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1760–1780	10,80 grams
1780–1800	7,62 grams
1800–1820	4,56 grams

Besides, for the sake of objectivity I must admit that probably the conversion of coins into silver resulted into certain "depreciatory scissors". That is because up to 1770s – 1780s was not observed inflationary rise and despite the slight lowering of the standard of the metal in the coins, their purchasing power probably remained almost unchanged.[53] In other words, with a certain amount of money one could buy more things than with the precious metal recalculated according to them. However, I'd rather "listen to" Weber, who advises every "author to keep his petty comments to himself" ... and that ... "much talk about "intuition" is nothing but clumsy concealing of his own lack of distance with respect to the subject"[54] and to rely on pure mathematics, although, after all, such "depreciatory scissors" could actually exist.

It should be borne in mind also that especially in the first half of the century the inheritance inventories were often evaluated not only in "grosh", but also in "akche" and "para". In this case, the total value is always recalculated in grosh, while taking into account the general ratio of these monetary units (akche: para: grosh – 120: 40: 1).[55] Such "rate" between these Ottoman coins is observed quite often in the source material itself.[56]

3. Some historical background

In empirewide terms the end of the 17th – the beginning of the 19th century was the period in which the Ottoman Empire waged a series of unsuccessful wars, especially with its European rivals. These were wars that would lead to significant "shrinkage" of the imperial borders in Europe.[57] Apart from loosing territories, the

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[53] *Хр. Атанасов.* Към подреждането на пъзела: нормираните цени в Румелия от средата на XVII до началото на XIX век. In print.

[54] *Вебер, М.* Протестанската етика и духът на капитализма. С., 1992, с. 17.

[55] It is possible that in the course of this recalculation are lost or added grams of silver, as far as the ratio between the coins does not correspond exactly to the grams of metal. At this point, however, any such inaccuracies could not be circumvented without excessive complication of the method of work, besides the difference is hardly significant.

[56] Often, when the Ottoman clerk recorded the cumulative assessment of inheritance inventory, he made it in two currencies, which allows for calculating their "rate". For example, from the inheritance inventory of the Bosniak Mustafa beshe (*beşe*) from Vidin, we understand that one grosh is worth 40 para (S 49, 24 a, sefer 1196 – January/February 1782); the same proportion is recorded also in the inventory of the painter Ibrahim, again from Vidin (S 79, 46b zilkaade 1203 – July/August 1789). From other tereke defters we get the rate of akche towards grosh (120 akches for one grosh – S 311, 44, 47, 48, 51, etc. from 1214–1799/1800), of para towards akche and other combinations. The data from the sources confirm the adopted in the text ratio between these Ottoman coins for the entire period studied here.

[57] See: *Ив. Първев.* Балканите между две империи. Хабсбургската империя и Османската държава (1693–1739). София, 1997, 23–67; *Idem.* Хабсбургите и Османската империя в края на XVII век. Конфликтът от 1683–1699 г. – Исторически преглед, 1993, № 1, 3–20; История на Османската империя. Под. Ред. на Робер Мантран. Рива. София, 1999, 261–285.

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