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*Isuf Ahmeti*

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# *The Administrative System of Cities in Kosovo during the XVI-XVIII centuries*

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## **Abstract**

The period from the 16th to the early 18th century marks a new stage with new historical conditions and circumstances for the Albanians. The Albanian society had lost a significant part of the human vital forces and had been stripped to some extent by the craftsmen, traders, and cultural ones. On the other hand, the new economic and political phenomena that originated and acted after the Ottoman conquest, such as the generalization of the timar regime as units with separate natural economies, the ongoing wars and military expeditions to strengthen Ottoman power, the putting into service of the enemy and the Albanian feudal lords, the great political-administrative fragmentation, etc., became the main causes that slowed the pace of the country's economic, social and cultural development, which influenced the slowdown in the dynamics of different aspects of life.

Archival research on writing this study also focuses on funds of Oriental, Cyrillic and Latin manuscripts stored in the libraries of Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia etc. The study analysis is also based on archival research of oriental funds in Pristina, Sarajevo, and Skopje. However, first-hand sources for drafting this paper remain the ones that have been researched in Turkey's archives, especially in Istanbul and Ankara. In the context of this scientific research, a special interest is also the confrontation of the historical theses of Albanian historiography with Serbian historiography.

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\* Prof. Ass. Dr. Isuf Ahmeti, AAB College, Faculty of Law. Email: [isuf.ahmeti@universitetiaab.com](mailto:isuf.ahmeti@universitetiaab.com)

The work of this research suggests that it offers rich source material. It deals with a chronology and approach to the use of contemporary scientific-methodological techniques.

**Keywords:** *Vilayet of Kosovo, Sandzak, Administration, Territory, Prizren.*

During the XVI-XVIII centuries, Kosovo's cities had inherited features of autochthonous life, but at the time these features, though with difficulty, were intertwined with oriental elements from Ottoman invaders. So, the cities of Kosovo of this time, as is known, were developed under the influence of two great oxidistic Christian and Oriental-Islamic civilizations, of which not only took but also contributed to the development of them. Given that Kosovo's cities at that time received new features and that they were not sufficiently dedicated to these aspects, the topic in question will shed light on the dark component of this controversy, and that the issue remains too much to be treated.

### ***Administrative System of Kosovo cities during Ottoman Empire***

The administrative system of the Ottoman Empire was created under the influence of the administrative regulation of the Byzantine Empire. Before becoming an emperor, the Ottoman state had a simple administration. For a whole century, it has been an in-principality. As such, there could be no eyaltes as an administrative unit but split into a territorial political unit - in the Sandzakj. With the invasion of Bursa, the Ottoman state created an eyalet-Anatolian eyalet, with the Beylabean in charge. The first beylerbeys of that eyalet were the sons of Ottoman ruler Orhan Gazi, before Sylejman Pasha and then Murat Bey (Murati I). After the invasion of Eden (1363),

the Ottoman state became the emperor and the Ottoman Empire was divided into two eyalets - the Rumelian eyalet (Rum - or the Romans' land, so the Turks called the Balkans) and the Anatolian Empire small). The center of Rumelia's Eyalism was once the Eden (1362 or 1371) and then Galipoli and Plovdiv; from the century. From XV century the center had moved to Sofia to finally it's center to become Monastery. The eyalets were later called vilayets, while bejlerbeu was called vali.

The expansion of the Ottoman Empire, after the invasions of the Ottoman Empire, XV, made it necessary to change its state organization. To put it on a more stable administrative and legal basis, during the reign of Sultan Suleyman II Lawmaker (1520-1566), a new organization of the state was carried out and the existing laws were revised and supplemented by other ordinances in accordance with the new conditions, with the aim of achieving the centralization of power in the hands of the sultan.

In the sixteenth century, after its conquest in the European part, it had established four vilayets: Rumelia, Timisoara, Buda, and Bosnia. Rushiti (2004, p. 13) states that "this divide with unchanged changes remained in force until 1839, the year of the proclamation of the Tanzimat Reforms". Therefore, the Balkan Peninsula provinces were included in three eyalets: Bosnia's eyalet on the north of the peninsula, Rumelia's eyaltet in the center and Sea eyalet on the Aegean Sea islands and on a part of the southern coast. So, the organization of the Empire from the top and bottom of the political-administrative point of view has been divided into eyalets or bejlerbejllëqe, bejlerbejllëqet into sandzaks, sandzaks into kadiluks or kaza, kazas in nahije and nahije in the villages.

