

Islamic Legacy:

Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750).

A Thesaurus under Discussion.

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Border Relations of the Ottomans with the Habsburg Monarchy from 1520 to 1750 (through the example of the Dukedom of Tešanj)

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Throughout the history, the encounter of cultures and civilizations has occurred in different ways. Some of these encounters have taken place at the so-called micro level, i.e. at the borders or the peripheral areas of the empires. The encounter between civilizations and cultures can be dialogical but also polemical. In this paper we reflect on both the dialogical and polemical encounters on the border between the Christians from the Habsburg Monarchy and Muslims from the Ottoman Empire. We present several events from the Dukedom of Tešanj (Tešanjski kadiluk) from 1520 to 1750. During this time, political dialogue existed in this region, but also a dialogue of life through the exchange of various economic goods. However, polemical issues were also present such as armed conflicts with the outlaws. Namely, inter-religious groups of outlaws (hajduci) made up of Christians and Muslims would plunder both of these empires. In contrast to the outlaw groups, the Habsburg and Ottoman political and military structures each tried, in their own way, to cooperate with each other in order to preserve order and peace. For example, honoring the peace signed with the Austrians, on one occasion the Ottomans devastated and plundered the Venetian part of Carinthia, however leaving the Austrian part intact. In this paper, we wished to present what the border meant for the inhabitants of the border area i.e. the Dukedom of Tešanj. We interpret the mentioned events on the basis of the Muslim tradition on the one hand and the philosophy of history on the other.





