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**DEMOGRAPHIC AND ETHNO-RELIGIOUS PROCESSES IN THE  
REGION OF ASSENOVGRAD IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY**

(Summary)

This research aims to trace the demographic and ethno-religious processes in the region of Assenovgrad (Ottoman İstanimaka) in the sixteenth century. Several Ottoman inventory registers (tapu tahrir defterleri) from the sixteenth century shed light on the development of the population in three spatial zones – lowland, foothills and mountainous – in the investigated geographical area. The ethnic and confessional diversity in İstanimaka and the adjoining region in that century presents the area as an integral part of the common Balkan space, while the social processes of slow spread of Islam and extensive migrations in the second half of the century continuously changed the overall picture of life in the settlements.