

*The War of Numbers and its First Victim:
The Aromanians in Macedonia
(End of 19th – Beginning of 20th century)*

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*Our long-time responsibility
has been to count ourselves,
to know how many of us there are.*

N. Batzaria

Nowhere did the doctrine of nationalities, which played a great part in the history of the 19th century, have a greater role than in the Balkan Peninsula and in no part of the Peninsula were the nationalities so mixed and jumbled together as they were in Macedonia. Romania was mainly peopled by Romanians; Bulgaria contained a vast preponderance of Bulgarians over the other nationalities; Serbia was overwhelmingly Serbian, while Greece, with the exception of Thessaly and the Greek part of Epirus, possessed comparatively few but Greek subjects. However, in Macedonia all the nationalities were hopelessly intermixed. Unfortunately, too, almost every nationality of the Balkan Peninsula has at some distant period held more or less brief sway over some part of Macedonia and these historical reminiscences were considered vital in the Balkan states. That way the rival claims of the various competitors overlapped each other and the aspirations of the Balkan states could only be satisfied by ignoring those of the others.¹

At present, we know that the latest battles for conquering Ottoman

¹ MILLER, 1897: 50-52.

Macedonia were led with heavy artillery and that weapon power had the final say in the allocation of the Ottoman heritage in Europe. However, the last battle for Macedonia was preceded by a large number of lesser battles in which the churches and schools were on the battlefields, while the weapons used were the cross and school books. These attempts for spiritual and intellectual conquering of the Christian peoples in Macedonia on the part of their Balkan neighbours were regularly followed by statistical records of the newly found Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbs and Romanians. Ever since the new followers had been registered and, more often than not, after the number of these duly registered followers would have been doubled at least, the “objective” statistical results would have been presented in public and the statistician “successfully” proved that the largest number of Macedonian citizens had the same nationality as his.

The first victim of this war of numbers for the conquering of Macedonia was one of the small Christian peoples in the country – the Aromanians (Vlachs). Insufficiently numerous or compact to be a serious candidate in the battle for the Ottoman heritage, but sufficiently numerous and prevalent throughout Macedonia to enable an excellent negotiating position to those who manage to achieve patronage over them, the Aromanians, as Henry Noel Brailsford penetratingly noted, became the pivot of Macedonian question.² Greek statesmen were aware that north of Kostur (*Kastoria*) it was only the Aromanians who gave Hellenism a foothold. It was for that reason, and with the aim to justify its territorial aspirations toward parts of Macedonia, that Greece had no other choice but to represent the Aromanians as Greeks. Hence, the number of Aromanians in Greek statistical data is always lower than the numbers which can be found in all other statistics. In Bulgaria, they were acquainted with the significance of the Aromanians for Hellenism in Macedonia. Thus, they emphasized the existence and the respectable number of the Aromanian, non-Greek, population in Macedonia. However, that was solely the case as regards territories of Greek interest. In parts of Macedonia toward which the Greek kingdom had no aspirations, Bulgarian statisticians practically do not register Aromanians and most frequently represent them as Bulgarians. The position of Bucharest was yet more complex. Due to its geographical location, Romania had no opportunity for territorial expansion onto Macedonian territory. Nevertheless, Romania’s southern neighbor, Bulgaria, had that opportunity and in Bucharest they knew that the existence of a Romanian constituent in Macedonia, which Ro-

² BRAILSFORD, 1906: 187.

mania took care of and patronized, would be an excellent tactical method to exert pressure on Bulgaria to make territorial concessions in Dobrogea. The Aromanians were given the role to be Romanians. This is the reason why the number of Aromanians in Macedonia has always been the greatest in Romanian statistical data, although the Aromanians have regularly been presented as Romanians.

Henceforth we will focus on the issue of pinning down the number of the Aromanian population and its pervasiveness in Macedonia in the last decades of the Ottoman rule. Even today, this issue arises as a serious object in political speculations and unless entirely comprehended, it would be difficult to understand the conditions in which the Balkan states developed their propaganda against the Aromanians, its chances of success and the justification of their territorial aspirations.

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Never have so many contradictory arguments been made for the number of any of the Balkan peoples as there have been for the Aromanians.³ Situated in almost all corners of Macedonia, the Aromanians fail to form a compact majority in any larger territorial unit. Scattered as they were in isolated mountain villages or in town communities, they commonly acted as makeweight in politics, as opposed to a well defined political force with clearly defined goals and territorial aspirations. Owing to that, their number in Macedonia became the subject of manipulation which was welcomed by the Balkan statisticians who could prove to the world public the domination of “their” population in Macedonia. These circumstances manifoldly complicate any attempts of historians today to reach an approximate figure representing the number of the Macedonian Aromanians in the respective period. Among the numerous diligently and thoroughly made statistics, numerical estimates for which it remains unknown how the wrongdoer obtained them and pseudo statistics in which the foreign element is decreased or omitted intentionally, it is essential to take into account the provenience of the statistician, the aims of the statistics and the manner in which the statistician reached the concluding number.

We do not claim to provide an accurate figure of the Aromanian population in Macedonia at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

³ BRAGA, 2004: 8.

In fact, we maintain that it would be impossible even for the contemporaries who conducted thorough field research. Our goal is to review several statistical data from the given period and using comparative analysis of some to reach a number which, in our opinion, approximates the genuine number of the Aromanian population in Macedonia in the period we are interested in.

The first problem we encountered was the definition of the term Macedonia. Throughout history, this term has had different meanings and usages. As Duncan Perry properly notes, attempts to delimit the boundaries of Macedonia, in any but the most general terms, are fruitless since ethnic claims, coupled with historical, political and diplomatic considerations, render an exact delineation impossible.⁴ Thus, while for Greek statisticians Macedonia regularly included only the Salonica and Bitola (Monastir) Vilayets i.e the territories where Greek and hellenicised population lived, for the Bulgarian statistician Macedonia was where one could find Slavic population, so the territories south of Bistritsa (*Haliacmon*) and around Pindus mountains were generously left to anyone interested in them. To make the confusion worse, the Romanians sometimes used the broad term Macedonia even for parts of Albania. At other times, for the more precise grouping of the Aromanian population in the Ottoman Empire, Macedonia was shrunk to the borders of the Salonica Vilayet and part of the Kosovo Vilayet, while the biggest part of the Bitola Vilayet was sacrificed for the benefit of Albania and Epirus.

This paper uses the geographical term Macedonia for those territories which Vasil Kanchov processed in his statistics,⁵ the only difference being that we add to Macedonia the *kaza* (administrative division) of Katerini, which belonged to the Salonica Vilayet.

A much more serious problem than the arbitrariness of the statisticians when defining Macedonia, are the difficulties which the researcher had in the field itself. First, it was the summer-winter migration of the Aromanian stock breeders and the risk of counting the same people twice, once in their summer

⁴ PERRY, 1988: 12.

⁵ The territory which bordered the basin of the Bistritsa river and the Aegean Sea to the south ; Mount Pindus to the south-west ; approximately the existing Macedonian-Albanian border, Macedonian-Serbian border and Macedonian-Kosovar border to the west and north ; Mounts Osogovo, Rila and Rhodope to the east and north-east and the river Mesta (*Nestos*) to the southeast. See: КЪНЧОВ, 1996.

homes and another time in their winter homes. This was wisely used on the part of the Romanian statisticians. Another option was not to count them at all provided the statistics was about the Macedonian Vilayets and was conducted during the winter season when most of these stock breeders spent their winters in their Thessalian plains.⁶ Some Aromanian nomads, such as the Farsherots, were constantly on the move in summer and winter, and escaped even the most skillful statistics. A similar problem was the second category of Aromanian travellers i.e small scale traders or craftsmen who were prevalent in almost all Balkan centres. Due to their jobs, they remained at the same place for only several years, which was enough not to have them listed neither in their birthplace nor in the place of their current whereabouts.⁷

In addition, it is necessary to be acquainted with the method used to generate the statistical data. Three statistics made according to the origin, language and political views provided three different results. Those who wished to overstate the number of the Aromanians in Macedonia used to their advantage the Aromanian origin of that category of people whose ancestors had long ago been Hellenicised or Slavicised,⁸ and those who wished to decrease the number of the Aromanians regularly used their ecclesiastical jurisdiction under the Patriarchy, whereby the Aromanians were considered Greeks.

⁶ In addition, the vast unpopulated areas in the mountains surrounding the Aromanian villages contributed to the possibility of drawing maps on which the Aromanians occupied vast areas. All this had the aim to present the number of Aromanians as higher than the actual one. Most of these mapmakers were Romanian. However, there are instances when mapmakers from the other Balkan countries gave priority to the bilingualism of the Aromanians by which they gave them a small or no space on the maps (WINNIFRITH, 1987: 8).

⁷ In some instances these traders and craftsmen were recorded as Greek simply because they declared themselves as such. This was common in places which the Aromanians had long ago inhabited and only the elderly kept the mother tongue (WEIGAND, 1895: 280).

⁸ There also were such authors who although interested to present the Aromanian population as larger, honestly admitted that a large number of the population with Aromanian origins could no longer be considered Aromanian. Thus, Aromanian Vasile Diamandi wrote: "... *In the last several centuries, we lost many settlements in Macedonia, such as Siatista, Kozani, Liapchishta and the surroundings of Grevena. All of these places had once been Romanian according to the words of travellers who visited them...*" (DIAMANDI, 1906: 9).

