

TRAVELING IN THE DIBRA'S AREAL

- On the book "**Major Dibra and a look at the Minor Dibra**" by Prof. Dr. Arian Kadiu

The author intends to present us an overview of the history of Dibra's territories tracing back to the antiquity. Even in the writings of ancient historians, such as: Herodotus, Tukidid, Polybius and Tit Livy, there are found very interesting data to prove the existence of residential areas in these territories, where life has continued without interruption since the Illyrian period as lands inhabited by Albanians, where it is spoken the Albanian language and Albanian culture has developed; as sites where major historical events of the periods of Roman-Macedonian and Illyrian-Roman wars have happened. Based on the writings of historians, we find the valley of Black Drin and the surroundings as the habitat of the Illyrian tribe of Penests.

Based on historical evidence, in the book we find arguments in favor of the Albanians autochthony on these territories, arguments that reject all anti-Albanian theses of Serb-Macedonian historians on Albanians' descending from the mountain areas.

The second important moment in viewing the history of Dibra's land is the medieval period, more exactly the time of Skanderbeg.

In the book we find also interesting information on these 19 battles - places where they have developed, such as: Oranik, Sfetigrad, Canyon of Rovik, Modri, Meçad, Çidhën etc., in the match against the Turkish hordes commanded by: Ali Pasha, Firus Pasha, Mustafa Pasha, Hamza Pasha, Talip Pasha, Moses Golem, Sinan Pasha, Ballaban Pasha.

The author stops at two of the major events of the period of the League of Prizren. First, he analyzes the Assembly of the League of Prizren, held in Dibra on November 1st, 1878, where under the chairmanship of Iliaz Pasha Dibra,

it emphasized the problem of Albanian autonomy. Secondly, the author explores truthfully and based on facts the Extraordinary Assembly of the League of Prizren, held in Dibra on October 20th, 1880, which was attended by 300 delegates from different regions of Albania and represented two attitudes and two currents of movement for autonomy.

Chapter 20 (p. 357) of the book deals with the famous Congress of Dibra (held on 25 to 29 July 1909), for which the author writes: *“For the Congress of Dibra, unfortunately, there were benevolent and malevolent comments ... the malevolent ones stick to the fact that this congress was stitched by the Young Turks...”*

In the chapter “Remarkable men”, the author underlines: “... it should never be overlooked the irreplaceable role of the nobles of the province...” and in the book you will find the curriculum vitae of 19 most important figures: **Iljaz Pasha Dibra, Said Hajdini, Vehbi Dibra (Agolli), Hafëz Sherif Lengu, Hafëz Raif Kadiu, Hajji Hafëz Ismet Dibra, Faik Shatku, Haki Sharofi, Haki Stërmilli** etc.

The series of eminent personalities from the Dibra’s lands can still be extended with other figures, which left their mark in the history of Dibra.

Many of these characters, among other things, worked with dedication in preaching the high values of the Islamic faith and inspired among Albanians the highest and sublime sense: Love and faith in God.

The book of Prof. Dr. Arian Kadiu is a panoramic look at Dibra’s areal and resembles a mosaic of carefully and skillfully chosen pearls in the history, culture and traditions.