Bottlik, Zsolt - Csaplár-Degovics, Krisztián - Demeter, Gábor

MAPS ON THE ETHNIC PATTERN OF MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA BASED ON AUSTRIAN ARCHIVAL SOURCES (CCA. 1900)

(Abstract)

The Mürzsteg programme initiated a series of reforms in Macedonia in 1903. As the government of Austria-Hungary was involved in the reform movement, for this purpose several studies were elaborated. The preparation of reforms included ethnic investigations in Macedonia and Albania in 1903. The collected material can be found in Nachlass Kral, HHStA, Wien. The results of ethnic investigations were illustrated in maps showing denominational and ethnic patterns together (making difference between patriarchist, moslem and exarchist Bulgarians, Greeks, Albanians, etc.), which makes it unique, as the former maps of Irby and Mackenzie, or Lejean, Kiepert, Erben, Reclus, etc. (prior to 1878) did not apply the same technic. The map of Sax was elaborated similarly, but from a former period (1877). The maps of Kral also contain the different schools of the religious communities. Nevertheless this kind of map has the advantage, that it shows the area covered by a nationality as a patch, but disadvantageous from the aspect, that it distorts ethnic proportions and lacks information on population number. Therefore certain nations can be over- or underrepresented by colours. But, since the data were collected by kazas, it is possible to create a new map that shows the percentage values and number of different nationalities within territorial units. Compared with other maps and population censuses (Gopcevic, Kanchov, Nikolaides, Gersin 1900–1906), it may be a good contribution to the examination of the question of nationality.