We have noticed that during the Ottoman conquest period, the establishment of Ottoman administration in European

regions was a gradual process. Between the region organized as a sandzaak under the direct Ottoman rule and the open area for holy war, it was an amortization area, whether a border region or a vassal state. The beylers at the border were more independent of the central government than those who were closer to the capital and came from families like Evranuz Ogulari or Mihal Ogulari, who led the government on the basis of inheritance. The position of these beylers in the Ottoman Empire was similar to the position of Osman Gaz under Seldzuks. The Spahines in their regions were usually slaves or their servants. Inalxik (2010, pp. 200-201) states that "In Ottoman states, the Ottomans sometimes gave dynasties autonomy in domestic affairs, but forced them to pay annual taxes and provide additional forces for war campaigns. They preferred some regions to remain as a border or vassal principality."

### *Vuciterrna and Mitrovica during Ottoman Administration*

From the Brankovic province, which the Turks finally conquered in 1455, a sandzak was first established, named Vëllk vijalet , and later the Sandzak of Vuçiternë or Prishtina. By the end of the century. XVI, the seat of this sandzak was in Vucitern. Whereas, in the European part of the Ottoman Empire there were only three Sandzaks. "In 1526-1528, according to the Turkish defters, there were 31 sandzaks. In the year 1540, there were 40 sandzaks in Rumelia's environs. Later, their number again decreases because new features are formed. According to Ali Çausi (1653), Rumelia's Eyalet had 24 sandzaks, while in the time of Abdul Qadir, kazasker of Rumelia (1667), there were 22 sandzaks. (Rizaj 1969, pp. 709-710)

Mitrovica until the XVI century has been in the district of Zvečan's nahije. Since the middle of the XVI century begins the history of Mitrovica, as a special nahije of the first decades of the seventeenth century it turns into a special cadillac. Not only the travelers of the century. XVII and XVIII, but also Haxhi Kallfa, believes that Mitrovica is the border of Bosnia and beyond Rumelia. This is also evidenced by Çelebi (1967, pp. 266-268). He says that "Mitrovica is the border between the Bosnian and Rumelian Empires, respectively Zvečan is the place where Bosnia's Elaimi ends."

Rizaj (1969, p. 710) states that "According to the testimonies of travelers from the XVI and XVII centuries and Turkish geographer Hadzi Kallfa, Mitrovica was on the border between Bosnia and Rumelia. This means that part of its wider space was incorporated into the Sandzak of Vuçitërna, which suffered numerous changes; there were some names and it was in the composition of all the neighboring pashalas to finally reunite with that of Rumelia. Beside Vuçitërna, this important urban settlement in Kosovo, this sandzak, has also met the well-known mines Novobërdë and Trepça. Judged according to a farm man of Mehmed II of 1479, Trepça should have stayed evenkadiu ".

So, given the resources known to us, we conclude that today's territory of Kosovo during the XV, XVI, and XVII centuries was in the range of three andzaks: Vuçitrna, Prizren and Dukagjini, excluding the part of Mitrovica and Zvečan, which belonged to the Bosniak pashallik(eyalet) and the part of Kaçanik which belonged to Vilajet, respectively Sandzak of Skopje (from the middle of the 16th century).

On the other hand, Sandzak of Prizren and Dukagjini have included territories that are now outside the framework of today's Kosovo. The mentioned sandzaks were bordered with the Sandzak of Skopje, Qystendil, Sofia, Krusevac, Bosnia and

Ohrid. According to a short debut from the time of "Mehmet II the Conqueror, which gives the condition of timars in the subashllëqe of Vuçitërna, Llapi, Upper Obrovac, Prishtina, Morava and Topolnica, we can conclude that the Vuçitërna Sandzak is formed at the time of Mehmet II's rule, because the mentioned subashllëqe are in the Sandzak of Vuçitërna (Rizaj, 1969).

