

Summary

**The basic characteristics of the criminal law in the Serbia under the rule of the Karadjordjević family**

Parallel with the struggle for liberation of the long period of Turkish power, Serbian people lead by Karadjordje had put the base of modern state. One of the effort was to order in legal way all social relations. In the frame of newmade legal arrangement there were two criminal codes - The Act of Archpriest Mateja of 1804 and The Karadjordje's Criminal Act of 1807, which are partly preserved and still, by them, the circumstances and the relations in that Serbia can be understood till today. These criminal acts are in the borders between Middle Age criminal law from the Dusan's Act, as the most important written legal act of the Early Middle Age period, and modern Serbian criminal law.

During the movement of liberation of the long period of Osmanlian power and the first battles between the Serbian rebellion lead by Djordje Petrović and the Turkish authority, there were the previous efforts to put the institutions of the new state authority. One of the attribute of this new legality was the process of bringing the first written law monument in the form of real law act, which was needed to make the system of the behaviour rules which should be obligated to all, without the differences. Among the first acts, which were amended during the First Serbian Rebellion, were two criminal codes. First of them was the Act of May 1804, and its author was the Valjevo archpriest Mateja Nenadović. The second was the Criminal Code, made by Karadjordje. This article is written to explain the characteristics of these criminal acts from the period of Karadjordje's Serbia, based on the view of modern legal attitudes.

These modest acts with limited extent and contents were developed on the common law. They were written to make effective and quality protection of the most important values of Serbia by using the system of criminal sanctions, especially punishments, and rules for punishing the criminals and for establishing forbidden behaviours. These acts put the base for modern criminal law in the Republic of Serbia. Latter, during Miloš Obrenović, was amended the Penal (Criminal) Code of 1860 for Princedom of Serbia. Almost a century and a half after that Serbia amended a new, „European“ Criminal Code of January 1st 2006.