

THE LONG EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Volume 2

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*Hayduts and Revolutionaries:
Facts and Fictions in the Past and Today
Abstracts*

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1. ON THE PREMODERN PEJORATIVE CONNOTATION OF THE TERM “HAYDUT” – ARCHIVAL AND FICTIONAL ANALOGIES

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The persistence of the pejorative connotation of the term “haydut” in the vocabulary of the Bulgarians till modern times, although well documented, is largely neglected in the national ideological discourse. This negative nuance could be rooted in the premodern religiosity and moral values that considered the perpetrators of a criminal activity as sinners. It was further shaped by the early modern Ottoman socio-political realities. This paper aims to shed light on the role of the 17th–18th century socio-political environment and the mechanisms of the involvement of local communities in the Ottoman province to maintain public order. Local communities were mobilized in various ways. The most inclusive method to ensure law-abiding behavior of the subjects to report crime and whereabouts of the criminals was the system of mutual guarantees and collective responsibility. Furthermore, the victimized communities, both Christians and Muslims, participated in witnessing in court proceedings. In these court cases, specific sharia concepts were frequently invoked to substantiate aggravating circumstances like accusations of “highway robbery” (*ku tta-i tarik*) or that of the “repeat offender” (*sa’i bi’l-fesad*). In the 18th century, local communities in the Ottoman province and their elites were also more directly engaged in the recruitment of local security guards for their districts and in financing them on behalf of the local budgets (*masarif-i vilâyet*). I consider this participation a prerequisite for the integration of the population into the system of maintaining public order and a way of assimilating concepts from official legal discourse, including those describing brigands (such as hayduts). The latter figures were also negatively portrayed in the Bulgarian subjects’ historical accounts from the period, as well as in the vernacular and more fluid collective memory —folklore.

Keywords: Ottoman Province, Haydut, Local Communities, Mutual Guarantees (*Kefalet*), *Sicil*

2. MILITARY FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAIDUTRY IN THE OTTOMAN RUMELI DURING 15TH–17TH CENTURIES (HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS)

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In Bulgarian, and more generally in Balkan historiographies, for decades now, haydutry had been considered the most radical mass opposition to Ottoman rule. Its widespread distribution is the reason why it is qualified as a “specific resistance movement.” This phenomenon in its essence had different manifestations and underwent significant development during the Ottoman period. The aim of this article is to present the factors for the development of haydutry in the Balkans during the 15th–17th centuries. The chronological frame is determined by the perspective of this phenomenon — its emergence and evolution during the Ottoman dominance. The historiographical approach allows us to trace the main factors that contributed to the evolution and spread of haydutry. Among the latter, there are the specific nature of Ottoman military borders, the inclusion of various categories of Balkan population in the system of governance, the military transformations in the Empire, and the phenomenon of mercenarism.

Keywords: Balkans, Ottoman Rule, Haydutry, Military Borders, Mercenarism

3. BALKAN IRREGULAR FORCES AS A COMPONENT OF IMPERIAL ART OF WAR DURING THE LONG 18TH CENTURY

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During the long 18th century, irregular Balkan troops played a crucial role in the military and political dynamics of the Habsburg, Ottoman, and Russian empires. Although each of these states maintained sizable regular armies, they often relied on locally recruited irregulars to strengthen their tactical capabilities and to exert their political influence over the frontier populations. This article examines how these three empires integrated Balkan irregular forces into their military systems during the wars that took place between 1683 and 1812. Moreover, the study explores the dual impact of these kinds of troops both on the battlefield performance of imperial armies and on the consolidation of imperial authority in the Balkan region.