The political views should not even be taken into consideration. “*While for a valuable consideration people in the more civilized countries are ready to vote Liberal or Conservative, in Macedonia they change their nationality for hard cash*” – noted William Miller in 1897.⁹ During several generations, some families changed two, three or even four national ideas, and for certain individuals, nationality presented a profession which enabled them a comfortable lifestyle and substantial material gain. Despite opportunism, fear of being deported was often the reason why the Aromanians declared themselves as Greeks, Bulgarians or other nationalities.¹⁰ The feature which distinguishes the Aromanians from the neighbouring ethnic groups is neither their religion, nor their political orientation, but their language. On account of that, we give priority to the language principle. However, due to the multilingualism of the majority of the Aromanians, there is risk of some of them being inappropriately considered something they actually were not.¹¹

The origin of the statistics is no less important. Depending on the goals of the statistician and what he wanted to indicate, a great part of those statistics were politically conditioned and biased in certain areas. What primarily needs to be taken into account is the Romanian statistics whose aim was to increase the number of “the Romanian population in Macedonia” and the Greek statistics which go to the other extreme and drastically decrease the number of Aromanians, representing them as Greeks. On the other hand, in the theocratic Ottoman Empire ethnic identity was suppressed at the expense of religious identity. Furthermore, the Ottoman authorities listed only the male population, not according to nationality but according to their religion. Such Turkish statistics, based on unreliable data from the Ottoman *Nüfus Defteri* (one kind of register), presented in the official *sālnāme* (official yearbooks of the Ottoman government, the provincial authorities and some civilian and military institutions), cannot be seriously accepted while counting the Aromanian population.¹² They registered

⁹ MILLER, 1897: 57.

¹⁰ BRAGA, 2004: 9.

¹¹ In this context, Dušan Popović made an interesting conclusion: „*He (the Aromanian, N.M) is Illyrian or Thracian, quite rarely Slavic by origin, with regard to language is Roman, concerning religion is Orthodox and with respect to culture, at least in the towns, is Greek. The rest, such as his name, last name, nationality and position in the country is utterly vague. Everything can change. The main feature of the Tsintsar (Aromanian, N.M) is vagueness*” (ПОПОВИЋ, 1937: 27).

¹² MICHĂILEANU, 1888: 29.

the Muslims because of military service and the others because of tax. In order to avoid tax, it was often the practice to reduce the number of children. It occurred mainly in such areas which were remote, as most of the Aromanian villages, in fact, were, and in some instances Christians even bribed the officials to intentionally note a smaller population number.¹³

As regards the numerous western European travelogue writers, scientists, diplomats and statisticians, political conditioning of their statistics cannot be ruled out completely. The Great Powers had their political interests in Macedonia and depending on those interests it was desirable that the number of Aromanians be presented as bigger or smaller than the actual one. Many times, owing to the unfamiliarity with the situation in the field, foreign diplomats simply transferred the data served by their informers, who most often were Aromanians or Greeks hired at the consulates and whose interest was that the number of Aromanians be increased or decreased. The difficulty in obtaining credible statistical data was often as a result of the geographical position of the Aromanian villages which the European visitors, out of fear or ignorance, did not even visit. This, along with the multilingualism of the Aromanians, led to many European travelogue writers not even mentioning the Aromanians in Macedonia in their travel notes, but, precisely due to the multilingualism, many of them casted doubts on the Greek or Slavic origin of some of the inhabitants of Macedonia, thus started seeing Aromanians in them. This was beautifully depicted by British diplomat Sir Charles Eliot:

*"They remind one of those ingenious pictures in which an animal or a human face is concealed so as not to be obvious on first inspection, though when once seen it appears to be the principal feature of the drawing. In the same way, one may live and travel in the Balkan lands without seeing or hearing anything of the Vlachs, until one's eyes are opened. Then one runs the risk of going to the opposite extreme, and thinking, like Roumanian patriots, that most of the inhabitants of Macedonia are Vlachs in disguise."*¹⁴

Localisation

The majority of Macedonian Aromanians settled in Macedonia during the Ottoman rule. The old medieval Vlachs had been Slavicised or Hellenicised

¹³ WEIGAND, 1895: 279.

¹⁴ ODYSSEUS, 1900: 409-410.

to a great extent.¹⁵ The main migrations from Epirus, Southwestern Macedonia and Albania toward various parts of Macedonia occurred in the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, after the developed Aromanian settlements of Moscopole, Nicea, Niculitsa, Gramostea, Linotopea, Shipska etc., had been destroyed.¹⁶ The wealthier class of this population moved to the larger centres of the Habsburg Monarchy and the rest populated Macedonia.¹⁷ After inhabiting Macedonia, part of them settled in the towns and another part populated the high mountainous areas.¹⁸ Due to various reasons,¹⁹ the Aromanians did not remain static, but were constantly on the move. In this process, new settlements and villages were formed as well as new Aromanian colonies in towns where there had not been any Aromanians previously. On the other hand, there was a decrease in the population of the Aromanians in their initial settlements in Macedonia or their abandonment altogether.²⁰ These cir-

¹⁵ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 100-101. According to Kanchov, the Meglen Vlachs and the Aromanian stock breeders from Eastern Macedonia were preserved from the medieval Macedonian Vlachs. In addition to them, there were the recently Hellenicised Aromanians from the former Episcopal seat Sisanion. This was accepted by Aromanian writer and politician Nicolae Batzaria, according to whom Gopesh and Malovishte were Aromanian settlements from before Turkish rule while in the other places in Macedonia, the Aromanians came from Epirus, South Albania and Greece (N.B., 1901: 65).

¹⁶ KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 340-357, 402-408.

¹⁷ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 101.

¹⁸ There is an Aromanian saying "*Mountains are our home. When God distributed riches, the Greeks got the sea, the Albanians got the coast, the Bulgarians got the fields and the Aromanians got the mountains*" (БАРБОЛОВ, 2000: 7).

¹⁹ Among these reasons, we will mention: the relative overpopulation of some of these places, the stockbreeding migrations, banditry, vigorous political events at the end of the 1870s, the marking of the new borders which made the traditional migration of Aromanian stock breeders from their summer dwellings in Macedonia to their winter Thessalian settlements difficult, the building of railroads etc.

²⁰ There are many examples of this but we will provide only a few which are more specific:

- In northernmost areas of Macedonia, the Aromanians did not settle at all until 1874, after the construction of the railroad line Skopje-Vranje. The Aromanian traders from Krushevo, Bitola, Prilep, Seres, Kavala and Salonica settled in Skopje after 1874 and by the Balkan Wars almost all of the economy in the town

cumstances were the reason why a certain number of Aromanian villages had not been listed in the early statistics at all, and in some towns the Aromanians

was in the hands of the 150 families from Krushevo, among which most prominent were Dicea, Papatheodosi, Crangu, Sapungi, Shcodeanu, Comati, Lazu, Catzavolu and Shcaperda. These Aromanians in Skopje inhabited Vlashko Maalo. The settlement of Aromanian tailors, goldsmiths, bankers and hotel owners from Krushevo, Nevesca, Veles and Malovishte in Kumanovo occurred at the same time as the settlement of the Aromanians in Skopje (HÂCIU, 2003: 210-212; ТРПКОСКИ-ТРПКУ, 1986: 91).

- The search for new pastures led to the formation of summer hut settlements which grew constantly and turned into larger villages where the Aromanians remained even in the course of the winter season. Such were the cases with Selia din Ghios (also known as Kato Vermio, Călivili Badralexi, Noua Bela, Dolno Shel and Selia Mare) on Mount Vermio which was formed in 1822 by several families from Avdella and Perivoli, and subsequently grew to become a village with 3000 inhabitants (IOTA, 2002: 18; TANAȘOCA, 1992: 216-217), the village Xirolivadi, abandoned by the native Greek population and reinhabited by Aromanians (HÂCIU, 2003: 100), the village Papadia in Mariovo (kaza Lerin) formed toward the end of the 19th century by about 50 Farsherot families (CORDESCU, 1906: 135), as well as the villages Candrova, Paticina, Gramaticova and Fetitsa in the Voden and Kajlari region, formed by Aromanian leaders Mita Zdru, Hristu Papanicola, Gushu Celea and Tea Cusha (HÂCIU, 2003: 221-222).
- Banditry and rebellion resulted in the wealthier families moving away from some Aromanian small towns and villages. The town of Vlaho-Clisura had about 1000 houses in 1878. But, after the attack of the rebels who were active in western Macedonia during that period, the wealthiest inhabitants were taken hostage and following their release, most of them left the town for good (GHICA, 1904: 117). When H.N. Brailsford visited Vlaho-Clisura after the Ilinden Uprising he was witness to a decayed town, half of whose houses were vacant. In its glory days however, it was the home of families with pianos and German governesses (BRAILSFORD, 1906: 177).
- The village of Trstenik near Krushevo had counted 2000 inhabitants in its good days but at the beginning of the 20th century was abandoned altogether (HÂCIU, 2003: 182, footnote 8).
- In 1880 Samarina, situated on Mount Pindus, was a large summer village with 15000 inhabitants who spent the winter months in the warmer Thessalian plains. With the demarcation of the new border between Turkey and Greece in 1881, crossing the border twice a year was not worthwhile, thus a large number of Sama-

were not recorded as they had not lived there at the time the statistical data had been prepared.

In the period covered in this paper, the Aromanians lived almost in all parts of Macedonia. Nevertheless, they were most numerous in the Bitola and Salonica Vilayets, whereas in the Macedonian part of the Kosovo Vilayet, they mostly inhabited the larger towns working as traders and craftsmen.²¹ According to the population number, the Bitola Vilayet had the biggest Aromanian population.²² They were most compact in the Grevena kaza, more precisely in the Pindus villages of Avdella,²³ Perivoli,²⁴ Samarina,²⁵ Smixi,²⁶ Turia (*Kraneia*),²⁷ Baltino (*Kallithea*)²⁸ with its satellite settlements of Bozovo (*Prionia*) and Yeoryitsa, Labanitsa (*Mikrolivado*)²⁹ and the town of Grevena. Avdella, Samarina, Smixi and Perivoli were transhumant settlements. Their inhabitants were predominantly stock breeders who went to lower areas in Macedonia and Thessaly during the winters. Turia and Baltino were inhabited all year long. Grevena had solely

rina inhabitants stopped returning to the village and stayed in Greece for good. This led to the number of villagers decrease twofold and even threefold (HÂCIU, 2003: 89-90; CORDESCU, 1906: 148). Prior to 1881, the Pindus village of Perivoli had 800 houses, but when Thessaly was annexed to Greece $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Perivoli population stayed in their winter homes and never returned to their home village on Mount Pindus (HÂCIU, 2003: 98).

