A Defter Entry from 1489 about the Fortress and Town of Travnik in Bosnia

Michael Ursinus*

Context

BOA TD 24 appears to be the first Survey Register to specifically mention the situation in and around the fortress (*kale*) of Travnik during the first 25 years or so after the initial Ottoman conquest of much of Bosnia in 1463. It is well established that the Hungarian counter-attacks secured for the king the banate (*banovina*) of Jajce (with the towns of Jajce, Banjaluka, Greben, Sokol, Jezero, Vinac, Vrbaški grad, Livač, Komotin, Bočac and Zvečaj along Vrbas river), and the banate of Srebrenik to the east of Doboj and Gračanica, i.e. well east of Bosna river. The *nahiye* of Lašva (named after one of the tributaries of Bosna river of the same name) and mentioned in Ottoman sources for the first time in 1468/9, was situated between the rivers Vrbas and Bosna. Its original main settlement is unknown; its centre only later became identified with Travnik. Equally uncertain is the situation in and around the fortress of Travnik after the fall of Bosnia: Hazim Šabanović assumes that Travnik, founded before 1463, lay waste between 1463 and 1477 (based, no doubt, in part on evidence like the *icmal defteri* dated 1468/9 in Atatürk Kitaplığı O.76, fol. 169a: *karye-i Travnik hâli*), or was under the control of the Bosnian puppet-kingdom established by the Ottomans (H. Šabanović, *Bosanski pašaluk*, p. 125). It is now known that the fortress of Travnik was initially handed over to the Ottomans, probably already in 1463, by Pavao, son of Grgur, who (later) held the stronghold of Hum near the village of Podhum south of Livno.[1]

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1 Michael Ursinus, "Serving King and Sultan: Pavao Grgurić and his Role on the Hungaro-Ottoman Frontier in Southern Bosnia, c. 1463 – 1477", in: Veran Kursar (ed.), *Life on the Ottoman Border. Essays in Honour of Nenad Moačanin* (Zagreb, 2022), p. 19 – 30, especially p. 19.

The entry in BOA TD 24 refers to Ayas Beğ (Paşa), the 'first *sancakbeği* of Bosnia', as the Ottoman commander who 'made prosperous' (*imaret etmek*) the fortress of Travnik and who also appointed *voynuk* Stjepan Branković to the position of *knez* of Travnik, a position that was to be confirmed on him by (Hass) Murad Paşa who held the post of *beğlerbeği* of Rumili until 1473 (H. Reindl, *Männer um Bayezid*, p. 162f.). Ayas (Ayaz) Beğ was *sancakbeği* of Bosnia between 1470 and 1475 and again during the early part of 1484.[2] Given his appointment of Stjepan Branković to the *knezlik* of Travnik being confirmed by Hass Murad Paşa who drowned in 1473, it is probable that the reinforcement of Travnik fortress by Ayas Beğ also happened during the early part of his first term of office, offering exemption from the *avarız-i divaniye* tax to anyone who was prepared to settle there, be they Muslim or Christian. As the text of the defter entry makes abundantly clear, years of conflict with the unbelievers (of nearby Jajce) caused the settlers considerable losses, be that by being killed, taken prisoner or losing their possessions. In order to avoid their dispersal which would cause great injury (to the state) it became imperative to appease them (*istimale etmek*) by offering the settlers to be charged one ducat from every (Muslim) household and two from any Christian family while altogether exempting them from paying the *harac*, *ispençe* and any *avarız* taxes.

Keywords: *derkenar*, 15th century, Travnik, *kale, istimale*

Transcription

(1) *Nefs-i Travnıḳ* (sic) *ḫāṣṣa-i mīrlivā bundan evvel ḥażret-i ḫilāfet-penāh pādiṣāhımız ḫaledet ḫilāfetühü*

(2) *ḥażretleri Bosna'nıñ evvelki sancaġıbegi Ayās Beg mezbūr ḳalʿe imāret itmesi olındıḳda ḥükm-i hümāyūn*

(3) *mūcibiyle ılıcaḳ virilüb şart olınmış ki her kim ki müslimāndan ve kefereden gelüb mezbūr*

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[2] Ćiro Truhelka, "Tursko-slovjenski spomenici dubrovačke arhive", in *Glasnik zemaljskog muzeja u Bosni i Hercegovini* XXIII (Sarajevo, 1911), p. 341f; 344f.

