Eurasian Academy of Sciences Social Science Journal (International Refereed & Indexed)
Eurasian Academy of Sciences Social Sciences Journal
2018 Volume:18 S: 1 - 6
Published Online March 2018 (http://socialsciences.eurasianacademy.org)
http://doi.org/10.17740/eas.soc.2018.V18-01

ABOUT THE SESSION OF FERHAT TURANLY'S PROFESSORSHIP

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Upon the invitation of scholars who are specialized in Eastern European studies, we have attended the session of Ferhat Turanly's Professorship at Taras Shevchenko State University in Kiev on 12th of October 2017 with eight people from Sakarya University, Ege University, Erciyes University, Mustafa Kemal University (Hatay), and Osmangazi University. Eighteen scholars from Kiev University who are specialized in history were also ready to observe and evaluate the meeting.

Prof.Dr. YücelÖztürk and I were asked to evaluate the book "*The Cossack period in Ukraine's history in Ottoman Turkish written sources"* prepared by Ferhad Turanly to be promoted to the position of Professorship[1]. I evaluated his works for this purpose.

Turanly's session which introduced his dissertation about Cossack-Ukraine relationship took our attention (Turkish scholars) in many ways. Turanly in this study explains Cossack's past from Ottoman-Turkish sources and refers to Turkish history. Therefore, our committee decided to advertise Turanly's work. My presentation about this topic at Taras Shevchenko State University on 12th of October 2017 and my review on Turanly's dissertation about the Cossacks in Ukrainian history, which was written in the light of Ottoman-Turkish sources, are included in the following part of this paper.

The paper I presented at Taras Shevchenko State University on 12th of October 2017 about this topic:

"When the academic works by the Full Professor candidate, Mr. Ferhat Turanly, are analyzed, one can at once see, that the field of his historical studies covers the Ukrainian Cossacks in general, and especially the Zaporozhian Cossacks. Mr. Turanly's thesis work is of great importance for clarifying both the history of Ukraine, and the history of the Ottomans. It

[1]Ferhad Turanly,*The Cossack period in Ukraine's History in Ottoman Turkish Written Sources (the second half of the 16th – the first quarter of the 18thcentury),* Kyiv – Mohyla Academy 2016, **606**p.

forms one of the most important phases of the Turkish-Ukrainian relationship and their common history.

The historical struggle of the Ukrainian Cossacks is a significant period from the perspective, that it introduces the history of Ukraine to the scientific world in a modern sense and shows Ukraine as an important factor in politics. In that period, the Cossacks were paving a way for Ukraine to form a national government free from the Russian domination.

The leading hetmans of the Cossacks in their opposition to the Russian and Polish threats tried to keep their current situation through alliances with the Ottoman Government. This alliance and friendship are not limited to the time of the Ottomans, but it still goes on nowadays in the form of a fruitful Turkish-Ukrainian cooperation.

The scientific study being under consideration relates to the topics on Ukraine and the Ukrainian Cossacks, which are touched on quite less frequently in Turkey. My dear colleague, Prof. Dr. Yücel Öztürk[2] published an important study on Cossacks. In due time I myself published a book under the title[3] "The Ottomans in Ukraine: Siege of Kamianets".

For the above mentioned reasons Mr. Ferhat Turanly's study on the Ukrainian Cossacks gains much importance. Moreover, the study, that has been is carried out through Ukrainian sources, fills an important gap in the historical studies having been made in Turkey.

When the number of the studies related to the Ukrainian Cossacks and Ukraine's History rises noticeably in Turkey, it will contribute to the presentation of the Ukrainian culture and civilization to the scientific world. That is why Mr. Ferhat Turanly's given thesis work under discussion forms an important exemplification of the common way about the studies on history in the two above said countries. I wish such exemplary and successful cooperation between our countries, as well as the mutually beneficial common understanding between our states in context of assessing their national state histories, goes on increasingly.

