

The City Of Durres Under The Anjou's Rule 1272-1320

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Abstract

Expelled from Constantinople by Michael Palaiologos, Baudouin gives back to the king of Naples, Charles Anjou, the direct possession of the lands that the despot Michael had given to his daughter, Helen, when she married Manfred (1267). These lands given for dowry, consist of Butrint, Sibot, Kanina, Vlora and Corfu. Michael Palaiologos died in 1270 and, a year later, confident in his right, Charles Anjouine, sent Jean Clare to take possession of these lands.

Independent themselves of the emperors of Constantinople, the inhabitants of Durres and the suburbs offer their obedience to Charles Anjou, provided they are guaranteed their old privileges. Charles gives them all the inherited rights, and when the Palaiologans later wanted to regain Durrës, the population of Durrës fought against the army of the Byzantine Empire.

Key words: Durres, Anjouins, Byzantine Empire, Palaiologos, Albania.

Introduction

After Manfred's assassination, his successor on the Arber coast, admiral Chinard, also fell victim to a plot in Kanina hatched by the despot Michael II the Angel. As a result, the Sicilian possessions on the other side of the sea, centered on Corfu, remained under the rule of the leaders of the

constituent provinces of this possession: the captain of Durres-Arber, Andrea Vrana: the advisor of Kanina, Jakob Balsiniani; Corfu councilor Werner Alamani. These local governors refused to hand over the lands under their jurisdiction to the despot of Epirus. Meanwhile, the new sovereign of the Kingdom of Sicily, Charles I of Anjou, inherited the intentions of the Norman Altaville and German Hohenstaufen dynasties, which in foreign policy aimed at subjugating the East and finalizing the capture of Constantinople. He had also secured the encouragement and support of the papal state. The Church of Rome, through the Anjouins, intended to organize a new crusade against the restored Byzantine Empire to make the union of the two churches real. Under the influence of Pope Clement IV, in May 1267, "in Viterbo" (Jireček 1975: 18) (city in central Italy) an agreement was signed between Charles I of Anjou and the dethroned Latin emperor of Constantinople, Balduin II. The agreement forced the latter to transfer his rights east to the new king of Anjou (Anamali 2002: 240).

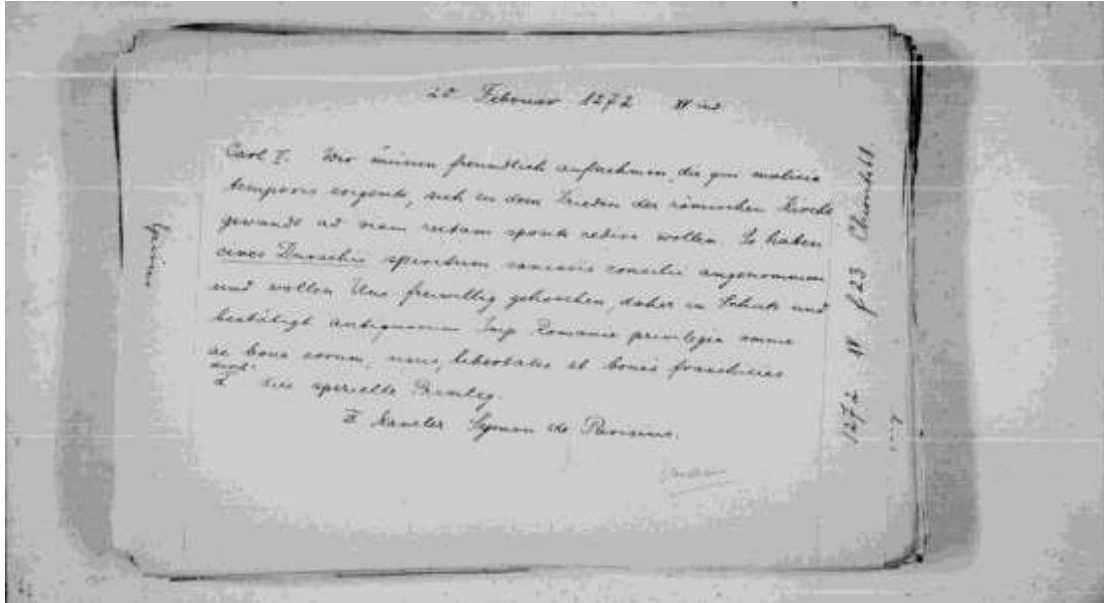
The fulfillment of this strategic goal would naturally be implemented step by step, starting first from the Arber areas. The conquest of Durres and the revitalization of the Royal Road (Egnatia) would become the main gate and artery (Xhyheri 2015: 54). Attention was therefore focused on ensuring stability in the Sicilian possessions on the Adriatic-Ionian Arber coast and Corfu. Charles I of Anjou, in 1267, asked officials of former King Manfred on the east side of the sea to recognize him as the new king of Sicily (Anamali 2002: 240). At the same time he sought to confirm his inheritance right over Manfred's possessions, turning his collaborators in Arberia into vassals. This policy provoked reactions, even objections. The captain of Durres and the castles of Corfu, Butrint, Vlora and Sopot refused to pass under Anjou sovereignty. The Anjouin approach was not appropriate for the Arberians. Arberian territories continue to be the most difficult area for the implementation of the policies of various rulers, coming from the west or east. This is for two main reasons: from the resistance of the Arberians in defense of their identity and the implementation of autonomous or independent governance; from the clash of the policies of many states to dominate Arberia with the

