

FROM DISAPPEARANCE TO REBIRTH: THE SABORSKO REGION IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

This paper analyzes the transformation of the spatial structures of the Saborsko region in Potkapelje (today the Municipality of Saborsko in Karlovac County) over a long historical time, from the late Middle Ages (The Modruš Urbar of 1486) to 1819 and the establishment of the Drežnik Company within the Ogulin Regiment. Based on published and unpublished historical sources, the study examines ethno-demographic and socioeconomic structures that developed under the specific conflict conditions of the Habsburg-Ottoman imperial borderland.

Using the example of the Jesenice fortress, the paper discusses the phenomena of early Military Frontier society in the 16th century, while the examples of Vlach colonization in the 17th century illustrate the beginnings of demographic renewal in this area. The Saborsko region represents, on a small scale, the major migration currents that met within the Karlovac Generalate during the Early Modern period: the southeastern current (pastoral, Vlach-Uskok-Bunjevac) and the northwestern current (predominantly agricultural, Croatian natives and settlers/returnees from Carniola).

The author argues that the imperial border and the related phenomena of periphery, contact zones, and liminality are crucial for understanding the 'rebirth' of Saborsko in the 18th century. Using the Josephinian cadastral survey of 1775–1776, the paper analyzes the influence of the Military Frontier on the shaping of rural landscapes in the 18th century. Through historical anthroponymy, it provides insight into ethnocultural structures and the diverse traditional heritage left behind by the turbulent historical events of the Early Modern era.

Keywords: Saborsko, Lička Jesenica, Potkapelje, Lika, Military Frontier, Karlovac Generalate, Ogulin Regiment, Early Modern Period, Vlachs, Carniolans, Bunjevci, ethnocultural identities, migration history, historical anthroponymy