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Momir Samardžić

A Comparative Study of the Perception of Railways among Serbian and Bulgarian Intellectuals, 1860s – 1870s.

(Abstract)

Our article analyses different perspectives on railway construction on the Balkans among Serbian and Bulgarian intellectuals, politicians, economists, leaders of national liberation movements. Our main thesis is that different discourses on economic development and railway construction were largely determined by the different dynamics of social development in Serbia and among Bulgarians, and their process of national liberation and that various authors approached the issue of economic development, concept of free trade or protectionism and other issues through the prism of their own formal education and/or experience gained by the analysis of their community within the Ottoman Empire, faced with the rising pressure from foreign factors due to the slow incorporation of the Balkans into the modern capitalist world system.