largest entrance and exit gate, Durres. In terms of rivalry, the strategic goal of Anjou collided, along with the Empire of Nicaea, with countries known for the time such as Venice, Serbia, Bulgaria, etc. (Biagini 2000: 17). For the Arberian factor, the new Sicilian sovereign accumulated the necessary knowledge of how this factor might be favorable. He went step by step retrieving or correcting any elements that did not deliver the right expectations. He was convinced to reconsider the first attempt of 1267, when he failed to establish proper relations with the Arberian factor, he failed to enjoy the authority that his predecessor Manfred had. Charles Anjou, after analyzing this reality, when, as he put it, the Arberians "hated his name" (Anamali 2002: 240), was in no hurry to react through any armed campaign. He adhered to the idea of bringing an approach acceptable to the Arberians.

Charles I Anjou continued the dialogue with the Arberian aristocracy and the civic community of Durres. An active part of the dialogue were also two Arberian Catholic priests, John of Durres and Nikolla of Arberia, confidants of King Charles I and his ally Pope Gregory X. They made several trips between Naples and Durres to convey messages to Arberian leaders. Through the dialogue extended in time, in the years 1271-1272 it was possible to find a denominator between the parties, the Anjouins on the one hand and the aristocracy of Arber and the civic community of Durres on the other. At the beginning of February 1272, a representative of the civic community of Durres and the nobility of Arberia was received by Charles I Anjou in his court. The meeting ended with the signing of two diplomas, on 20 and 21 February 1272, in the interest of both parties. According to them, an autonomous Arber state would be established with the name "Kingdom of Arber", successor of the Principality of Arber; the capital would be the city of Durres; the unification of the "Kingdom of Arber" was announced (Regnum Albanie) with the Kingdom of Sicily, under the sovereignty of Charles I Anjou and his protection (suam protection). Charles I Anjou from 27 February 1272 received the title "King of Arberia" for himself and his heir, being from this moment (according to an official act of the time) "king by the grace of the lord of Sicily and Arberia" (Dei

