

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910811450503321
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Titolo	The capitulations and the Ottoman legal system : qadis, consuls, and beratls in the 18th century // by Maurits H. Van den Boogert
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2005
ISBN	1280859822 9786610859825 1429427965 9047406125 1433706679
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (342 pages)
Collana	Studies in Islamic law and society, , 1384-1130 ; ; v. 21
Disciplina	349.561/09/033
Soggetti	Capitulations Exterritoriality Privileges and immunities - Turkey - History - 18th century Aliens - Turkey - History - 18th century Merchants, Foreign - Legal status, laws, etc - Turkey - History - 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [309]-313) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1. The Sultan's Promise -- 2. The Protection System -- 3. Avantias : Misrepresentations of the Ottoman -- 4. The Division of Estates -- 5. Bankruptcy -- 6. Theft -- 7. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Pre-modern Western sources generally claim that European mercantile communities in the Ottoman Empire enjoyed legal autonomy, and were thus effectively immune to Ottoman justice. At the same time, they report numerous disputes with Ottoman officials over jurisdiction ("avantias"), which seems to contradict this claim, the discrepancy being considered proof of the capriciousness of the Ottoman legal system. Modern studies of Ottoman-European relations in this period have tended uncritically to accept this interpretation, which is challenged in this book.