

σ. 10-14

Istranja Mountains. Ὀρντῦς Στράντζας.

The great physical feature which binds together the whole of Thrace (Ανατολίαν), is the range of the Istranja Mountains.

These consist of masses of gneiss and granite, which begin in south-eastern Bulgaria, where the Balkans run down to the Black Sea just north of Burgas (Βούρτζου).

From this point, the Istranja Mountains, taking a southerly direction, form the high country at the east end of the Roumelian Plain, and are an almost inaccessible wall towards the Black Sea.

Steadily rising in average height

They reach their highest point in the peak of Büyük Magiada, which is 5595 ft. high.

The ridge then continues south-east parallel to the coast of the Black Sea.

With its crest-line at a distance which varies from about 21 to 8 miles from the sea.

In the neighbourhood of the Kara Tepe, alt. 1587 ft., the ridge bifurcates.

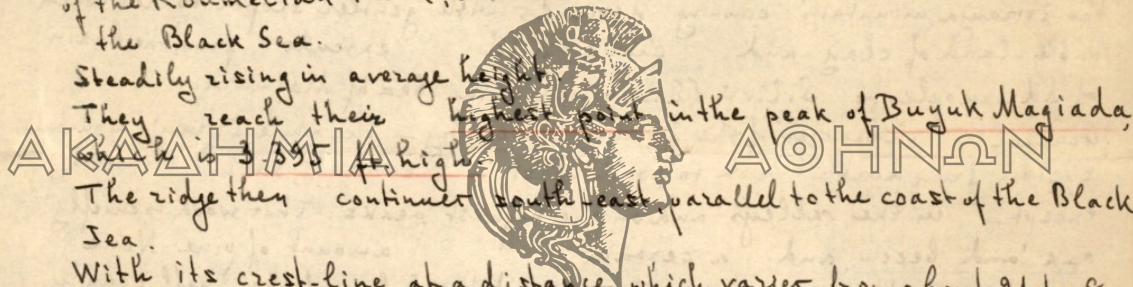
The main branch continues south-east to form the Chatalja (Μίληρος) Peninsula, at the extremity of which is Constantinople.

The other branch, bolder and more elevated than the Chatalja-Constantinople section, goes south-westward. This southwestern group includes the hilly region which forms the northern part of the basin of the Sea of Marmara; and also the high country of the Tekfur Daglı, the Kuru Daglı, and the Gallipoli Peninsula. Altho all the hills of Turkey, thus comprehended, form one great system, it is usual to treat the Tekfur Daglı, the Kuru Daglı, and the Gallipoli Peninsula as separate features, and to limit the term Istranja to the great range which runs parallel

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Compiled by -
Handbook of
Turkey in Europe.



(and so on)

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to the Black Sea, from the neighbourhood of Burgas (Πύργος) to Constantinople. The North-eastern face of the Istranja. - For the greater part of its course, from north to south, almost as far as the Chatalja Line, the Istranja mountain system runs as a long ridge of wooded hills with deep, well-watered valleys, but the whole sparsely inhabited, and with few roads and tracks.

On its eastern face the ridge throws out an almost continuous series of spurs and hills which close European Turkey towards the Black Sea, and form a steep and almost inaccessible coast.

From the sea, the coast from Kuru Burnu (Iniada Burnu) in the north to Kilios Point in the south presents only cliffs and bluffs and high rocky points, with patches of sand and beach where the streams have cut their way through the rock into the sea.

There is no good harbourage to be found on this coast.

The South-western face of the Istranja. - On the south-western side the Istranja mountain country descends with gentler slopes to the broken table-land of clay and chalk which extends from the basin of Adrianople to Silivri (Σινδύριον) on the Sea of Marmara.

General character of the Istranja Country. - The whole Istranja mountain system from north-west to south-east is covered with wood, except in the valleys and on the highest peaks. This wood is chiefly oak and beech, and a certain amount of pine. None of the trees attain to any great size, and the bulk of the hill country is covered only with scrub and thick underwood, difficult to traverse and offering excellent cover.

