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Educational Institutions and Educational Activities of the Franciscans in Herzegovina from the Separation of the Herzegovinian Franciscan Community until the End of Ottoman Rule (1844-1878)

Summary

This paper addresses the educational activities and educational institutions of the Herzegovinian Franciscans in the last decades of Ottoman rule. The paper examines the methods of sustainability, the structure, forms of teaching, and challenges in the functioning and maintenance of Franciscan educational institutions, seminaries, novitiates, and theological studies, in the specific ecclesiastical and existential circumstances of Ottoman Herzegovina. Additionally, it discusses the issue of Franciscan activities in enlightening the Herzegovinian population, both through individual unsystematic training and through the institutions of popular schools. Due to the general socio-political circumstances, Catholic education in Ottoman Herzegovina was of a low quality and had unsatisfactory standards compared to similar contemporary institutions in other areas. Nevertheless, it enabled the crucial maintenance and growth of clerical intellectuals and laid the groundwork for the emancipation of the broader Catholic masses.

Keywords: Catholic education; Herzegovina; seminary; novitiate; theological studies; popular school; Herzegovinian Franciscans.