

Adis Zilić, *Radivojevići - Vlatkovići: vlastela Humske zemlje i Krajine [Radivojevićs - Vlatkovićs: Noblemen of Hum and Krajina]*, Sarajevo: University of Sarajevo-Institute of History, 2021, 468 p.

Adis Zilić's book entitled *Radivojevići - Vlatkovići vlastela Humske zemlje i Krajine*, was published at the end of 2021 by the Institute of History of the University of Sarajevo. The book is a partially revised and updated master's thesis of this author, defended in June 2012 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. Adis Zilić is an associate professor at the Faculty of Humanities, Džemal Bijedić University in Mostar, where he teaches subjects from the history of the Middle Ages. The book is divided into three thematic units, and covers a chronological period of more than two centuries from the beginning of the 14th to the middle of the 16th century in which the author genealogically follows the participation of this family in the political life of medieval Bosnia through the prism of activities in economic, cultural and religious circumstances. The author based his research of this thematic framework, common in the history of medieval Bosnia, on data from archives on the Adriatic coast in Dubrovnik, Zadar and Venice.

Through the first chapter entitled "Ime, vrijeme i prostor" (21-29) the author positions this noble family in the area bounded by the rivers Neretva and Cetina, and the basic core of their estates is concentrated in neighboring Gorska Župa, Primorje Veljaci, and Biokovo, in the basin of the Trebižat and the Neretva delta, and on the Makarska littoral. After the conflict with Duke Stjepan Kosača and the loss of inheritance, this family inherited new estates from King Stjepan Tomaš in the Livno area, and after the Duke's death, with Hungarian help, they returned to their native estates. Members of this family are traced from the period of expansion of Ban Stjepan II and the occupation of Hum and the Neretva region in the 1320s, all until the 1530s. During this period, the author follows the development and role of this family through eight generations with minor interruptions.

He also draws attention to the fact that during this period in which data on members were recorded, this family did not keep a permanent surname in a longer interval, which was not uncommon in other Bosnian noble families. From generation to generation, the surname was changed in such a way as to bear the father's name. The oldest known member of the Bogavac family passed on his name as an identification determinant only to his sons. His son and heir Radivoj also passed on his name in the form of a patronymic surname to his sons Juraj and Vukić. Juraj's heirs bore his father's name on the same principle as his son Vlatko's heirs. According to this pattern, there were a number of surnames within this family Bogavčić-Radivojević-Jurjević-Vlatković. The author initially notes several examples when Juraj's heirs are listed with the same surname as his father Radivojević, but this phenomenon would be more frequent for the heirs and descendants of Vlatko Jurjević who were identified as Vlatković.

“Hronologija ličnosti i događaja” (31-276) is the most extensive and comprehensive chapter in the book. Through it, the author follows the political activities of eight generations and dozens of members of this family, analyzing all the preserved original material about these individuals who left a big mark on the political life of the medieval Bosnian state. The author begins his analysis of individuals by identifying the oldest known member and ancestor of Bogavac who lived and worked at the beginning of the 14th century. Previous historiography has derived his name from the patronymics of his sons Mrdeša and Radivoje Bogavčić, the author offers a potential thesis that the possible ancestor is Alen Bogavac, who is mentioned as a participant in an event in May 1306. Radivoje's son Juraj was the first prominent representative of this family, present on the historical scene for almost four decades - during the last three decades of the 14th and the first decade of the 15th century. A new and important episode of their history begins with his work. During this period, the Radivojevićs emerged from relative anonymity and became an important factor in the country's political life. Juraj began his political career in 1371, when he was mentioned in a royal charter, and in the following years he was recorded as

a diplomat of King Tvrtko.

