

Mapping Ottoman Epirus: Order of Debt

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After the execution of Ali Pasha in 1822, the Ottoman fiscal officers initiated a massive post-mortem settlement to reveal his debts and credits.

Project Overview

In this project, we examine probate inventories to visualize and analyze how debts were restructured and how Ali Pasha's wealth was redistributed in an empire-wide debt network. In addition to maps, we are using graphs, timelines, and network diagrams.

TRANSCRIPTION

18 Hacı Yusuf Efendizade Tepedelenli Nureddin nam kimesenin Selçike çiftliğinin hesabından dolayı zimmeti, sene 1232 =39776.5 gurus 9 para. Kezallık çiftlik-i mezbur sayınesinden sene 233 =33007.5 gurus 7 para = 72780 gurus 16 para İki kıta tahvil muccebince = 25054.5 gurus 10 para =47725.5 gurus 6 para



STRUCTURED DATA

Entry Number	18
Name of liability holder	Selçike çiftliği (Selçike farm)
Name of intermediary	Hacı Yusuf Efendizade Tepedelenli Nureddin
Liability location	Avlonya Province, Tepelen District
Liability location	Selçike çiftliği (Selçike farm)
Source of liability	Agriculture
Date of liability	1817
Amount of liability	47725.5 gurus 6 para
Sarraf's involved in transaction	n/a

KEY CHALLENGES

Overlapping claims
Ottoman land and revenue management institutions recognized overlapping territorial and tax-related claims, which creates difficulties for identifying the "owner" of land or revenue.

Categorizing revenue sources
Debt registers usually provide summary data for the revenue source, which probably incorporates multiple revenue types, yet it is not always clear from the term coined in the source.

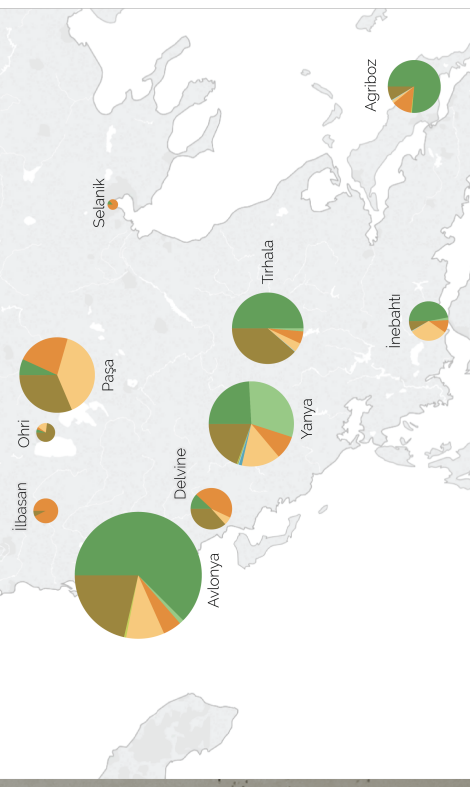
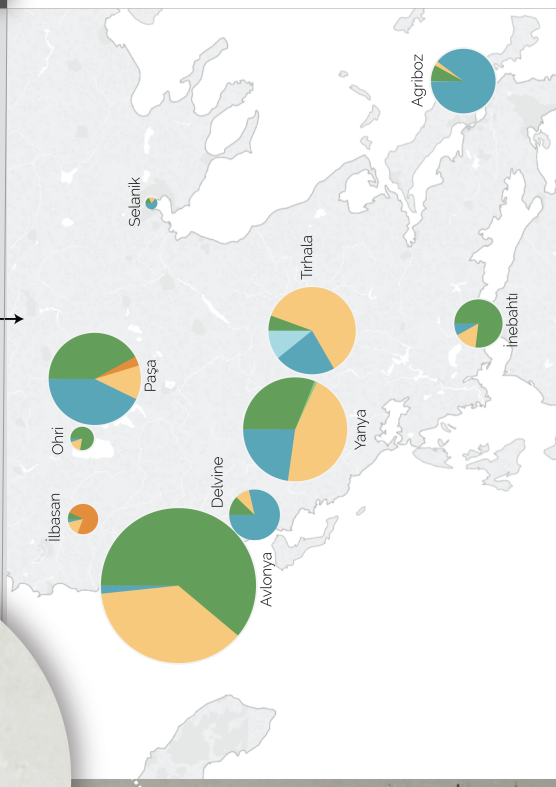
Identifying village and farm names
Correct transliteration of village and farm name from the Arabic script is a challenge especially when the place name does not exist in other sources.

Location of debt collectors with the amount of debt due to Ali Pasha

Circle size represents amount of debt
Type of collector

- community
- higher notables
- lesser notables
- intermediary
- Orthodox clergy

Ali Pasha claimed several tax items, fees and dues from the peasant communities across Epirus and beyond. His functionaries and associates collected revenues on his behalf; and they periodically delivered these revenues to the provincial treasury in Ioannina. However, in most cases, the peasant communities were not able to pay their dues and became indebted to Ali Pasha.

