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## **ARMY IN MEDIEVAL SERBIA**

**Summary:** The history of state and law, when analyzing the foundations of political and legal organization, inevitably includes the study of the military. As the main instrument of coercion, the army ensured both the existence and the functionality of the state, from the earliest civilizations to the medieval Serbian realm. The Serbian medieval state developed a distinctive military system, influenced both by Byzantine models and by tribal traditions. From the satniks and tisućniks who, as military companions, took part in the assemblies of Nemanja's Serbia, through the pronijars bound by military obligations, and finally to the Teutonic knights who served as Emperor Dušan's personal guard, Serbian medieval military power demonstrated a continuous rise until the collapse of the feudal order and the fall under Ottoman rule.

**Keywords:** army, medieval Serbia, Emperor Dušan

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