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Abstract

The rise of the Ottomans, from their emergence to their establishing their empire in the Balkans and Asia Minor during the 14th century, can be identified as the major condition of Byzantine history at the same period. Especially since they established their bridgehead in Thrace (mid 14th century) and began their Balkan conquests, their progress brought the continuous weakening of the Byzantine state and became a catalyst for all other major developments in Byzantine history since. The present study

aims at a full investigation of the relations between Byzantium and the Ottomans, as well as to the effect of the Ottoman factor to the Byzantine historical developments, up to the landmark year 1402. This study also aims at a broader and deeper examination of the subject as compared with the previous bibliography. Its contribution lies not only to the more detailed coverage of the subject, but also to the critical approach of many special topics of those encountered as the study deploys.