Before November 1385, Juraj became related to the ruling family of Kotromanić, he married Vladika, daughter of Stana, granddaughter of the later King Dabiša. It was Dabiša who in 1395 donated the estate of Veljaka in Hum to his daughter Stana to own while she was alive, and after her death the estate was to become the property of her son-in-law Prince Juraj. In August 1395, together with members of his family, Juraj became a citizen of Ragusa, and at the end of 1407 he received the hereditary honor of a Venetian citizen. The presence of Radivojevićs in the very important economic center of Drijeva dates back to the period of Queen Jelena's rule, where customs duties were collected and sales were made. In turbulent times from the end of Queen Jelena's reign, the Radivojevićs remained loyal to the Bosnian queen and were forced to withdraw, but immediately after King Ostoja came to power, they reconciled with him, to which the king confirmed their previous possessions. However, there was soon a new rearrangement of political relations within Bosnia, the most prominent nobles replaced Ostoja, and in his place came King Tvrtko II. Along with the most prominent nobles, the Radivojevićs also took part in these events, profiting from the fact that the leader of the family Juraj received the title of duke no later than August 1404, thus entering among the most prominent nobles in the country. However, their position did not last long, they were soon forced to accept vassalship towards the Hrvatinićs, and then the Kosačas. The new orientation of the Radivojevićs provided them with new territorial estates confirmed by the charter of King Ostoja in December 1408, but also a quick attack by their former suzerain, Duke Hrvoje Vukčić, who pushed them off most of their estates.

The next stage in the history of this family began after the end of Hrvoje's attacks in 1409 and the death of the leader of the family, Juraj Radivojević. He is succeeded by his sons Stjepan, Pavle, Nikola and Vlatko, of whom Pavle initially stands out. The following data indicating the return of family members to their estates dates from the end of 1413. Members of

this family appear on the charters of Kings Stjepan Ostojić and Tvrtko II, which shows that at that time they were direct subjects of Bosnian rulers. From the summer of 1422 at the latest, they were again subject to the Kosačas. Their presence in the three-part distribution of income from the very important Drijeva square has been monitored since 1419, and they lost it in the action of Duke Stjepan Vukčić in 1439 at the latest. In the conflict between Hrvatinićs and Kosačas in the 1430s, the Jurjevićs sided with Hrvatinićs and thus again came out from under Kosača's rule, accepting Hrvatinićs as nominal suzerain, which suited them much better, given the fact that they were politically and militarily a weaker family. However, like many things in the history of this family, this status was not maintained for a long time, because as early as 1440, they were followed again as vassals of the Kosačas.

From the 1430s onwards, the author followed the activities of the new leader of the family, Pavle's son Petar Jurjević. Petar died very young in 1446, and Vlatko's son Ivaniš took over the family leadership and the title of duke, thus beginning the era of Vlatkovićs. At the time of taking over the family leadership, Ivaniš's personality had already been fully formed, and in the turbulent times in which he found himself in the following period he proved to be a capable and skilled diplomat and leader. The central event in which the author follows the activities of Vlatkovićs is related to the conflict between Duke Stjepan and the Ragusans. The Vlatkovićs saw this event as suitable for getting independence, and in March 1452 they signed an alliance agreement with the Ragusans, while the Ragusans undertook to pay them an annual income of 600 perpers, and if this family was expelled from their estates they would have to provide financial assistance in the same amount. On this occasion, all members of this family became Ragusan nobles and citizens. The failure of the Ragusan coalition, which included the duke's son Vladislav, had an unfavorable effect on Vlatkovićs. Although by the charter from July 1453, Duke Stjepan amnestied the renegade members of his family and other subordinate families, already at the beginning of 1456 he persecuted Vlatkovićs from their estates. With

the help of King Stjepan Tomaš, the Vlatkovići acquired new estates in the Livno area and thus once again became directly subject to the Bosnian crown. In this area, in a kind of exile, the Vlatkovići remained for ten years.

