

# **Çiftlik in the sixteenth-century Peloponnese. A geospatial, anthroponymic and economic study of reaya land holdings in light of Ottoman taxation registers**

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This paper discusses the formation, geospatial distribution, and fiscal development of the Peloponnesian çiftlik in light of data acquired from Ottoman taxation registers. The earliest attestation of çiftlik in the Peloponnese is found in the TT80 defter of the Morea dated 1514/15. According to this primary source, the recorded çiftlik are located in the fertile alluvial plains of Argolis, Elis and Laconia, with most of them being concentrated round Argos. After mapping the attribute data in GIS, we attempt to shed light on how land morphological and edaphological factors influenced the establishment of çiftlik in the specific areas. In a series of detailed registers that cover the sixteenth century, we closely follow their evolution, with special regard to the demographic fluctuations of the farmers settled therein and their agricultural production. Moreover, the anthroponymic study of the possessors of the çiftlik reveals a variety of ethnic – i.e., Greek, Albanian, Turkish – and religious – i.e., Christian, Muslim – interplaying strata. Especially in the Argive Plain, which, with the exception of the local capital Argos, was inhabited mainly by Albanians, the Islamisation process of this ethnic group can be linked to the emergence of a new provincial economic elite.