

delsnetzwerke und -niederlassungen in den verschiedenen Teilen der Welt sowie exemplarisch die beruflichen Stationen und Handelsreise zweier *commenda*-Agenten in den 1720er Jahren zeigen. Dasselbe gilt für zwei detaillierte Tabellen zum Briefverkehr einzelner *khwajas* mit ihren Angestellten in aller Welt samt Laufzeiten, die etwa zwischen Isfahan und Livorno im Schnitt 130 bis 160 Tage, zwischen Isfahan und Kalkutta zwischen 70 und 80 Tagen betrug. Die 16 Faksimile hingegen haben für den Armenischkundigen lediglich archäographischen Wert. Der Index des Buches ist nicht zuverlässig, fehlen hier doch etliche Ortsnamen, die im Text auftauchen. Und der Hafen Narva im Finnischen Meerbusen war im 17. Jahrhundert weder identisch mit Archangel'sk am Weißen Meer noch in moskauischem sondern im schwedischem Besitz (S. 82).

Was Chris Bayly als „Proto-Globalisierung“ terminologisch gefasst, indes nicht selbst ausgeführt hat, demonstriert Aslanian in seinem Buch in überzeugender Art und Weise: Ein im 17. Jahrhundert geknüpft und nahezu weltumspannendes ökonomisches Netzwerk, basierend auf handelspolitischer Protektion (durch den Schah), überragendem merkantilem Know-How, reißfesten persönlichen Bindungen familiärer Art, handelsdiplomatischem Geschick und Beharrlichkeit, hoher kultureller Adaptionsfähigkeit sowie nicht zuletzt gedruckten Kaufmannshandbüchern, die in ihrer Professionalität zeitgenössische europäische Kompendien deutlich übertrafen.

Anmerkung:

- 1 Edmund Herzig, *The Armenian Merchants from New Julfa. A Study in Premodern Trade*. Ph. D. thesis, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University, 1991; Rudolph P. Matthee, *The*

Politics of Trade in Safavid Iran. Silk for Silver 1600–1730. Cambridge 1999; Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, *The Shah's Silk for Europe's Silver. The Eurasian Trade of the Julfa Armenians in Safavid Iran and India (1530–1750)*. Atlanta 1999; Šušanik Hačikjan (Hrsg.), *Lazarean Arevtrakan enkerut'ean hashuemateane (1741–1759 t't')*. *The Ledger of the Lazareans' Trade Company (1741–1759)*, Erevan 2006.

A. C. S. Peacock (Hrsg.): *The Frontiers of the Ottoman World (= Proceedings of the British Academy 156)*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, 593 S.

Rezensiert von
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This is a collection of essays on the political, socio-economic, military, and religious-cultural history of Ottoman borderlands. Most of the essays derive from a workshop held at the British Academy in 2007. The publication claims to be “the first major comparative study of the frontiers of the Ottoman Empire.” This claim is fairly well-grounded: while there have appeared a growing number of individual essays and monographs focusing on a wide variety of issues related to the historical development of Ottoman frontiers¹, as well as at least one collection of essays², this is by far the most comprehensive and systematically organized publication of this type.

The volume consists of 27 essays (including the introductory and concluding contributions) organized in four parts: “Frontier Fortifications,” “The Administration of the Frontier,” “Frontier Society: Rulers, Ruled and Revolt” and “The Economy of the