After the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia and the death of Duke Stjepan Kosača in 1466, the Vlatkovići, with the help of the Hungarian army, managed to return to their ancestral estates and regain influence on Drijeva square. In this way, they became subject to the Hungarians, who managed to occupy certain territories in Hum after the collapse of the Bosnian state. Regardless of the return to the old estates, the Vlatkovići did not have peace, they clashed with Duke Vladislav Kosača, and then they were attacked by the Ottomans. In the late 1460s and early 1470s, the family was led by Duke Ivaniš and his brother Prince Žarko. At the beginning of the seventies, there was an intense conflict between Vlatkovići and the Ottomans, which required large financial expenses. With the Ottoman conquest of the important Hungarian stronghold of Počitelj in 1471, the pressure on the territory of Vlatkovići increased. In the final showdown with the Ottomans, they were defeated in 1473, and withdrew to the area along the Cetina and the surroundings of Makarska, and the province of Primorje was established in most of their territories. Some members of the family, such as Tadija and Augustin, entered the Ottoman service. From this period, the family no longer had a significant political role, and the data on them are mainly related to their stay in the territory of Ragusa or Venice and the raising of the annual tribute from the Ragusans. Duke Ivaniš died before October 1483, and his brothers Žarko and Tadija, who in the meantime left the Ottoman service, are mentioned in 1492 in the westernmost parts of Hum along Croatian lands. Tadija died in 1494, and his brother Žarko in 1498. The next generation consists of Žarko's son Mikleuš, Ivaniš's daughters Barbara and Anica, Tadija's daughters Barbara, Marina and Ana, and Augustin's son Juraj. From the next generation are known Petar, son of Pavle, Anica's children, son Pavle and daughter of unknown name, and children of Mikleuš Petar and Juraš. The last generation includes the sons of Petar Pavlović Luka and Pavle. One of the last prominent representatives

of the family was Petar Pavlović, who at the beginning of the 16th century took a leading role within this already branched family. He enjoyed this position thanks to his adherence to the Ottomans, which was a practice that some of his older relatives also did.

Within the chapter “Strukture” (277-391), the author deals with the framework of the feudal hierarchy of medieval Bosnia, of which this noble family was an integral part. From the end of the 14th century, when the beginnings of the enlargement of the territorial estates of prominent nobles are traced, until the collapse of the Bosnian state. Members of this family moved between belonging to the group of the most important Bosnian nobility, the so-called “rusaška gospoda”, and recognizing vassalship to the most prominent noble families such as Hrvatinićs and Kosačas. Over a long period of time, the author follows the occasional appearance of representatives of this family in the role of witnesses in government charters, which leads to the conclusion that these examples indicate that in those time intervals Radivojevićs-Vlatkovićs were in direct submission to the Bosnian crown. Within this chapter, the author deals with the issue of vassals and representatives of this family who, according to the analysis, came from the ranks of the lower nobility, and there are people with different secular and spiritual titles. Radivojevićs vassals can only be traced back to the end of the 14th century, and the author’s research indicates that there is a noticeable tendency to mention a larger number of vassals from the wider area around the Cetina in the last decades of the 15th century. Economic activities of this kind are reflected in segments such as the collection of feudal rents, the collection of customs revenues and the issuance of real estate, the transit of goods through manorial estates, and examples such as robberies are represented. More advanced commodity-money jobs were reserved for the higher noble class, while Vlatkovićs vassals were engaged in the basic economic branches, agriculture and livestock, while members of this family, as seniors, collected rent. Drijeva square was especially important for revenues of this kind, where they had a share in the collection of customs duties at certain time intervals. The cultural life in

the courts of members of this family is evidenced by the data on how their artists, musicians and other entertainers were hired by the Ragusans for the celebrations there. The Radivojevićs-Vlatkovići, like other Bosnian rulers, had their own chancery, with professional chancellors in their service, as evidenced by the preserved charters, letters and various certificates. It is difficult to draw a common conclusion about the religious orientation of members of this family. The author's analysis indicates that since the period when the family was led by Juraj Radivojević, the affiliation to Catholicism has been observed, while the same affiliation was definitely confirmed in the first half of the 15th century from the time when the family was ruled by his successors.

The Radivojevićs-Vlatkovići are an extremely important noble family that remained on the line between belonging to the largest nobility and accepting the vassal status towards one of the strongest families at that time. The strength of this family is evidenced by the fact that they have survived as one of the longest-lived family that emerged in medieval Bosnia. Guided by preserved sources through the knowledge of neighboring countries, the author revives the history of one family and dozens of its members after half a millennium. By unpretentiously trying to offer potential frameworks of events and processes that are not significantly described in the preserved medieval sources, the author demonstrates the maturity as a medievalist. Through his work, the author points out the extraordinary knowledge of political, economic and social conditions in Bosnia over a very long period of time. Adis Zilić's study is one of the few attempts to understand the complete political, economic and cultural activities of a Bosnian noble family. With his approach, the author offered an example that could be an excellent methodological model for research and presentation of data on the activities of Bosnian noble families. Bosnia and Herzegovina's historiography has been significantly enriched by this successful history of one family.

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