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, Habsburg Empire, Russian Empire, Balkans, Irregular Forces, Mercenaries

4. IN THE MAELSTROM OF REVOLUTION: THE TRANSATLANTIC ODYSSEY OF LOUIS-AUGUSTE FÉLIX BEAUJOUR

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This article examines the transatlantic career of Baron Louis-Auguste Félix Beaujour (1765–1836), a rare example of a French statesman of the “long” 18th century whose diplomatic career spanned both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. From his early theological studies at the Sorbonne to his appointments as French consul in Thessaloniki, general consul in the United States, and later in Smyrna, Beaujour’s life reflects the profound and complex impact of the revolutionary upheavals of his time on the individual. The study focuses on the ideological and practical implications of the French Revolution on Beaujour’s worldview, tracing his shifting attitudes —from initial skepticism and pragmatic adaptation in the Levant, through a growing detachment during his American tenure, to a conservative critique of liberal trade policies in his later career. Beaujour’s consular correspondence and writings —particularly his “Tableau du commerce de la Grèce...” (1800) and “Aperçu des États-Unis au commencement du XIXe siècle...” (1814) —offer valuable insights into the economic and diplomatic transformations that followed in the wake of revolutionary turmoil. Beaujour blamed the French Revolution for a dramatic decline of French power and a negative influence in the Levant. He advocated a return to Colbertist protectionism, modified by the rational liberalism of Adam Smith, seeing in it the only viable path for revitalizing French commerce in the Eastern Mediterranean. This article argues that Beaujour’s transatlantic odyssey exemplifies the contested legacy of revolution as both a catalyst for career mobility and a source of structural instability. His life trajectory challenges linear conceptualizations of modernity and revolution, channeling notions of revolutionary change as a cyclical, trans-historical phenomenon.

Keywords: Louis-August Félix Beaujour, Consuls, French Revolution, Atlantic History

5. CAPTAIN WILLIAM KIDD BETWEEN PIRACY AND PRIVATEER RING AT THE TURN OF THE 18TH CENTURY

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This article explores the life, trial, and legacy of Captain William Kidd, a controversial figure often depicted as a notorious pirate of the “Golden Age of Piracy.” Drawing on primary sources such as “The Arraignment, Tryal, and Condemnation of Captain William Kidd” (1701), the study reexamines the charges against Kidd —piracy and murder —arguing that his actions more closely resembled those of a privateer commissioned by the English Crown. Kidd’s early maritime career, especially his capture of the *Queddah Merchant*, reveals a complex engagement with legal and illegal seafaring practices in a volatile geopolitical climate. The research also highlights the inconsistencies and injustices of Kidd’s trial, including his denial of legal counsel and inability to present exculpatory evidence. Historiographically, it situates Kidd within broader debates about piracy, privateering, and imperial power in the long 18th century. The given text considers how his image was shaped by shifting legal definitions of piracy and how his reputation was later reassessed by modern historians. This article presents Kidd as a misunderstood figure caught at the intersection of state-sanctioned violence and criminal enterprise.

Keywords: Captain William Kidd, Piracy, Privateering, Golden Age of Piracy, Historiography

6. THROUGH MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS: ACCOUNTS BY FOREIGN TRAVELERS OF THE ARMED MEN OF THE BALKANS

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Between the 15th and 19th centuries, a significant number of travelers from Western, Central, and Eastern Europe visited the territories of the Balkan Peninsula, which was then under Ottoman rule. These individuals came from various social classes and had diverse ethnic backgrounds, occupations, and interests. These travelers were often deeply concerned about their safety while passing through unfamiliar and potentially hostile regions. Most of them traveled in large groups, particularly those involved in diplomatic missions. While not as prominently featured as in other historical sources, the figure of the “armed man” of the Balkans does appear in travelogues of the time, where they are depicted in various ways. Some travel writers also make occasional references to the resistance movements against Ottoman authority. As a result, the image of the “armed man of the Balkans” began to find its place —albeit in different forms —within European literature as well.