Frontier.” In addition to the wide range of thematic and conceptual issues discussed in the constituent essays, as the titles of the different parts betray, the collection is remarkable for its diversity across geographic space as well as time. The individual essays discuss frontier areas as well as specific frontier points (such as Ottoman border fortresses) that practically cover the whole geographic range of Ottoman frontiers – from Akkerman on the northern Black Sea coast, to North Africa, Ethiopia and the Sudan, and from the Ottoman-Habsburg frontier to Ottoman Iraq and the Ottoman-Safavid frontier in eastern Anatolia. The essays included in the collection also discuss the full gamut of terrain choices – from coastal and island frontiers, such as the Ottoman Adriatic frontier, to desert frontier zones, (e.g. Ottoman Yemen), the Danubian frontier between Ottomans and Habsburgs, as well as the mountainous borderlands in eastern Anatolia alternatively claimed by Ottomans and Safavids. While most essays concentrate strictly on a single geographic locale or wider, but specific frontier area, some are meant to be comparative, such as Frederick Anscombe’s contribution entitled “Continuities in Ottoman Center-Periphery Relations, 1785–1915,” which draws meaningful parallels with regard to the approaches of the Ottoman central government to managing imperial peripheries as distant and seemingly different from one another as Albania and eastern Arabia.

As far as time period coverage is concerned, many of the essays cover an extensive period of time, often most of or the whole period of Ottoman rule in a certain frontier area – such as John Alexander’s contribution on “Ottoman Frontier Policies

in North Africa, 1517–1914” or Denys Pringle’s essay “Aqaba Castle in the Ottoman Period, 1517–1917.” Others focus on more limited time periods from the fifteenth century to World War I.

Apart from the collection’s dazzling geographic, chronological, and thematic diversity, a highly commendable characteristic of the volume is its interdisciplinarity, whereby around half of the contributions have been authored by archaeologists or teams consisting of archaeologists, anthropologists and historians, while the other half are the work of Ottoman historians, characterized by the traditional reliance on Ottoman administrative, legal, and narrative sources. The inclusion of so many essays that strive to combine assertively and often innovatively archaeological findings with traditional historical sources, side by side with essays that employ ‘traditional’ historical approaches may be seen as a methodological breakthrough in the study of Ottoman frontiers and borderlands. It demonstrates the potential of archaeological research, in combination with historical, but also anthropological and ethnographic approaches, not only to confirm, question, or enrich evidence provided by written historical sources, but also to generate new and stimulating questions related to frontier identities, trade and cultural exchange, as well as frontier administration.

Given the sheer size of the collection, each of the four thematic parts is large and self-sufficient enough to be viewed as a separate thematic study of Ottoman frontiers. Thus the first part entitled “Ottoman Fortifications” contains an array of essays on Ottoman border fortresses, ranging from Palmira Brummett’s discussion of cartographic conceptualization of Ottoman

frontier fortifications, to Özgüven's treatment of palankas in the Ottoman Balkans, Agoston's innovative analysis of the influence of ecology and terrain on fortress construction and administration, and several essays focusing on individual Ottoman fortresses such as Akkerman on the mouth of the Dniester, Aqaba, and Kelefa in the Peloponnese. Most of the essays discussing individual Ottoman fortifications draw extensively on recent archaeological research.

The second part of the volume contains essays that concentrate on the varying Ottoman approaches to the administration of different frontier zones. An underlying common theme in the chapters constituting this part is the approaches through which the Ottoman government strove to advance imperial priorities against the pressure of local interests as demonstrated by Kahraman Şakul's treatment of the Ottoman Adriatic frontier in the age of the Napoleonic wars as well as the ways in which local frontier populations could seize new opportunities for themselves exploiting the rivalry between imperial powers in frontier zones as highlighted by Isa Blumi in the context of the Ottoman-British rivalry in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Yemen.

The third part of the volume – "Frontier Society: Rulers, Ruled and Revolt" focuses on the nature of Ottoman frontier society and the formation of distinctive frontier cultures. These also entail the nature of relations between rulers and ruled, the measure and forms of Ottoman control and the degree of 'Ottomanization' (including the 'Ottomanization' of local elites) in different Ottoman border zones, as well as the impact of the frontier zones on the

'core' areas of the empire. In certain ways the major themes touched upon in the essays in this part overlap with the dominant issues of the preceding one. Thus Gradeva's contribution on the Ottoman fortress town of Vidin on the Danube and Murphey's discussion of the relations between Ottoman troops and the local population along the Ottoman-Safavid frontier in the late sixteenth century not only highlight the complex dynamics of social relations in these two frontier areas, but inevitably shed more light on Ottoman approaches to administering border zones in times of war and peace. Worthy of special note is Gradeva's discussion of the militarization of frontier Muslim society in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, at the expense of the exclusion of local Christians from warfare, even from auxiliary functions.

