

OTTOMAN INFLUENCE ON ALBANIAN CULTURE (TRADITIONS, ARCHITECTURE, ART)

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Abstract

The Albanian territories for more than five centuries were part of the Ottoman Empire. The Albanian people had a complex attitude towards the empire, but in most of the cases they were not only a geographic area. The empire started having a very big influence over them in all the areas, where for some centuries the main part of the people called themselves like “*milet osmanyë*”. The main and the first was religion, Islamic religion, the religion of new peninsular rulers. From 15th(XV) to 16th(XVI) century Albanian’s main cities raised important institutions of the Islamic culture like: *mosque, tyrbe, teqe*, that were decorated with Koranic verses. These were spread in all Albanian lands. The models of mosques and tyrbes were taken from Istanbul but were constructed from local craftsmen. In 18th (XVIII)-19th(XIX) century the Islamism had a religious and cultural development in Albania. Also a good development this period had the Albanian literature and the Arabic alphabet, known as “*bejteci literature*”, that the researchers compare it with the literature “*alhamiada*” that was treated before in Spain. The Ottoman architecture is seen especially during the XVI-XII century. In the XV-XVIII century, in the Albanian territory held different genres of architecture, starting from the buildings with defensive character, social construction, the ones for Islamic culture, the architecture in the post-Byzantine church and in the end, the local houses. The first mosques serve for military garrisons and built on the gates of the castles, as were those in the castle of Shkodra, Elbasan, Tepelena, etc., that were simple as constructed and covered with wooden roofs. But starting from the last years of the XV century took place a proper architecture in the construction of mosque. In the XVI century the system of the construction of the fortification from the Ottomans’ force was finished and they raised a number of new administrative centers. Elements of the local architecture started to in the cultural objects in carved wooden elements of interior etc. according to models of mosques in Istanbul.

Keywords: *Albanian heritage, ottoman culture, oriental architecture, bejteci literature.*