At the beginning of the 16th century, Vuçitërna, Pristina and Novo Brdo were under the Sandzak of Shkodra, but in the first decades of the 16th century (1520-1530), Vucitrna again appears as a special sandzak, stretching from the banks of the Sitnica and Nerodime rivers to the mountains of Kopaonik and Gollaku (east of Podujevo), and south to Karadak of Skopje, including the main centers: Pristina, Vuçitërna, Trepça and Novobërdë. Vucitrna itself in 1527/28 has been a sanxhakbeut and had five Christian neighborhoods.

In the administrative-military aspect, the Sandzak of Vucitrna was divided into nahije which featured the smaller regular administrative-territorial units and military units of the Ottoman Empire. The number of nahije of Sandzak of Vucitrna was never the same. By the end of the XVI century in this sanxhak were marked over 30 nahije of different sizes, from 1-2 villages to those with over 300 villages. In the administrative-judicial aspect, Sandzak of Vucitrna was divided into cadillaias or kaza. Based on the Ottoman sources known to date, we see that the disadvantages in this sandzak were introduced from the first half of the XVI century. (Rizaj, 1988, p. 67).

After 1540, the Vuçitern Sandzak joined the Budim's eyalet, but in the mid of 16th century, according to Venetian sources, is again mentioned under the administration of Sofia-based Rumelia Bejlerbeut. In 1544 the nahija of Llap (Mehmed Pasha's has), that of Morava, Toplica and Belasica still remained in the

domain of the Sandzak of Vuçitërna. Vuciternia's revenue captured 20,132 acres. In Vuçitërna's life there have been hasets of Rumelia's Beylerbey, Kara Mehmed Pasha. On the contrary, in 1554, the Fermanians testify that the Vuçitërna Sandzak is still in the domain of Bejlerbeu of Buda, whereas in 1560 nahija Obiliq is in the direction of Sandzak of Vuçitërna. Even financial laws from Sultan Selim II occupy the Sandzak of Vucitrn. (Rizaj, 1988).

Thus, "Vuciternas sandzak administratively belonged to the Rumelia's Empire by 1541, when it was associated with the newly formed Budim's eyalet. Within this era remains something before 1565 since we do not find it in a census of the Budim's Sandzak from that year. Of course, then this sandzak had returned again within the Rumelian eyalet. For a period of time this sandzak belonged to Timishoara's eyalet, then very briefly to Buddhist, until in 1582 it was again returned to the Rumelian eyalet, within which remains until the end of its existence as a special sandzak, by the end of the XVII century" (Zirojević, 1974, pp. 93-94).

From the aspect of territorial expansion, Sandzak of Vucitrna is accounted for as a relatively large, rich and extremely important geographic sanatorium, both strategic-military and commercial. By abstracting some small territorial changes, it is estimated that this sandzak throughout its existence in the northeast was bordered by the Sandžak of Krusevac, south-east with that of Qystendil, in the southern part with the Pasha-sandzak and the Sandzak of Prizren, in the west with Sandzak of Dukagjini and that of Shkodra. According to a note by N. Todorov (1960, pp. 211-212) it is assumed that "the Vuçitërna Sandzak from the late XV century had a surface area of 5670 sq. Km. "" The administrative center of the Sandzak of Vucitërn was Vucitrna, while in a small number of Ottoman defenses as the center of this sandzak



besides Vucitërn is mentioned Prishtina. For this reason, this sandzak during its existence was sometimes also called the Sandzak of Pristina, because the seat of some Sandzakbayers was also in Pristina (in addition to Vucitërnës) "(Rizaj, 1988, p. 67).

Starting from the cadastral defters of the 15th and 16th centuries, it is evident that nahija, in addition to its military-administrative character, embodies the economic character as well. The largest number of properties within the nahije of Vuçitërna Sandžak were the timeshare of the spaniards, but there were not few in number the zeametet of senior officials and the sultan's and viziere's hase.

"The number of nahije of Sandzak of Vucitrn was never the same. At first this sanxhak had only 8 nahije, whereas in the second half of the 17th century the number of them was increased to 30. The increase in the number of nahije was the result, in most cases, of the breaking of those nahije that were counted as large, in order to ease their administration especially at the time the timbre system began to experience its first crises. The fundamental characteristic of the new nahije, that is to say, of those who came up in the 16th century, was that those nahije compared to the nahije of the fifteenth century were much smaller." (Rizaj, 1988, p. 74).

