

TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT OF POLJICA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH SPLIT

Summary

Poljica, an autonomous peasant republic in Middle Dalmatia, spanned from Žrnovnica River in the west to Cetina River in the northeast, along the Adriatic Sea in the south. Illyrian cattle herders settled in the Mosor mountain area for winter grazing, giving rise to Poljica. Its division into Upper, Lower, and Middle Poljica enabled year-round habitation, shaping livestock farming as the primary activity. After the Avar-Slavic invasion, Salona's destruction led to tribal communities in Poljica. With Croatia-Hungary union, it became an autonomous republic, keeping Glagolitic church literacy and Slavic laws, codified in the Poljica Statute. Conflict arose as Split was founded, leading to disputes over inheritance and border development. Poljica supported local Croatian dynasties, often clashing with Dalmatian cities, driven by economic needs.

Keywords: Poglizza, Poglizza Republic, Split, Omiš, Dalmatia, Middle Ages, free peasants, Rajnerije