

## THE SERBS AND THEIR STATEHOOD FROM THE SETTLING TO THE BALKAN PENINSULA UNTIL THE FIRST SERBIAN UPRISING: AN OVERVIEW

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**Abstract.** The aim of this paper is the overview of the Serbian history since their migration to the Balkan Peninsula in the 7<sup>th</sup> century until the First Serbian Uprising in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The authors wanted to present the development of the Serbian history from the tribe (7<sup>th</sup> century) to the state (9<sup>th</sup> century) and then to the statehood (12<sup>th</sup> century). The special attention has been paid to the period under the Ottoman rule, since it was a period of the lost statehood, but the Serbs, as well as the Romanians, although in the different circumstances, managed to maintain their national identity and religion. The First Serbian Uprising presents the beginning of the modern statehood in the Serbian history.

**Key words:** The Serbs, Serbian History, Serbian State, Serbian Statehood, Nemanjić Dynasty, the Ottomans

The history of the Slav tribes could be followed since 5<sup>th</sup> century A.C. when the first Slavic groups had settled themselves on the left bank of Danube. However, the history of the tribe called the Serbs could be followed from the 7<sup>th</sup> century, while the first Serbian state was founded in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century with prince Višeslav. The real development of the Serbian statehood began with the rule of Great Župan Nemanja (1166-1196). This paper will try to elaborate briefly the history of the Serbian people, its state and statehood, but the special attention would be given to the Ottoman Period, since that it was the time with the erased statehood. However, despite that fact, the Serbs had managed to preserve their national identity and their religion, and to accomplish the Revolution Process started with the First Serbian Uprising in 1804, one of the mile stones of the modern Serbian history.

As it was already said, the first group of Slavs had placed themselves on the border of the Eastern Roman Empire, close to the Danube Panonian bank in the late 5<sup>th</sup> century. They had perpetuated the attack on the territory of the Eastern Roman Empire, but without the intent to conquer them; they were satisfied to

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