Thus, During the 15th and 16th centuries in the framework of the Sandzak of Vuçitërna are mentioned these nahije: Tërgovishta, Kllopotniku, Dollci, Morava, Vuçitërna, Topollnica, Prishtina, Llapi, Novobërda, Ubiç, Karatonllu, Zagorja, Bërkovishta, Prizren (Perzerin) , Sitnica, Dobriçani, Zvecan, Bellasica, Gllama, Jasenovic, Muçibaba, Banja, Leskovac, Ostrovica, Trebushnica, Bugarska, Kezmina, Stara Dosla, Sreska, Trepca and Gollaku.

During the XVI and XVII centuries in the frame of the Sandzak of Vuçitërn, these cadres (kaza) emerged: Novobërdë,

Prishtina, Belasica (Kosovo), Vuçitërna, Prokupla, Janjeva, Morava, Karatonllu and Trepça. Certain determination of the territorial extent of each nahije and kaza of Vuciterna Sandzakcan only be done when all kinds of defters are detected and interpreted, especially those of the XVI and XVII centuries. The Spahines, zaimet, and other functionaries of the Sandzak of Vuçitërna mostly come from the local population. Ottoman sources indicate that this sandzak was inhabited by diverse populations (Albanians, Slavs, Vlachs, Turks, Gypsies, etc.) of Muslim, Orthodox, and Catholic confessions.

After the formation of the Bosnian bejlerbejllëk in 1580, Vuciterna's Sandzak joined it and remained in its frame of residence until 1607, when again it was returned to the Rumelia bejlerbejllëk. "Relying on two fermans, from 1581 and 1583, we see that the Sandzakbey of Vucitrn was Mustafa Beu, who was also the Akinxhi Beg".

Ajni Ali (1610), then Haxhi Kallfa (from the middle of the XVII century), Sandzak of Vushtrri together with Pristina present them in the domain of the Rumelia eyalet. In other words, according to Haxhi Kallfë, the Vuçitërna Sandzak had six cadillac: Vuçitërna, Pristina, Kosovo, Janjeva, Morava and Novobërdë. Evlia Çelebi, who visits Kosovo in 1661, mentions Vuçitërna as the headquarters of the sandzakbeu and underlines that with her own cadres (Prishtina and Novobërdë) is located in the Rumelia eyalet. According to the "Rumble Cadastre Recording (1667) within the Sandzak of Vucitrn there are counted the following cadastres: Pristina, Prokuplje, Novobërda, Morava, Janjeva and Koriça.

A Turkish source, by the end of the XVII century, (1699), in the Sandzak of Vuçitrna marks the following cadastres: Pristina, Morava, Novobërdë, Janjevë and Trepça. It is not yet established when Vuçitërna's Sandzak was extinguished and its headquarters went to Pristina. This sandzak, in the XVII

century, is also called Sandzak of Pristina, perhaps because of the reason that sometimes in Pristina was the seat of the Sandzak of Vuçitërna.

Some data from the middle of the XVII century for Mitrovica speak of a border country of the Bosnian eyalet versus the Rumelia eyalet. The Bosnian emancipation also belonged to the Brvenica cadaster on Ibër. "This cadil is mentioned in the recordings of 1667 and 1745, in which an older state is reflected. In its composition, the city of Zvečan also entered. Officially, this was called Mitroviçaxhik (Little Mitrovica), just like Mitrovica itself (Rizaj, 1988).

Even in the 18th century, "Kadilje of Mitrovica entered the composition of the Bosnian eyalet and consisted of the nahije of Mitrovica and Zvečan. By the end of the XVII century, the Sandzak of Vucitrna was suppressed and its territory joined the Sandzak of Skopje. Trepça also met this sandzak, which included Pristina, Old Banja, Novi Pazar, Hisar, Llap, Morava, Vuçitërna, Bellasica, and Janjeva. Later the Vuçitërna Sandzak is again mentioned as an independent administrative unit "(Šabanović, 1943, pp. 340, 354-355, 365).

