

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION AMONG BALKAN STUDIES IN TURKEY AND EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

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### **Abstract**

*The Balkans connect the two old continents and different civilizations. So it is a place of mixed melting pot of different peoples and cultures throughout history. After the World War II disintegration of the former Soviet bloc gained momentum with the phenomenon of globalization, along with the need to build relations with other states in the Balkan countries. They started to hear. This situation is common ground brings together around the region and other European countries. European Universities and Universities of Turkey were founded research centers for the unique structure of Balkans. These centers have investigated, historical relations with each other countries, trying to establish new relationships in different areas. If they cooperation with together, they will improve its effectiveness and efficiency.*

**Keywords:** *Balkan, Study, Research, Center, University*

### **Introduction**

The Balkan term has been studied and experts tried to determine the origin of this term. The Balkan name has been called by the mountains which were called Haemus in Thracians time. Stara Planina was named by the Bulgarians to its mountains. It has been understood that the Balkan name was called to later Old Bulgarian and Thracians times. Barthold researched on this term who historian of the Turks and Central Asia. He claimed that the Balkan name is Turkish. He claimed that this term describes the mountains which are covered with forests; it is used from the Balkans to Kazakhstan. Barthold's claims have generally accepted today (Eren, 1987, 117).

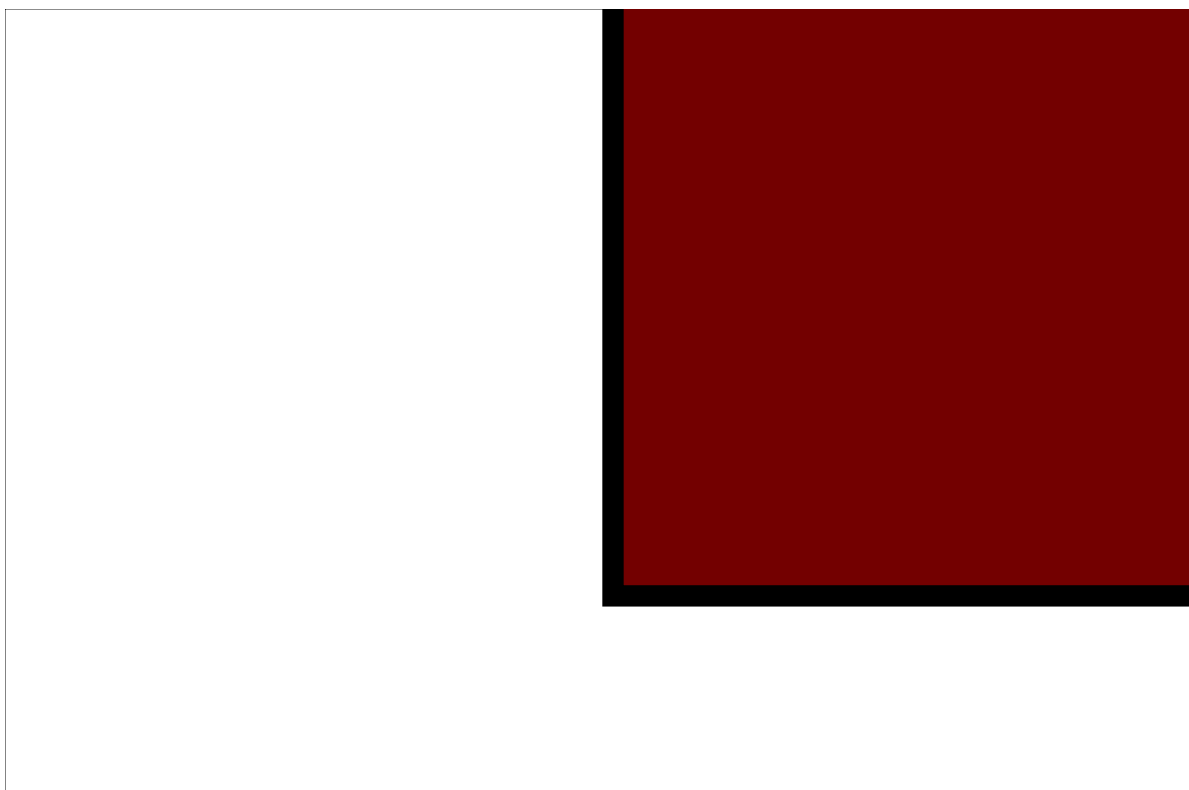
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The geographical and political boundaries of the Balkan Peninsula can be determined. The Black Sea is to the East boundary of the Balkan Peninsula. The Marmara Sea, Bosphorus and Dardanel Straits, Ege Sea is to the south-east and south boundary of the Balkan Peninsula. Adriatic Sea is the west boundary of the Balkan Peninsula. The Danube River which is northern border of the Balkans, have been discussed. The Danube, Sava and Kupa rivers located in the north of the peninsula. According to the Danube-Sava line, the Balkan Peninsula has 520000km<sup>2</sup> areas. This area is north of the countries from which the occurrence of further expanding towards the north to follow political borders and reaches to 836.000 km<sup>2</sup> area (Darkot,1979, 282Map1: Map of Balkan Peninsula



