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Emergence and Development of Vaqf Çiftlik during the 16th – Early 18th Centuries. The Case of Sofu Mehmed Paşa and His Vaqf Çiftlik

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Paşa and Mustafa Ağa, and collected their revenues. In addition, the military and political situation in the region of Sofia during the Austro-Turkish war from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century gave an opportunity to the *mütevelli* to seize lands abandoned by the peasants. Some passages from the *arzuhal* bear witness to the fact that it was the Austrian invasion which forced the peasants' flight from the village of Vrajdebna:

'...with the invasion of the *kâfirs* the *reaya* left the village...'75.

Both *Silâhdar Mehmed Ağa's History* and the *Chronicle of Priest Petur* from the village of Mirkovo make it clear that the Christian troops were not the only ones to cause damage in the region of Sofia during the 1680s and 1690s. Another possible cause of the flight of the peasants could have been Yeğen Osman Paşa's revolt and the war in the vicinities of Sofia76.

The data included in the documents at our disposal does not give details about the reasons of the peasants' flight. It, however, permits us conclude that the new *çiftlik-holder* Veli Efendi founded his *çiftlik* on vacant peasant lands, which had remained uncultivated and thus enlarged it to 7,000 – 8,000 *dönüms*.

It turns out that the new *çiftlik-owner* did not pay the tithes for the period between 1118 and 1121 (1706 – 1710). As recorded in the old registers and in the sultan's *hükm-i hümayun* the tithes of Sofu Mehmed Paşa's *vaqf çiftlik* amounted to 200 akçe paid as *maktu* and for Mustafa Ağa's *vaqf çiftlik* – 160 akçe. The sums of those tithes were *maavel maktu*77 paid to the Ottoman state treasury. Besides, the *mütevelli* settled 26 people who were obligated with

<sup>75</sup> BOA, D – BMK – SMM, Dosya: 3, Vesika: 121.

<sup>76</sup> Е. Вечева, И. Шварц, М. Георгиева, Нови документи за Чипровското въстание и събитията на Балканите през 1688 г., В: *Известия на държавните архиви*, N 76, с. 194; Й. Списаревска, *Чипровското въстание и европейският свят*. София, Наука и Изкуство, 1988, с. 122; И. Първев, *Балканите между две империи. Хабсбургската монархия и Османската империя (1683 – 1739)*. София, УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 1997, с. 90; Дж. Иванова, „А царят нареди нефириам срещу него да се бие...“ (Османската историческа и една българска приписка за действията на султанската власт срещу Йе-ген осман паша през 1688 – 1689 г.), В: Д. Драганов, Т. Попнедслев (съст.), *Collegium Historicum*, Т. 2. София, УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2012, с. 390 – 399; *Eadem*, Impact of the 1683 – 1699 War on the Ottoman Rear: The Story of Silâhdar Mehmed Ağa About the Haydut Raid of Kyustendil in 1689/90, In: P. Mitev, I. Parvev, M. Baramova, V. Racheva (eds.), *Empires and Peninsulas: Southeastern Europe between Karlowitz and the Piece of Adrianopole, 1699 – 1829*. Berlin, LIT Verlag, 2010, p. 220 – 223.

<sup>77</sup> BOA, TT 539, f. 26; TT 492, f. 36.