Gratia rex Sicilie et Albanie) (Ducellier 2005: 185). If we were to look at the “Kingdom of Arberia” in the formal-legal field, it was a continuation of an existing state tradition, despite the fact that the local leadership had to share power with the new rulers (Buda 1990: 158). Charles I was content at the moment with a “Little Coastal Arber” (Chaline 1990: 185) but “the nucleus of an entire Balkan empire” (Anamali 2002: 241), with borders between the Mat River on the northern side, the Bay of Vlora on the southern side (including the castles of Kanina and Vlora (Anamali 2002: 243) with a hinterland extending eastward to Ohrid (Pepo 2009: 24). The basic part of his rule was the territories between the Mat River and the Seman River of his Devol tributary on the southern flank (Anamali 2002: 244). The extension took place through the concessions and agreements of Charles I in favor of the local princes. Charles Anjou, in 1273, by an order (Talloczy 1915: 15) gave Pavel Gropa a community of villages located in the valleys of Bulqiza and Okshtun (branches of the Drin (Ippen 1927: 300). In December 1274, many Arberian leaders, mainly from the provinces of Kruja and Elbasan, signed a document with the Anjou governor Norjan de Toucy (Hopf 1821: 376), by which they recognized their sovereign King Charles I. Recognition of Anjouin sovereignty was an agreement reached between the parties, the Arberians on the one hand and the Anjouins on the other, an agreement reached “without any violence or coercion” (Anamali 2002: 244). According to the agreement, the “Kingdom of Arber” was recognized as an autonomous political-administrative unit. The civic community of Durrës secured recognition within the framework of the “Kingdom of Arber”. According to the diplomas, the Anjouins undertook to offer privileges to other Arberian cities as well as to engage in the honorable relations that the Arberians had with the Byzantines and the Serbs. The signing of the diplomas was accompanied by the declarations of Charles I Anjou in favor of the Arberian privileges (Šufflay 1913: 44), antiquariumImperatoriumRomania, “that all their good manners and customs would be respected, that we would keep them and make them be kept by all those who voluntarily submit to our power, that he would adhere to politics to please the feudal lords who owned land and

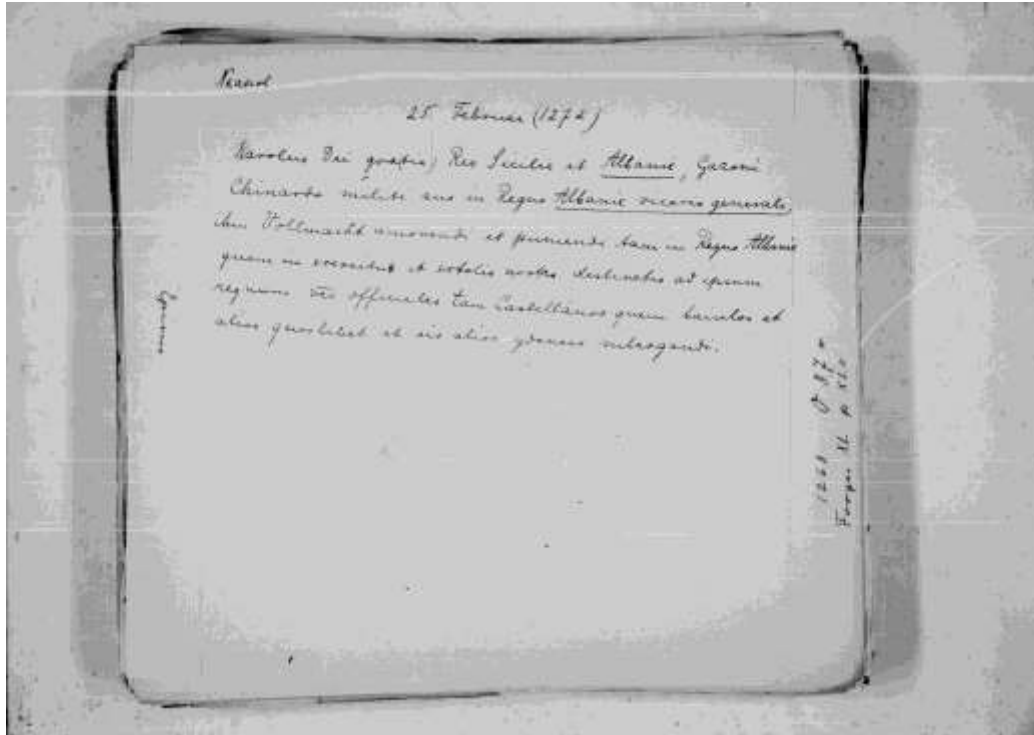
peasantry” (Pepo 1975: 25), that “prelates, counts, barons, castles and large tribal communities would be assured of the protection of their old privileges and the respect of traditional local institutions” (Drançolli 2001: 76).