### ***Prizren, Peja, and Gjakova during Ottoman Administration***

According to some data from Turkish researchers Gökbilgin (p.10) which states that "Prizren at the beginning of the XVI century was temporarily the sandzak of Shkodra, but in a demographic deaf of 1520-1535, Prizren appears as an independent sandzak. It means in the first decades of the XVI century borders of this sandzak looked like this: the White Drin Valley, the upper valley of the Iber River and Lim and Novi Pazar. Whereas according to the 1530 deportees of the administrative division of the Rumelia Eyalet, the Sandzak of

Prizren together with the Albanian Hasin, located in the vicinity, is divided into four quarters. "Meanwhile, according to the Registration of 1528, the Sandzak of Prizren had three kaza: Prizren, Tërgovishten (Rozhaja) and Foca (Rizaj S, 1984, p. 714). Whereas, "Representatives of Venice in the mid-XVI century Prizren is referred to as the Sandzak of Rumelia. The Sandzak of Prizren, as seen by the important defters (muhim), also in the years 1554-1571 is found in the composition of the Rumelian Eyalet, under which were these nahije: Tegovishta and Bihor" (Rizaj, S. 1984).

In conclusion, we have no accurate data as to when the Sandzak of Prizren was formed, but it should be assumed that this has happened not far from the conquest since Dukagjini Sandzak was formed later. It seems that with the invasion of the southern parts of the Serbian Despot, the Turks formed three snakes: Vucitërna, Prizren and Alaxha Hisarin (Krushevcin), which belonged to the Sofia-based Rumelian eyalet. However, it is now difficult to say which nahije have entered, on the occasion of formation, in the Sandzak of Prizren, since frequent administrative changes have taken place. Of the sources found so far, some reliable information is provided by "Prizren Kanunname of 1570. It is mentioned these nahije: Prizren, Hoça (Hoça naysi), Thergovisht, Therthernes and Bihor" (Kaleshi, 1957). According to Novakovic (1892, 56-58) "Sandzak of Prizren included in the seventeenth century these cadres: Prizren, Suharekë, Havas Prizren, Firjova (Firçova), Bihor and Targovishte".

Thus, "The boundary between the Sandzak of Prizren and Dukagjini was the western boundary of the River Bridge at Vezir Bridge, so Bruti, where they meet White and black Drin have met Luma, therefore the Sandzak of Prizren. It should be added that Luma, though it belonged to Prizren, was not a cadillai or nahije in this period." (Kaleshi, 1961, p. 502). For the

Cadillac Havas Prizren, Haxhi Kallfa says it is a special cadillac belonging to this sandzak.

From the Istanbul State Archives documents Mühimme Defterleri (BBA, No. 8, 266) it is seen, on the other hand, that "This cadillac is also called Havass-humayun (royal honeysuckle) and Gora-Havas-Prizren (Gora and Haset of Prizren), or only Haslar (Haset). Thus, from a document of 1576, to the beavers of some of the Rumelia sandzaks, it is required to depart with armies against the insurgents in the villages of Hasi in the Kremlin of Prizren, who had revolted and looted the animals of the population "In one" of 1585, orders are given to the cadres of Ohrid, Tetovo and Dibra to capture the rebels who had plundered the vizier of Koxha Sinan Pasha in the abyss of Prizren and had taken horses, sheep and goats (BBA, No. 8, p. 60). Surely, this cadillac, which included Oboria and Gora, has been named haslar since it was the royal estate and the great vizier. In a document (BBA, No. 8 for the year 1540-1570) is mentioned "Nahija Foça in Sandzak of Prizren", while in the canyon of Prizren is mentioned Hoça. This nahije included places in the north of Prizren, on the right side of the Drin. Among the other villages, this nahije included the villages of Rahovec, Velika Hoça, Hoça e Vogël and Brestovc. Thertherne is mentioned in each nahije or cadillac, as is mentioned in Prizren's Kanunnam, but we could not find anything, as the Kaleshi study claims. Meanwhile, Kadilje Bihor belonged to the Sandzak of Prizren.

