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Venetian-Ottoman Wars

EDITED BY STATHIS BIRTACHAS



Società Italiana di Storia Militare

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On the cover: lantern of an Ottoman galley captured at Lepanto.
Venice, Armory rooms of the Council of Ten at the Doge's Palace.
Topwar.ru website of Vjačeslav Špakovsky.



Venice and the Ottoman Empire as warriors. Source: [Roger PALMER, Earl of Castlemaine], *Das von den Türcken außs äusserst bedrangte, aber: Durch die christliche Waffen der heroischen Republic Venedig außs tapfferst beschützte Candia* [...], Frankfurt, Wilhelm Serlin, 1669.

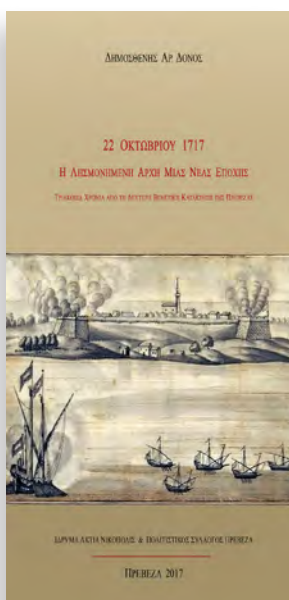


“Oltremarini” (Overseas) Regiments in Venetian service, nicknamed ‘Schiavoni’
(Vinkhujzen Collection, NYPL)

DIMOSTHENIS DONOS,

**22 Οκτωβρίου 1717:
η λησμονημένη αρχή μιας νέας εποχής.
Τριακόσια χρόνια από τη δεύτερη βενετική κατάκτηση
της Πρέβεζας**
[= *October 22, 1717: The forgotten beginning of a new era.
300 years since the second Venetian conquest of Preveza*]

Preveza, Actia Nicopolis Foundation – Cultural Association “Preveza”, 2017, pp. 70.



Dimosthenis Donos is the author of many essays related to the history of Preveza during the early modern period and especially during the Venetian rule of the city. In this context, he studied at length the military operations and the pirate raids in this Hellenic region. In the present short book, he examines in detail the second Venetian conquest of Preveza.

As the author notes in the introduction, Preveza was involved in four of the seven Venetian–Ottoman Wars. The constant interest of both sides for the city was due to its geostrategic position at the mouth of the Ambracian Gulf. An important moment in the history of the city was the first Venetian occupation of the castle of Bouka and the city of Preveza (September 29, 1684) and its annexation to the Republic of Venice for about seventeen years.

During the last Venetian–Ottoman War (1714–1718), the Venetian fleet and army, under the command of the *Capitano Generale da Mar* Andrea Pisani and the Field Marshal Johann Matthias von der Schulenburg respectively, captured the castle and town of Preveza on October 22, 1717, after a failed attempt the previous year. A few days later (November 2, 1717) they captured the nearby town of Vonitsa.

The author, based on published and unpublished archival and cartographic evidence from Venice, Corfu and Marburg, provides an account of the main historical and military facts of the campaign and discusses the reception of the Venetian victory by the European public opinion and the press. Furthermore, he outlines the main economic, social, and institutional changes that occurred in Preveza after its passage to the Venetian rule until the fall of the *Serenissima* in 1797. He also stresses the persistent Venetian influence that shaped the public centre of the town and addresses the impact of war and border-mentality on its cultural physiognomy. Finally, he investigates the reception of the Venetian conquest and domination in Preveza by the local historiography.

In the appendix, the author presents a variety of visual sources: images, military maps and drawings of the Venetian operations in the area of Preveza, plans of the castle of the city and urban fabric, publications in the European press, etc. In this way, he gives the reader a comprehensive analysis and a clear image of this episode of the last Venetian–Ottoman War. Donos' treatise is largely based on primary sources, is scientifically sound, and contributes to the study of the military, political and social history of this frontier zone between Venetian and Ottoman territory in the 18th century.



Icon of the naval Battle of Curzolari (Echinades in Greek) islands, by the Cretan painter Georgios Klontzas, last decades of the 16th century; one of the most famous depictions of the naval Battle of Lepanto in post-Byzantine art. Courtesy of the National Historical Museum, Athens (cat. n. 3578).

Venetian-Ottoman Wars

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