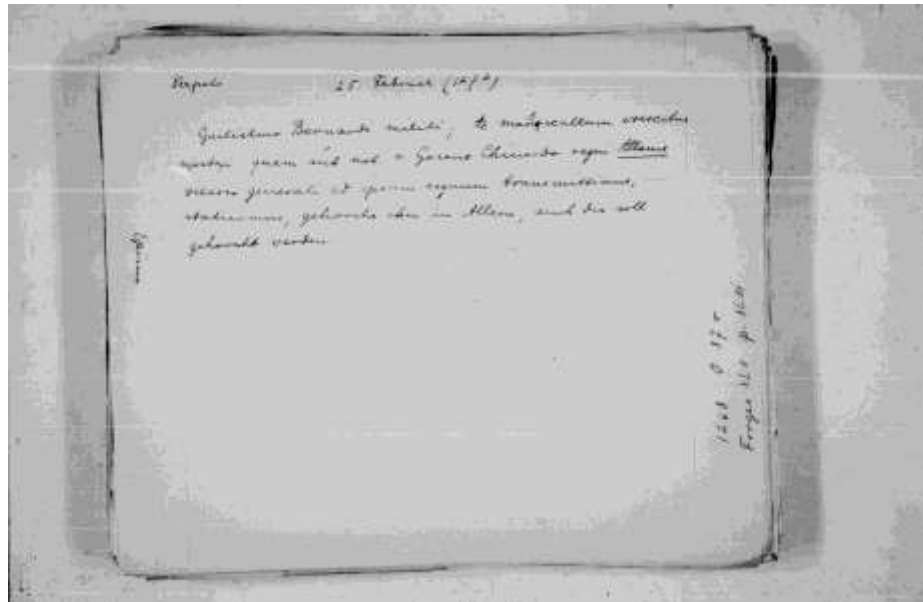
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The development of the Anjou-Arberian dialogue and the conclusion of the Anjou-Arberian agreement was the input of the action of complex factors, inside the Arberian and inside the Anjouin but also outside them. In terms within the Arberians, after the loss of the splendor of the Principality of Arber, the situation had precipitated to conflicts between large families of the Arberian aristocracy. It was passed from the power of a prince, Demetrius, to the power of some feudal families such as: Skurraj, Vranaj, Blinishti, Topiaj, Arianiti etc. (Anamali 2002: 244). From them, the recognition of a foreign sovereign was seen as a means to mitigate rivalries between them. At the same time, a considerable part of the Arberian feudal lords looked to the Anjouin Kingdom for the opportunity to penetrate advanced feudal methods (an effective means of accelerating their enrichment) but also to obtain titles and ranks (Pepo 1975: 24). At the domestic level, the fact that a strong pro-Anjouin group was present in Durrës and Arber, represented by the Catholic clergy, who during the reign of Manfred (enemy of the Papacy) had experienced severe persecution, played a role too. This group seeing Charles I

on the right wing of the Papacy were inclined to cooperate with him. It was these circumstances and interests that imposed the Arberian, princely and ecclesiastical principality to recognize the Anjou sovereign (Campobasso 2015: 99). Charles I Anjou had to spend years to realize the agreement with the Arberians. This is because in the bosom of the Arberian aristocracy there were reluctant segments related to the pro-Anjou orientation. This is more from the political line of the Anjouins regarding the Balkan states. Entire Arberian areas in the north, south and east were treated as areas of their interest in Arberia. The alliance with Serbia had priority for the Anjouins. In this vein, Charles Anjou did not defend the Gropaj of Dibra who were under Serbian threat. Among the factors outside Arber, but with the influence of the feudal and ecclesiastical nobility in Arber, was the current danger by the Serbs and the Byzantines. The Byzantine Empire (as we have referred in the text above) had under its rule the vast majority of the inner Arberia. The capture of Berat by the Byzantines (1259) was a threat and at the same time a very important strategic basis for extending the rule to the coastline. While on the northern side, the Serbs were very close to Dibra area. The Arbers under the Anjouins, compared to the previous rulers were feeling with a more advanced autonomous status. The restoration of Byzantine rule or the increase of its influence was seen as a hindering factor. Following the agreement, Charles I Anjou focused on establishing the administration of the "Kingdom of Arber", On 25 February 1272 he appointed GazonKinardi viceroy (Vicar) to the Arber Kingdom, as well as GulielmBernardi, marshal for "regnum Albanie".



