

## **BEYS LANDED PROPERTY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 1878-1918.**

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### **KULENOVIC**

Kulenovic is not the only one of the most physically Bey families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they mainly lived and had their demesne, but one of prevalence in the whole Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There is a long continuity of ownership of land between the Ottoman and medieval period of history in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the continuity continued after the annexation of Austria-Hungary monarchy 1877<sup>th</sup>.

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According to Bey were feudal lords during the Habsburg rule, the big landowners Bosnjak quoting the noble families own history. During 400 years of Turkish rule this family effectively managed these areas and official representatives of the Turkish authorities have always stood in the shadow of Kulenovic's power. If we take into account that Bey from Bosanska Krajina always had a special position within the social structure Bey, and that Kulenovic were those among them who owned land, was convincing most complex and serf settlements and this says enough about the strength and power in this family.

Grand Beys, were considered the one that had over 100 serfs' settlements in their possession and with big amount of the estate.

Such families in Bosnia, there were only 46 families. Kulenovic had possession in the early 20<sup>th</sup>, total 3869's serfs' settlements and total area of possession 70,322.427 dunum.

\*(1 dunum = 1 hectare = 1,000 square meters.

Of course, all belonged to different branches of the family. Sharing of The family Kulenovic in several branches usually ended in the Ottoman era and these branches owned land in the area between the towns of Bosnians Petrovac, Grahovo, Glamoc, Jajce, Varca Vakuf and Kljuc.

Kulenović po pojedinim njezinim ograncima. Osim toga, ovi dodaci kasnije su uglavnom nestali (izuzetak su neki potomci ogranka Bajbutović, koji su odbacili prezime Kulenović i sada se prezivaju samo Bajbutović). Pritom, svi ovi ogranci raspolagali su znatnim zemljišnim posjedima, koji su se najznačajnijim dijelom nalazili na području između Bosanskog Petrovca, Grahova, Glamoča, Jajca, Varcar Vakufa i Ključa, iako je proces diobe ostavio određenog traga na zemljišnim posjedima pojedinih pripadnike ove porodice, tako da početkom 20. stoljeća cijela porodica Kulenović posjeduje uvjerljivo najveće komplekse begluka i najviše kmetskih selišta u Bosni i Hercegovini (ukupno 3.869 kmetskih selišta, s tim da se zna da je 556 obuhvatalo površinu od 43.485,461 dunum).

Kotar	Obradiva zemlja	Neobradiva zemlja	Ukupno
Bosanska Dubica	2.121,34	7.120,41	9.241,75
Bosanski Petrovac	4.121,6	36.637,202	40.758,802
Glamoč	429	7658	8.087
Jajce	764,064	3.781,421	4.545,485
Ključ	52	2622	2.674
Prnjavor	370,72	330,74	701,46
Sanski Most	0,85	2.551,08	2.551,93
Varcar Vakuf	21	1.741	1.762
<i>Ukupno</i>	<i>7.880,574</i>	<i>62.441,853</i>	<i>70.322,427</i>

Tabela: Begluci porodice Kulenović

**Land in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is owned by the Bey Kulenovic during the period 1878 - 1918**

*In the first row – vertically - the name of the Municipality ; Second row- arable land area; third row - area of unworkable land; fourth row – total last row - horizontally - the total land area*

Anyway, all this says that Kulenovic's family is the family, that before 1878 had an important role in the historical life of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They kept the role during the Habsburg rule time when the political situation changed, and when they belonged to the majority opposition movement. Some political privileges that belong to the richest families reflected, e.g, in their legal right to be elected deputies in the Bosnian Assembly, were not the consequence of their beys title but rather of their wealth .

Focusing on the land owned by big landowning bey families, particularly analyzes the structure of the estates owned by 46 bey families. One can see in this analysis that most of the land in BiH belonged to these families.

Within this circle there are distinctly those bey families who have maintained, even towards the end of Austro-Hungarian administration, and despite a constant process of division of the families and their property , the status of landowning elite so that some of them owned 50 serf settlements which was considered sufficient for one's existence without the need to engage in additional jobs (handicraft, trade, etc) It is evident that these are, mainly, those families who played significant role in the history of Bosnia since the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century, and one could track down their ownership over many of their estates for several centuries back.

Following the history of these families during the 19<sup>th</sup> century one can conclude that marriage relations were very important for the expansion of their estates, since the inheritance of the estates involved both male and female family members, resulted in intermingling of ownership relations among the members of these families. Cases of purchasing land were rare. Finally, this book leads to a general conclusion: beys, particularly those among them who succeeded to maintain their big estates despite numerous challenges, even in the general announcement that they would not participate in the new economic activities, still maintained their social stability and remained that social basis upon which Austro-Hungarian administration relied in order to realize their won strategic political interests. These interests lied in very foundations if the relations that the Austro-Hungarian administration built towards beys: by gradual involvement of some of the beys into the new ruling structure that caused divisions within their circles so that for quite a long period of time they were not able to act unanimously at the political stage of Bosnia. That is exactly what the rules did: they did not need a politically unified bey front, that would turn against the rulers the moment their social and economic position are threatened, but isolated groups of beys, as someone to rely upon locally, rather than to have them as political partners, in the realization of strategic political interest of the Monarchy. When, by the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to various social processes that took part since 1878, their social status was considerably shaken, beys emerged rather unanimously with their autonomous movement, regardless of all the fractions that existed within the movement. All these fractions were still united when their social interests were at stake. And they always linked their social interests to stability of their land estates. Until 1918, they succeeded in maintaining to greatest extent those social interests. And then, 1918 this stability was shaken by a new state and social “breakdown”.