



Isa Bey Išaković an die Regierung von Ragusa (ca. 1454), Staatsarchiv Dubrovnik, Diplomata et acta, St. 818.

EINLADUNG ZUM VORTRAG

WHO INVITED THE TURKS? SHIFTING PATTERNS OF ALLIANCES DURING THE OTTOMAN CONQUEST OF BOSNIA (1386–1463)

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Historians of the nineteenth and early twentieth century were fixated with the idea that the Turks were somehow “invited” to Bosnia, usually pointing the finger of blame at the conflicted Bosnian nobility who stood to profit from Ottoman involvement in their internecine struggles. Despite of this, the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia has often been treated in historiography as a straightforward process with clearly defined opposing sides who fought each other for domination over space and resources. In my presentation I propose to question the very notion that the Turks had to be invited at all, and on the basis of several concrete examples I intend to demonstrate that the patterns of alliances in and around Bosnia during the late fourteenth and first half of the fifteenth century were much more complex than has previously been thought. In fact, the available sources testify that the Ottoman Turks dictated the terms of all political partnerships they made with the local Slavic lords in Bosnia, and that they consciously engaged in the policy of “divide and rule” in order to destabilize the Bosnian Kingdom, establishing effective control over it. Contemporaries were well aware of this imperialistic approach, but at the same time they were also powerless to prevent it.

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Im Anschluss wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten.

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