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Nikopol Sancak at the Beginning of the 16th Century according to a Register from Istanbul Ottoman Archive

(Summary)

It is difficult to show the great variety of themes and directions of the research devoted to different aspects of the historical destiny of Bulgarian lands with Turnovo as their centre in the early Ottoman era. The current research is an attempt to give a modest contribution to the achievements of Bulgarian historiography in the study of the economic history and the demographic processes in these lands. The major aim of the work is to enrich the picture of the historical fate of the town and the region in the early Ottoman era (the beginning of the 16th century) on the basis of an excellent Ottoman register. The interest in the settlements in the region in the Ottoman Middle Ages is apparently determined by the importance that the ancient Bulgarian fortress of Nikopol and the sancak of the same name acquired in the Ottoman military-administrative and economic system. Many researchers have devoted their effort to examining the historical destiny of the fortress and the settlements in the vast territories of modern Northern Bulgaria after the Ottomans had defeated the kingdom of Ivan Shishman. Owing to their policy of permanent preservation of the historically outlined administrative, economic and settlement structures that they had found in the Bulgarian lands, the Ottoman conquerors were able not only to govern them successfully, but also to further develop a well-organized and functioning Medieval Bulgarian state structure within Nikopol sancak on the basis of a sophisticated interaction between the sultan's kanun and the sheriya.