

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20023]

Proposed title of the session

The Trade Relations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea from the middle of the 13th century up to the beginning of the 20th century

Abstract

The area of the Mediterranean basin covered an area spreading from the Iberian peninsula in the west to the Black Sea area in the east and the whole north coast of Africa from Egypt to Morocco. It underwent important economic developments and cycles in the period from the middle of 13th. up to the beginning of the 20th. century. New trade centers and ports rose like Venice, Genoa, Milan, Pisa, Livorno among other in Italy, furthermore Ragusa in the Adriatic, the Ionic islands, Smyrna in Asia Minor, Aleppo, Beirut and Antiochia in the Levant since the Middle Ages. Besides old centers like Marseille, Seville and Constantinople kept their meaning. Also political changes influenced the business cycles. In the 14th century appeared the Osman Empire which controlled in 1453 Constantinople, besides, the Balkans and North Africa. Nevertheless, economically it integrated itself in economy of the Mediterranean Sea.

Traditional goods like fruits, grain were traded all times. New goods were draper, silk, spices and dye stuffs up to the 18th century. Since the middle of 19th century new trade objects came up with the strong growth of the population in Europe in the food area. The growing need of Grain especially from the Black Sea integrated that region strongly into the international economy. In addition the export of oil from the Caucasus, cotton and sugar from Egypt, from Persia and the Osman Empire boomed at the end of the 19th century.

Vice versa the growth in the lands of the Mediterranean basin also raised the import of finished goods like machinery, textiles and other goods from the developed regions in Northern and Central Europe. The export-orienting development led to new trade centers in the Black Sea.

Primarily businessmen functioned as intermediaries of these processes. The development shows the staggering of well-funded groups or Diasporas with ethnic and religious signs.

The development of the traffic routes, the commercial centres and their bearer should be examined. Adding to already existing researches should be tied on. It should be discussed whether a relation by exchange of raw materials against ready products between regions within the Mediterranean region or in proportion to the industrialized northern countries had existed.

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