

MILO JUKIĆ
Kreševo
E-mail: milo.malum@gmail.com

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Fra Grgo Martić as the intermediary between Catholic Church and Ottoman authorities in the unpublished chronicles of the Franciscan monastery Kreševo

Summary

Almost entire 19th century in Bosnia and Herzegovina, up to the establishment of Austro-Hungarian rule, abounds in turbulence caused by weakening of the Ottoman Empire and aspirations of the European forces of that time to solve the problems caused by such state and events. The Ottoman Government tried to solve problems in different ways, firstly by legal regulations (Edict of Gülhane in 1839, Hattı Humayun of 1856), but the will and strength for their implementation were missing, so the results were almost negligible and position of Catholics and Catholic Church increasingly unenviable.

Fra Grgo Martić, as the agent of Franciscan Province of Bosna Srebrena in Sarajevo, was the intermediary between Ottoman authorities and Franciscan monastery Kreševo.

Working on that plan intensively, as a member of Sarajevo Medzlis (Council), but also privately, within possible and allowed limits, he communicated with representatives of authorities and contacted diplomatic representatives of other countries for help in solving certain disputes and in the situations where they could have certain influence.

Such cases were in details described in the unpublished monastery chronicles written between 1864 and 1878.

Keywords: Fra Grgo Martić; Franciscan monastery Kreševo; chronicles; vizier; Sarajevo.