

The Ottoman-Venetian Border (15th-18th Centuries)

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Preface

In 1996 I published a work about Christian-Muslim peace agreements between the Middle Ages and the Modern Era.¹ On writing it, I discovered how important it was to establish a borderline to maintain good relations between neighbouring states. Thus, I turned to this topic and focused on the Ottoman Empire. Few papers had been published about this subject till that moment. In 1969 Rifa'at Abou el-Haj described the Ottoman-Habsburg frontier;² from that time onwards, scholars went on repeating his words over and over again and the idea that Ottomans left the frontier to create their first real borderline only after the Treaty of Karlowitz (1699) became an unquestionable historical truth. As for me, I had at my disposal the huge amount of documents kept in the Venetian State Archives that gave a different version on the matter and also provided a vivid account of the life along the Ottoman-Venetian border zone. In 2000 I published my first paper dealing with the idea of frontier³ and, in 2001, I wrote about sea borders and the so-called *Triplex Confinium*, i.e. the place where the Venetian, Ottoman and Habsburg empires met.⁴

In 2002 I organized the material I had gathered in the previous years and wrote this book. It was, however, written in Italian, as it had been suggested by some of my colleagues, but this fact prevented it from being widely known, since few scholars interested in the Ottoman Empire know this language. Then, I wrote other papers in Italian and English on the same topic.⁵ In the meanwhile, other historians began to be interested in this subject⁶ and some of them, who did not know my language, asked

1 Pedani, *La dimora della pace*.

2 Abou-El-Haj, *The Formal Closure of the Ottoman Frontier in Europe*, 467-475.

3 Pedani, *The Ottoman Venetian Frontier*, 171-177.

4 Pedani, *Spunti per una ricerca sui confini del mare. Gli Ottomani nel Mediterraneo*, 221-239; *Das Triplex Confinium. Diplomatische Probleme nach dem Karlowitz Frieden*, 115-120.

5 Pedani, *Cristiani e musulmani nel Mediterraneo*, 239-251; *Beyond the Frontier. The Ottoman-Venetian Border in the Adriatic Context from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries*, 45-60; *The Border from the Ottoman Point of View*, 195-214; *Ottoman Merchants in the Adriatic*, 155-172.

6 One of the first books with papers on this subject was *Constructing Border Societies on the Triplex Confinium*, ed. by Drago Roksandić and Nataša Štefanec in 2000.

me information about the Ottoman-Venetian border. Thus, I realized that it was time to publish an English translation of this text but I did not want to change it or to revise its bibliography: it would have meant to change it or even to write another book. I preferred to leave it as it was since I am sure that it still has a lot to say to historians interested not only in the Ottoman Empire but also in the Venetian Republic and, in general, in Muslim-Christian relations.

I want to thank here only Mariateresa Sala who translated this book so well and always kindly met all my requirements.

For the transliteration of Arabic words the following characters have been used:

a, ā, b, t, ṭ, ḡ, ḥ, ḫ, d, ḍ, r, z, s, š, š, ḍ, ṭ, z, ʿ, ġ, f, q, k, l, m, n, h, u, ū, w, i, ī, y.