

Statutes and Criminal Law of Makarska and Coast in the Sanjak of Herzegovina

Summary

Makarska and its Coast together with Lokva Rogoznica and largely Poljica were in the medieval period for a long time under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, despite bilateral agreements with the Venetian Republic from 1444, 1561, 1571 and 1646. The result, however, was not an absolute domination of Turkey over domestic population and the stratification of the existing administration. In contrast, and consequently, except the supreme tax and the abolition of the nobility, there were no traces of feudal Timaru, Sharia law or a violent expulsion and Islamization of people in the time of peace. All of these circumstances positively influenced not only the maintenance of the already existing public-legal relations, but also the creation of new legal and factual norms, which were described in Croatian folk customs before Turkish rule and during it, as well as the position of the "natives" in this "era of dependence". The best indicator of this is the statutes of Makarska and the Coast from 1551 adopted by a sovereign nation or by the league and preserved in the monastery archives in Zaoštrog. The paper presents the statutes without going into a detailed analysis but with an introductory interpretation of some legal and historiographical thoughts of Makarska coastal region at the time, in correlation with other territorially or institutionally related fields.

Keywords: Makarska and the coast; Makarska Statutes 1551; Ottoman rule in Dalmatia; Statutes of Lokva Rogoznica from 1236; Dalmatian league and criminal law.