

A Defter Entry from 1489 about the Fortress and Town of Travnik in Bosnia

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Context

BOA TD 24 appears to be the first Survey Register to specifically mention the situation in and around the fortress (*kale*) of Travnik during the first 25 years or so after the initial Ottoman conquest of much of Bosnia in 1463. It is well established that the Hungarian counter-attacks secured for the king the banate (*banovina*) of Jajce (with the towns of Jajce, Banjaluka, Greben, Sokol, Jezero, Vinac, Vrbaški grad, Livač, Komotin, Bočac and Zvečaj along Vrbas river), and the banate of Srebrenik to the east of Dobož and Gračanica, i.e. well east of Bosna river. The *nahiye* of Lašva (named after one of the tributaries of Bosna river of the same name) and mentioned in Ottoman sources for the first time in 1468/9, was situated between the rivers Vrbas and Bosna. Its original main settlement is unknown; its centre only later became identified with Travnik. Equally uncertain is the situation in and around the fortress of Travnik after the fall of Bosnia: Hazim Šabanović assumes that Travnik, founded before 1463, lay waste between 1463 and 1477 (based, no doubt, in part on evidence like the *icmal defteri* dated 1468/9 in Atatürk Kitaplığı O.76, fol. 169a: *karye-i Travnik hâli*), or was under the control of the Bosnian puppet-kingdom established by the Ottomans (H. Šabanović, *Bosanski pašaluk*, p. 125). It is now known that the fortress of Travnik was initially handed over to the Ottomans, probably already in 1463, by Pavao, son of Grgur, who (later) held the stronghold of Hum near the village of Podhum south of Livno.¹

The entry in BOA TD 24 refers to Ayas Beğ (Paša), the ‘first *sancakbeği* of Bosnia’, as the Ottoman commander who ‘made prosperous’ (*imaret etmek*) the fortress of Travnik and who also appointed *voynuk* Stjepan Branković to the position of *knez* of Travnik, a position that was to be confirmed on him by (Hass) Murad Paša who held the post of *beğlerbeği* of Rumili until 1473 (H. Reindl, *Männer um Bayezid*, p. 162f.). Ayas (Ayaz) Beğ was *sancakbeği* of Bosnia between 1470 and 1475 and again during the early part of 1484.²

¹ Michael Ursinus, “Serving King and Sultan: Pavao Grgurić and his Role on the Hungaro-Ottoman Frontier in Southern Bosnia, c. 1463 – 1477”, in: Veran Kursar (ed.), *Life on the Ottoman Border. Essays in Honour of Nenad Moačanin* (Zagreb, 2022), p. 19 – 30, especially p. 19.

² Ćiro Truhelka, “Tursko-slovenski spomenici dubrovačke arhive”, in *Glasnik zemaljskog muzeja u Bosni i Hercegovini* XXIII (Sarajevo, 1911), p. 341f; 344f.

Given his appointment of Stjepan Branković to the *knezlik* of Travnik being confirmed by Hass Murad Paşa who drowned in 1473, it is probable that the reinforcement of Travnik fortress by Ayas Beğ also happened during the early part of his first term of office, offering exemption from the *avarız-i divaniye* tax to anyone who was prepared to settle there, be they Muslim or Christian. As the text of the defter entry makes abundantly clear, years of conflict with the unbelievers (of nearby Jajce) caused the settlers considerable losses, be that by being killed, taken prisoner or losing their possessions. In order to avoid their dispersal which would cause great injury (to the state) it became imperative to appease them (*istimale etmek*) by offering the settlers to be charged one ducat from every (Muslim) household and two from any Christian family while altogether exempting them from paying the *harac*, *ispençe* and any *avarız* taxes.

