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The slave trade on the Hungarian-Ottoman borderland during the 17th century

In my paper, I would like to present outcomes of my PhD Thesis completed last year. My PhD thesis contains information of the general rules of the Ottoman-Hungarian trade with captives. My elaboration of the phenomenon of trade with captives is based on the Koháry-Ottoman correspondence, presenting several so far unpublished cases. From the territorial point of view, the correspondence concerns primarily the territories of the Novohrad county, Eger and Buda vilayets with an overlap to other surrounding Hungarian and Ottoman territorial administrative units. Nowadays, I am continuing my research and preparing a longer monograph on this topic. At the same time, I would also present the methods and possibilities of using the interdisciplinary approach which I apply in my project.

My research is focused on the Ottoman-Hungarian trade with captives and slaves during the time of István I. Koháry general captaincy in Szécsény and Fil'akovo (1647 – 1664). The primary sources for this work are documents in the Koháry family archives located in the Banská Bystrica State Archive (Slovakia), further sources in other archives in Hungary and Austria as well as editions of Ottoman sources from Turkish archives. I also plan to visit other archives and libraries in Turkey. I focus on cases of Hungarian and Ottoman actors and their victims recorded in correspondence and other documents from the mentioned archives. The actors of the trade of captives from the Hungarian side were mostly soldiers or nobles from the fortresses of Fil'akovo (today Slovakia), Szécsény, Balassagyarmat (today Hungary) and other surrounding border castles. On the Ottoman side, it were members of garrisons and various officers from Hatvan, Esztergom, Buda (Hungary) and other locations. The stated groups of people also represent a large portion of the victims of the mentioned activities and at the same time it is possible to include the subjects of the Ottoman or Hungarian side to the victims (civilian population). The trade with captives was an integral part of Ottoman-Hungarian coexistence and this trade can also should be seen in the connection to the slavery of the Ottoman Empire. My research offers additional new or

partially new information and cases to individual parts of trade with captives. I investigate frequency of application of individual customs and rules valid in the entire Ottoman-Hungarian borderland, as well as possible deviations and differences in the actions of individual actors as well as the captives themselves. Therefore, the cardinal topics of my work include cases concerning temporary release of captives, questions of ransom, individual spheres of social status of captives, and motivations of actors. The studied cases show that individual units of Hungarian soldiers were able to lead looting expeditions to territories quite far from the borders and also, that this phenomenon was part of everyday life on the Ottoman-Hungarian borderland during the 17th century.

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