

The Black Sea and the Danubian ports and the export of goods to Venice during the 17th–18th centuries

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The export of goods from the Black Sea and Danubian ports to Venice witnessed considerable fluctuations during the 17th–18th centuries, the main causes of this discontinuity being, until 1774, the statute of the Black Sea – a *Mare clausum*, the Cretan War (1645–1669) and the successive wars fought by the Ottoman Empire against the Habsburg Empire and Russia. Despite all these problems, the ports of Galati, Cetatea Alba, Chilia Noua, Ismail (Smil), Reni, Sulina, all placed on the Maritime Danube, and, from the late 18th century, Cherson, Tangarok, Kerč, Oceaov and Sevastopol, in the Crimea, exported different goods to Venice. The merchandises were exclusively raw materials (cattle hides and beeswax) and food (caviar and salted sturgeons), to which we should add, starting with the last quarter of the 18th century, grains, imported to Venice for the internal needs of the Serenissima or re-exported to other Italian markets. On the basis of unpublished Venetian sources, correlated with the published literature, this paper aims to present the evolution of the exports of “sea wealth” and “land wealth” to Venice, with data on the export volume, typology of goods and, when documentary sources allow, details of the ship-owners and the flag under which sailed the merchant ships involved in the maritime trade between Venice and this area of Eastern Europe.