

## Summary

### THE SYSTEM OF PENALTIES IN DUŠAN'S CODE

The most significant written legal monument of the medieval Serbia at the height of its power was the Dušan's Code. It was an advanced legal act, modern for the times and occasions when it was enacted and enforced. It was written in Cyrillic (the so-called editorial board of the Old Slavic language). In the Dušan's Code, as in all legal texts of the Old and Middle Ages, the provisions of criminal law are mixed with other branches of Law: state, church, marital, family, hereditary, property, administrative, judicial, etc. This Code persistently and consistently enforced the principle of legality, although it permitted the application of customary law when it came to prescribing and imposing penalties for offenders. A large number of provisions of the Code regulated basic criminal law concepts. These were: a) the culprit and b) punishment, and the system of criminal offenses against rulers, the church, life, body, property, etc., and criminal sanctions in the form of punishments for their perpetrators. This prescribed a system of offenses that protected the most important legal assets of the time. The paper outlines the basic criminal law concepts contained in the Dušan's Code, which significantly influenced the later Serbian criminal legislation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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