

Summary

ROADS, CARAVAN TRAFFIC, AND SECURITY CONDITIONS ON THE MEDIEVAL SERBIA ROADS

Regarding the road network, medieval state of Serbia was highly developed. Significant part of road network had remained as the inheritance of the age of the Roman empire. According to the available documents, we can conclude that it was possible to travel from one overnight stay to another, whether it was monastery, or city, square, village or caravan station.

Caravans performed the delivery of goods from sea ports to provinces of the continent. Caravans were one of the possible means to transport goods and people. There had to be organization of caravan in order to accomplish successful transport of goods. There was the hierarchy in this organization, and everybody acted according to this hierarchy. The representative of merchants in a caravan was captain. The leader of the caravan was kramar. Under his command were ponosnici (drivers), which were recruited by him. Caravans would have begun travels from their start points during a whole year. They used ferries in order to cross a river. There were few bridges. Passengers and caravan staff had troubles on the road, involving robberies, attacks, theft of all load, etc.

Serbian medieval state made an effort at law and practical insurance of caravan traffic. Dusan's Legal Code in its articles brought some measures for safe traveling. The representative of state administration was kefalija and he was in charge for carrying out the measures regarded to security on roads. Additionally, there were also village guards responsible for watching their own road sections.