

ENDANGERING POPULATION'S SECURITY AS THE MEANS OF THE REIGN OF TERROR – HISTORICAL ASPECTS –

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Abstract: In this paper, I will be discussing the basic characteristics of the system of endangering both personal and proprietary security of the population as the means of the Ottomans' reign of terror in the Balkans in the period from the mid 15th century to the beginning of the 20th century. The system of the Ottomans' reign on the conquered territories of the Balkans survived primarily thanks to strict religious, military, legal and financial norms that the local population was subdued to, discriminated against, intimidated with as well as financially drained. Only when the local population escaped from the Ottoman landowner's estate out of fear for their personal and proprietary security did the Ottomans slightly loosen the noose. Only then did the conquered people receive some benefits that created an illusion of improved life conditions. The political tactics that the Ottoman authorities used on the conquered territories did alter, but their final goal was always the same: to provide themselves with the young, healthy people to fill out their military troops as well as to take as many incomes in products and money as possible from the conquered people, and then move on to new conquests.

Keywords: endangering safety, the reign of terror, the Ottoman authorities, the population of the Balkans