Keywords: Travel Writing, Journey, Robbery, Convoy, Mountains, Forests, Ottoman Empire

7. WE IN THE COURSE OF TIME: VASIL LEVSKI'S LETTER TO PANAYOT HITOV FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

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The article infers a hypothesis about the origin of the usage of the maxim from the Antiquity, "Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis," meaning "Time changes and we change with it," during the Bulgarian Revival. This saying, seemingly belonging to Ovid, was well known, as it appears in a letter written by the legendary Bulgarian revolutionary Vasil Levski. More precisely, it is mentioned in a letter from 1871 to another participant in the struggle against the Ottoman empire – the revolutionary Panayot Hitov. However, it can also be found earlier as a kind of epigraph to Sofroniy Vrachanski's book of religious treatises, "Book of Three Religions" (1805). After providing a historical account on the education of Sofroniy and Vasil Levski and the appropriation of the maxim in its new contextual environment, the article hypothesizes that, since both of these figures have considered the vocation of becoming monks, it is quite possible that during their schooling they might have come up with this maxim and have learned to use it rhetorically for their own purposes, whether didactic or revolutionary.

Keywords: Maxim, Sediments of Time, Vasil Levski, Sofroniy Vrachanski, Revolution, Letter-Writing

8. UPRISING AND REVOLUTION — NOTES FROM BULGARIAN PROSE (19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY) AND THE MEMORY OF TZOLO TODOROV

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The French Revolution (1789) changed mental attitudes and gave rise to the desire for liberty, fraternity, and equality. In Bulgarian political vocabulary, the foreign word "revolution" means "uprising." Curiously, more than one Balkan revolt against Ottoman rule was planned to break out on a day of the Christian calendar. Usually, betrayals preceded the agreed date. The article focuses on the 1850 uprising in Belogradchik and the surrounding area, as well as on the memory of one of its main protagonists, Tzolo Todorov. Historical events reflected in Bulgarian prose during the second half of the 19th century are traced as well. Moreover, attention is paid to a newly discovered votive cross in the vicinity of Belogradchik that creates and testifies to a new memorable relation between the rebellious events surrounding Salvation Day in 1850, Tzolo Todorov, and his wife's betrayal.

Keywords: Enlightenment, French Revolution, Uprising, Nord-West Bulgaria, Belogradchik, Tzolo Todorov

9. THE CARBONARI WRITER SILVIO PELLICO AND THE RECEPTION OF HIS WORK IN BULGARIA

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The text examines the political and literary biography of the Italian writer and Carbonari member Silvio Pellico within the context of the cultural and ideological processes of the first half of the 19th century. Particular emphasis is placed on the reception of his work in Bulgaria, traced through translations, critical responses, and interpretative practices from the National Revival period to the beginning of the 20th century. The analysis explores the patterns of literary transfer, the role of moral-religious and patriotic discourse, and Pellico’s position in Bulgarian cultural memory. Moreover, the study elucidates the mechanisms of cultural transfer and highlights Pellico’s contribution to the formation of value systems associated with freedom, suffering, and Christian ethics in the Bulgarian Revival and post-Revival context.

Keywords: Silvio Pellico, Carboneria, Bulgarian Revival, literary Reception, Prison Memoirs, Literary Influences

10. “THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME”: A DRAMATURGICAL READING OF HAIDUK’S REVENGE (“TSVYATKO VOYVODA” BY ATANAS UZUNOV)

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The article examines the revolutionary drama “*Tsvyatko Voyvoda*” (1876) by Atanas Uzunov, with a focus on the transformation of the intellectual protagonist who assumes the role of a people’s avenger because of personal suffering inflicted by the oppressors on him. The concept of the “unfortunate family” is analyzed in the context of the awakening national consciousness, and it is semantically nuanced through the declarative and agitational pathos in the literary work under discussion. This model of behavior is interpreted as the only possibility of resistance against injustice and violence.

