Summary

THE ONE HUNDERED AND SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST SERBIAN CONSTITUTION

In regards to the political development of Serbia, the 30's of the 19th century were quite a turbulent time: two sultan's edicts, two constitutions, an uprising, an abdication, two changes on the throne. Despite the efforts of the Russian diplomatic service and the opposition to force Miloš into drafting a constitution, Miloš was able to hold out against the pressure up until Mileta's rebellion, when his throne was jeopardised. It was only after the rebellion that Miloš decided to ratify the constitution. It was adopted February 2nd, (the 15th according to the new calendar), 1835 in Kragujevac. This constitution, although imposed, was really won by the people. The dissatisfied chiefs would not have done anything without the people. The chiefs and the people were united on only one matter: finding salvation from the prince's all-encompassing power. But, just as Mileta's rebellion was short-lived, so was the constitution. Miloš did away with it just a few weeks after it had been ratified. The real reason for this was the strong pressure he was getting from the powers abroad, mainly the Russian-Austrian diplomacy.