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## **Brigandage in Herzegovina in the 18<sup>th</sup> century**

### Summary

Arbitrariness of the local persons in power, which became more evident during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, conflicts with external forces, increase of regular and special levies as well as abuse of governing structures endangered social position of the population. Tax and feudal pressure increased the number of brigands and robberies and other atrocities became a part of everyday life. Measures undertaken by the Ottoman authorities did not have any effect and bands of brigands disturbed and threatened the security with their activities through the entire 18<sup>th</sup> century. They had the support and protection among their concealers, whom were equally as brigands threatened by punishment for everything they did. Published and unpublished court transcripts (sidzili) gave various materials about the events in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and brigandage in Herzegovina and a clearer and more complete picture about brigands and their activities will be made on the basis of those materials.

*Keywords:* brigands; 18<sup>th</sup> century; Herzegovina; concealers; brigand activities.