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Antal Molnár

Confessionalization on the Frontier

The Balkan Catholics between Roman Reform and Ottoman Reality

This book presents a lesser-known chapter of the cultural history of the Ottoman Balkans, the world of its Catholic communities and institutions. Alongside Orthodox Christians, Muslims and Jews, Catholics lived in nearly every area of the Balkan Peninsula in the 16th and 17th centuries. The great religious revolution of the early modern age, confessionalization, did not leave the Balkan Catholics untouched. Unlike the Christian confessional states of Europe, the Ottoman Empire, with Islam as its state religion, neither assisted nor impeded the formation of denominations, but put many obstacles in the way of their institutional growth. The confessionalization of Catholics in the European frontier regions of the Ottoman Empire thus resulted in a peripheral and unestablished Catholicism.

This book explores the peculiarities of this local Catholic confessionalization in the Balkans through a micro-analytical approach. The prime objective of the book is to contribute – through an exploration of the history of the Balkan Catholics – to the renewal of research into the early modern Mediterranean world.

Antal Molnár, historian of the Modern Age, current director of the Hungarian Academy, Associate Professor at the University of Budapest, researcher and department head of the Centre for Humanistic Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of History (Budapest). Prof. Molnár's research interests have mainly to do with religious themes, with particular focus on the Catholic missions and the merchant world of the Balkans. He has published 12 books and some hundred articles. Among his publications in languages other than Hungarian: *Le Saint-Siège, Raguse et les missions catholiques de la Hongrie Ottomane 1572-1647*, Roma-Budapest 2007; *Eine Handelsgesellschaft aus Ragusa im osmanischen Ofen. Geschichte und Dokumente der Gesellschaft von Scipione Bona und Marino Bucchia (1573-1595)*, Budapest 2009.

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