The author has efficiently taken the advantages of his opportunities to have access to the Ottoman archives and pursued his thesis by following the Ottoman chronicles. In addition, while having his international internship in Turkey, Mr. Turanly used utmostly a number of additional Turkish researches and surveys associated with the basic sources of this thesis. He has completed an academic study that is both academically top-worth, and methodologically original and correct, like the other papers published by this professional historian and a scholar, in terms of the approaches and methods he used to fulfill the respective studies, and the new data and new information he obtained and spread for the awareness of the academic circles. Mr. Turanly has very scrupulously selected and filtered the basic sources and materials available in archives in Ukraine and in Turkey, which were often unknown in the historical academic community, and managed to include a lot of very original informational facts to his thesis work being discussed here, as well as to his other academic papers.

Mr. F. Turanly published the outcomes of his original studies on the Ottoman-Ukraine's historical relationships both in Ukrainian in different journals of Ukraine, and in academic journals in Turkey, in which little-known or completely new aspects and facts from the History

[2] Yücel Öztürk, *Özü'den Tuna'ya Kazaklar 1*, İstanbul 2004, 485 p.
[3] Mehmet İnbaşı, *Ukrayna'da Osmanlılar; Kamaniçe Seferi ve Organizasyonu /1672)*, İstanbul 2004, 368 p.

of Ukraine were highlighted. In this regard, Mr. Turanly has fairly become a cultural ambassador for the governments of Turkey and Ukraine by contributing a lot to the cultural exchange between the respective states in the field of the identification of their authentic national histories, in such a way personally adding to making their inter-relations still more profound.

I am grateful to your University and to Mr. Ferhat Turanly personally for all that on behalfof our honorable Committee. I expect that new academic studies, similar to his thesis paper, being discussed here, both in terms of their novelty and originality, and in their topicality and academic importance, will follow quite soon and on a large scale.

The author of the dissertation work is valuable academician, who deserves to be awarded the academic degree of the Doctor of Science (History)."

Evaluation of Turanly'sdissertation:***The Cossack period in Ukraine's History in Ottoman Turkish Written Sources (the second half of the 16th – the first quarter of the 18thcentury),*** **Kyiv – Mohyla Academy 2016, 606p.**

Ferhad Turanly's monograph "The Cossack period in Ukraine's history in Ottoman Turkish written sources (the second half of the 16th – the first quarter of the 18th century)" is generally speaking the first study in its kind. This will be considered briefly below. However, primarily, we should underline the general characteristic of this treatise. This monograph is important for its making references to a large extent of archival sources, chronicles, historiographic works and letters of Ottoman sultans with rulers of other countries, etc., relating to the historic period from the middle of the 16th century till the second quarter of the 18th century. The Author when referring to sources simultaneously uses a specific methodology for analyzing and interpretation of the materials of used written sources. In this context, besides a broad study of sources there are also many tries to use the above said sources and their application in certain areas.

After selection, systematization and textual analysis of the studied historic written sources a complex study was made of the specific character, informational potential and the place of the said Ottoman Turkish written documents as a constituent to the sources-base for scientific studies in the field of the History of Ukraine during the above mentioned period. A sources-study analysis of written sources was made by the author on a base of the interpretation and cognitive methodology with taking in consideration principles of the modern interdisciplinary approach.

An important part of the scientific study being presented is a practical application of the respective methodology for studying Turkic Ottoman historic documents while using their adequate translation and a sources-study analysis. Obtaining needed data made it possible to comprehend the importance of the Turkic fact in the social-and-economic development of Ukraine during the specified time period.

On a base of a textual analysis of historic written documents revealed by the author were specified the principal factors by which the political circles of the High Porte and Crimean

Khanate were guided in their actions in relation to the Zaporozhian Host in particular, and to the Ukrainian people as the whole. The monograph being presented is the first analysis of the historic and legal assessment of studied written documents. This work is a study of the issues relating to the causes of approval the jointly made decisions of governmental organs of Ukraine, Turkey and Crimea, as well as their practical implementation. The purpose of the monograph is to analyze the legal motivations of the treaties and agreements signed in due time, and to determine the expiration period and the causes for their making.

Firstly, the Turkic factor had a very special significance for development of the social-and-economic, as well as for that of the political processes that had been taking place on the territory of Ukraine since the middle 16th century, and which were of special importance in the further periods of the development of our country. The historic documents written in the Turkic Ottoman language, first of all those being kept in archival funds in the form of chronicles, historiographic works, cartographic materials include very important data which, on condition of its involvement in scientific research, will make it possible, in particular, to achieve a more all-round understanding of Ukraine's civilization history relating to the Cossack time period. Without taking into consideration the documents available in respective archival funds no study relating to the said problem will be objective enough; for that reason The Ukrainian historiography has certainly to take in account the materials available in the Ottoman archive.