In 1560 it was mentioned "Nahija Bihor and dizdara (commander of the fortress), Murati. In 1570 this nahije was also mentioned, the ceribasha of which had a timar (property, feud) whose income was 7,500 acres. "(BBA, No. 8, 920). Whereas, in 1582, Sandzak of Prizren had three kaza: Prizren, Tërgovisht, and Hoçë e Vogël. Nahija of Hoça e Vogel included most of the settlements of today's Rahovec municipality.

The researcher Osmani (2003, 37) states that according to the "Detailed Defterit of 1590/91, the Sandzak of Prizren had 5 nahije: Prizren, Suhareka, Hasi, Hoça, Bihor and Thergovishta, but later also Nahija of Opoja." During the year 1591, "All Anadrian settlements were under the administrative rule of Nahijeh of Little Hoça, where 96 villages existed. The Tržgovishte fortress also belonged to the Sandzak of Prizren. This cadillac was a certain border area between the Sandzak of Prizren and the Bosniak pasha. From a warrant to the Senjakbir of Prizren in 1576, many rebels from Kuwait and Bosnia came to the shelter of Thergovisht and found refuge there. Therefore, it was required to forbid any entry into this villain." (BBA, No. 29, 167).

Researcher Jastrebov (1876, p. 7) says that from the end of the XVI century and the beginning of the XVII century, the Sandzak of Prizren was on the verge of the Buddha Pearls. However, it is all probable that Prizren will have been somewhat dependent on this military boom because Buddhist pashalata, because of his position, had priority over all other matters. Since the sandzakbeg of Prizren has really fought under Buda's law, we have a range of documents. Thus, in one of them, on July 28, 1626, it is said that the people of Estarhaz have killed several people of the sanxhakbegs of Prizren, who was then there to defend Budim "(Spaho, 1935, p. 70). Of course, "Sandzakbeg of Prizren with its army has participated in another great fighting. Thus, from October 1570 when the Turks again attacked Cyprus, which was in the hands of the Venetians, between the great army we also see that of the sanxhakbeg of Prizren. "(Elezovic, 1950, pp. 50-51). Prizren, apparently, in 1577 was in the domain of Bosnia's Sandzak. For the sake of this ascertainment, a member of Bosnia's Bosniak sender, with whom he is personally charged to look at the issue of the reigned mine near the Vastastini fort in Prizren. So, in

Prizren, in that year, if it had been a special sandzank, the ferman would have been sent to the sandzakbeg of Prizren, not Bosnia's sandzakbeg. In 1580 "Prizren is presented as a special sanjak, but within the framework of the Bosnian Empire, that is the epic that is formed that same year. Meanwhile, a Turkish source from 1607 shows that the Sandzak of Prizren is again located in the Rumelia eyalet" (Rizaj, 1969, p. 715). According to the Centenarian farms. XVI, handled by Skënder Rizaj, Prizren's sandzak were: Sulejman Beu (1554), Hizir Beu (1556), Mustafa Beu (1564), Mahmut Beu (1576) and Hazir Beu (1581).

At the beginning of the century, according to Ajni Ali's announcement, in the Sandzak of Prizren were: 1 haw that provided an annual income of 281,646 akce, 17 zeamete (zeamet - property that yielded an annual income 20,000 - 100,000 akce) and 225 timar (timar - property that yielded an annual income of up to 2000 acres).

Meanwhile, Osmani (2003, 33) gives us some information that in "Half of the XVII Century, according to Haxhi Kallfës, Sanxhaku of Prizren there were these cadres: Prizren, Suharekë, Hasin of Prizren, Kicevo, Bihor, and Tërgovisht. According to a Turkish source, from 1667, in the context of Sandzak of Prizren, these cadavers were included: Kicevo, Bihor, Targovishte, Suhareka, Rahovec, and Hasi of Prizren. Whereas, according to the dexter of jizja for the year 1689, the Sanxhaku of Prizren included these cadres: Prizren, Suharekë, Bihor, and Tërgovishtën. "Whereas," In 1669, in Prizren, Bihor, Suhareka, and Trggovishta this time is referred to as the janitor of Yeni Bazaar" (Rizaj, 1969, p. 715).

