Poulios Constantinos: «Connected Histories” and “Cultures of Confrontation”: The Era of the Wars of Religion (16th-17th centuries) from the Ottoman Perspective».

The aim of the present study is to examine the level of participation of the ottoman administration as well as the ottoman society in the historical procedures of the so-called “Era of the Wars of Religion” (16th-17th centuries). From a methodological point of view, contrary to the majority of hitherto studies for this period which confine their analyses to the western and central European geographical space, the present study, is trying, focusing on the ottomans, to discern the connected historical phenomena (millenarianism, religious violence, confessionalization) which would permit the adoption of a broader geographical framework for the “Era of the Wars of Religion”. To support the above mentioned thesis, the present study relies both on contemporary to the period primary sources as well as on historiographical theoretical tools. From the latter, the concepts of “connected histories”, “culture of confrontation” and the “return of religion” figure most
prominently. Last but not least, one of the important new elements that the present study aspires to contribute to the scientific research is the examination, through Ottoman and European sources, of the Ottoman perception of the Protestant Reform movement as much as of the intra-Christian confrontations in 16th and 17th century Europe. The originality of this approach rests on the fact that hitherto no such study dealt thoroughly and systematically with this specific issue.