

**BETWEEN CHOLERA AND OTTOMAN ABUSES: THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE AND THE
QUARANTINE REGIME OF THE MARITIME DANUBE (1856–
1878)***

Constantin ARDELEANU*

Abstract: This paper analyses the public health policies adopted by the European Commission of the Danube (ECD), an international organisation tasked to improve navigation along the Maritime Danube. The ECD, a techno-political institution whose attributions were continuously extended after its foundation in 1856, came to be deeply involved in proposing quarantine regulations meant to balance free navigation and sanitary precautions. However, to prevent turning quarantine restrictions into a burden for Danube navigation, the ECD adopted a proactive attitude and tried to simplify quarantine restrictions in cooperation with riparian state authorities. It also cooperated with other transnational institutions, such as Superior Board of Health that worked in the Ottoman capital to prevent the spread of epidemics.

Keywords: Lower Danube; Black Sea; Ottoman Empire; Danubian principalities; European Commission of the Danube; quarantine regime; public health; cholera epidemics

* This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CNCS – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-1374, within PNCDI III.

* “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați; Institute for South-East European History, Bucharest, Romania; New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, Romania.
ardcons@gmail.com