The concluding part of the volume focuses on the economy of the Ottoman frontier zones. While imperial frontiers have often been seen as a drain to the central treasury, the essays in this part concentrate on the opportunities for enrichment both of the state and individuals. Mark Stein discusses the opportunities for self-enrichment through military service and trade in captives along the seventeenth-century Ottoman-Habsburg frontier drawing inspiration from Turner's Frontier Thesis that conceptualized the North American frontier as a zone of opportunity. Similarly, Heywood discusses the variety of money-making opportunities along the North African coast, maritime trade and the nature of corsair warfare, as well as the relations of coastal frontier communities with both the Mediterranean to the north and the desert to the south; he also makes a stimulating

argument on the development of maritime archaeology as an instrument to “illuminate the micro-history of the highly permeable North African frontier” (p. 501). In the last study in the collection, Lane and Johnson discuss the dynamics of slave trade on the southernmost edge of the Ottoman Empire – the nineteenth-century Turco-Egyptian Sudan.

While the organization of this essay collection into four thematic parts as outlined above is certainly meaningful, one may think of alternative ways to conceptualize and utilize the contents of this edited volume. One that immediately comes to mind is to look at various essays that deal with the same frontier zone – for example, the contributions of Brummett, Agoston, Gerelyes, Carton and Rushworth, and Stein all focus on the Ottoman-Habsburg frontier, while those by Sinclair and Murphey treat the Ottoman-Safavid frontier in Anatolia. In this way one may explore and compare alternative and methodologically diverse treatments of various aspects of the frontier zone at different edges of the empire and then compare them.

No matter how one could conceptualize the chapters in this volume, the latter represents a major and welcome contribution to the study of Ottoman frontiers. The thematic, methodological, geographic and chronological diversity of the essays contained in it may be of great use to any reader interested in the subject, not only with regard to the new evidence presented, but also, and even more importantly so, for the new questions that this essay collection may generate in the process of the further study of the Ottoman frontier.

Notes:

- 1 To give a few examples: M. Stein, *Guarding the Frontier. Ottoman Border Forts and Garrisons in Europe*, London 2007; A. C. Hess, *The Forgotten Frontier. A History of the Sixteenth-Century Ibero-African Frontier*, Chicago 1978; J. E. Mandaville, *The Ottoman Province of Al-Hasa in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, in: *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 90 (1970), pp. 486-513.
- 2 K. Karpat/R. Zens (eds.), *Ottoman Borderlands. Issues, Personalities and Political Changes*, Madison 2003.

Ulrike Schmieder / Hans-Heinrich Nolte (Hrsg.): Atlantik. Sozial- und Kulturgeschichte in der Neuzeit (= Editionen Weltregionen, Bd. 20), Wien: Promedia Verlag, 2010, 256 S.

Rezensiert von
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Mit ihrer Aufsatzsammlung „Atlantik. Sozial- und Kulturgeschichte in der Neuzeit“ mehrten die Herausgeber Ulrike Schmieder und Hans-Heinrich Nolte den Buchbestand zum aktuellen Trendthema ‚Atlantische Geschichte‘; man denke etwa an die Arbeiten von Thomas Benjamin, Peter Colclanis, Jack P. Greene, Nicholas Canny und Phil Morgan oder die neueren englisch- und deutschsprachigen Zeitschriften, die diesem geschichtswissenschaftlichen Sektor gewidmet sind. Die Herausgeber verfolgen ein durchaus wichtiges Ziel: mit ihrer Themenauswahl möchten sie Studierenden und interessierten Laien „das Lernen erleichtern“ (S. 8). Speziell das Vorwort der beiden Herausgeber beinhaltet viele Stilelemente der lehrnahen Ringvorlesung, aus der diese Kompilation an der Univer-