Keywords: Bulgarian National Revival, Drama, Violence, Revenge

11. MISSIONARIES AND REVOLUTIONARIES (1858–1878)

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The article examines the positions and reactions of Protestant missionaries to various aspects of the Bulgarian national liberation movement. On the one hand, it considers the reasons for the neutral attitude of missionaries in the 19th century towards the armed resistance of the Bulgarians against the Ottoman Empire. On the other hand, it presents evidence that the missionaries themselves were accused of inciting the Bulgarian population to revolts. The support of individual missionaries towards participants in popular uprisings is shown, as well as their unconditional support to those who suffered as a result of the suppression of such uprisings.

Keywords: Missionaries, Revolutionaries, Bulgarian National Revival, Enlightenment, National Liberation

12. REGARDING A “REVOLUTIONARY DRAMA” ON THE PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPER “DUMA NA BALGARSKITE EMIGRANTI”

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Acts of rebellion and civil disobedience against the political and administrative regulations imposed on Bulgarian lands intensified after the Crimean War, particularly from the late 1860s onwards. One of the most widely reported striking manifestation of rebellion and attempts at political change for Bulgarians in those years in the press, and later on in memoirs, was the actions of the rebel groups led by Hadzhi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha. In the first newspaper published by Botev, “*Duma na Balgarskite Emigranti*” (1871), parts of Angelaki Savich’s booklet “*Balgarskite Vastanitsi na 1868 pod Voyvodstvoto na Hadzhi Dimitar i Stefan Karadzha*” were translated from Romanian. The translator’s note describes the translated text as a “folk historical revolutionary drama.” The unclear genre definition of this relatively unknown and only partially translated text in Bulgarian sparked my interest in the publication. The article provides a clearer picture of the content and message of “*Balgarskite Vastanitsi...*” Without being its aim, the text of the booklet, through its account of the historical event, supplements the meaning of the words “bandit” and “revolutionary” with a new clarifying significance.

Keywords: Hristo Botev, “*Duma na Balgarskite Emigranti*”, Hadzhi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha, Angelaki Savich

13. THE SITUATION OF THE BULGARIAN VOLUNTEERS IN SERBIA IN 1876 ACCORDING TO A REPORT TO THE NEWSPAPER “VAZRAZHDANE.” A MYTH OR TRUTH?

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At the end of the summer of 1876, in the Bulgarian political newspaper “*Vazrazhdane*”, was published one report from Belgrade, dedicated to the situation of the Bulgarian volunteers in the then-fought Serbo-Turkish war. The comparison between this document of the newspaper “*Vazrazhdane*” and other sources about the Bulgarian volunteer movement in 1876 shows that the mentioned report contains both real facts and some myths created with the aim of discrediting certain individuals. Therefore, the text that the editorial board of the newspaper received from Belgrade should be considered an important source of information, which, however, must be used carefully.

Keywords: Newspaper “*Vazrazhdane*”, Report, Belgrade, Bulgarian Volunteers, Serbo-Turkish War, 1876

14. HAIDUKS, BABAITES AND REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE THEATRE OF HONOR IN “MEMOIRS ON THE BULGARIAN UPRISINGS”

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The text aims to explore the notions of honor and dignity in “Memoirs of the Bulgarian Uprisings” and their role in shaping both personal and collective identity. Through the figures of haiduks, babaites, and revolutionaries, the study interprets the various models of behavior oriented toward the defense of honor and/or dignity. It also examines their relation to the ideals of traditional and modern society.

Keywords: Zahariy Stoyanov, Identity, Honor, Dignity

15. THE BULGARIAN HAIDUK AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE

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The article focuses on two works of Russian literature from the first half of the 19th century that feature Bulgarian characters fighting against foreign oppression. The first one is the poem “Love in Prison,” written by an unknown author. The second one is Pushkin’s novella “*Kirdjali*.” Turgenev’s *Inсарov* is used as a reference point for the given analysis. The article examines the evolution of fictional imagery leading up to the conception of this famous novel hero —from the archetype of the rebel-protector to the “hajduk” type of character —as well as the traits *Inсарov* inherits from his literary predecessors. The article examines shared situations and thematical elements that bring the mentioned works, including “On the Eve,” under a common thematic umbrella.

