

Summary

The Issue of the Constitution in Serbia during the 1804-1813 Uprising

The development of the Serbian bourgeois state during its emancipation from the Turkish empire and the foundation of the autonomous Principality of Serbia is a special phase in which the problems of establishing the rule were solved independently. The independent Serbia was founded after the Serbian Uprising against the Turkish empire in 1804, while its independence was being defended by great military efforts up to 1813. In Serbia, liberated from the Turkish empire, the new order, both social and political, started to be established. It was the order in which the new social antagonism was evidenced, the one already announced in the social struggle that had appeared at the end of the 18th century. This social antagonism caused the fight for authority, since not long after the Turkish rule had been destroyed, the issue of establishing a new one was raised.

The fight for the authority, its establishing and centralization, started at the highest level between – Kardjordje and the Governing Council of Serbia, while the social fight on a larger scale was the consequence of the separatist tendencies of the regional head-officers to preserve their former positions – the ones they had held before the Uprising. They were actually fighting against the new commanders-in-chief who had special economic and political interests. At the same time, the new authority had to be imposed upon the people by means of violent measurements, pressure and obstinacy of the regional head-officers.

The attempts to solve the problems of authority through the Constitution acts from 1808 and 1811 in which Karadjordje and his group were given priority are the main topics that this paper deals with. The main regulations of the Constitution acts are enclosed in the appendix.