

THE CONQUEST OF BANAT BY TURKS AND ITS TRANSFORMATION IN TURKISH PROVINCE (1552)

(Abstract)

The work recalls the events which lead to the conquest of town Timișoara and the Banat by Turks 450 years ago, and the transformation of Banat in Turkish province (*vilaiet*) for more than 166 years.

The author starting to analyze the causes of this event from the crisis of the Hungarian Kingdom after Ludovic's the IInd defeat and death in the battle with the Turks in Móhacs (1526). The following stubborn dynastic fights grouped the political forces of the country around the two candidates to the Hungarian throne, Ferdinand of Austria and Ioan Zápolya, and made easy the share of the Turks. In 1541 the campaign of the Sultan Soliman succeeded to defeat the forces of Ferdinand and made the Central Hungary a Turkish province (*vilaiet*). The North – West of Hungary reminded under Habsburg rule and the emperors took the name of kings of Hungary. The zone of South of Tisa, means Transylvania, Banat and Partium, became a self – governing principality leading by Ioan Zápolya, vassal to the Sublime Porte.

Taking again the fights between Ferdinand and Zápolya, the temporary victory of Austrian troupes which occupied Transylvania by general Giovanni Castaldo in 1551, non – payment of the tribute to Turks, determined the Sublime Porte to begin a military campaign in 1551 and 1552. The Banat was conquered and became a Turkish province (*vilaiet*).

The South part of Banat, around Lugoș and Caransebeș fortresses, reminded under Transylvanian rule till 1658. These areas had a particular development till 1718 and were the scene of the fights between Turks and Christians.