Keywords: “Love in Prison,” “*Kirdjali*,” Russian Romanticism, Romantic poem, *Inсарov*

16. MANUSCRIPT SOURCES ON THE HAIDUK MOVEMENT AMONG BULGARIANS: EVIDENCE FROM THE ARCHIVE OF NAYDEN GEROV

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The archive of Nayden Gerov contains valuable manuscripts, concerning the haiduk movement and its impact on the Bulgarian society. These documents provide authentic data on the activities of the haiduks and their role in the movement for Bulgarian liberation. While some materials address the subject directly, others documents concern the Ottoman repression and violence against the Bulgarian population, which function as an essential catalyst for resistance. The analysis of these sources reveals not only the actions of haiduk gangs but also the ways in which Gerov's scholarly and literary work documented and shaped public memory of them. The manuscripts include notes, correspondence, descriptions of events and individuals, as well as testimonies to the interactions between the haiduks and the local population. They illuminate both historical realities and the processes of mythologization through which the figure of the haiduk became embedded in the revolutionary discourse.

Keywords: Haiduk Movement, Manuscript Sources, Bulgarian National Revival, Nayden Gerov, Ottoman Repression, Revolutionary Discourse, Public Memory

17. THE QUIET REVOLUTION OF THE “SECOND RANK” AUTHORS: THE LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF POPE KRASKO

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The article is focused on the literary legacy of Pope Krasko/ Kraskyo—a recently rediscovered figure in the history of 18th-century literature. The given research studies his appearance in different Slavonic manuscripts. The gathered historical and biographical data is used to shed light on the work and profile of this scribe. The article also discusses whether the latter can be qualified as belonging to Ivan Radev's category of “second rank” writers. Furthermore, the conducted analysis examines the question of the so-called “media net” of the period and the connections among writers, buyers, possessors of books, and readers. Finally, the study presents evidence of the family link of Priest Krasko with the pioneer of the Bulgarian theatre, Krastyo Pishurka.

Keywords: Priest Krasko, Bulgarian 18th Century, Manuscript Production and Dissemination, Cyrillic Manuscripts, “Second Rank” Writers

18. HAI DUTS IN BULGARIAN FOLKLORE AND THEIR SOUVENIR REPRESENTATION IN CONTEMPORARY MASS CULTURE

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The article is a theoretical attempt to analyze some of the processes in contemporary Bulgarian mass culture. The focus is put on the souvenirs of “haiduts” and their presence in the nowadays collective imaginations about the historical past known as the Bulgarian Revival period. The first part of the study is aimed at presenting the forming of the mass knowledge about haiduts as brave and determined rebels who devoted their lives to Bulgarian national liberation during the Ottoman rule. National ideologies create popular knowledge in a different way from scientific research, reducing information in a way to be used for forming and boosting specific public imaginaries. The second part of the analysis shows the results from the observation of contemporary tourist markets and focuses on different souvenirs that depict and represent widespread images of the haiduts.

Keywords: Haiduts, Souvenirs, National Ideology, Folklore, Popular Knowledge About the Past

19. “HAYDUTI” OR REBELS – ABOUT A BULGARIAN BOARD GAME

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The article examines the board game “Hayduti”. Its title refers to a type of irregular infantry found in Central, Eastern, and parts of Southeast Europe from the late 16th to mid-19th centuries. First, the article analyses the activity of playing games and its significance for human life, as well as its role in contemporary society. The game “Hayduti” itself is analyzed in details in respect with its design, its efficiency as an educational tool and its actual rules of playing. The reception of the game is discussed through the analysis of online sources and specially collected field material from participants who played the game for the purposes of this study. In regard to the gamification of the notion of “hayduti” the game is discussed also in parallel with another entertaining activity – an escape room with a similar theme.

Keywords: Board Games, Escape Rooms, Hayduts, Rebels, “Hayduti”