On the higher slopes, the exterior of the granite tends to decompose, forming a rough broken surface on which walking is difficult.

The valleys afford some scope for cultivation and pastorage, and the hills support a few sheep.

But as a whole the Istranja district offers no resources or supplies, just as it offers no fit route or means of communication through it.

There are two made roads through the northern part of the Istranja, one from Kizik Kilisse (Κιζικία Ενδοστρά) to Tiznov, within the Bulgarian frontier.

The other from Bunarhissar throu Samakov to Iniada (Νιόδα).

Further south there is a road from Chatalja (Μίλας) throu Istranja village (Σεράι-Γκας) to Serai (Σεράι) and from there on to Midia, on the Black Sea coast; but this is a very bad road.

(2200 or 25)

There is thus no natural approach to the Chatalja Peninsula and Constantinople from the north-east, by way of the Istranja Dagh.

The only route which is comparatively free from natural obstacles and moderately rich in natural resources is from Burgas (Тургев) westward along the country between the Istranja and the Balkan.

A short cut was taken by the Bulgarians in 1912, when they had sufficiently improved their roads to enable them to break through the northern

Istranja down the line Burgas-Kirk Kilisse (Тургев-Запаха-Енадурса)

The Peninsula in Milet stretches south-eastward, is a continuation of the Istranja Dagh, but is marked off from the solid block of Turkey by a crest of hills running across the Peninsula at about a height

of 600 feet, between the Lake of Derkor on the Black Sea, and the Bu-yuk Checkmeje (Мегидор-Торунджик) Lake on the Sea of Marmora.

On either side, north-west and south-east, and running roughly parallel to the crest, are the channels of the Ak Dere and the Kara Su. This

crest, with its river trench in front and behind forms the Chatalja Line.

Whether taking the land route, one approaches Constantinople from the south-east of the Black Sea, which is tactically impossible, or from the west-north-west, one has still to pass through the neck of land between the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea into the Chatalja (in Milet) Peninsula.

The northern part of the Peninsula being a continuation of the Istranja Dagh is higher and wooded, and is covered by Xipoonia. Moerh.

The heights run from 300 to 700 ft.

The Hills South-west of Avardun in Thrace - The hills that detach themselves from the Istranja Mountains about Kara Tepe run down in undulating and almost bare country, in the neighbourhood of Chorlu to the Sea of Marmara about Rodosko.

The water of the country is thrown off westwards into the great system of the Ergene.

From about Rodosko the hills spread out westwards and northwards, forming a broken massive plateau, round the north of which the Ergene runs to reach the Maritsa.

This plateau is the district of the Tekfur Dagh, the Kuru Dagh and the Yaila Dagh.

o.13 Between the Istranja Mountains on the north-east, and the region of the Tekfur Dagh, the Kuru Dagh, the Yaila Dagh on the SW, is the central plateau of Turkey, the natural approach to the Milet (Chatalja) Pe-

4. ninsula and to Constantinople.

o. 9-10

The Treaty of Constantinople between Bulgaria and Turkey, October 29, 1913, and a subsequent Convention between the same countries on July 26, 1915, fixed the boundaries between these two countries. The Balkans now fall entirely outside Turkey.

The frontier starts from the mouth of the little River Rezvaya, on the Black Sea, less than thirty miles, at the cross-flier, north of Midia.

It proceeds in a general direction westwards, following up the Rezvaya valley through mountainous and almost trackless country. The stream flows through an almost unbroken defile, rocky and winding. The heights on either side are thickly wooded in their higher parts.

To the west of Kamilaköi the frontier bulges northward along the high northern crests of the Istranja Mountains.

