE INTEGRATION PROCESS, COMPARED TO MONTENEGRO'S EXPERIENCE

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## Abstract

European Commission granted to Albania the status of candidate country in June 2014 and the progress report of 2015 is the second one after this stage of its integration in EU. Neither after this report there is no green light for opening the accession negotiations. The European Commission addressed five key determinant priorities: 1- establishment of a professional and depoliticized administration; 2- enhance the impartiality of the judiciary; 3- strengthen the fight against organized crime; 4- strengthen the fight against corruption; 5- reinforce protection of human rights.

The goal of this paper is to analyze the process of preparing for the negotiations membership of Albania, compared with Montenegro experience which is still widely seen as the regional leader of the European Integration of the Western Balkans. Albania should carefully study the experience of new member states and what the other candidate countries has done , in order to take the necessary measures and to do all the preparation for opening negotiations. The experience of neighboring countries best reflects that the negotiations are related to the effective implementation of legislation, which requires political commitment in carrying out reforms in the country.

**Key words:** Stabilization and Association Agreement, reforms, negotiations, Balkan countries, integration.

# CORRELATION BETWEEN AVAILABILITY OF OPEN DATA TO QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY, TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, AND CORRUPTION PERCEPTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

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## Abstract

Transparency as an indicator of democracy and determinant for trust in institutions has been extensively discussed by scholars, advocated by civic activists and claimed by politicians. The predominant perspective, that improved transparency means a better democracy, is widely viewed as an axiom that doesn't even need be discussed, much less supported. The rationale behind this position is that, by shedding light on decisions and actions, transparency promotes accountability of power-holders. However, criticism on this perspective is growing, especially in academia circles.

The example par excellence of transparency is open data, "...data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone." While transparency is a difficult to pinpoint concept, and it can be easily abused by releasing some information while withholding, perhaps the most important, part of it, open data have a more precise definition and their availability makes it easier for the citizens to hold power-holders accountable. The degree to which governments provide open data can be seen as a measure of willingness to become subject to public scrutiny and correlates to quality of democracy, trust of the citizenry in the government and perception of corruption.

In this paper is made use of data gathered by different international institutions and organizations to examine the relationship between degree of data openness, quality of democracy, trust in government, and corruption perception in the Western Balkans. Indeed, the level of data openness has a strong correlation with all of the above-mentioned variables. Practical implications of these findings are discussed.

**Key words:** transparency, accountability of power-holders, democracy quality

## **CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN ALBANIA: CHALLENGES DURING ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND EUROPEAN EXPECTATIONS**

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### **Abstract**

One of the most delicate sectors in the path of Albania towards EU is the public administration. Developing an efficient and accountable public administration in Albania, which in particular supports the implementation of the rule of law, the proper functioning of state institutions for the benefit of the Albanian population as a whole and the normal development of relations between the EU and Albania are underlined in the EU position, as envisaged in the Stabilization and Association Agreement.

The adoption and implementation of the Civil Service Law marks a positive step towards European standards. But its proper implementation remains a challenge in the Albanian state, although skepticism by European states is still present.

In these circumstances, Albania should prove to the EU that it has the will to implement the civil service reform, to achieve a European country's standards in public administration, increase institutional and administrative capacity, and improve efficiency and the guaranteeing the separation of politics from public administration.

**Key words:** Department of Public Administration, Civil Servant, Recruitment, EU, Politics, Membership

# COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BALKAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE EU

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## Abstract

In 1990, the dissolution of Yugoslavia created new states in the Balkans. These countries with major economic, political and social problems, along with those that emerged from the socialist system in Eastern Europe, were a concern for Europe. In these circumstances Western European countries that have never been away from the Balkan problems decided to react to this situation. In 1992, the French Prime Minister gave the idea of a "Stability Pact" to calm the region and to approach Europe. At the core of these ideas was the idea that it is better to prevent conflicts than to resolve them. With these goals, European countries started to cooperate with the Balkan countries to establish the conditions to achieve the desired political, economic and social criteria. The next meeting in 1993 at the EU Summit in Copenhagen set the "Copenhagen Criteria" as preconditions to be met by the candidates. For many analysts, the content of the notion of Copenhagen remained unclear whether it would be "criteria" or "conditions for membership". At the Madrid Summit in 1995, at the Cologne Summit on 10 June 1999, the Zagreb Summit in November 2000 and the Thessaloniki Summit in June 2003 were approved the agreements, that were then accepted by the Balkan countries. Balkan countries have different levels of development and problems. Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia are the first countries to join, followed by Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, and later in Bosnia and Albania integration processes. Kosovo is the last country in the region in these processes but important is that it is recognized by two-thirds of the EU countries. But there is also lack of skepticism, for the most part the EU fears the "invasion" of economic refugees towards it, and moreover the abandonment of the Western Balkans will create a divide in Europe between prosperous and poor countries. It is important that the future of this region is seen with optimism.