²¹ Ever since 1867, when the Salonica Vilayet was formed, and until 1903, plenty of re-organisation occurred within these vilayets. In this paper, we use the administrative division from the end of the 19th century. See: ГОРЃИЕВ, 2003: 51-54; ДИМЕСКИ, 1982: 65-70.

²² According to Kanchov's statistics, in this vilayet, Aromanians were most numerous in kaza Grevena, comprising 32% of the total population, followed by the Bitola kaza with 15%, the Kostur and Lerin kazas each with 6%, the Kajlari kaza with 4%, kaza Ohrid with 3%, etc. (КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 293).

²³ ΜΠΙΡΚΑΣ, 1978; KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 229-231.

²⁴ SCRIMA, 1975; ΣΑΡΑΝΤΗΣ, 1977; VOLOAGĂ, 1907: 85-89; KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 228-229.

²⁵ DIAMANDI-SAMARINA, 1902: 120-123, 125-126, 128-135; ZUCA, 1936: 15-22; KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 226-228.

²⁶ ΝΑΣΙΚΑΣ, 1971.

²⁷ ŞADIMA, 1903: 52-61; CICMA, 1907: 21-23.

²⁸ ΧΑΝΙΩΤΗΣ, 1978.

²⁹ For the various theories related to the origins of the villagers from Labanitsa, see: KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 196, 209.

20 Aromanian houses in summer, but in winter that number increased to 200. Consequently, the Greeks were the majority in town in summer whereas in winter, the majority was Aromanian.³⁰

In kaza Kajlari, on the slopes of Mount Siniak (*Askio*), the Aromanians were the majority in Blatsa (*Vlasti*)³¹ and Sisanion. In this kaza the Farsherot Aromanians settled in a hut settlement near Upper Gramaticova (*Ano Grammatiko*).³²

Aromanian villages Fetitsa (*Polla Nera*), Candrova (*Agios Dimitrios*) and Paticina (*Patima*) were situated on the southern slopes of Mount Nidze (*Vorras*) and on the northern slopes of Karakamen (*Vermio*), in Voden kaza.³³

In the Anaselitsa kaza, there were Aromanians in the small town of Siatista³⁴ and in the Aromanian village of Pipilishta (*Namata*) on mount Siniak.³⁵ Aromanians also lived in the villages of Tsofli and Seltze (*Eratyra*)³⁶ together with the Greeks.

There also was a large Aromanian colony in the town of Kozani, in kaza Kozani, which had been Hellenicised for the most part. While visiting the town of Kozani in 1880, British diplomat and historian Sir Ignatius Valentine Chirol, noted that “*In the 900 houses of this city there are scarcely twenty where around the family fireside any other language is spoken than the old Latin-sounding Wallach. (Still) the pros-*

³⁰ WEIGAND, 1895: 130.

³¹ Blatsa was inhabited by Aromanians from Moscopole and Pindus, as well as by Aromanians from the former Episcopal seat Sisanion (ΠΟΠΟΒΙΤΉ, 1937: 42). Hellenicised Aromanians from Sisanion transferred the Hellenic influence to Blatsa, which led to the Hellenisation of more than half the Blatsa population in 1875 (PICOT, 1875: 37). Similar to nearby Siatista, where in 1889-1890 Weigand noted that children did not speak Aromanian (WEIGAND, 1895: 129), Blatsa probably encountered the same when the Aromanian population ceased using the Aromanian language. In 1900, Kanchov recorded 2500 inhabitants in Blatsa, of which he considered 1300 to have been Aromanian and 1200 Greek (ΚΉΝΧΟΒ, 1996: 269). For more details see: ΤΣΙΡΟΣ, 1964.

³² Regarding Upper Gramaticova see: ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ - 4-, 2001: 347-362.

³³ Idem: 363-369.

³⁴ According to Spiridon Gopcevic, in 1888 Siatista had 10,000 inhabitants. Around 7,500 of them spoke Greek, while the other 2,500 were speaking Aromanian. However, Gopcevic notes that majority of the Greek speaking population in Siatista was composed of hellenicised Aromanians (ΓΟΠΤΣΕΒΙΤΉ, 1890: 146).

³⁵ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ, 2000: 181.

³⁶ Idem: 346.

perous townsfolk would be deeply hurt if any doubt were hinted as to the genuineness of their Hellenism?.³⁷ The Aromanian primacy in Kozani was also noted by Spiridon Gopcevic, who counted 4,000 inhabitants in 1888. Around 3,000 of them were Aromanian, 100 were Serbian, while the others were of Greek origin.³⁸

The Aromanians were scattered everywhere in kaza Kostur (*Kastoria*). This kaza bordered the old Aromanian settlements on Mount Gramos. Actually, some of the former Aromanian villages on Gramos, such as Linotopea and Gramostea, geographically belonged to Macedonia. The Aromanian population in kaza Kostur was most numerous in the Aromanian town of Vlaho-Klisura (*Kleisoura*).³⁹ Great number of the Christian population in the town of Kostur was of Aromanian origin. When Victor Bérard visited Kostur toward the end of the 19th century, Aromanian was spoken or at least understood in every Christian house, which, beyond doubt, indicates the strong Aromanian presence in this town.⁴⁰ In the mid-nineteenth century, one of the Greek propaganda leaders in Kostur, the teacher Anastassios Piheon, reports that the town's Greek upper class was mainly made up of Aromanian families who had eventually settled in Kostur after leaving Moscopole, Niculitsa, Vithkuq, and elsewhere.⁴¹ The Aromanians lived in Hrupishta (*Argos Orestiko*) and the village of Gramostea, and in the Macedonian settlements there almost was no village without at least 4-5 Aromanian families.⁴² In 1905 the secretary of the Bulgarian Exarchate, Dimitar Mishev (alias D. M. Brancoff), recorded the presence of small groups of Aromanian families among the inhabitants of villages near Kostur, such as Zagorichani (*Vassiliada*), Zhelegozhe (*Pendavryssos*), Gorentsi (*Korisos*) and Dobrolishta (*Kalohori*).⁴³ After the collapse of Linotopea, some poor Linotopean families settled in nearby Nestram (*Nestorio*), where they were assimilated by the more numerous Macedonian villagers. The Aromanians from the other Macedonian villages in kaza Kostur faced a similar destiny. The Aro-

³⁷ CHIROL, 1881: 59.

³⁸ ГОПЧЕВИЋ, 1890: 146

³⁹ ΒΑΚΟΥΦΑΡΗΣ, 2005; ΠΑΠΑΜΙΧΑΗΛ, 1972; RUVA, 1936: 15-21; GHICA, 1904: 116-118.

⁴⁰ BÉRARD, 1897: 318.

⁴¹ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΙΣ, 2000: 343.

⁴² BRAILSFORD, 1906: 176; Although almost all contemporaries confirm the Aromanian presence in Macedonian villages in Kostur region, Kanchov did not register any Aromanians in them.

⁴³ BRANCOFF, 1905: 182.

manian language was soon forgotten, but the Macedonians in Kostur area continued to refer to their fellow villagers who traced their origins to Gramos as Vlachs.⁴⁴

In kaza Lerin were the Aromanian town of Nevesca (*Nymfajio*)⁴⁵ and the Aromanian villages Pisoderi and Bazdravitsa.⁴⁶ Hut settlements called Călvili Papadia (*Kalivia Papadias*), Călvili Murihova and Cicura were formed on the slopes of Mount Nidze in the north-eastern parts of the kaza.⁴⁷ Mixed with the orthodox Albanians, the Aromanians also inhabited the villages Negovan (*Flambouro*),⁴⁸ Belkamen (*Drosopigi*)⁴⁹ and Lehovo.⁵⁰ The small Aromanian colonies in Lerin (*Florina*)⁵¹ and in the villages Prekopana (*Perikopi*) and Breznitsa (*Vatobori*)⁵² were nearly Slavicised.⁵³

⁴⁴ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ, 2000: 383.

⁴⁵ ΛΟΥΣΤΑΣ, 1994; NERO, *Orășelul*, 1904: 22-25; UN NIVIȘTEAN, 1899: 6-7.

⁴⁶ ΤΣΑΜΗ, 1992; NERO, 1906: 319-321; NERO, *Aromâni*, 1904: 173-175; GRIVA, 1901: 110.

⁴⁷ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ - 4-, 2001: 321-334; NERO, *Aromâni*, 1904: 173-175; GRIVA, 1901: 110.

⁴⁸ According to Koukoudis, who cites an anonymous author, the village of Negovan was established in 1861 by a larger number of Albanians, and a smaller number of Farsherot Aromanians from the region of Konitsa. Later, a new wave of Albanians and Aromanians from Dangelli and Kolonje sought refuge in Negovan (ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ, 2000: 300); See also: ΑΟ ΙΝΙ, *Подмоуру*; ΒΟΓΑΣ, 1993.

⁴⁹ Again according to Koukoudis, Belkamen was also inhabited by orthodox Albanians and Aromanians from Konitsa, Dangelli, Kolonje and Gramos, and it was established in 1841 (ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ, 2000: 300).

⁵⁰ Most authors are unanimous as regards Negovan, Belkamen and Lehovo being predominantly Albanian. However, there are such authors according to whom Aromanians constituted $\frac{3}{4}$ of the population of these villages (See: HĂCIU, 2003: 174; NERRO, 1903: 94). For the Farsherot Aromanians in Lehovo, see: ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΥ, 1976: 7-11.

⁵¹ The first small Aromanian community in Lerin was established at the end of the 19 century by merchants and craftsmen from the surrounding villages, most notably Pisoderi (ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ, 2000: 463).

⁵² BRANCOFF, 1905: 177, 182.

⁵³ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 103; That the Aromanians in Lerin, originally from Pisoderi and Bitola were Slavicised was confirmed by Aromanian Theodor Nero; See: NERO, *Aromâni*, 1904: 174.

