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**ROADS FOR THE DEMOGRAPHIC RECOVERY OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE  
UPPER THRACIAN LOWLAND IN THE 15<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

(Summary)

In these studies, with the help of unpublished Ottoman tax registers from the group of tapu tahrir defterleri, stored in the funds of the Ottoman Archives in the city of Istanbul, the question of the ways of demographic recovery of the settlements in the Eastern part of the Upper Thracian Lowland in the period 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c., a consequence of the military actions conducted in the area in previous centuries. For the realization of the set goal, in addition to the mentioned Ottoman Turkish documents, the achievements of modern historiography on these problems were also used.

It was established that the region suffered greatly from the military actions in the period of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> c., the demographic crisis was overcome as a result of the settled slaves, freed slaves, representatives of various nomadic groups, population from the areas of military actions and the voluntary or forcibly resettled population from other parts of the Ottoman Empire. Examples of both Muslim-to-non-Muslim and Christian-to-Christian slavery are presented.

**Keywords:** Ottoman tax registers, 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c., Upper Thracian lowland, historical demography, wars.

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