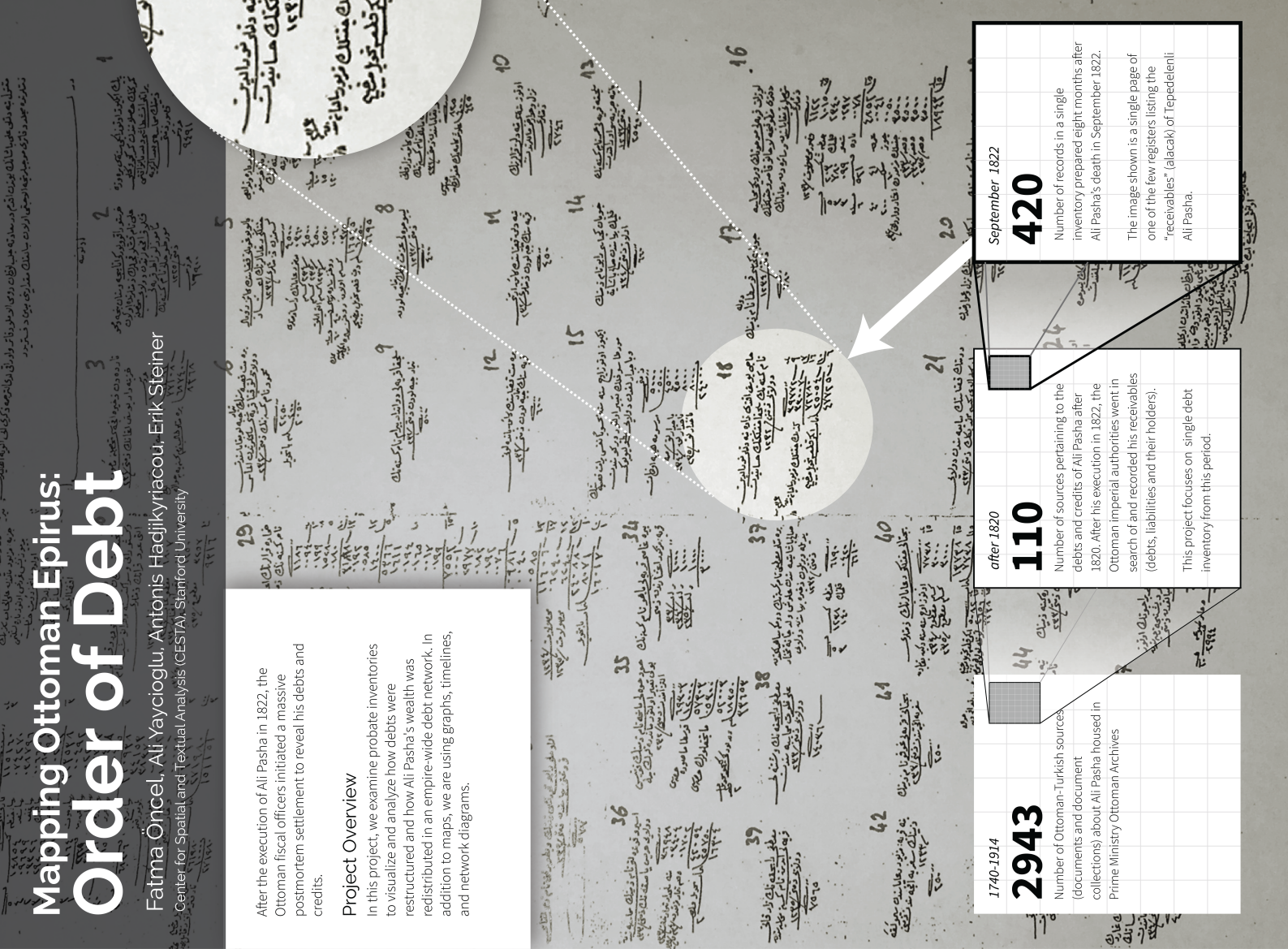


Source and amount of debt to Ali Pasha

Circle size represents amount of debt
Revenue Sources

- agriculture
- commerce
- imperial monetary tax
- livestock
- loan
- manufacture
- real estate
- security
- unknown

The "unknown" category is composed of the cases by the debt type of which cannot be easily fit into the other eight categories. Many cases refer merely to the method of debt-collection, but not the exact source of debt. Agriculture is the second-ranking category and livestock third, followed by real estate and security.



September 1822
420
Number of records in a single inventory prepared eight months after Ali Pasha's death in September 1822.
The image shown is a single page of one of the few registers listing the "receivables" (alacak) of Tepedelenli Ali Pasha.

after 1820
110
Number of sources pertaining to the debts and credits of Ali Pasha after 1820. After his execution in 1822, the Ottoman imperial authorities went in search of and recorded his receivables (debt, liabilities and their holders).
This project focuses on single debt inventory from this period.

1740-1914
2943
Number of Ottoman-Turkish sources (documents and document collections) about Ali Pasha housed in Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives