

INTRODUCTION

I first made the acquaintance of Max Kortepeter in 1958 when he was a Ph. D. student in the London University School of Oriental and African Studies, and I was able to encourage him a great deal in his interests in Balkan history and the history of the Black Sea basin. Since that time, we have been good friends and have remained in close scholarly contact. In 1962 he completed his Ph. D. on the "Crimean Tatars and the Ottoman Empire During the Era of Gazi Giray Khan II (1588-1608)" and took up his first teaching position at the University of Toronto. In his studies of the Desht-i Kipchak (modern Ukraine), the importance of the Black Sea economy for the provisioning of the capital, and his in-depth studies of the economic and social history of Ottoman Hungary, Kortepeter had made serious contributions to Ottoman and East European history before moving to New York University in 1967.

By 1969, Kortepeter had published a little-known exploratory work on the "Islamic-Ottoman Social Structure: The Quest for a Model of Ottoman History," a theoretical, but highly suggestive piece on the course of Ottoman history. In the mid-seventies Kortepeter published three challenging pieces on "The Turkish Question and the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517)," "The Origins and Nature of Turkish Power", and a study of Evliya Chelebi dealing with the notorious anti-Ottoman rebellion of "Sharif Sa'd bin Zayd in the years 1671-72."

By the early eighties, a clear pattern in Kortepeter's interests had emerged. He seems particularly interested in the relations between the Ottoman Empire and the peoples on the borderlands of the Empire. I have already mentioned Hungary and the Desht-i Kipchak. One must also not forget his important contributions to the history of the Caucasus which are fully developed in his book, *Ottoman Imperialism During the Reformation, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus*. As noted, Kortepeter, after studying in Cairo for a time, began also to examine Ottoman relations with the Arabs. Of particular interest in the past decade has been Professor Kortepeter's interest in Ottoman relations with the North African emirates. His study, for example, of "Money and Banking in Algiers in 1800, A Study of the Jewish Banking House of Bacri-Busnach," should be consulted by all students of history in that era. Finally Kortepeter has not hesitated to look into some of the very complex relations of the era of Sultan 'Abd ul-Hamid II

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(1876-1909). One may consult in this collection two studies, one dealing with the rise of "King 'Abd ul-'Aziz Ibn Sa'ud" and a second entitled "Ottoman Military Reform: The Prussian General Colmar Von der Goltz and the Ottoman Army."

It is with great pleasure that I recommend these studies to your attention.

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