Transcription

- (1) *Nefs-i Travnik (sic) hāşşa-i mīrlivā bundan evvel hāzret-i hilāfet-penāh pādīşāhımız haledet hilāfetühü*
- (2) *hāzretleri Bosna'nıñ evvelki sancağibegi Ayās Beg mezbūr ḳal'e imāret itmesi olındıḳda hūkm-i hūmāyūn*
- (3) *mūcibiyle ılıcaḳ virilüb şart olunmuş ki her kim ki müsliḿāndan ve kefereden gelüb mezbūr*
- (4) *yirde mütemekkin idecek olurlar ise 'avārız-i dīvāniyeden mu'āf ve müselleḿ olub timār irene*
- (5) *'ādet üzre 'öşrin ve resḿin vireler diyü ammā mezkūr mevzi' bāğīye muttaşıl olmağın bir nice kere*
- (6) *urulub ba'zı kırılıb ve ba'zı esir olmuş ve ba'zınıñ mālleri telef olmuş ol sebebden*
- (7) *dağılub gitmelü olmuşlar ammā tefettüş olunub görilüb anlarıñ ol arada olnur mā[l]lerinden*
- (8) *nef'-i 'āmm ve dağılub gitmelerinden zarar-i tamām var ol cihetden bāḳī ḳalancalarına istimālet idüb*
- (9) *hāneden hāneye birer filūrī ve keferesinden hāneden hāneye ikişer filūrī vaż' olunub*

- (10) *ḥarāc ve ispençe ve sāyir ‘avārızātdan mu ‘āf ve müsellemler olub civārı sınırında eger kilārından*
- (11) *‘ādet üzre ‘öşrin vireler ve zıkr olan filūrī ḥarman vaqtinde vireler ve ol*
- (12) *yirleri geregi gibi ihtiyāt evin bekliyeler bu mücibince şart olunub deftere sebt olındı*
- (13) *şimdikihâlde dahı öyle kayd olındı*
- (1) *Hisse-i İstipan veled-i Brançovik [Stjepan Branković] nām kāfir ki voynuḳ evi pādişāhımız yolında zaferlık (sic)*
- (2) *idüb düşmāndan haber getürdügi sebebeden Ayās Beg voynuḳluḳdan çağırub*
- (3) *Travnik’in knezligin virüb merḥūm Murād Paşa dahı muḳarrer tutub eline mektüb*
- (4) *virmiş ve voynuḳluḳları üzere bundan soñra dahı tapuyla baştinalar zamm eylemiş*
- (5) *bunlardur kim zıkr olunur evvelden elinde olan Leşicaca’nuñ aş[ğ]ı ve yukarusı*
- (6) *ve Mabatik Sercune [?] nām çayır ve soñra zamm olan Travnik’da Radivoy veled-i*
- (7) *Privik [Radivoj Privić/Pribić ?] ve qarındaşı Vuḳ baştinalarıyla Radovac Doglovik [Radovac Doglavić ?] evi havlısı ve bostānlığı*
- (8) *yirler virilmiş taşarruf ider şimdikihâlde sultānu’l-islām ve’l-müslimīn pādişāhımız ‘ezze maḳarrühü*
- (9) *ḥazretlerine dahı ‘arz olunub ḥükm-i hümāyūn şadaḳa olunmuş şimdikihâlde dahı ki ve emr-i ‘ālem-*
- (10) *muṭā ‘ üzere ber-ḳarār-ı sābıḳ zıkr olan yirler taht-ı taşarrufında olub idegeldügi*
- (11) *ḥidmeti edā eyliye diyü deftere sebt olındı*

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 نمده کهنه و حق ابله فیه اولنه ک

عصا شیمان و لور ابقو نکر نام کافر که دینون اولی بکوشامر لوبور. طوقی
 لوب دستانه ن خبر کتور حویا سببه ن ایاس بکر دینو قلو قدن حوزوب
 ترا و نیق کز لکسر. و یرو ب عروم بر لوب با شاه فی معوز طونون انه ملکون
 و برش و دینوقان لری ازر. بوندن صکر. و حق طا پوبم بشته لوصم المیش
 بوندر که ذکر اولنوز اولدن العذ. اولان لشجه نکر اشاسی و یوفاروسی
 و ما با تیکر رجونه نام چایر و صکر. هم اولان تر او نیقده. دل و ده و له

Continuation:

پر یو بیکر و قوند لاش و قی پشته لور مار له ولیع و علو و کیرادی حویلی و بوستانلری
پر لور و لیش بقرق لور شمه کمالی سلطان الاسلام و المسلمین. این عا سمو زو: بقرق
صفر تری نه و فی و فی اولون حکم سما یون نا صدقه اولمشن شمه کجیح و فی کور و اوعالم
مطای از رر. بر قرار سابق ذکر اولان بر لر یمن بقرقنه. اولوب له. کله و کما
صدیق له ابله هو و قمر. شمه اولمشک