In the northern and central parts of the Bitola Vilayet, the Aromanians were most numerous in kaza Bitola. Here, apart from the “New Moscopole” – Bitola,⁵⁴ which had the largest urban Aromanian population in the Balkans throughout the 19 century,⁵⁵ was Bitola’s rival for the role of the “New Moscopole”⁵⁶ – Krushevo,⁵⁷ as well as the Aromanians villages of Malovishte,⁵⁸

⁵⁴ The first Aromanian settlers in Bitola arrived in the second half of the 18 century, after the collapse of Moscopole. The original Aromanian nucleus in the town had consisted of Moscopolitans, followed by unspecified numbers of refugees from Nikulitsa, Linotopea, Gramostea, Fusha, Veternik, Nicea, Grabova etc. (KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 353).

⁵⁵ The data as regards the number and majority of the Aromanian population in Bitola is contradictory and changes depending on the time when they were written and the provenience of the author. In the respective period, there were around 40-50000 inhabitants in the town of which nearly half were Muslim or Jewish. Romanian lyceum in Bitola Director, Vasile Glodariu, noted that in 1880 Bitola had 30000 inhabitants of which 10000 were “Bulgarian” and another 10000 “Romanian”, about 7000 were Turkish and Albanian and about 3000 Jewish (BANCIU, 1932: 408). According to Bulgarian Exarch Joseph I, 18000 Aromanians and “Aromanised Bulgarians” lived in Bitola in 1882 (ГЕОРГИЕВ-ТРИФОНОВ, 1994: 40). Lazarite mission in Bitola leader, Jean-Claude Faveyrial, maintained that at the beginning of the last decade of the 19th century, there were 15500 Aromanians in Bitola (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 262). According to Cordescu, 15000 Aromanians lived in Bitola (CORDESCU, 1906: 46). Weigand’s number is 13000 Aromanians (WEIGAND, 1895: 4). At the end of the 19 century, according to a report by the Greek consular authorities in Bitola, there were about 13000 Aromanians, 8-9000 Bulgarians, 4000 Jews and cca 25000 Muslims living in Bitola (KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 353). In 1901, Italian consul in Bitola, Bernardi stated that “*Undoubtedly, Koutzo-Vlach population in Bitola is most significant in this town in terms of number of inhabitants, social status and importance in trade*” (GALLON, 2004: 373). Ioan Puppa calculated that in 1903, the town of Bitola had about 36000 inhabitants, of which 15500 were Aromanian (PUPPA, 1903: 34). In line with the census conducted by Serbian authorities in March 1913, in Bitola there were 50000 inhabitants, of which 26000 were Muslim and Jewish, 10000 were Bulgarian, 12000 were Vlach, and the remaining 2000 were Serbian and Koutzo-Vlach (sic!) (Српски извори, 1979: 223). According to Kanchov, the Aromanians were the second most numerous Christian population in Bitola with 7000 inhabitants following the 10000 Bulgarians (КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 236).

⁵⁶ Krushevo may have lost the battle with Bitola for the role of the “New Moscopole”,

Gopesh,⁵⁹ Nizhepole, Trnovo and Magarevo.⁶⁰ Following Macedonians, the Aromanians were the second most numerous population in the town of Resen⁶¹

but it gradually developed from small village into one of the wealthiest settlements in Macedonia. The first group of Aromanians to settle in Krushevo permanently apparently came from Nikulitsa (ΜΠΑΛΛΑΣ, 1962: 18-19). It was they who turned Krushevo into a town of enterprising merchants and craftsmen. The settlers from Nikulitsa were joined by people from Linotopea and Gramostea. The latter arrived in at least two waves, and some of them continued their transhumant way of life for quite some time before settling there permanently, occupying the higher parts of the settlement at first. The waves of refugees included groups of families from Moscopole, Nicea and Denisku. In many cases the refugees arrived in organised groups of families with a leader, usually a priest (KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 354-355).

⁵⁷ According to Krushevo teacher Ivan Shumkov, in 1862, the Aromanians contributed most to the entire economic and social life in the town. The presence of Macedonian population was almost not felt, thus the impression was that the entire population was Aromanian. Greek was used in schools and at church, but in all other public life domains Aromanian was predominant. According to the same author, in 1870, in Krushevo lived 2500 families, of which 1900 were Aromanian, Albanian and few Aromanised Macedonians (*Историја на Крушево*, 1978: 57, 77-78). Apostol Mărgărit emphasized in 1874 that 2/3 of the inhabitants of Krushevo were Aromanian whereas the rest were Bulgarian or Albanian (MĂRGĂRIT, 1874: 357). In 1885, Alexandru Pencovici calculated 12000 Aromanians and 4000 Bulgarians in Krushevo (PENCOVICI, 1885: 10-11). According to Serbian sources, in 1888 Krushevo had 10000 inhabitants, of which 7000 were Aromanian, while the rest were Serbian (ГОПЧЕВИЋ, 1890: 106; ТРИФУНОСКИ, 1955-1957: 194). Two years later, Theodor Burada claimed that of the 2300 families in Krushevo, around 2000 were Aromanian while the remaining 300 were Albanian and Bulgarian (BURADA, 1890: 179). For the same period, 1889-1890, the German Gustav Weigand who spent a week in Krushevo and had a better view on the factual situation in the town, claims that Krushevo had 11800 inhabitants, 7000 of which were Aromanian (WEIGAND, 1895: 287). According to Nenițescu, of the 15800 inhabitants of Krushevo, as many as 14500 were Aromanians (NENIȚESCU, 1895:95). In 1900, Aromanian Steriu Ciona-Cionescu who was a teacher in Krushevo with years of experience, calculated 11000 inhabitants in the mountainous town, of which about 7000 were Aromanian (CIONESCU, 1900: 92). Nicolae Bățaria also wrote about the dominance of the Aromanian population in Krushevo (BĂȚARIA, 1904: 147-150). Toward the end of the 19th century and the

and the nearby village of Iankovets.⁶² The summer settlement of Călivili Istoc, founded by nomad Aromanians from Perivoli, was situated on the Petrina mountain between Resen and Ohrid.⁶³

In kaza Ohrid, there were Aromanians in the towns of Ohrid and Struga, and in the villages Dolna Belitsa (*Beala di Ghios*) and Gorna Belitsa (*Beala di Supra*). The Aromanians in Ohrid came from Epirus and the Aromanian settlements in southern Albania and Frasher. It is here that they formed Upper and Lower Village which merged with the town of Ohrid when it expanded in the middle of the 19th century. They became Ohrid neighbourhoods by the names of Gorno Vlashko Maalo and Dolno Vlashko Maalo. Around 1800, approximately 400 Aromanian families lived in Ohrid. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the 20th century, the Aromanian population in the town was so diminished that Dolno Vlashko Maalo was almost cleared of Aromanians.⁶⁴ The exoduses from Nicea and Langa led to the establishment of two new Aromanian villages on Jablanica. First Gorna Belitsa was established, high on the slopes of Jablan-

beginning of the 20th century part of the Aromanian population emigrated from Krushevo while Macedonian families from the surrounding villages settled in the town. This made the number of Aromanian and Macedonian population almost equal.

⁵⁸ POPNICOLA, 2008; BELIMACE, 1900: 149-152.

⁵⁹ ТРИФУНОСКИ, 1957: 259-271; ZUCA, 1905: 196-200.

⁶⁰ POPNICOLA, 2009; АГТЕЛОУ, 1954; NICOLESCU, 1904: 183-186.

⁶¹ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 240. Several Vlach families from the Islamicised Megleno-Vlach village of Nonte settled in Resen. During the Islamicisation of the village, part of the villagers who refused to be Islamicised fled to the nearby Megleno-Vlach villages, and others fled to Resen. Among the more prominent Resen families with origins from Nonte were Ljapchev and Dorev families (МЛАДЕНОВЪ, 1936: 12).

⁶² According to one of the versions for the establishing of Iankovets, the village was established in 1730, when a small group of refugees from Nikulitsa settled there. The first settler was apparently one Ianko Ikonomou from Nikulitsa and he probably gave the village its name. The small Aromanian settlement which later developed at Iankovets drew Aromanian merchants and craftsmen from various places (ZOGRAFU-MIHCI, 1904: 222).

⁶³ WACE-THOMPSON, 1914: 176; BAȚARIA, 1907: 214.

⁶⁴ ТРАЈАНОВСКИ, 1999: 27-29; ШАПКАРЕВЪ, 1901: 37; HÂCIU, 2003: 107; KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 350-351.

ica, and shortly afterwards Dolna Belitsa, down in the foothills.⁶⁵ The Aromanians in Struga were principally traders and craftsmen from Gorna Belitsa and Dolna Belitsa who stayed in town from Sunday to Friday but spent Saturdays in their villages.⁶⁶ Some smaller Aromanian groups settled in the Drimkol area near Struga, in the villages of Drenok and Modrich, while some Farsherot groups from Gorna and Dolna Belitsa later settled in the villages of Vevchani, Vishni, Podgortsi and Labunishta.⁶⁷

In the Prilep kaza, there were Aromanians in the town of Prilep and the Mariovo villages Gradeshnitsa, Beshishta and Budimertsi.⁶⁸ Aromanian traders, of which most with origin from Krushevo, inhabited the town of Kichevo as well.⁶⁹

In the Salonica Vilayet, the Aromanians, or more precisely the Meglen Vlachs, were most numerous in the Gevgeli kaza, in the area Vlach-Meglen and its villages Nonte (*Notia*), Birislav (*Perikleia*), Luguntsi (*Langadia*), Oshin (*Arhangelos*), Liumnitsa (*Skra*), Tsrna Reka (*Karpi*), Huma, Cupa, Konsko and Sermenin.⁷⁰ Nonte was completely Islamicised whereas Konsko, Tsrna Reka and Sermenin were in the process of Slavicisation.⁷¹ In the region of Meglen was the large Aromanian village of Livadi (*Megala Livadia*), founded by Aromanians from Gramostea who spent their summers in Livadi and their winters in Salonica surroundings and Kassandra. By 1899 the village had been ownership of Turkish bays from Yenice-Vardar (*Giannitsa*). Afterwards it was repurchased by the Aromanians from Livadi.⁷² There was also a small Aromanian colony in Gevgelija comprised of Aromanians from Krushevo, Prilep and Vlach-Meglen.⁷³

In the neighbouring Yenice-Vardar kaza, several Aromanian families settled in the town of Yenice-Vardar. The Meglen village of Barovitsa (*Kastaneri*),

⁶⁵ ΤΟΠΑΛΗΣ, 1972: 25, 27-30; See also: CIOLACHE, 1908: 25-28; PAPAIZISI, 1906: 265-267.