**Key words:** Balkans, "Stability Pact", regional cooperation, comparative assessment

# OTTOMAN DOCUMENTS FOUND IN ALBANIAN TERRITORY, A TANGIBLE HERITAGE OF OUR DAY

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## Abstract

The Ottoman's 5th century rule in the Albanian space, still today is treated as a "hot issue" and mostly convincing historical facts are needed to reveal events in these territories. Since we are precisely in the nationwide Year of our national hero, Gjergj Kastrioti, we thought that handling this topic will help shed light on and reflection on carrying out studies in this field. Rather than a detailed study we intend that through this paper to emphasize how important it is for a competent and professional historian to rely on primary resources. This also stems from the many debates and uncertainties about the figure of the Hero. It is with this theme that we will present the importance of the Ottoman sources and the first documents found in this space where they all appear in their authentic form in the Ottoman language. Some of these documents are translated and the rest is preserved in the Balkan archives and especially in the Istanbul Archives and the Central Archives of Tirana with about one million undeclared documents.

This paper is structured in three parts. In the first part we have presented a brief historical background on the consolidation of the Ottoman invasion in the Albanian space. The second part presents a clear picture of the list of documents found in this space, preservation and archival exploitation of them and the importance of these documents for Albanian historiography. The third part of the paper presents the importance of the heritage of Ottoman documents and the conclusion reached on this subject, trying to bring our concrete opinion into this area of study. For this work we have used a wide literature mainly in Albanian.

**Key words:** archive documents; Ottoman heritage; primary sources; cadastral records.

# ALBANIAN POPULATION AND THE PROCESS OF ISLAMIZATION

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## Abstract

The reason for choosing this topic is because the Albanian's Islamism did not come simply with violence and sword, as the Ottoman Empire was a theocratic state (Islamic Khalifat) that recognized the existence of other religions (people of the Book) in its territory, but it was a long process of time involving factors, political, economic, social, religious, but also national.

It is worth mentioning, however, that the contacts of the Albanians with the Islamic religion are earlier than the Ottoman invasion of Albanian lands, since in the Ottoman times these lands have been violated from time to time by merchants or other representatives of the Oriental Islamic world. It should be noted, however, that the beginnings of Albanian's population Islamism in the form of a historical process are related to the beginnings of the establishment of Ottoman rule in Albanian lands.

**Key words:** Ottoman Empire, historical processes, Islam

# HISTORICAL HERITAGE BETWEEN ALBANIA AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

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## Abstract

The reason why I chose this topic is that I want to point out that even in a space like the Balkans, which has been and continues to be with many problems and disagreements, a new chapter could open in the near future and the problems remain part of the past.

What has happened cannot be changed, but what will happen, can be. It is up to us if we want the Balkans to have another labeling, that of mutual cooperation between its countries. This is achieved by relying on the full awareness of the past and the great optimism for the future.

In this paper I have tried to deal with how the Ottoman invasion affected Albania in the process of forming the national identity, but also in the path of Albania as an independent state in the Balkans and in the international arena.

Albania and Albanians have been forced to spend a good part of their history under the Ottoman Empire. This is a period to be studied not only in the context of occupying a country from another country, but rather how this invasion conditioned state continuity after the political division of the two countries. Past, whatever it may be, it conditions the future.

**Key words:** historical heritage, Ottoman period, independence, state

## THE NECESSITY OF ARCHIVAL STUDIES OF OTTOMAN DOCUMENTS IN DIFFERENT BALKAN COUNTRIES, THE ALBANIAN CASE

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### Abstract

The issue that is going to be addressed comes as a result of the observations we have made in the State Archives and the knowledge we have obtained at the Summer School of the Ottoman University held at the Faculty of History and Philology of the University of Tirana. It is well known by all that the Balkan Archives are filled with extensive official and historical documentation in the Ottoman language.

In addition to this documentation in various archives there are also writings and documents written in the native language with the ottoman alphabet.

To date in a good part of the cases due to a wrong or politicized mentality of a part of the researchers, these documents are left in the shadows and therefore unrecognized.

This is also the case with the Tirana State Archives, where a good part of the Albanian articles written by the Ottoman and Arabic alphabet has not yet been transcribed, and is therefore not studied.

Translated as *Bejtexhinj* Literature and not being transcribed as whole, significant linguistic contributions have been missed, such as: Drafting a myriad of dictionaries, Turkish-Albanian and Albanian-Turkish up to 5000-9000 words that need to be included in clarifying the history of lexicography of the Albanian language.

**Key words:** documents, archives, transcripts, language

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