European and Russian researchers has interested in the Balkans since about two hundred years. This attention moved to the Balkans by means of traders. In this way, the Balkan nations began to develop an interest in their own culture and history. Lord Byron's publications which is particularly the Greeks and other Balkan nations, is including emotional discourses rather than scientific work. It has contented on the geography of Europe and the Balkan nations. They led to interest in Balkans among European intellectuals. Lord Byron's publications aren't scientific articles on the Balkans. They led to the creation of an exorbitant interest to Balkan nations. The Ottoman Empire launched the first separation with the movements of Serbs and Greeks. These movements caused the first break down the transactions in the Balkans. After the Cold War took place in the second break down. International

relations experts said that Balkanization with these events. Danish language scholar Kristian Sandfeld studies have suggested similarities to a common set of Balkan languages. This opinion led to the formation of Balkanoloji. (Eren,1987,115).

Balkan researches continued by different names in different periods of universities in Europe and Turkey. Today, there are many organizations which related Balkans, in Europe and Turkey. These are consists of non-governmental organizations, think tanks and research centers of Universities. This study was limited to the academic surround at the universities of Turkey and European. Therefore are not included organizations except that the study centers of Turkey and European universities.

### **The Development of the Balkan Studies in European Universities**

Although geographical boundaries are between Europe and Asia, there are not boundary political and cultural areas. Until the first half of the XX century the area had a seamless political unity which had began with the buildup Istanbul by the Byzantine. Although changes the political unity of hand dominance is possible to drive up to the Greeks. The geographical boundary between Asia and Europe consists of a water strait. In this case, the Balkans is a part of the Europe; the Anatolia is a part of the Asia. Anatolia and the Balkans were very long o common political and historical unity. Therefore Maria Todorova who is famous balkanolog, opposed to boundary between Asia and Europe. In his view, the Balkans is European as geographically but it has Asian characters as culturally. He said that, we cannot deny the Asian character of the Balkans. Since the last decade of communism, a Balkan nation has tried to bring out in international relations with national history. South East European Studies was founded by Romania's Nicola Iorga in 1913; the organization was revived in Communist Period in 1963. The Institute for Balkan Studies is another organization in this field. It was found in 1953 in Greece and Macedonian Studies. (İnalçık, 1999, 17.,<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/balkans/AVezenkov1.pdf> ).

Balkan researches continued in Eastern European Studies and Slavic Studies during the cold war period. The Balkans was considered to as Eastern Europe in this period. It was not considered as apart from the region. After the disintegration of the Eastern bloc in 1989 was being considered as a distinct region of the Balkans in international relations. In this regard, Robert Kaplan, Maria Todorova, Larry Wollff, Milica Bakic Hayden's publications is important. Balkan researches were very poor during the early days break down of the East Block. In these conditions, it was not possible to reliably study because of the new conflict areas and risk zones (<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/balkans/EHajdarpasic1/>).

Table I: Slavic and East European Studies in European Universities

SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES	University College London	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/degrees/sees-school/ssees">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/degrees/sees-school/ssees</a>
RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER	University of Manchester	<a href="http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/russian/">http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/russian/</a>
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES	University of Glasgow	<a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/cees/">http://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/cees/</a>
SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES	University of Sussex	<a href="http://www.sussex.ac.uk/units/russian/">http://www.sussex.ac.uk/units/russian/</a>
Russian and Slavonic Studies	The University of Sheffield	<a href="http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/russian">http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/russian</a>
Russian and Slavonic Studies	The University of Nottingham	<a href="http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/finalists/index.asp">http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/finalists/index.asp</a>
ASSOCIATION FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	<a href="http://aseees.org/index.html">http://aseees.org/index.html</a>
Russian & East European Studies	University of Oxford	<a href="http://www.rees.ox.ac.uk/">http://www.rees.ox.ac.uk/</a>

The Balkans entered the domain of the NATO and the EU after the collapse of the Soviet bloc. It is divided into eastern and western Balkans by the contemporary researchers. Western Balkans consists of the former Yugoslavia states and Slovenia and Albania. They said that If increase nationalist feelings this region the conflict risk increases. If nationalist ideas are reduced, the cooperation among the nations increases. (<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/balkans/EHajdarpasic1/>).

