

## **History of the Military Frontier**

### **Croatian transcript:**

Zoran: I ovaj, bila je Vojna krajina tu, na području današnje Hrvatske.

Aleksandar: A šta znači „Vojna krajina“?

Zoran: A Vojna krajina, to je neki koncept gdje je na teritoriju kao za obranu Evrope ili Austro-Ugarske, Austrijskog carstva, od invazije Osmanlija - jel se tako kaže – su planski naseljavano stanovništvo i, znači, vojno-sposobni muškarci koji su bili kao neka buffer-zona; to se na našem kaže zona... Ne znam, nemam pojma.

Aleksandar: Nije važno.

Zoran: Da, na hrvatskom „tampon zona“. I ovaj, i tako je ta Vojna krajina... I sad, to je isto bitno za povijest jer tu došlo do većeg miješanja stanovništva, jer su u toj Krajini, ne znam sad točno kako su te migracije išle i kako je to Austrijska carevina vodila, ali uglavnom naselilo se puno Srba u tom dijelu. Jesu li oni ranije već izbjegli pred Turcima, pa su im oni tu osigurali nekakve uvjete za život itd; to se zvalo „Antemuralis Christianum“, tako nekako, ali... Na hrvatskom se to kaže „predziđe kršćanstva“, predziđe kršćanstva, to je neki termin gdje, znači, to je stvarno bila činjenica, neko vrijeme dok su ti trajali, ratne operacije, a kasnije ostalo kao jedna politička floskula Hrvata kao branitelja Evrope i, ne znam, zapadne civilizacije.

Aleksandar: Koji je to dio današnje Hrvatske?

Zoran: Pa ja bih rekao da je to, to su dijelovi današnje Hrvatske i Bosne i Hercegovine, znači valjda tamo negdje od Like, pa tamo gdje su Plitvice, Plitvička jezera sada pa mislim da ide i Cazin, Banja Luka, tako tu, i prema, prema Sisku.

Aleksandar: Što bi bila neka istočna granica?

Zoran: Da, i gore prema Sisku, Kostajnica.

### **English translation:**

Zoran: So, there was something called the Military Frontier in the territory of modern Croatia.

Aleksandar: What was the Military Frontier?

Zoran: Well, the Military Frontier was a concept where a part of the territory was used to protect Europe and Austro-Hungary, or the Austrian Empire, from the invasion of the Ottomans - I think that's the right term [for the Ottoman Empire] - by calculatingly populating the area with people, military-age men mostly, which then served as a buffer zone of sorts. I can't remember the term for that in our language...

Aleksandar: It's okay if you can't.

Zoran: Oh, yes, it's called *tampon zona* in Croatian. [laughter] So that's how this Military Frontier [came to be]... In any case, it's relevant to our history because it was the site of a large mixing of population, because people in the Krajina - I'm not sure how the migrations went and how the Austrian Empire dealt with it precisely, but in any case, a large Serb population moved to that area. I think they might have already been fleeing from the Turks, and they [the Austrian Empire] made sure that they were provided for in terms of living conditions, etc. This area was called *Antemuralis Christianum*<sup>1</sup> or something to that effect... In Croatian, it means "the Bulwark of Christianity". In any case, the term was accurate for a while during those military operations, and later it remained in use as a political cliché, representing Croats as protectors of Europe and, what have you, Western civilization.

Aleksandar: Which part of modern-day Croatia was it in?

Zoran: Well, I'd say that it was, it consisted of parts of modern-day Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, meaning the area from Lika<sup>2</sup> to Plitvice, the Plitvice Lakes<sup>3</sup>, up to Cazin and Banja Luka<sup>4</sup>, and towards Sisak.

Aleksandar: Which would be the eastern border?

Zoran: Yes. Towards Sisak and Kostajnica<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The proper Latin phrase would be *Antemurale Christianitatis*, meaning "The Bulwark of Christianity", as the speaker states later in the video.

<sup>2</sup> Lika is a mountainous region in Central Croatia, roughly bound by the Velebit mountain from the southwest and the Plješevica mountain from the northeast. It is a part of the Lika-Senj County. Lika borders the North-Western Bosnia and Western Herzegovina regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<sup>3</sup> Plitvice Lakes, the oldest national park in Southeast Europe and the largest national park in Croatia, is situated in the mountainous area of central Croatia, at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. This area is a part of the Lika-Senj County.

<sup>4</sup> Cazin and Banja Luka are cities in the northwest and north of Bosnia and Herzegovina, near the border with Croatia.

<sup>5</sup> Sisak and Hrvatska Kostajnica (often referred to as just Kostajnica) are a city and a town in Central Croatia, near the south-eastern continental border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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