After striking the old Turco-Bulgarian frontier, at a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.E. of Turk Alakli, it begins to take a general south-westerly direction, describing a rough semi-circle around Kirk Kilisse and Adrianople, which at the nearest points are about 17 to 18 miles from the frontier.

Turning southward, it leaves the old frontier, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles N.W. of the village of Derviskanog, and follows down the course of the Dermen Dere. The frontier next takes a short turn westwards between the villages of Bulgar Lefke and Turk Lefke, and then proceeds due south, along the top of the watershed between the Bük Dere and the Demirhan Dere, affluents of the Maritsa. Instead of crossing the Maritsa, however, the frontier (according to the Convention of July 26, 1915) now bends south-eastwards, following down the channel of the river. — The Maritsa is the frontier between Turkey and Bulgaria for the rest of its course.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles ESE of Ferejik the delta of the river begins. — The frontier follows the right or W. arm. Thus the marshes of the Maritsa and the river mouth fall to Turkey.

European Turkey (Anatolia) is naturally one of the strongest countries in the world.

Its frontiers are not long, and are defended in every direction by formidable barriers.

It is penetrated by no navigable river. — The Maritsa is navigable for barges only, as far as Adrianople — In its lower reaches, sailing boats of 30 tons burden are used.

(Anatolia)

The country itself is a mass of low mountains. For support it can draw upon the resources of Asiatic Turkey. Turkey in Europe, ναλὰ λὰ ἰν ὄρη, is simply a quadrilateral of broken, difficult country with the centre of power, Constantinople, at its south-eastern corner. Constantinople is itself by nature one of the strongest places in the world, shut off from the rest of Europe by the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. - In front, it has the rugged mountains of Asia Minor. - Behind, it is defended towards Europe by a wall of mountains, with valleys which a little engineering can turn into swamps and lakes.

o. 20

The forest country of the Istranja extends westwards to the district around Vaisal.

o. 23. 195

The river Ergene drains the central plateau of Turkey, ναλὰ λὰ ἰν ὄρη. It rises to the west of the Istranja Mountains, to the north of the ναλὰ λὰ ἰν ὄρη (Thatala) Peninsula. As it proceeds westwards it receives numerous tributaries coming down from the Tekfur Daghi and the hills of south-west, Avalodunio, Thrace on the south.

And from the north it receives a still larger number of streams coming from the Istranja Mountains, which stretch north-westwards into Eastern Roumelia.

A glance at the map shows, better than any description, line after line of streams which flow in wide, shallow valleys from the north and from the south, all converging gradually, fan-wise, to the great transverse channel of the Ergene.

This river itself flows in a wide, flat-bottomed valley. The Ergene receives a large number of affluents flowing S., SSE, or SSW. from the Istranja hills.

o. 24

The north of Turkey, ναλὰ λὰ ἰν ὄρη, is bounded by a broad belt of elevated woody country, connecting the Istranja and Rhodope Mountains. - But with a fine gap where the Maritza breaks through.

o. 142 Turkey in Europe is a plateau, or rather a series of plateaus, plains, which descend gradually from the Istranja Mountains on the east

6 towards the Aegean and the Sea of Marmara.

r. 144. 147.

As already stated, no attention has been paid to the afforestation. Timber has been cut down indiscriminately, and no system adopted for replacing it.

There is still much useful wood in the Istranja Dagli.

And charcoal-burning and the cutting of firewood form a staple industry for the people of that district.

There is at present a flourishing trade in wood and charcoal carried on by small coasting vessels between Midia and Iniada and Constantinople.

Samakov (population Greek) is the only town of any size, and is the centre of the charcoal and wool industry.

The Istranja Mountains. - Politically this district is included in the

Kazas of Vize and Midia under the sanjak of Kirkkilisse.

The coastline is inhospitable and offers no good harbors. Sveti Stefan, Chalinos Chiftlik and Kastro Bay are merely coves.

Midia is little better.

