Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

Spiros N. Asonitis
Assoc. Professor
Ionian University
Greece

Venice’s policies in the Ionian region. From the treaty of Turin to the Second
Ottoman-Venetian War (1381-1502).

During that period Venice’s long-term objective to keep the Buca Culphi open
to its fleets had to adapt to the political conditions emerging from the terms of the
peace treaty of Turin, excluding her from acquisition of naval bases in Dalmatia,
banning at the same time Genoese fleets from the Adriatic. The antagonism
between Venice and Genoa is therefore relocated to the Ionian region, where the
Ottoman advance guards had already made their appearance.

Various policies serving the objective to dominate in the Ionian naval
corridor have been implemented by Venice, as the Ionian region, where the
perspective of a Venetian predominance was opposed by the lords of the Ionian
islands, as well as their western suzerains and allies. All these policies were
strongly affected by the ever since growing Ottoman presence in the adjacent
mainland.

After the acquisition of Corfu (1386), having crushed the Genoese efforts to
dominate in that island, having also annihilated by means of a long term embargo
the alliance between Genoa the count of Cephallenia Charles I Tocco, Venice
tried to get the better of the local resources, while its Ragusan commercial
competitors acquired a privileged position in the islands of southern Ionian Sea.
As far as relations with the Albanian lords of the mainland are concerned
Venetian officials have implemented various tactics, according to the
circumstances, while their relations with the mainland’s Ottomans have been,
until the break of the war of 1463, steadily conditioned by the Serenissima’s
policy of avoiding any challenges.

During the 15th century Venice, beyond Corfu acquired various strongholds on
the western coastline of Greece. However, as the Ottoman conquest of the
continental Ionian coastline was getting completed, Venice’s policy in the region
was orientated towards a more realistic and viable policy, the acquisition of the
rest of the Ionian islands.
Bionote

ASONITIS SPIROS

Associate professor. Department of Archive and Library Sciences, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece.

My doctoral thesis under the title “A contribution to the history of Aetolia, Akarnania and the islands of Southern Ionian Sea during the Late Middle Ages (1325-1429)”, was supervised by the late prof. of Byzantine History of the University of Salonica J. Karayannopoulos (1987).

I have been teaching in the Department of Archives and Library Sciences of Ionian University the following topics “Medieval Greek and European History”, “Byzantine Diplomatics”, “Latin Diplomatics”, “Medieval Latin”, “History of the Latin scripture” and “Latin Paleography”.

Research in archives of Italy and Greece (Naples, Venice, Corfu, Athens) and publication of numerous documents concerning Medieval History, Diplomatics and evaluation of medieval narrative sources. Research covering wide range of topics on the Late Middle Ages (political, economic, social, ecclesiastical history, culture, institutions, law, prosopography a.o.), have been presented in several conferences and published in Greek and foreign periodicals (Balkan Studies, Quaderni di Cheiron, Byzantina, Εώα και Εσπέρια, Βυζαντιακά, a.o.). Published also two monographs: “Corfu under the angevin domination, 13th-14th centuries, Corfu 1999, and “History of Southern Ionion in the Late Middle Ages”, Athens 2005, both in Greek Language. My next book “Corfu and the continental coast of western Greece in the late middle ages” is expected to be published within the next month.

For an index of my publication see www.ionio.gr/tab