(4) *yirde mütemekkin idecek olurlar ise ʿavārıż-i dīvānīyeden muʿāf ve müsellem olub timār irene*

(5) *ʿādet üzre ʿöşrin ve resmin vireler diyü ammā mezkūr mevżiʿ bāġīye muttaṣıl olmaġın bir nice kere*

(6) *urulub baʿżı ḳırılub ve baʿżı esīr olmış ve baʿżınıñ mālleri telef olmış ol sebebden*

(7) *daġılub gitmelü olmışlar ammā tefettüş olınub görilüb anlarıñ ol arada olınur mā[l]lerinden*

(8) *nefʿ-i ʿāmm ve daġılub gitmelerinden żarar-i tamām var ol cihetden bāḳī ḳalancalarına istimālet idüb*

(9) *ḫāneden ḫāneye birer filūrī ve keferesinden ḫāneden ḫāneye ikişer filūrī vaż ʿ olınub*

(10) *ḫarāc ve ispençe ve sāyir ʿavārıżātdan muʿāf ve müsellem olub civārı sınırında eger kilārından*

(11) *ʿādet üzre ʿöşrin vireler ve zikr olan filūrī ḫarman vaḳtinde vireler ve ol*

(12) *yirleri geregi gibi iḫtiyāt evin bekliyeler bu mūcibince şarṭ olınub deftere sebt olındı*

(13) *şimdikiḥālde daḫı öyle ḳayd olındı*

(1) *Ḥisse-i İstipan veled-i Branḳovik* [Stjepan Branković] *nām kāfir ki voynuḳ evi pādişāhımız yolında ẓaferlıḳ* (sic)

(2) *idüb düşmāndan ḫaber getürdügi sebebden Ayās Beg voynuḳluḳdan çaġırub*

(3) *Travnıḳ'ın knezligin virüb merḥūm Murād Paşa daḫı muḳarrer ṭutub eline mektūb*

(4) *virmiş ve voynuḳluḳları üzere bundan ṣoñra daḫı ṭapuyla baştinalar żamm eylemiş*

(5) *bunlardur kim zikr olınur evvelden elinde olan Leşicaca'nuñ aşa[ġı]sı ve yuḳarusı*

(6) *ve Mabatik Sercune* [?] *nām çayır ve ṣoñra żamm olan Travnıḳ'da Radivoy veled-i*

(7) *Privik* [Radivoj Privić/Pribić ?] *ve ḳarındaşı Vuḳ baştinalarıyla Radovac Doglovik* [Radovac Doglavić ?] *evi ḥavlısı ve bostānlıġı*