⁶⁶ HÂCIU, 2003: 113, footnote 7.

⁶⁷ ТРАЈАНОВСКИ, 1979: 13-30.

⁶⁸ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 244, 247.

⁶⁹ САЈКОСКИ, 2005: 84-85.

⁷⁰ WEIGAND, 1892: 26-27; PAPANAGI, 1902: 17-24, 44; CAPIDAN, 1925: 19-30; ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ -3-, 2001: 211-310.

⁷¹ КОМАН, 2008: 5; МЛАДЕНОВЪ, 1936: 12; WEIGAND, 1892: 14-15, 26-27.

⁷² ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ -3-, 2001: 311-342; CANACHEU, 1906: 179.

⁷³ HÂCIU, 2003: 241.

whose inhabitants were Slavicised to a great extent, belongs to this kaza. In 1909, when Theodor Capidan visited the village, only the adults spoke the Megleno-Vlach language.⁷⁴

In the Salonica kaza, there were many Aromanian stock breeders, but their winter dwellings were impermanent and they were therefore registered in their summer lodgings. In this kaza there was a large group of Aromanians only in the town of Salonica.⁷⁵

Aromanians were numerous in the kaza of Ber as well where they were the most numerous ethnic group following the Greeks. They had an absolute majority in the mountainous regions west of the town of Ber, on mount Karakamen, where the villages of Selia di Ghios and Selia di Sus (*Kato Vermio* and *Ano Vermio*),⁷⁶ Marusha (*Marousia*), Tserkoviani (*Mikra Santa*), Volada (*Vromopigado*), Doliani (*Koumaria*), Xirolivadi and Castania were situated.⁷⁷ Large Aromanian

⁷⁴ CAPIDAN, 1942: 17.

⁷⁵ Greek sources claim that toward the end of the 19th century half the Greek population of Salonica comprised of Aromanians (KOYKOYΔΗΣ -1-, 2000: 87-90, 118-120). According to Weigand, the Greek element in Salonica was composed of Hellenicised Aromanians and Bulgarians. The majority of them had forgotten their mother tongue. Despite that, Aromanian was spoken in the neighbourhoods of St. Nicholas, St. Athanasius and St. Theodore (WEIGAND, 1895: 222). According to Delacamara, about 10000 Aromanians lived in Salonica (DELACAMARA, 1904: 49), and the same figure was given by Cordescu as well. He regrettably concluded that the vast majority of them had already been Hellenicised (CORDESCU, 1906: 147). Nenițescu, on the other hand, claimed that 12500 Aromanians lived in Salonica. Their children filled the streets in the three Aromanian neighbourhoods, sung and told riddles exclusively in Aromanian (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 553, 571). Wace and Thompson agreed that a significant number of Salonica Greeks were, in fact, Aromanians from Mount Olympus (WACE-THOMPSON, 1914: 210). Apart from the Aromanian villages on Mount Olympus, Aromanians came to Salonica from Vlaho-Clisura, Nevesca, Krushevo, Ber, Korcha, Nizhepole, Berat and the Aromanian settlements in Thessaly (ZUCA, 1903: 257; NENIȚESCU, 1895: 572).

⁷⁶ KOYKOYΔΗΣ -4-, 2001: 107-118; PAPA IANUȘI, 1903; PETCU, 1936: 28-33; CIUMETȚI, 1901: 126-127.

⁷⁷ The village of Doliani used to be an estate but was redeemed in 1898 by supporters of the Romanian propaganda from the villages Xirolivadi and Selia di Ghios. People of other nationalities, even Aromanian supporters of the Greek cause,

colonies could be found in the towns of Ber (*Veria*) and Negush (*Naousa*).⁷⁸

In the kaza of Katerini, the Aromanians were fairly numerous during the winter season when the Aromanians from Olympus, Mariovo, Selia di Sus, Ber, Voden, Flamburari and the Grevena area moved down toward Katerini and the coast.⁷⁹ By the end of the 19th century some Aromanians from Samarina established the hut settlements of Kolindros and Kalyvia tou Zissi.⁸⁰

In the Strumica kaza, the Aromanians and their herds went up the Ograzhden mountain but in winter they went down to the fields of Salonica and in the vicinity of Langadas, east of Salonica.⁸¹

In the second half of the 18th century, about 250 Aromanian families inhabited Veles. The decrease of the number of Aromanians in the town ensued the decline of trade in Veles in the second half of the 19th century. In 1900 Kančov recorded only 500 Aromanians in Veles.⁸² Some Aromanians settled in Bogomila, between Veles and Prilep, near the Babuna pass. In 1879 there were 20 Aromanian families in Bogomila. Until the First World War, their number rose to 30 families. Most of them were eventually assimilated by the Macedonian villagers.⁸³

The first Aromanians settled in Seres and the whole of the subsequent Seres sanjak in the first half of the 17th century. These settlers may have acted as a kind of advance guard for the Aromanian settlements that sprang up in Eastern Macedonia later on.⁸⁴

The most significant Aromanian colony within the whole sanjak settled

were not allowed to settle there (PERDICHI, 1936: 25-29; WACE-THOMPSON, 1914: 211; DE GAVANA, 1902: 147-150; Revista Pindul, I/2, 1898: 8).

⁷⁸ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΙΣ, 2000: 194.

⁷⁹ According to Vasile Papa Ianuși, Katerini was a town with 7000 inhabitants, of which half were Aromanian (PAPA IANUȘ, 1904: 41). According to Weigand, Katerini was home to 1500 Aromanians who originated from the Aromanian villages on Mount Olympus (WEIGAND, 1888: 13). Nenițescu provided a figure of about 2800 Aromanian inhabitants of Katerini (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 557). Also see: ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΗΣ -3-, 2001: 181-196; HÂCIU, 2003: 218.

⁸⁰ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΙΣ, 2000: 265.

⁸¹ ФИЛИПОВИЋ, 1938: 65.

⁸² КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 156; In 1895, Nenițescu stated that 2270 Aromanians lived in Veles but the figure was exaggerated (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 49).

⁸³ ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΙΣ, 2000: 444.

⁸⁴ Idem: 108.

in Seres and was gradually Hellenicised,⁸⁵ and also in Dolna Dzhumaya (*Irakleia*) where the Aromanian language was preserved.⁸⁶ The Aromanians in Seres mostly came from Moscopole, Aspropotamos, Malakashi, Zagori, Konitsa, Olympus and the Grevena area.⁸⁷ Those in Dolna Dzhumaya were mostly from Baiasa (*Vovoussa*), but also from Moscopole, Mount Olympus (Vlaho-Livadi and Kokkinoplo), Aspropotamos (Gardiki and Ayia Paraskevi), Grevena area (Avdella) and Nevesca.⁸⁸ In kaza Seres, a group of Gramoustian Aromanians established the hut settlement Căilivili din cheare (*Lailias*).⁸⁹ They were later joined by settlers from Avdella.⁹⁰ The Aromanians in this kaza also settled among the Macedonian population in the smaller villages of Karlikyoy (*Hionobori*), Riahovo (*Marmaras*) and Dutliya (*Elaionas*).⁹¹

In kaza Zihna, the Aromanians settled among the Macedonians, Turks and Greeks in Alistrati, Karlukovo (*Mikropoli*), Egri Dere (*Kallithea*), Mandilevo (*Mandili*), Oravishte (*Agios Hristoforos*), Rodoliovo (*Rodolivos*) and Kormishta (*Kormitsa*).⁹²

The Aromanians, with over 1000 inhabitants, were also numerous in

⁸⁵ ΚΑΤΑΡΤΙΔΗΣ, 1961: 16-17; According to Weigand, in 1890, 2000-3000 persons from Seres inhabitants were with Aromanian origins, among which the wealthiest families: Tegochik, Duro, Kontos and Karamichu. They came from Pindus and Olympus (WEIGAND, 1895: 228). According to Picot, Aromanians were the majority in Seres (PICOT, 1875: 23). Nenițescu pinpointed a figure of over 4000 Aromanians in Seres, who were the wealthiest and most powerful in the town and pulled all the strings (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 560). Ioan Piaha estimated the number of the Aromanians in Seres at the beginning of the 20th century to be 6000 (PIAHA, 1904: 140). According to Adina Berciu Drăghicescu, Seres had 40000 inhabitants, of which 5000 were Aromanian split into 600 Romanian supporters and 4400 Greek supporters (DRĂGHICESCU, 1996: 135).

⁸⁶ At the time when Kančov visited the town, the 1250 Aromanians in Dolna Dzhumaya were the wealthiest of all inhabitants (КЪНЧОВ, 1970: 100; Also see: HĂCIU, 2003: 226)

⁸⁷ KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 134, 177, 343.

⁸⁸ Idem: 177-178.

⁸⁹ Idem: 404; ΚΑΤΣΑΝΗΣ-ΝΤΙΝΑΣ, 2008: 88.

⁹⁰ KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 194; ΚΑΤΣΑΝΗΣ-ΝΤΙΝΑΣ, 2008: 88.

⁹¹ KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 178, 194; ΚΑΤΣΑΝΗΣ-ΝΤΙΝΑΣ, 2008: 84-85; КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 177.

⁹² HĂCIU, 2003: 226; KOUKOUDIS, 2000: 129, 134, 348, 440; КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 181-182.

Gorni Poroy (*Ano Poroia*) in kaza Valovishta (Demir Hisar), where Aromanians from Avdella, Smixi, Baiasa and Nevesca settled.⁹³ They were the only inhabitants in the village of Ramna (*Omalon*) which was established by Aromanians from Nevesca.⁹⁴ In this kaza, Aromanians from Aspropotamos, Malakashi, Zagori, Gramos and Avdella settled in the town of Valovishta (*Sidirokastro*), as well as in the village of Liposh (*Filyra*) and in some hut settlements.

