

THE BUDJAK REGION IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TREATY OF BUCHAREST (1812)

Murat TUĞLUCA*

Abstract. The paper focuses on Budjak's status after the Treaty of Bucharest, dated 1812. Ottomans abandoned Bessarabia to Russia with this treaty. Then, Russia separated Budjak Region from Bessarabia. Before the treaty, both of them had been a whole with the name of Bessarabia. According to Ottoman archive documents, Ottoman Empire dealt with the demographic movements and security problems of Budjak after the treaty. The subject of this study is Ottoman and Russian officials' diplomatic negotiations on these problems.

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, Russia, Black Sea, Cahul, Izmail, Bolgar, Treaty of Bucharest

Introduction

Today being part of Odessa Province of the Republic of Ukraine, Budjak¹ is the historical southern region of Bessarabia encompassing Cetatea Albă, Cahul, Chilia, Tighina and Izmail provinces.² Situated between the Danube and Dniester rivers and the Black Sea, the region extends till Prut River, a tributary of Danube.³ Known for serving as the homesteads for Scythian, Hun, Avarian, Bolgar, Patzinak (or Pecheneg), Cuman, Mongolian, Tatar and Romanian⁴ civilizations among many others on the historical time line, Budjak's emergence as an

* Assist. Prof. Dr. Instructorat Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Ahi Evran University/Turkey.

¹ The region has been termed variously in the English language, including Budzhak, Budjak, Bujak and Buchak. In this study, "Budjak" phrase is preferred. Because, this phrase was used at The Encyclopedia of Islam, New Edition. See, Halil İncalcık, "Budjak", *Eİ²*, Volume I, Leiden, 1986, pp. 1286. It is used as "Bucak" in Turkish. The Turkish meaning of the word Budjak is "triangle" or "corner". In Romanian this phrase is used as "Bugeac". In the Ukrainian, Bulgarian, and Russian languages, the area is referred to as Budzhak (Cyrillic: Буджак)

² See, Map I.

³ Aurel Decei, "Bucak", *İA*, Vol. II, Istanbul, 1979, pp. 742.; Halil İncalcık, "Budjak", *Eİ²*, Volume I, Leiden, 1986, pp. 1286.; Kemal Karpat, "Bucak", *DİA*, Vol. VI, Istanbul, 1992, pp. 341. For an assessment of the geographical area covered by Budjak region, based on a historical background, please refer Alper Başer, *Bucak Tatarları (1550-1700)*, Afyon University Institute of Social Sciences, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis Study, Afyonkarahisar, 2010, p. 1-4. See, Map II: Budjak's Borders.

⁴ Başer, p. 11-16.