With the invasion of today's territory of Kosovo by the Ottomans (1455) and with the establishment of the Ottoman administration in this area, the territories of Peja and Gjakova were called Dukagjin, respectively entered into the framework of the Sandzak of Dukagjini, which stretched between the

Adriatic and Sandzak of Herzegovina, Vučitrna, Prizren and later Shkodra.

While "Pejë/Peć and Gjakova territories were part of this Ottoman administrative unit until 1783 when Dukagjini Sandzak ceased to exist. Then the geographic meaning was narrowed only to Peja's coalition, which came under the Sandzak of Shkodra. With the inclusion of the new Ottoman administrative units, respectively the vilayet, Peja as the center of the Ottoman Kadya entered the framework of the Sandzak of Prizren. In 1874 the town entered into the framework of the Vilayet of Kosova (Rizaj, 1969).

After the invasion of Shkodra (1479), the sandzak is formed immediately, by that name. The newly created Sandzak of Shkodra joins some of the areas of the Sandzak of Dukagjini. Thus, in 1490/91, the Sandžak of Dukagjini territorial was very limited, within that sandzak there is no vilayet, while in the frame of Shkodra are these vilayets: Shkodra, Plava, Peja, Altun Ili, Deçani, Peja Vlachs. Whereas, at the beginning of the century. The XVI Sandzak of Shkodra is broadly expanded, so in its framework were Shkodra, Podgorica, Bihor, Peja, Vuçitërna, Prizren, Prishtina, Novobërda and Montenegro (Rizaj, 1969, p. 715).

The oldest record of Gjakova, as it is known, dates back to 1348." (Jirecek, 1959, 280). According to the "Deck of Sandzak of Shkodra" (1485), Gjakova was located in the framework of the Peja district boiler, which was divided into nahije of Peja and Altun-Ilia, centered in Junik. At that time, Gjakova entered the Hasan beyat zeamet. Whereas, in 1571 Gjakova was a village with 63 houses, in the framework of the Rudina, Sandzak of Dukagjini. Thus, Gjakova was then a sultan's slayer with an annual income of 8,000 acres. According to the ferman of 1583, Gjakova was a village in the framework of the cadastre of



Altun-Ilia, of Sandzak of Dukagjini "(Pulaha, 1972, pp. 186-187, 208-2012).

"Gjakova up to the half of the XVII century on an administrative basis depended on the Altun-Ilia Kenyan, based in Junik. Whereas, from the middle of the XVII century the cadastral site gradually began to cross from Junik to Gjakova. So, Gjakova in 1667 was already a special cadastre and by the amount of income belonged to Grade VIII, with a monthly income of 4000 acres, and Gjakova's cadil was an integral part of the Sandzak of Dukagjini" (Pulaha, 1972).

Also, it can be said that during their conquests, the Ottomans largely fragmented the Albanian lands, giving Albanian military and administrative units a smaller territorial extent compared to the other Senjans of Rumelia. Some of them, apart from the predominantly Albanian population, included Montenegrin, Serbian and Macedonian minorities.

## *Conclusion*

With the invasion of today's territory of Kosovo by the Ottomans (1455) and with the establishment of the Ottoman administration in this area, the territories of Peja and Gjakova were called Dukagjin, respectively entered into the framework of the Sandzak of Dukagjin, which stretched between the Adriatic and Sandzak of Herzegovina, Vučitrna, Prizren and later Shkodra. Peja and Gjakova territories were part of this Ottoman administrative unit until 1783 when Dukagjini Sandzak ceased to exist. Then the geographic meaning was narrowed only to Peja's coalition, which came under the Sandzak of Shkodra. With the inclusion of the new Ottoman administrative units, respectively the vilayet, Peja as the center of the Ottoman Kadya entered the framework of the Sandzak of

Prizren. In 1874 the town entered into the framework of the Vilayet of Kosovo.

The ruler of this area, the Ottoman Empire, long abandoned in a deep social-economic crisis and militarily possible by opposing powers, was forced to open its gates to the economic pressure of Western capitalism. So, Southeast Europe, especially Rumelia, where Kosovo was part, for the first time in the history of the Ottoman conquest gained a socially important economic and political importance. Meanwhile, during the eighteenth century, there are further signs of the weakening of the Ottoman Empire in military-economic and political terms.

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