Several Aromanian families from Dolna Dzhumaya settled in Nevrokop in 1844.⁹⁵ On Pirin, Bozdag, Sengel, Alibotush, Sharliya, Stargach and Karadag Mountains there were nomad huts by the villages Petrovo, Dzhigurovo, Gorno Spanchevo, Bozhdovo, Shatrovo, Lopovo, Pirin, Gorna Sushitsa, Papas Cair, Orehovets (*Marmaras*), Belotintsi (*Leukogeia*), Vezmen (*Eksobi*), Starchishta (*Peritori*), Tarlis (*Vathytopos*), Tsrvishta (*Kapnofito*), Krushovo (*Achladochori*) and Sengelovo (*Ankistro*), and most probably in Vlahi as well.⁹⁶ In Pirin Macedonia in the Melnik, Petrich, Gorna Dzhumaya and Razlog kazas, a larger or smaller number of Aromanians lived in the towns of Melnik, Petrich, Gorna Dzhumaya⁹⁷ and Mehomia, in addition to Mount Rila villages of Rsovo, Bistritsa, Strumski Chiflik (now Strumsko, part of Blagoevgrad), Arzach, Belitsa, Bachevo, Sofan and Kara Mandra.⁹⁸

In easternmost parts of Macedonia, in kazas Drama, Pravishta, Kavala

⁹³ ΠΙΕΝΝΑΣ, 1989: 10-19; ΠΟΠΑΖΙΣΙ, 1906: 128-129; ΠΙΑΗΑ, 1904: 140; ΚΟΥΚΟΥΔΙΣ, 2000: 178, 194, 255, 257, 343, 345, 348; ΚΑΤΣΑΝΗΣ-ΝΤΙΝΑΣ, 2008: 72-77.

⁹⁴ ΝΕΡΟ, *Orășelul*, 1904: 24.

⁹⁵ КЪНЧОВ, 1970: 235-236.

⁹⁶ According to Kanchov, Vlahi was a purely Bulgarian village with 1850 inhabitants (КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 189). Other sources reach the same conclusion as well. The British consul in Sofia wrote in 1878 that in Vlahi there were 350 houses with 1600 inhabitants, all of which were Bulgarian (*Британски дипломатически документи*, 1993: 92). However, according to Ioan Piaha, 120 Aromanian families lived in Vlahi in 1904 (ΠΙΑΗΑ, 1904: 141-142). But, according to Nenițescu, there were “150 Aromanians combined with Bulgarians” in the village around 1895 (NENIȚESCU, 1895: 563).

⁹⁷ The Aromanians in Gorna Dzhumaya settled there after the liberation of Bulgaria in 1878 (КАТАРЦИЕВ, 1961: 166). Toward the end of the 19th century, the town had 60 permanently settled Gramostean Aromanian families and 35 families of Aromanians from Krushevo. In winter, they were joined by another 40 Aromanian nomad families (CIARĂ, 1933: 33).

⁹⁸ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 186, 189, 191-193; ΚΑΤΣΑΝΗΣ-ΝΤΙΝΑΣ, 2008: 85-86.

and Sari Shaban, Aromanians could be found in the larger towns and villages: Drama,⁹⁹ Kavala,¹⁰⁰ Pravishta (*Eleftheroupoli*),¹⁰¹ Prosochen (*Prosotsani*),¹⁰² Nigrita,¹⁰³ Doxato,¹⁰⁴ Boren (*Agios Athanasios*),¹⁰⁵ K'rlar (*Kyrya*) and Sari Shaban (*Chrysoupoli*).¹⁰⁶ In many cases they were the first Christians to settle as merchants and craftsmen in villages that had been exclusively Turkish until then.¹⁰⁷

In the kazas from the Salonica Vilayet where a large presence of Aromanians had not been noted, they worked as traders and lived in the bigger towns such as Voden, Negotino and Kavadarci. Kanchov calculated that 250 Aromanians lived on Mount Athos.¹⁰⁸

In Macedonia, the smallest number of Aromanians lived in the Kosovo Vilayet. Here, some of them, mostly traders from Krushevo, settled in the bigger towns (Skopje, Kumanovo, Gostivar, Kochani) and others with their herds occupied the pastures on Mounts Osogovo and Plachkovitsa where they formed the summer hut settlements of Kalin Kamen, Kosharitsa, Samari, Lopen, Ponikva, Chatal, Lisets, Kitka, Jamishte, Ozhdenitsa, Durachka Reka, Stantsi, Chupino, Kartal, Kolarnitsa, Kukla, Kara Tepe, Asanliya etc.¹⁰⁹ These Aromanians spent their winters in the town of Kochani, Kriva Palanka and in the villages Spanchevo, Sokolartsi, Vrbitsa, Lepopeltsi, Ulartsi, Banja, Nivichani, Pan-teley and Bunish.¹¹⁰ Kanchov recorded Aromanian stock breeders in the Polog

⁹⁹ The Aromanians in Drama came from Aspropotamos, Malakashi, Zagori, Pindus, Moscopole, Krushevo, Siatista, Blatsa and Nevesca. There they settled in the new Christian district of 12 Apostoli, next to the old Christian, Greek speaking district of Ayia Sofia (HÂCIU, 2003: 262-263; KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 186).

¹⁰⁰ HÂCIU, 2003: 263.

¹⁰¹ KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 135, 257.

¹⁰² ΒΟΥΛΤΣΙΑΔΗΣ, 1995: passim.

¹⁰³ KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 134, 178, 343, 348, 387, 440.

¹⁰⁴ HÂCIU, 2003: 263.

¹⁰⁵ KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 186.

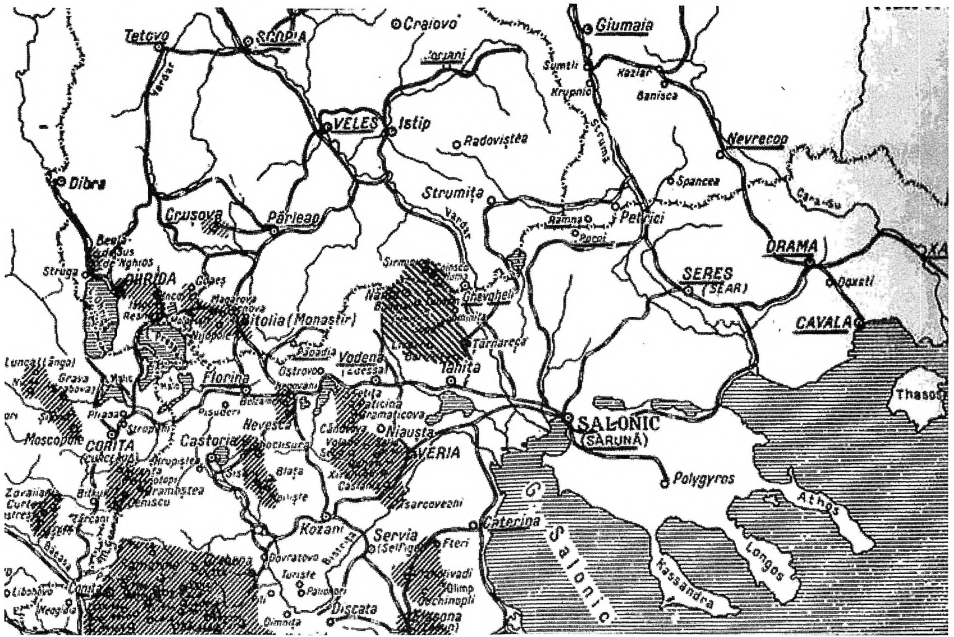
¹⁰⁶ HÂCIU, 2003: 265-266.

¹⁰⁷ As was the case with Sari Shaban, where the Aromanians were the first Christian nucleus in the developing commercial and administrative centre of a kaza which had only one Christian, Greek speaking village, all the others being Turkish. In 1884, they built the first church in Sari Shaban (KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 186).

¹⁰⁸ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 175.

¹⁰⁹ Idem: 205, 213, 215, 223-225, 227; KOUKLOUDIS, 2000: 406.

¹¹⁰ In 1901, teacher Demetru Papa-Sterescu noted that exactly 334 Aromanian-



Distribution of Aromanian population in Macedonia in the last decades of the Ottoman rule

region in North-Western Macedonia as well.¹¹¹

The list would be excessively lengthy if we were to denote all the places in which there were Aromanians. In some villages, such as the Macedonian villages in Koreshtata region, there were 5-10 Aromanian homes which is also the case in many other villages in Macedonia. It will be satisfactory to conclude that the Aromanians lived in almost all parts of Macedonia. Nonetheless, they did not form a significant majority in any of them. Where they were more numerous, they always lived in immediate vicinity of other Christian groups in Macedonia or together with them.

Gramostean families inhabited the above mentioned settlements. Despite those, Papa-Sterescu noted a further 210 Aromanian families in Kriva Palanka and Kratovo regions (PAPA-STERESCU, 1901: 55-56).

¹¹¹ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 213.

Statistics

There are plenty of statistics about the number of the Aromanians in Macedonia, mainly within the population statistics of European Turkey. As regards most of them, we do not know by what means the author reached the figure presented to us and all we can do is accept it or reject it without being able to address it critically. Various numbers are given depending on the period when the statistics was made, the origin of its author and its definition of “Macedonia”. However, even in cases when the region is clearly defined, when the time span is merely several years and even when the authors are of the same nationality, the figures they present regarding the population number of the Aromanians frequently differ considerably. Within that context, we enclose 5 statistics about the population number of the Aromanians in the Macedonian part of the Bitola Vilayet, made in the period from 1896 to 1902 by Italian consuls in Bitola, Arturo Scaniglia and Gaetani D’Aragona di Castelmola, by Russian Bitola consul Alexandr Rostkovskiy, by French vice consul in Bitola Max Choublier and by auditor of Romanian schools in the region of Bitola, Aromanian, geographer, Ioan Ciulli.

Macedonian part of Bitola Vilayet

<i>Author</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
A. Scaniglia	Italian	1896	125,000 ¹¹²
A. Rostkovskiy	Russian	1897	44,185 ¹¹³
I. Ciulli	Aromanian	1898	78,870 ¹¹⁴
M. Choublier	French	1902	45,000 ¹¹⁵
G. D’Aragona	Italian	1902	101,700 ¹¹⁶

¹¹² ДИМЕСКИ, 1982: 247.

