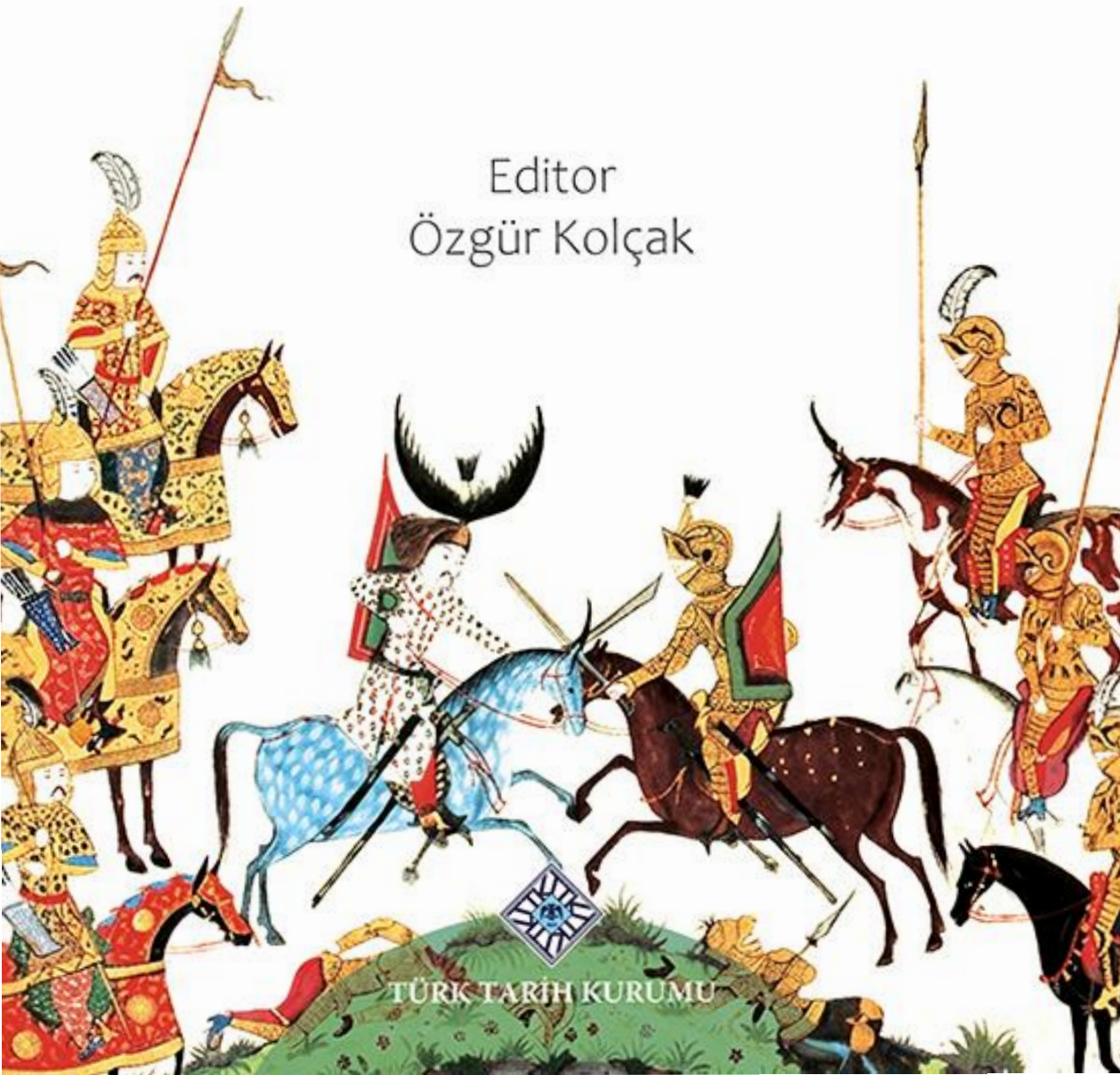
THE BATTLE OF MOHÁCS 1526

A TURKISH PERSPECTIVE

Editor
Özgür Kolçak



TÜRK TARİH KURUMU

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Timariot Army at Mohács: Timar-Holders, War-Making and Ottoman Bureaucracy in 1526

Abdulhadi Uysal*

The Battle of Mohács in 1526 undoubtedly marked a new era in the history of Central Europe in several aspects. This event has been extensively studied in a broad perspective including the battlefield strategies and tactics employed by the Ottomans and Hungarians and the political consequences of the campaign – i.e. the collapse of the Kingdom of Hungary, the Ottoman advance towards Central Europe and the beginning of the long-term Ottoman-Habsburg rivalry in the region. Yet, there remain several issues directly related to the campaign that await further scrutiny. Ottoman prebendal cavalry army – namely the timariots – representing the single largest manpower in the Ottoman campaigning army of 1526, might curiously be counted among them. In the first decades of the sixteenth century, Ottoman provincial forces were struggling to adjust themselves to the changing circumstances in warfare, but they nevertheless maintained combative skills that deserves closer scholarly examination. This paper will examine the timariot army and the timar bureaucracy during the 1526 campaign.

Tīmār is a generic term in the Ottoman administrative system referring to state-owned lands granted to warriors in return for military service. According to historical sources these provincial warriors *tīmārlı sipāhī*s (timariots) mostly attended military operations as mounted men-at-arms and wielded traditional weapons such as sword, spear, arrow, bow and shield. Bartholomaeus Georgiević, a Hungarian captive taken by the Ottomans in 1526, stated that the Turks called them *timarcılar* (sing. *"timarcı"*) or

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