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MODERN CHALLENGES FOR THE HISTORICAL CITIES OF MEDITERRANEAN
Case Study of EDİRNE – TURKEY

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The historical city “EDİRNE” is at the most west point of TURKEY at the meeting point of Bulgarian and Greek frontiers and at the location of unification of three rivers: Maritza, Tundza and Arda.

The former “HADRIANOPOLIS” of Roman Empire has served and been enriched as the second capital of Ottoman Empire from mainly XVthC onwards. The city has also suffered from different occupations of the XIXth C. And XXth C.

The modern challenges of this important historical city will be presented and discussed with its head lines as follows:

1. Edirne “GENIUS LOCI”, Historical Center, water-city.
2. The phenomenon of “WESTERNIZATION” or the elimination of the environmental fabric for the “VISTA VALUES” of monuments.
3. The positive and negative impacts created by “PEDESTRIAN ZONES” or the discussion of an “EQUILIBRIUM”.
4. Water as a “STRATEGIC MATERIAL of XXIth C.”, planning, decision making processes of central government, lack of local participation.
5. The globalization impacts and the incentives for “TOURISM DEVELOPMENT” and “MULTINATIONAL DEPARTMENT STORES/HYPERMARKETS” or the annihilation of the local social and economic fabric, life.

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