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## *Editorial Note*

This is the eighteenth volume of collected papers of the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University. Up to the twelfth volume, the series was called *Studies in the Mediterranean World. Past and Present* and many of the articles were written in Japanese. From the thirteenth volume, the title of the series, now composed of papers in European languages, was changed to *Mediterranean World*. Volumes are published every two or three years.

The Mediterranean Studies Group was first organized at Hitotsubashi University in 1974, in order to carry out interdisciplinary research on the Mediterranean world. At that time, few studies on the Mediterranean area were undertaken in Japan, in comparison with studies on other areas of the world. Since it was founded, the Mediterranean Studies Group has held monthly seminars, offered special lectures by both Japanese and non-Japanese scholars, and organized field surveys in the Mediterranean countries concerned. We are greatly indebted to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for a number of grants-in-aid which have enabled us to conduct these research activities and publish the series.

This volume, with the paper for his last presentation in Venice on 11 September, 2004 and the bibliography of his achievements, is dedicated to the great colleague of our study group, the late Prof. Keiichi Takeuchi. He passed away on 25th June 2005. It goes without saying that this is a great loss to us.

Prof. Takeuchi was among the founding fathers of our study group in 1973 and since then had been the active member of the group, as mentioned in the memorial writing below by Prof. Yoshikazu Nakamura. It is well known that he was an eminent scholar and had played a leading role in the Japanese and international academic circles of geography. It is a great pleasure and honor for us to compile this volume as an expression of our gratitude for his long years of contribution to our study activities.

Four foreign colleagues have contributed papers to this volume; they are collaborators with our group, and three of them participated in our international workshop, "Diversity and Connectivity in the Mediterranean World", held in 10-12 September, 2004 in Venice, Italy. This workshop could not have been realized without the generous help of Dr. Michela Dal Borgo, National Archives of Venice, Prof. Maria Pia Pedani, University of Venice and their husbands to make a comfortable atmosphere of friendship. To them we express our heartfelt thanks.

## In the memory of Prof. Keiichi Takeuchi

by Yoshikazu Nakamura

The Mediterranean Studies Research Group at Hitotsubashi University was founded in 1973. The initiative was taken by two scholars, – one was Prof. Kin-ichi Watanabe, a Byzantinist who occupied the chair of History, and another Prof. Keiichi Takeuchi, a geographer who had studied at the University of Tokyo and Milano University. I taught Russian language in Hitotsubashi University and joined the Group, as it were, by accident. However, I must admit that the Group exerted very deep influence upon the orientation of my academic work. The Group consisted of diverse specialists from different universities and institutes. In brief, so as to contribute to the interests of the members, I was obliged to look at the course of Russian history and culture in their relationship with the Mediterranean world. Thus, I began to have serious interest in the destiny of Russian Old Believers who emigrated from Russia to the Balkans and Anatolia. I also became interested in the records of Russian pilgrims to the sacred places in the East. The Group held monthly meetings and the transactions of the Group were often published – in fact, 17 volumes in 30 years. When our Group organized the first field work in several regions of the Mediterranean Sea, I chose to go to Greece together with Prof. Watanabe and Prof. Eizo Matsuki, a historian of the medieval Russian town of Novgorod. We stayed about three months on Naxos, the biggest island of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey. The village Filoti, our research field, was situated in the middle of the island on the slope of the mountain Zas. Prof. Takeuchi, being in charge of the project, came to see us on his way around the research spots. He spent about a week with us, first in Athens, then on Naxos. One day he took a rental car and drove around the island. Thanks to Prof. Takeuchi's service (only he was able to drive a car), we were able to tour all the villages of Naxos. We even drove through Apollonos, the northernmost small fishing harbor. Prof. Takeuchi had long lived in Europe before assuming his professorship. He was completely familiar with the European way of life. Consequently, he behaved himself as confidently in Greece as in

Japan. It had been well-known that Prof. Takeuchi was a marvelous polyglot (he read also Russian) and a great lover of books. In Greece we renewed our appreciation of his enormous talent of generating ideas and his skill in their accomplishment. His talents of “sniffing out” good restaurants at every mealtime astonished us all. His Gargantuan appetite matched his vital force to continue discussions, academic or secular, even after several cups of rather strong Greek wine. So it is difficult to believe that he is no longer among us in this world. According to a plan drawn up before his passing, a party of our Research Group, including Prof. Matsuki and me, had a chance to visit the Greek village Filoti again and have a reunion with old friends at the very end of the summer of 2005. The trip brought back strong memories of Prof. Takeuchi. It was just nine weeks since he passed away.

Tokyo, May 2006

*The Mediterranean Studies Group*  
Hitotsubashi University

## *Contents*

Editorial Note .....	i
Geographical Societies and Colonialism	
Comparative Considerations of Italy and Japan .....	Keiichi TAKEUCHI 1
Venetian Consuls in Egypt and Syria in the Ottoman Age	
.....	Maria PIA PEDANI 7
Popoli, etnie, religioni nelle relazioni degli ambasciatori veneziani	
.....	Michela DAL BORGO 23
A Ledger of Rinucci, a Florentine Clothier, 1322-25	
.....	Hiromi SAITO 37
I tessuti serici veneziani e il mercato ottomano nell'epoca premoderna (secoli XVI-XVII° )	
.....	Miki IIDA-SOHMA 63
Apuntes sobre el <i>Diari de Mahó</i> de Joan Roca i Vinent	
.....	Hirota TATEISHI 77
El llegat bibliogràfic d'Eduard Toda a l'Alguer (1888)	
.....	Joan ARMANGUÉ i HERRERO 105
Trayectorias de tres regiones pioneras en la producción comercial de vino en España: Jerez, Penedès y Rioja	
.....	Katsuyuki TAKENAKA y Yuka SAITO 131
A Russian Goes to the Holy Land	
Considerations on Ioann Luk'yanov's Accounts of his Pilgrimage in the Early Eighteenth Century	
.....	Yoshikazu NAKAMURA 161
The Crimean Tatars and their Russian-Captive Slaves	
An Aspect of Muscovite-Crimean Relations in the 16th and 17th Centuries	
.....	Eizo MATSUKI 171
Towards the Origin of "Empire"	
A Perspective on the Study of the Byzantine State	
.....	Yasuhiro OTSUKI 183

Propaganda and Denominations of the Byzantine Successor States and the Crusader States (1204-1261) An Essay on the Political History of the Empire in Exile .....	Michiya NISHIMURA	197
Jewish National Communist Movement in Iraq A Case of Anti-Zionist League in 1946 .....	Akira USUKI	211
Analytical Framework for the Analysis of Kinship in North African Rural Societies A Case Study of Commercial Migration in Southern Tunisia .....	Erina IWASAKI	227
Quality Changes in the Factors of Production During the Colonial Period: Effects on Post- Independent Growth Paths in Egypt and S. Korea .....	Khairy TOURK	245
Inventing the Geography of Egyptian Nationalism ( <i>Waṭanīya</i> ) A Review of Gamal Hamdan's <i>The Personality of Egypt</i> and his Personal History .....	Eiji NAGASAWA	271
Book Review: The Byzantine Empire as Comparative Economic System A Review on Yasuhiro Otsuki, <i>Empire and Charity, Byzantium</i> (Tokyo, Sōbunsha Publishers, 2005) .....	Kouichi TADENUMA	319
Document: Cairo and Alexandria at the Beginning of the 20th Century An Analysis Based on Population and Education Censuses for 1907/8 .....	Hiroshi KATO and Erina IWASAKI	323
Bibliography of Works of Professor Keiichi Takeuchi .....		369