With the support of the UN in 1963, made in Bucharest and attended a meeting of the members of the UNESCO's for Balkan delegates. They stressed solidarity with each other and work together. The Balkan nations need for solidarity with together on the history and other issues rather than trying to individually. An organization founded that *Association Internationale des Sud-Est Europeen (AIESEE)*. It was opened to any state on the world which is dealing with Studies in the Balkan. This organization has been published a bulletin and a magazine which is names *Association Internationale d'Etudes du Sud in East European and Balkanique*. First

meeting was held in Sofia in 1966 by the organization. After this meeting, all the Balkan countries had own a magazine, and a South East European Center. The studies are still ongoing. (İnalçık,1993, 27. <http://www.aieese.org/en/history.html>).

Table II: South East European Studies in European Universities

Institute for East European Studies	<a href="http://www.oei.fu-berlin.de/en/index.html">http://www.oei.fu-berlin.de/en/index.html</a>	Frei Universitat Berlin
<u>Interdisciplinary Joint Master's Programme in South-Eastern European Studies</u>	<a href="Http://www.seestudies.eu/">Http://www.seestudies.eu/</a>	The interdisciplinary joint master's programme in south-eastern european studies was developed as a part of the <u>joinsee tempus</u> project and it is run by four consortium members, <u>university of zagreb</u> (croatia) and six partners for the purpose of student (and staff) mobility: <u>University of Bologna</u> (Italy), <u>University of Ljubljana</u> (Slovenia), ( <u>Karl-Franzens-University Graz</u> (Austria), <u>University of Novi sad</u> (Serbia), <u>University of Poitiers</u> (France), <u>University of Sarajevo</u> (Bosnia and Herzegovina), ( <u>University of Belgrade – Faculty of Political Sciences</u> (Serbia), <u>South East European University</u> in Tetovo (Macedonia).

Today Balkan Studies has gained popularity among young researchers thanks to the influence of globalization and cross-cultural interaction. In this way, new academic generations have grown up. France, England and Austria have interested in Balkan Studies in Europe. These include economic, political, and economic issues which is common feature of these studies since two hundred years. Two hundred years period can be divided into four sections. First period is before the World War I, second period is between the World War I and World War II, third period is between World War II and 1989, and fourth period is from 1989 to the present day.

Philological approaches forefront in the first period. Early Balkan researchers concerned ethnic and historical languages during nineteenth-century. Balkan languages were not as independent languages until first period when languages became independent forms and interested in literature. The folklore became the basic interest field at the end of the XIX century. After the World War I expanded the borders of the Balkan researchers which were included in economic issues in second period. History and geography of the Balkan nation-states separated from each other in this period. Istorija Romanilor is an example of the important working entitled by Nicolae Iorga. Because of the Soviet political and economic revolution after the World War II was included political sciences, sociology, media studies in Balkan Studies in third period. Balkan Studies was integrated with the Eastern Europe in third period. Balkan Studies centers were founded in universities in the fourth period. They tried to figure out the identity of the pre-communist in Balkans. Today interested with postmodern thought, feminism, post-colonial theories by Balkan Studies of European Universities (<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/balkans/WFischer1.pdf>).

Balkan researches were continued by different names in different times. Today they have the name of Balkan Studies. Balkan experts combined with under the name of the Balkan. They do not want to any more war. It is their main goal. Global conditions have required interacting with each other countries.

Table III: Balkan Studies in European University

Institute for Balkan Studies	Greece	<a href="http://www.university-directory.eu/greece/institute-for-balkan-studies.html">http://www.university-directory.eu/greece/institute-for-balkan-studies.html</a>
Institute for Balkan Studies	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	<a href="http://balkanstudies.bg/">http://balkanstudies.bg/</a>
Institute for Balkan Studies	<u>Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts</u>	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/institute_for_balkan_studies">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/institute_for_balkan_studies</a>
Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe	Austria	<a href="http://www.idm.at/en/home/">http://www.idm.at/en/home/</a>
Institute for Balkan Studies	Greece Thessalonki, Greece	<a href="http://www.imxa.gr/">http://www.imxa.gr./</a>
Institute for Balkan Studies of the <u>Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts</u>	<u>Serbian</u> Belgrade	<a href="http://www.balkaninstitut.com/en/g/index.html">http://www.balkaninstitut.com/en/g/index.html</a>

Some of European Balkan experts say that Balkans will be a part of European Union in the future. A large part of Balkans is already in the unity of European Union. They said that, if the European Union continues to progress, the Balkans and the European Union will integrate with the in the future as the name of European Union. Eastern European called in the past. Balkan Studies cannot be separated completely from Asia and the Near East European Studies in the future. Balkan Studies has located at the intersection of Europe and Asia Studies. The link between Europe and Asia provided with through Balkans. Balkan Studies will evaluate in the future, as in the past. Balkan Studies should common interests on scientific grounds. (<http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/balkans/KKaser2/>).

