The circle of ʿAbd al-Ghanī’s correspondents includes, as already mentioned, Arab and Turkish friends, colleagues, mystics, high-ranking officials, and individuals he did not know. All of his correspondents resided outside Damascus in sixteen cities located in what were then known as Bilād al-Shām (today Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine), al-Bilād al-Rūmiyya (today Turkey and parts of the Balkan Peninsula, then known as Rūmeli), Ḥijāz (today Saudi Arabia), and Miṣr or al-Bilād al-Miṣriyya (today Egypt). I was able to identify and locate all the towns and cities referred to in the Wasāʾil, as shown in the map included here, except for one, ʿanṣār (s.n.b.r.), which ʿAbd al-Ghanī describes as being a “frontier town for the lands of the infidels” (ṣarḥad li-bilād al-kuffār). If by “the infidels” ʿAbd al-Ghanī was referring to European Christians, as is most likely, then it is possible that this town was located somewhere at the Ottoman frontier regions in the Balkans. The closest name in this region is the town of Sombor, today in Serbia, located near the borders with Hungary and Croatia. The town was an Ottoman/Habsburg military frontier and was also known by the names Sonbor and Sanbur.

As for ʿAbd al-Ghanī’s correspondents, a few were highly eminent figures, such as Grand Vizier Muṣṭafā Köprülű, Shaykh al-Islam Fāyḍ Allāh (or Feyzullah), and the leading theologian Ibrāhīm al-Kūrānī, while others were high-ranking officials, such as an un-named military chief, the head of the nobles in Aleppo, Muḥammad Afandi, and the chief judge of Tripoli, Muḥammad Saʿīd Afandi. Those who received most letters, however, such as shaykh Muḥammad al-Ḥumaydī, shaykh Ibrāhīm Afandi, and shaykh Ahmad al-Nābulusī, were hardly known, as they were not mentioned in the main Arabic sources of the period.
A map of the Eastern Ottoman Provinces, showing the places and towns of ʿAbd al-Ghani’s correspondents (Source: Author)