

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

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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.

The entry in BOA TD 24 refers to Ayas Beğ (Paşa), 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 Paşa 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 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.

Keywords: *derkenar*, 15th century, Travnik, *kale*, *istimale*

Transcription

- (1) *Nefs-i Travnik (sic) hāşşa-i mīrlivā bundan evvel hazret-i hilāfet-penāh pādişāhımız haledet hilāfetühü*
- (2) *hazretleri Bosna'nıñ evvelki sancağibegi Ayās Beg mezbūr kal'e imāret itmesi olındıķda hük-m-i hümāyūn*
- (3) *mūcibiyle ılıcaķ virilüb şart olunmış ki her kim ki müs-limāndan ve kefereden gelüb mezbūr*

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

- (4) *yirde mütemekkin idecek olurlar ise 'avārız-i dīvānīyeden mu 'āf ve müsellemler olub timār irene*
- (5) *'ādet üzre 'öşrin ve resmin vireler diyü ammā mezkūr mevzi' bāğīye muttaşıl olmağın bir nice kere*
- (6) *urulub ba 'zı kırılıb ve ba 'zı esir olmış ve ba 'zınıñ mälleri telef olmış ol sebebden*
- (7) *dağılub gitmelü olmuşlar ammā tefettüş olunub görilüb anlarıñ ol arada olunur mā[l]lerinden*
- (8) *nef'-i 'āmm ve dağılub gitmelerinden zarar-i tamām var ol cihetden bāķī kılancalarına istimālet idüb*
- (9) *hāneden hāneye birer filūrī ve keferesinden hāneden hāneye ikişer filūrī vaz ' olunub*
- (10) *harāc ve ispençe ve sāyir 'avārızātdan mu 'āf ve müsellemler olub civārı sınırında eger kilārından*
- (11) *'ādet üzre 'öşrin vireler ve zıkr olan filūrī harman vaqtinde vireler ve ol*
- (12) *yirleri gereği gibi ihtiyāt evin beklıyeler bu mücibince şart olunub deftere sebt olındı*
- (13) *şimdikihālde dağı öyle kayd olındı*
- (1) *Hisse-i İstıpan veled-i Branķovik [Stjepan Branković] nām kāfir ki voynuķ evi pādışāhımız yolında zaferlık (sic)*
- (2) *idüb düşmāndan haber getürdüğü sebebden Ayās Beg voynuķluķdan çağırub*
- (3) *Travnik'in knezligin virüb merhūm Murād Paşa dağı muķarrer tutub eline mektüb*
- (4) *virmiş ve voynuķlukları üzere bundan soñra dağı tapuyla baştinalar zamm eylemiş*
- (5) *bunlardur kim zıkr olunur evvelden elinde olan Leşicaca'nun aşagı[sı] ve yukarusı*
- (6) *ve Mabatik Sercune [?] nām çayır ve soñra zamm olan Travnik'da Radivoy veled-i*
- (7) *Privik [Radivoj Privić/Pribić ?] ve karındaşı Vuķ baştinalarıyla Radovac Doglovik [Radovac Doglavić ?] evi havlısı ve bostānlığı*
- (8) *yirler virilmiş taşarruf ider şimdikihālde sultānu'l-islām ve'l-müslimīn pādışāhımız 'ezze maķarrühü*

- (9) *hâzretlerine daħı 'arz olunub hŭkm-i hŭmāyŭn ŧadaķa olunmıř ŧimdikihâlde daħı ki ve emr-i 'âlem-*
- (10) *muṭā ' üzere ber-karār-ı sâbıķ zıķr olan yirler taħt-ı tařarrufında olub idegeldüķi*
- (11) *hıdmeti edā eyliye diyü deftere sebt olındı*

Facsimile

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معتردين حاله مير لور نونه لرادل هرن جلاق ناه. بار شامر خدن خلافتس
 هر عری نوسنه نگر اولکل بجا عن نهن ایا س بگر لور قلعو عارن انا اولنه فده. علمه سهاون
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 اور ولوب بعضی قز لوب و بعضی ایدر اولمش و بعضی مالکری تلف اولمش اول سببه
 طاعلوب کتملو اولمش اما تقش اولغوز کور لوب آنار که اوله آراد. اولور مال لرنه ن
 نفع عام و طاعلوب کتا لوندن صزر نام وار اول جهندن یا تا قلا ک لونه استمال لوب
 خانه ن خانه بر فلوری و کفنا سنه ن خانه ن خانه اکثر فلوری وضع اولغوز
 خولج و اسپه و سایر عوارضان معاف مسلم اولوب صواری سنورنق الکل لرنه
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 بر لور کما کبی احتیاط اولن بکلیا لور بموجب شرط اولغوز و قدر نهن اولغوز
 نهنه کهنه و حق ابله قده اولغوز

معتردين و لور ابقونیکر نام کافرک و بنوق اولی بار شامر لور نونه طوقی
 لوب دشمنه ن خبر کتور حویا سببه ن ایا س بگر و بنوق لوقده ن حوزوب
 ترا و نیکر کز لکسر. و یروپ حوزوم بر لوب با شاه فی معوز طوقوب انه ملکون
 و برش و و بنوقان لری ازر. بوندن صکر. و حق طابویم باشته لور صم المیش
 بوندور کما ذکر اولغوز اولدن العذ. اولان لشجه نکر اشاس و یو فاروسی
 و ما با نیکر رجونه نام چایر و صکر. صم اولان ترا و نیکر. دلوه و ولد

Continuation:

پر یو بیکر و قوند لاش و قی بختتمه لوبار له ولیع و علو و بیکرادی حویسی و بوستانین
پر لور و لیش بقرق لور شمه کماله سلطان الاسلام و المسلمین. بزغایموز و بقرق
صفر نرینه و قی و قی ادا لوبون حکم سها لوبون صدفه اولمشن شمه کجیح و قی کوا و عالم
مطای از ره بر و زار سابق ذکر اولان بر لریخته بقرقده. ادا لوبون له. کله و بیکر
خدمتی له ایلله صبر و قهر. شمه اولمشن

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