¹¹³ State Archive of the Republic of Macedonia (ДАРМ), fond: Problema 15 – Şcoli şi biserici, м- 2351: Doc. 3, Pachet XIX, nepaginat.

¹¹⁴ Idem: Bitolia, 9/21.02.1898, nepaginat (According to Ciulli, 103330 is the total number of Aromanians in the Bitola Vilayet).

¹¹⁵ БИТОСКИ, 1970: 113 (According to Choublier, the total number of Aromanian population in the Bitola Vilayet, including territories outside Macedonia, was 53227. In line with our calculation, about 45000 of them were in Macedonia).

¹¹⁶ *Turchia*, 1902: 5 (The total number of Aromanians in the Bitola Vilayet according to the Italian consul was 142000, of which, consistent with our calculations, 101700 were in the Macedonian part of the vilayet).

Evidently, the difference in the figures offered is vast. However, if we review the statistics in detail in order to see who was behind them and what their goal was, we will comprehend the rationale for the considerable difference among the five statistics.

In the period when Scaniglia and D'Aragona were the Italian consuls in Bitola, the royal interpreter was Mihail Pinetta who was the son-in-law of inspector general of Romanian schools and churches in Turkey, Apostol Mărgărit and lecturer at the Romanian lyceum in Bitola. Due to the frequent absence of the Italian consuls, Pinetta carried out the duties of the consul and only representative of Italy in the town on many occasions.¹¹⁷ Within the context of general Italian policy in the region, it was to Scaniglia and D'Aragona's benefit that the number of the Aromanians and Albanians be presented higher than the actual one. Provided we add the undeniable participation of Pinetta in the making of both statistics, we will understand the reason for the larger number they offered. In Rostkovskiy's statistics, and within the context of Russian policy in the Balkans, a contrary inclination can be noticed i.e. an increase in the number of Slavic population to the disadvantage of the other population. Rostkovskiy's statistics is thorough but as regards the number of the Aromanians is utterly unrealistic. According to him, the Aromanian village of Nizhepole had 470 inhabitants, and the town of Bitola had 3500 Aromanians. In comparison with all other statistics, regardless of their origin, these numbers had been reduced significantly and did not correspond to reality.¹¹⁸ The same inclination, or ignorance, can be noticed in Choublier's work. Geographer Ioan Ciulli's statistics remained unpublished and was prepared for his personal use. As a scholar, and subsequently a school auditor, Ciulli visited the Aromanian settlements in the Bitola Vilayet several times a year and was familiar with the situation in the field. However, he too expressed doubt about some of the figures he prepared himself, and for some villages added smaller figures in brackets which made the final

¹¹⁷ GALLON, 2004: 120.

¹¹⁸ Kančov provided a figure of 2030 for the inhabitants of Nizhepole, of which 1690 were Aromanians (КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 239). Weigand calculated 2000 Aromanians in the village (WEIGAND, 1895: 286). According to Cordescu, Nizhepole had 1700 inhabitants, of which 1500 were Aromanians (CORDESCU, 1906: 128). Jovan Trifunovski maintains that in the second half of the 19th century, Nizhepole was inhabited by 225 households (ТРИФУНОСКИ: 1998, 68).

figure for the Aromanian population in the Macedonian part of the Bitola Vilayet draw near 65000 inhabitants.

The bigger the territory to which the statistics refer, the bigger the differences among them. In the enclosed five tables we present the numerical estimates of Balkan and Western-European provenience for the number of the Aromanian population in Macedonia. All data refers to Macedonia, with the exception of part of the Greek statistics which do not include the Kosovo Vilayet.

Western—European statistics - Macedonia

<i>Author</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
Lord Fitzmorris	Great Britain	1880	50,132 ¹¹⁹
A. Couvreur	Belgium	1890	100,600 ¹²⁰
Gustav Weigand	Germany	1895	62,405 ¹²¹
Ludovic Drapeyron	France	1897	95,000 ¹²²
Gaston Routier	France	1903	183,000 ¹²³
Vico Mantegazza	Italy	1903	300,000 ¹²⁴
Gersin	Austria-Hungary	1903	80,767 ¹²⁵
G. Bourgoirel	France	1903	96,000 ¹²⁶
Oestreich	Germany	1905	100,080 ¹²⁷
Military Study	Austria-Hungary	1905	104,850 ¹²⁸
L. Fischer	France	1905	200,000 ¹²⁹
Henry N. Brailsford	Great Britain	1906	200,000 ¹³⁰
B. Pellegrini	Italy	1907	+ 300,000 ¹³¹

¹¹⁹ Британски документи, 2003: 460.

¹²⁰ COUVREUR, 1890: 525.

¹²¹ WEIGAND, 1895: 294.

¹²² DRAPEYRON, 1897: 2.

¹²³ VIRGILJ, 1908: 223.

¹²⁴ MANTEGAZZA, 1903: 254.

¹²⁵ ПОПОВ, 2004: 25.

¹²⁶ DIAMANDI, 1906: 11.

¹²⁷ VIRGILJ, 1908: 221.

¹²⁸ ТОМОСКИ, 1969: 162.

¹²⁹ FISCHER, 1905: 36.

¹³⁰ BRAILSFORD, 1906: 86.

¹³¹ PELLEGRINI, 1907: 533.

The differences become even more drastic when Balkan statistics are compared, especially when Greek statistics are compared with Romanian ones. Great differences can be seen within the Greek statistics in which in 1856, future Greek Foreign Minister Alexandros Rizos Rangavis stated that 600000 Aromanians lived in European Turkey whereas in 1904, Greek sources estimated that there were 9653 Aromanians in Macedonia.¹³²

Greek and Romanian statistics - Macedonia

<i>Author</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
Greek-Maced. Society	Greece	1878	70,000 ¹³³
N. Schinás	Greece	1886	12,500 ¹³⁴
C. Nicolaïdès	Greece	1899	18,585 ¹³⁵
Tache Ionescu	Romania	1903	500,000 ¹³⁶
Bulletin d'Orient	Greece	1904	9,653 ¹³⁷
Grigore Ghica	Romania	1905	800,000 ¹³⁸

Aromanian statistics – Macedonia

<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
Apostol Mărgărit	1902	161,500 ¹³⁹
Ecoul Macedonici	1903	500,000 ¹⁴⁰
Almanah Macedo-Român	1903	212,090 ¹⁴¹
Nicola Papahagi	1905	223,500 ¹⁴²
Lazar Duma	1906	104,590 ¹⁴³
Vasile Diamandi	1906	349,530 ¹⁴⁴
Leonida Boga	1913	248,760 ¹⁴⁵

¹³² PAPAHAĞI, 1905: 16-17.

¹³³ VIRGILJ, 1908: 223.

¹³⁴ ΣΧΙΝΑ, 1886: ι'.

¹³⁵ NICOLAÏDÈS, 1899: 26-27.

¹³⁶ ПОПОВ, 2004: 24.

¹³⁷ VIRGILJ, 1908: 254 (Of the total number of 12053 Aromanians in the Salonica and Bitola Vilayets).

¹³⁸ ЧАКАРЈАНЕВСКИ-АВРАМОВСКИ, 2005: 80.

¹³⁹ ПОПОВ, 2004: 28.

¹⁴⁰ *Ecoul Macedoniei*, I/9, 12.10.1903: 3

¹⁴¹ *Statistica*, 1903: 13-15 (Our calculations).

Serbian and Bulgarian statistics - Macedonia

<i>Author</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
/	Bulgaria	1873	20,923 ¹⁴⁶
Stefan Verković	Serbia	1889	74,375 ¹⁴⁷
Spiridon Gopčević	Serbia	1899	74,465 ¹⁴⁸
Vasil Kanchov	Bulgaria	1900	80,767 ¹⁴⁹
Ivan Povoljni	Serbia	1903	71,000 ¹⁵⁰
D. Mishev	Bulgaria	1905	63,895 ¹⁵¹

Turkish and Albanian statistics - Macedonia

<i>Author</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Aromanians</i>
„Hilmi Pasha's Census”	Turkey	1904	99,000 ¹⁵²
Albano-Romanian Society “Drita”	Albania/ Romania	1905	520,000 ¹⁵³

Any comment is superfluous. The above given figures present the distorted demographic representation and are just about useless. In the war of figures led for Macedonia by prime ministers, ministers, university professors, scholars and journalists, battles were won by adding or subtracting one zero. Scientific research was in the background giving way to political interests.

¹⁴² ПАРНАГИ, 1905: 145-152 (Our calculations).

¹⁴³ ПОПОВ, 2004: 28.

¹⁴⁴ ДИАМАНДИ, 1906: 23-29 (Our calculations).

¹⁴⁵ БОГА, 1913: 12-13.

¹⁴⁶ *Македонија*, 1995: 107, 112, 199 (However in line with our calculations there were 16810 Aromanians).

¹⁴⁷ BRAGA, 2004: 10, footnote 20.

¹⁴⁸ VIRGILJ, 1908: 221.

¹⁴⁹ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 289.

¹⁵⁰ ТРАЈАН, 2005: 206-207.

¹⁵¹ BRAGA, 2004: 11, footnote 20.

¹⁵² БИТОВСКИ, 2001: 240.

¹⁵³ VIRGILJ, 1908: 227.

Vasil Kanchov's and Gustav Weigand's statistics

Bulgarian Vasil Kanchov's and German Gustav Weigand's statistics are characterised by a more serious and critical approach. They have been accepted as such and widely used, primarily in Macedonian and Bulgarian historiography.¹⁵⁴ Nevertheless, with certain notable exceptions,¹⁵⁵ Macedonian and Bulgarian historians present the data from these statistics as they had been offered by the authors, without having them critically processed. Owing to the scientific value of these statistics and their popularity and acceptance, we will focus on them and will point out their faults so as to complement them and thus get closer to the number of the Aromanian population in Macedonia during the respective period.

a) Vasil Kanchov's statistics

In the 1890s, as inspector general of the Bulgarian schools in European Turkey, Kanchov regularly travelled in Macedonia and collected valuable historical, geographical, statistical and ethnographic materials. *Macedonia, Ethnography and Statistics* published in 1900 was the synthesis of his research of many years.

