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## SHKODRA AN EVIDENCE OF CULTURAL CONVERGENCE IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE

The concept of borderlands, taken on consideration by various scholars, helps to understand the interaction of people, of social groups in transit and their mobility, and how individuals of various communities interacted with each other. Such is the case of city of Shkodra, as an important economic and cultural center of the 19th century.

As a city with typical features of borderlands cities, Shkodra offered a cultural and institutional climate, favoring communication between different communities. Although political interests often dictated and changed the social geography, the essence of a semantic similarity between countries, what the individual left behind, and the one where he would find refuge, was indispensable. An important role played the established communities, which created a network of cooperation between social groups, which remained as a reference and as a support to communities' networks.

Based on the archival sources, the article aims to show the presence and the social articulation of "living on the border", like the Ottoman city-ports did. At the same time, this brief analysis, which still deserves more attention, proves the importance of elaborating through the archival documents, the life and the mobility of individuals, as these sources reveal the politics of time in building geographical identities in the mid-nineteenth century, in such cities like Shkodër.