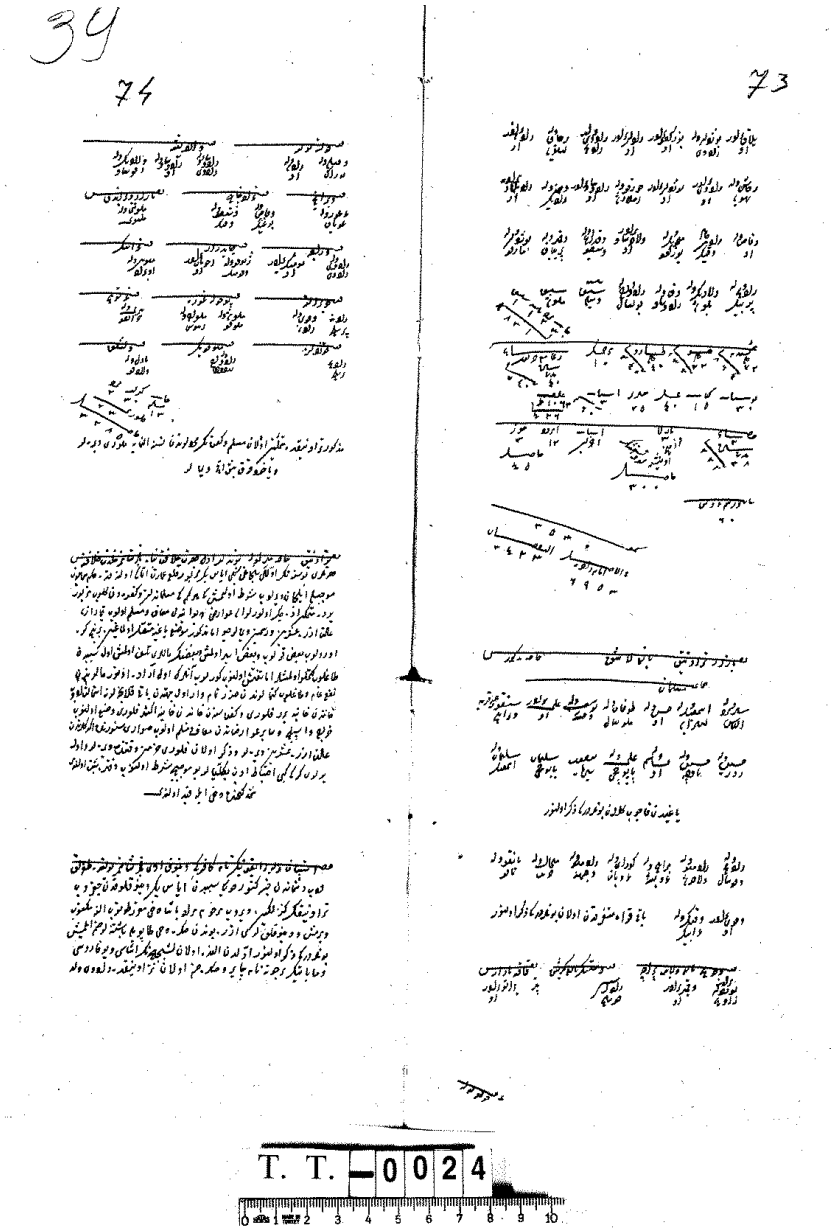
(8) *yirler virilmiş taṣarruf ider şimdikiḥālde sulṭānu'l-islām ve'l-müslimīn pādişāhımuz ʿezze maḳarrühü*

(9) *ḥażretlerine daḫı ʿarż olınub ḥükm-i hümāyūn ṣadaḳa olınmış şimdikiḫālde daḫı ki ve emr-i ʿālem-*

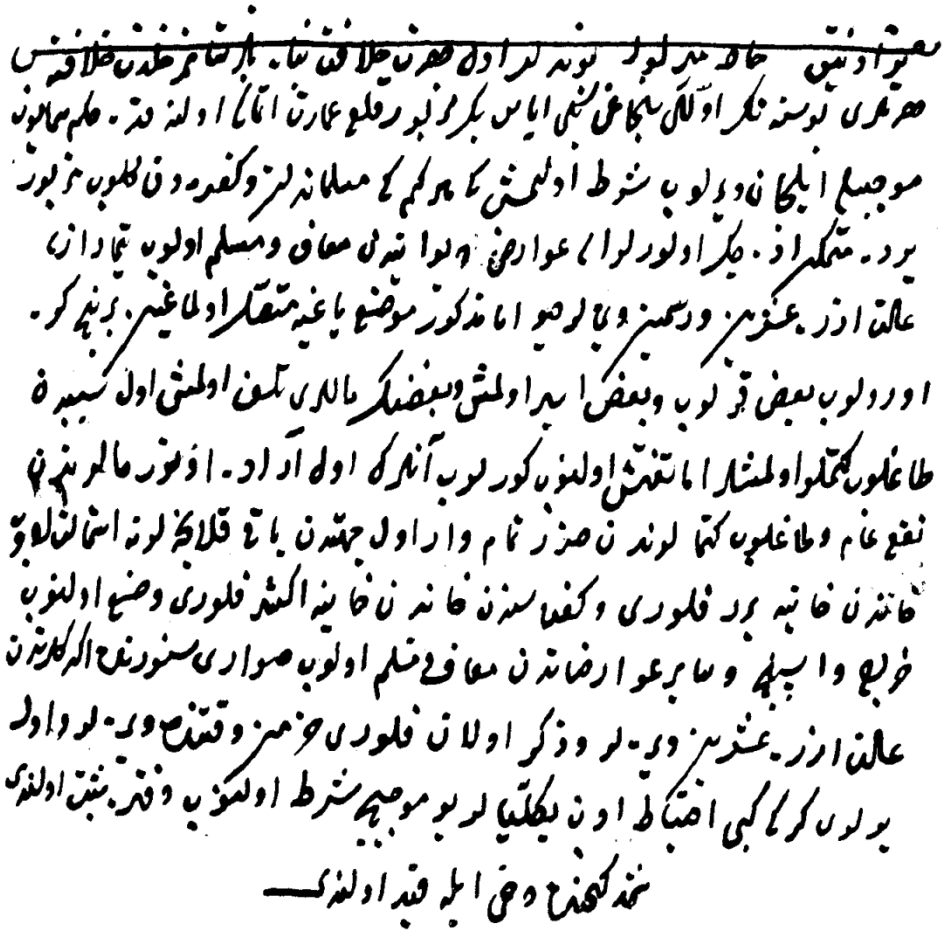
(10) *muṭāʿ üzere ber-ḳarār-ı sābıḳ zikr olan yirler taḥt-ı taṣarrufında olub idegeldügi*

