

Bulgarian Historical Review

Издание на Института за исторически изследвания при БАН

Bulgarian Historical Review XLIV (2016) 3-4, 03-30
ISSN 0204-8906

Ömer Düzbakar

Gypsies in Ottoman Empire according to the 16th–17th Centuries Bursa and Balıkesir Shari'a Court Records

(Abstract)

Various ethnical groups such as Armenians, Greeks, Jews and Assyrians who lived within the borders of the Ottoman Empire have been subjects to several researches. Unfortunately, the available researches done about the ethnical group called Gypsies are so few that they cannot even be compared to the researches available for other ethnical groups. The expression “Half Nation”, which is frequently used to identify the Gypsies who had been casted away from the society because of their life styles, is maybe the most important expression used to describe gypsies' position in the society. This study, which is based on the 16th–17th centuries Bursa and Balıkesir Shari'a Court Records, aims to put forward the position of the Gypsies in the Ottoman society and the empire's attitude towards the gypsies. I owe my thanks to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdulmecit MUTAF who helped me have access to Balıkesir Shari'a Court Records and to İsmail TORACI who shaped my research with his precious opinions.