Iniada Bay offers much better facilities, and the connexion of this town with Kirkkilisse and Adrianople by a chaussée has added to its economic as well as to its military importance.

In the inland districts oats, wheat, and maize are grown. But only in sufficient quantities to supply local needs.

The chief wealth of the country is in live stock, sheep, cattle and goats.

Samakov (population Greek) is the only town of any size, and is the centre of the charcoal and wool industry.

Serai, population 2000, is the centre of a corn- and barley-growing country. (r. 212) Altitude 534 feet. Situated on a flat spur of the Istranja Mountains.

Enonoi (Usküb) (population about 6000, Greek) is also a collecting centre for the produce of the neighbourhood (wine and cereals).

Bejin (Vize) (population 3500, two-thirds Greeks) is situated in a country of oak scrub, except to the S and SE., where there is an undulating plain that might be cultivated.

Terava (Yeno) (population about 2000) is in a fertile district, and considerable quantities of grain are generally available in the village, which is the residence of a number of grain dealers.

(inodoviti)

Until the Balkan Wars, 1912-13 Malko Tiznovo was in Turkish territory and the centre of a sheep and cattle raising area.

The Nahiye of Bunarhissar is situated on the edge of the Istranja Mountains. Bunarhissar is a centre for collecting grain and forage. Fuel is plentiful.

The slopes of the Istranja Mountains fill the NW. corner of the Peninsula in Merz. Ai Milcar (Chatalja) is the only important town.

The Kaza of Kirk Kilisse is at the foot of the Istranja Mountains and shares in a minor extent, their physical characteristics.

Kaza of Baba Eski. Fuel is scarce and is brought by carts from the Istranja foothills N. of Kirk Kilisse.

c. 197

Fuel in the Istranja country and the Tekful Dag is abundant.

c. 198

AKAAHMIA ΑΟΗΝΟΝ
Villages are fairly frequent in Βούνα, except in the Istranja country.

c. 209. 212.

Deviations are possible, από την Αδριακονόμω - Σαράν Ευνουρά - Σαράν - Κιρκιλισσινόμω ή δὲ, as far as Bunarhissar, but more difficult beyond this point when the road skirts the Istranja Balkans.

59 1/4 m. από την Αδριακονόμω the road proceeds across the W. spur of the

c. 223 Istranja Mountains - 65 1/2 m. Alt. 1399 ft. on N. of road.
66 1/4 m. Road enters the valley of the Βεγάκσι Δερέ.
[Οδὸς Σαράν (Serai) - Σαράντζαρ (Istranja) - Μίλκω (Chatalja) 49 miles.]

The route passes over the S. mass of the Istranja Mountains.

Πινax

Ak Dere. 3

Bijik 6

Yaila Daghi 3

Aghvan Aghvan 3

Eghnir pashat (Aghnir) a.3.5.Kanadaniot 4Kapadok 3.

Kapadok 1587 yor a.1.3.

Kopri Dag a.3

Myasor Tomyazir 3.

Mikail 7.

Mikail Oxyphale 3.

Mikail Xirvanot 3.5.7.Mikail 4.6.Maqarion Maqarion, ifishun wuzar Bakans 3395 a. yor. 1]AKADHMIA

Niada 6.

Zidonapbora nai Zidonapbora 6.7.

Pardisot 3

Rezvayapbora 4.

Zaynanot 6.

Zaynanot 6.7.

Zaynanot 2.

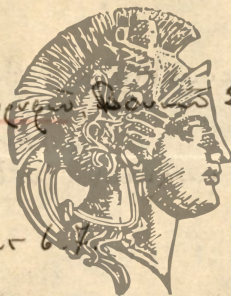
Zaynanot 6.

Zaynanot 2.7.Zaynanot Bouri. Istanja Mountain. Istanja Daghi. Istanja Bakans.]

Timpri Dag (öper) (Tavor?) 3.5.7.

Timpri 3.

Timpri 4.



ΑΘΗΝΩΝ