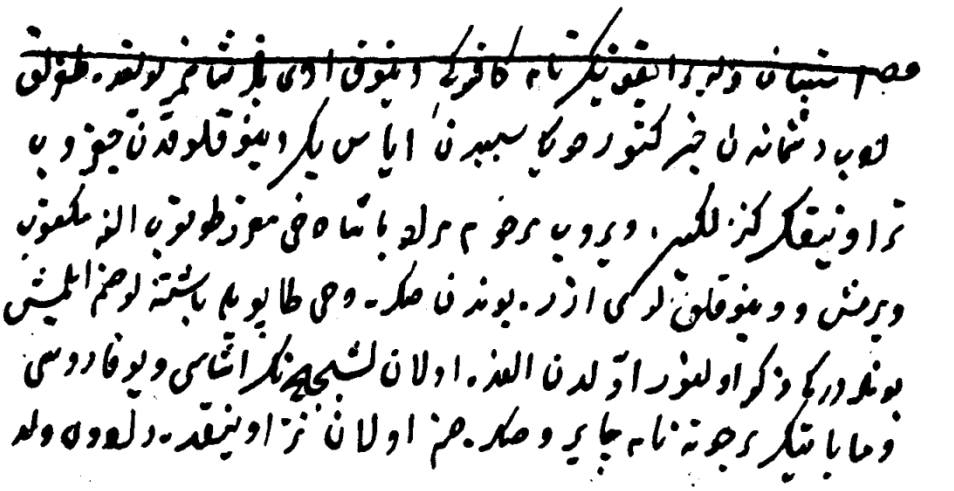
(11) *ḫidmeti edā eyliye diyü deftere sebt olındı*

Facsimile



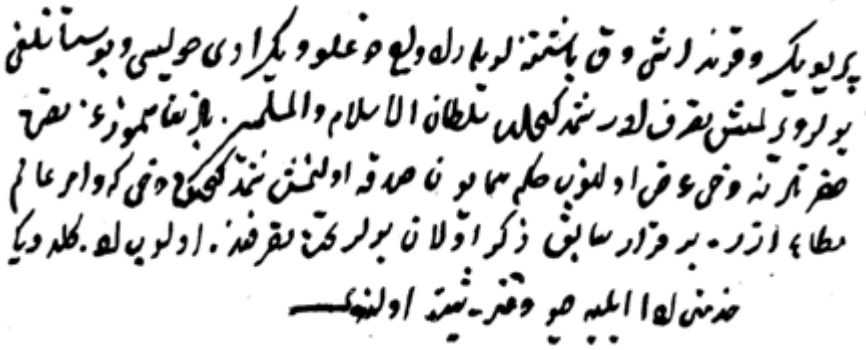
Source: BOA TD 24 (1489), p. 73-74





Detail from BOA TD 24 (1489), p. 74

Continuation:



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