Secondly, attainment of the aim of this monographic study reasonably required to make a scientific sources-study of respective written documents which are kept in archival funds of Turkey relating to the Ottoman period of its history, by critically analyzing those written documents written in the Turkic Ottoman language and comparing them with the data available in older scientific studies.

Thirdly, Ferhad Turanly in his monography draws our attention to the point that under current circumstances is getting more active the significance of the Black-Sea vector in the foreign policy of Ukraine; as of historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky wrote in due time. This fact accounts for an actual importance of studying and comprehending the historic experience of relations that Ukraine had with the Black-Sea states and with the countries situating in the Lower Danube Area, as well as that of the impact of the relations on the historic development during the time period, having been studied by the author, of regions in South–Eastern Europe, Central Asia and in the Caucasus.

Fourthly, this work informs us about the Turkic Ottoman sources that relate to the respective time period of Ukraine's History, and includes traditional intellectual data relating mainly to the Turkic Islamic countries. Perceiving that kind of data with taking in account the Ukrainian national tradition is a very important and correct scientific approach to providing the same mutual world vision and understanding.

Therefore, such a base of the intellectual potential has a meaningful significance for the cultural development of the Ukrainian and Turkish peoples, including also the military-and-political, as well as the economic cooperation between the Southern and Northern Black-Sea Area. Hence, in the above mentioned terms, this study is a successful demonstration of the events that had been taking place for 175 years of Ukraine's history.

Ferhad Turanly's work is a study, firstly made in the field of Ukrainian–Ottoman Turkish language source-studies, covering chronologically the period from the 16th century to the first quarter of the 18th century as a whole, which reconstructs the historic events and phenomena, that took place in the internal political development and in the foreign policy of Ukraine during its Cossacks' period of history. The novelty of the work is application by its author of a new personally-developed methodology.

It is owing to this methodological concept, that the author explains the variety of traditional source-studies, the specific features, as well as the rules for singling out and interpretation of the sources-study materials, which, in fact, is the introduction of a new trend in research of sources relating to the development of Turkic studies in Ukraine. So, the author puts forward a new methodology for making studies of Turkic Ottoman written sources that was developed with taking in account different scientific traditions, which will contribute to uniting intellectual people in making their joint scientific studies. It should be noted that the monograph author formulated and grounded his methodological principal points, which enabled to determine the basic characteristics of the problems relating to the scientific studies of the information available in the above said sources in regard of the Ukrainian statehood and its relations with the neighboring of the countries related to the New Period. The etymology and explanations of the respectively used historic terms, and the adequate translations, that were made by the monograph author, evidently testify the author's personal ability to perform profound scientific studies.

The author of this work is a scholar who applied his own methodology for making historic studies with taking in account one's own personal experience, and who stressed the importance to take into consideration the impacts of the principal factors on the character of the development of historic processes, in particular the relations between the Ukrainian Cossack State with the High Porte during the time period from the middle of the 16th century till the second quarter of the 18th century. All these reasons made a foundation for an objective highlighting of historic events which also to some extent made an impact on the further historic destiny of Ukraine itself.

We suppose it is worth carrying out further studies of the problems relating to the theme of F. Turanly's thesis, so as to broaden the chronological range of the respective studies.

Conclusions

The scientific study by Ferhat Turanly "The Cossack period of Ukrainian History in Ottoman Turkish Written Sources (the second half of the 16th– the first quarter of the 18thcentury)", that is a dissertation for a scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences (History),Specialty07.00.06 ─ Historiography and Studies of Sources an original study. We bear testimony, that a convincing defense of the above said dissertation work took place in pubic at the meeting of the Specialized Academic Board of the National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv. After a long and strict discussion, as well as in the result of a secret voting the Specialized Academic Board approved the jury decision to award Mr. Ferhad Turanly the academic degree of the Doctor of Science (History). This fact proves the said dissertation study

having been performed by its author at a high professional and academic level. We suppose, that the said event will contribute to promoting the academic cooperation between Turkey and Ukraine.