According to him, 80767 Aromanians lived in Macedonia in 1900, of which 77267 were Christians and 3500 were Muslims.¹⁵⁶ There is an initial fault when calculating this figure. The analysis of Kanchov's final calculations reveals that the number of Christian Aromanians was 74324 but not 77267 as he had calculated.¹⁵⁷ Another fault in Kanchov's calculations has been detected in the Gevgeli kaza data where he calculated that there were 12930 Meglen Vlachs instead of 13030.¹⁵⁸ Consistent with that, the final number of Aromanians in Macedonia according to Kanchov was not 80767 but 77924, of which 74424 were Christians and the remaining 3500 were Muslims.

The fact that the Bulgarian ethnographer never even visited most of the Aromanian villages, primarily those villages in the kazas where there were no

¹⁵⁴ ДАСКАЛОВ, 2005: 98; ЃОРЃИЈЕВ, 2003: 62-65; БАРБОЛОВ, 2000: 93; ДИМЕСКИ, 1982: 89; КИРЈАЗОВСКИ, 1969: 80; and others.

¹⁵⁵ ЃОРЃИЈЕВ, 2003: 64-65.

¹⁵⁶ КЃНЧОВ, 1996: 289.

¹⁵⁷ The mistake was made during the calculation for the Salonica Vilayet. Instead of 26066 Christian Aromanians, Kanchov calculated 28949 (Idem: 281-283).

¹⁵⁸ Idem: 151-153.

Bulgarian schools is a second issue. While preparing the statistics for the Grevena, Kozani and Anaselitsa kazas, he depended on second-hand information he collected on the way. Concerning the kaza of Anaselitsa, he obtained the information from two millers from the Kostenarija region and from two Aromanian horse traders.¹⁵⁹ The third irregularity is the arbitrary calculation of the population which was not made by its number but by the number of houses in the town or village. In order to obtain the number of inhabitants of a town or village, Kanchov did not conduct a thorough census, which in reality was not always possible. Instead, he multiplied the number of houses with a number he thought suitable. In the 1900 statistics he did not state the number he used to multiply the number of Aromanian houses, but we can infer that from his earlier research which is the main basis for the 1900 statistics. Therefore, regarding the Aromanians who lived in the towns and the wealthier villages in the Seres, Zihna, Demir Hisar and Nevrokop kazas he calculated 5 or 5.5 inhabitants per house and regarding summer hut settlements in Melnik, Gorna Dzhumaya and Razlog regions, 6 inhabitants per house, although he admitted that the Aromanian nomads “were difficult to deal with”.¹⁶⁰ In our opinion, such estimates are not realistic. English archaeologists Alan Wace and Maurice Thompson, who spent several months living among Aromanian nomads in several Aromanian villages in Pindus and its surroundings, maintained that the number of 5 inhabitants per house was too small and that the real number was much higher.¹⁶¹ In the village of Livadi (Meglen area), male children stayed in their parents’ house until the parents died even despite getting married or having children. Theodor Capidan stayed in a house in Livadi in which the parents lived with their five sons, five daughters-in-law and 18 grandchildren.¹⁶² The same situation was the case with the other Gramostean Aromanians. In 1901, in the village of Selia din Ghios there were 380 houses, 569 families and 3400 inhabitants or on average, 9 inhabitants per house.¹⁶³ Weigand wrote that one two-storey house in Trikala was a home to exactly 50 people, all of which were Aromanian.¹⁶⁴ Kanchov’s estimate that generally five people lived in the Aromanian houses in the towns can

¹⁵⁹ *Idem*: 275, footnote 4.

¹⁶⁰ КЪНЧОВ, 1970: 70, 80, 88, 111, 149, 169, 275, 334.

¹⁶¹ WACE-THOMPSON, 1914: 10.

¹⁶² CAPIDAN, 1924: 28.

¹⁶³ CIUMETTI, 1901: 126.

¹⁶⁴ WEIGAND, 1895: 173.

be accepted, but the average of 6 persons per house for the numerous Aromanian nomads is completely unacceptable.

What is also unacceptable is the manner in which Kanchov Bulgarised and Hellenicised certain Aromanian settlements. He stated that in Salonica there was a large Aromanian colony where the adults still spoke Aromanian which was also used by the newly settled Aromanians from Mount Olympus. However, when making the final calculations, he stated that there were no Aromanians in Salonica at all.¹⁶⁵ He did the same concerning the town of Seres and the villages Siatista and Nigrita. He admitted that in Seres there were around 400⁸ Aromanian houses where the adults still spoke Aromanian but at the end, he recorded them under the column Greek.¹⁶⁶ He considered the Meglen Vlachs from the villages Tsrna Reka and Barovitsa Bulgarians due to the rapid process of Slavisation which was in progress.¹⁶⁷ Finally, this statistics lacks the kaza of Katerini which Kanchov did not consider part of Macedonia because there was not a Slavic element in it.

According to Weigand's statistics, 6000 Aromanians lived in kaza Katerini. In Seres, Salonica and Nigrita there were 5500. Kanchov calculated 5630 inhabitants in Siatista, Tsrna Reka and Barovitsa but improperly regarded them as Greek and Bulgarian. Provided we add these 17130 Aromanians to the above calculated 77924, we will reach a figure of 95054 Aromanians. Nevertheless, if in addition, we calculate a higher average than 6 inhabitants per house for the Aromanian summer villages, the final figure will arrive at between 110000 and 120000 Aromanians of the total of 2 million inhabitants in Macedonia.

b) Gustav Weigand's statistics

German linguist Gustav Weigand's statistics encompassed exclusively the Aromanian population and was made based on his personal research in Macedonia, Epirus, Albania and Greece in the period between 30th April 1889 and 24th May 1890.¹⁶⁸ The principle used by Weigand differs from Kanchov's principle in the fact that the German scholar counted only the houses which were inhabited and formed the final figure for a village after having reviewed the census records and having talked to the influential people from the village, the

¹⁶⁵ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 105, 140.

¹⁶⁶ Idem: 176; КЪНЧОВ, 1970: 79.

¹⁶⁷ КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 147, 154.

¹⁶⁸ WEIGAND, 1895: VIII.

leaders and several villagers. Concerning the houses where one family resided, Weigand increased the number of houses fivefold in order to obtain a figure for the total number of inhabitants, at the same time being well familiar with the fact that many houses were homes to more than one family and taking that in consideration while preparing the statistics.¹⁶⁹

According to Weigand, 62405 Aromanians lived in Macedonia.¹⁷⁰ At first sight, this figure is small and rather unacceptable but understandable if we see which territories Weigand included in Macedonia, which Aromanian settlements he visited and what the principle of calculation of the number of the Aromanian population living in the places he had not visited was. This figure did not include the Vlachs from Meglen, which he thought to be a different nationality. Neither did Weigand include the villages Gorna Belitsa and Dolna Belitsa which he assigned to Albania, the Pindus villages Avdella, Perivoli, Smixi, Turia and Samarina which he assigned to Epirus and the Katerini kaza which he eventually assigned to Thessaly. He completely disregarded the Aromanians from the Kosovo Vilayet, the Aromanians in the Gorna Dzhumaya, Razlog, Nevrokop, Petrich, Drama, Sari Shaban, Yenice-Vardar, Tikvesh and Mount Athos kazas as well as some villages in the Melnik and Prilep kazas. Weigand visited 33 of the 56 settlements in Macedonia where he had thought Aromanians lived. However, he did not visit 23 settlements, of which 15 were purely Aromanian. Concerning the settlements he had not visited, he stated the official figures from the census records, previously admitting that they were notably lower than those in reality.¹⁷¹

If we add to the figure 62405, or more precisely 63331 (see note 170) the Meglen Vlachs and the Macedonian Aromanians which Weigand assigned to Albania, Epirus and Thessaly, whose number was 30000 according to him, and the Aromanians from the Kosovo Vilayet and the above mentioned kazas which Weigand did not calculate, but according to Kanchov were 8509, then the final figure would be 100914 i.e. 101840 Aromanians in Macedonia. Whereas regarding many settlements Weigand used the official Ottoman statistics which

¹⁶⁹ Weigand wrote: "Aromanian houses have two and even three storeys, porches...and...often several families gather in one house" (Idem: 268-270).

¹⁷⁰ Weigand also makes a miscalculation. Instead of 63331, he calculated 62405 Aromanians in Macedonia (Idem: 286-288, 294).

¹⁷¹ Vasil Kanchov also noted that Aromanian nomads managed to hide many of the men in the Turkish census (КЪНЧОВ, 1996: 145).

did not depict reality, we can rightfully conclude that the number of Aromanians was higher and reached 110000-120000 inhabitants which in our view comes closest to the number of the Aromanian element in Macedonia toward the end of the 19th century. The number would have been significantly higher if we counted all the people with Aromanian origins, who were gradually assimilated through mixed marriages and the cultural influence of the neighbouring nations.

As you would expect, the number of Aromanian inhabitants in Macedonia was not a fixed category. The birthrate factor led to an increase in the population but the political changes, primarily the changes of the border between Greece and Turkey, work related emigration and mixed marriages which proved the Aromanians easiest to assimilate,¹⁷² resulted in a continual decrease of the number of Macedonian Aromanians.

The Aromanians even now feel the consequences of the war of numbers which took its toll on thousands of “victims” in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. But could it perhaps be that the war is still in progress? According to the latest official censuses, solely 9695 Aromanians live on the above mentioned territories and all are on Republic of Macedonia’s territory. In the Greek and Bulgarian parts of Macedonia, the official number of the Aromanian population equals zero.

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¹⁷² In the cases when a male or female Aromanian married a person from another ethnicity, the language of the spouse was almost always dominant in the family. Most susceptible to loss of their nationality were the Aromanians who lived in the towns. *“If they were to marry a Greek lady, they became strangers to their nation”* (ТРАЙЧЕВ, 1930: 1).

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