

## Summary

### **The Citizens of Niš in the First Serbian Uprising**

The huge crisis which reached the Turkish empire at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the result and the consequence of its difficult international position, and above all, of its internal disorganized agrarian and law regulations. In the history of the Serbian Uprising, the regions of the present-day south-east Serbia had a special role in the national struggle and the ten-year fights with the Turks. The pashadoms of Niš and Leskovac were the centre not only of a great number of local rebellions and uprisings, but also of several major battles joined by almost all Serbian inhabitants from Jastrebac to Kursumlija, and from the Grdelica gorge and the Vlasina river in the south, and from Gromada, Niš and Pirot to Znepolje in the east. The territory of the south-east Serbia gave a great number of outstanding warriors and national leaders, bimbashis, dukes and princes, some of which were highly respected even by Karadjordje himself. For the time of Uprising, during the whole decade, Toplica, Pomoravlje and Ponišavlje shared the same destiny with the uprising Serbia, regardless of the fact that the regular Serbian-Turkish frontline was outside of their area and the permanently liberated territory of Serbia lied to the north of the geographic line Prokuplje-Niš-Pirot.