### The Development of the Balkan Studies in Turkey

Balkan Studies was began Turkey Universities after 1963 when meeting had held in Romania. There aren't any organizations dealing with Balkans in Turkish Universities until this date. National Commission was set up by consisting of members in Istanbul University. South East European Studies Institute founded by this Commission which is depending on *Associations International des Etudes the European du Sud-Est (AIESEE)* organization. This institute which is most important organization for Turkey produced academic knowledge about the Balkans for many years. Enez excavations carried out by this center. *Associations International des Etudes du Sud-Est European (AIESEE)* organization unit of the national commission were transferred from İstanbul University to the Ankara University in 2006. *Ankara University South Eastern Studies Center* was founded in 2009 by this commission.

Table 4: Southeast European Studies in Turkey Universities

South East European Studies	Art Faculty of İstanbul University	<a href="http://www.istanbul.edu.tr/edebiyat/guneydoguavrupa/iletisim.html">http://www.istanbul.edu.tr/edebiyat/guneydoguavrupa/iletisim.html</a>
South East European Studies	Ankara University	<a href="http://gamer.ankara.edu.tr/index.php?bil=bil_icerik&amp;icerik_id=114">http://gamer.ankara.edu.tr/index.php?bil=bil_icerik&amp;icerik_id=114</a>

Balkan Studies Centers were setup after the cold war in European Universities. The centers were set up after 2000 years in Turkey. The numbers of centers are increasing as the number of universities. Turkey is a country which strong ties with to the Balkans. It can provide the missing portion of the Balkan Studies in Europe.

Without the help of Turkish experts, some of European experts have ability mistaken. For example Balkan Catastrophe Theory which was proved to be mistakes by Ocaklı and others, it had proposed by Gandevev (Ocaklı, 2006,73-79) . If coordination is between European University Balkan Studies and Balkan Studies of Turkish Universities, It will be reduced.

Table: 5 Balkan Studies in Universities of Turkey

Black Sea and Balkan Research Center	Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi	<a href="http://www.bal-kar.org/">http://www.bal-kar.org/</a>
Institute of Balkan Researchs	Trakya Üniversitesi	<a href="http://bae.trakya.edu.tr/">http://bae.trakya.edu.tr/</a>
Aplication and Research Centers for Balkan Studies	Sakarya Üniversitesi	<a href="mailto:sabamer@sakarya.edu.tr">sabamer@sakarya.edu.tr</a>
Aplication and Research Centers for Balkan Studies	Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi	<a href="http://www.deu.edu.tr/DEUWeb/Icerik/Icerik.php?KOD=19222">http://www.deu.edu.tr/DEUWeb/Icerik/Icerik.php?KOD=19222</a>
Aplication and Research Centers for Balkan Studies	Süleyman Şah Üniversitesi	<a href="http://www.ssu.edu.tr/ibs/?aims">http://www.ssu.edu.tr/ibs/?aims</a>
Aplication and Research Centers for	Kırklareli Üniversitesi	<a href="http://kirkbil.kirklareli.edu.tr/">http://kirkbil.kirklareli.edu.tr/</a>



Balkan Studies		
Aplication and Research Centers for Balkan Studies	Uşak Üniversitesi	<a href="http://www.usak.edu.tr/index.php?sayfa=akademikbirim.php#">http://www.usak.edu.tr/index.php?sayfa=akademikbirim.php#</a> (usakbalkan@usak.edu.tr)

There are not making alone Balkan Study Centers of Turkish University related with Balkans, There are also non-governmental organizations and think tank foundation in Turkey about Balkans. Turkey has large number of non-governmental organizations that interested in the Balkans. Because of it took much immigration from the Balkans for last century. So due to the lack of academic characteristics of its, did not included to this publication.

### Conclusion

The Balkan nations lived Balkanization influenced by a variety of ideas. Today, they want to live together in a large organization. This combination started under the name of European Union. Balkan countries came together in this organization after the collapse of Cold War. It is not possible to set aside Turkey from Balkan countries by the organization. On the contrary Turkey tries to involve in European Union. If Turkey and Balkan countries including under the name of European Union in the future, a long historical association will be re established.

Balkan Researches has been continued for two hundred years in Europe. Working with related centers was founded in European Universities in XX. Century. Balkan researches maintained by different names in European Universities during two hundred years. After the Cold War called *Balkan Studies* that it is the result of this development, founded in European Universities. The Balkan Studies of Turkey and European Universities should set up a close relationship. Thanks to these relations will decrease mistakes that especially historical issues. Some European researchers made the mistakes in the past and others corrected their mistakes. A common database should be set up between the centers of the European and Turkey Balkans Studies. Thanks to this data there will be a significant accumulation of knowledge about Balkans. They can do meeting, symposium and publications.

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