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But very early, a gap was created between what was undertaken through the signed diplomas and their implementation in the "Kingdom of Arber". Promises and

signatures seemed to be mere demagoguery. A strong military administration was established, in which the representation of the Arber element was almost completely absent at all levels. All key functions such as captain and viceroy, marshal, castle dwellers, intendants, etc. were exercised by the Franco-Italian element. The Arberian nobles organized into a "regency council" had king-oriented powers, mainly to persuade the captain and viceroys and to assist with the necessary advice and tools. As a result, the perception of the Arberian principality towards the Anjous changed profoundly. Promises were made that the "Kingdom of Arber" would be the natural descendant of the Principality of Arber. Relations between the Arberian princes and the Anjous did not yield the results presented in the signing acts. The Anjouins viewed the problems in the context of their strategy, which imposed on Charles I alliances and developments that contradicted even the signatory acts (Prendi 1962: 91). The alliance that Charles I Anjou had forged with the Kingdom of Serbia did not create opportunities to protect the Arberian nobles north of Mat. Even within the "Kingdom of Arber" the Anjouins did not respect the recognized privileges. Consequently, Anjouin rule, after a seductive appearance at first, became increasingly into an intolerable regime for the Arberians, including the aristocracy. The latter, was forced to hold hostage its children, who were sent to the castles of Southern Italy. A whole period of Arberian-Anjouin divergences and conflicts began. The consequences were expressed not only politically but also economically. Large land funds were snatched from the local feudal lords, first the Anjouin opponents, who distributed them to the high dome (feudal lords and clergy) who came with the ruler as his support base.

The Anjou regime also hit the autonomy of the cities. Municipal governing bodies were replaced by the Anjouin administration. Anjou-Arberian divergences deepened over time. The consequences of Anjouin rule were felt especially by the city of Durres and its environs. Its autonomy narrowed. The economic interests of the trade, craft and minority strata were severely damaged by the application of state monopoly policies on the production and sale of key

products. The various obligations imposed by the Anjouin administration on the citizens of Durres, was another heavy burden. At the same time, the large revenues that Durres provided from the salt trade, went mainly in favor of maintaining the Anjouin administration and its military troops (Anamali 2002: 246). Analyzing the turn of events, it is not difficult to conclude that the “Kingdom of Arber”, during the Anjouin rule, finally lost its status. The Arberian rulers, representing large feudal families, lost their political and economic privileges almost completely. Added to this situation was a severe natural disaster. In July of 1273 (Prendi 1962: 96) a very strong earthquake damages the city of Durres. The seawater that flooded the city and especially the collapse of the buildings caused huge losses. Thousands of residents were killed and injured. A considerable part of the population “emigrated to different provinces, especially to Berat, while a part of the peasantry of the Durres region, abandoned the villages and settled in the abandoned ruins of the city” (Shuflaj 1926: 13). The destruction of the largest and richest city in the kingdom made the situation of the Anjou ruler very difficult (Pepo 1975: 24). In the course of time, the dissatisfaction with the Anjouins increased. It “was quite strong in the cities, especially in Durres” (Pepo 1975: 25). But the anti-Anjouin environment was not just inside the Arber area. According to the Anjouin documentation of the time, there was an evolving cooperation between the Arberians and the Byzantines, which in the summer of 1274 took the form of an alliance (Anamali 2002: 247). The Alliance undertook joint action against the Anjouins. The initiators of this new orientation of the Arberian aristocracy against the Anjou was the contingent of nobles who had maintained a reserved attitude towards the Anjouins and who were not included in the “Kingdom of Arber”, such as Pal Gropa and GjonMuzaka, respectively from Dibra and Berat. This initiating group in the course of time was added to others who had accepted the vassality of Charles I, but who had distanced themselves from him due to non-compliance with what was undertaken in the founding acts of the “Kingdom of Arber” and its unification with the Anjouin Kingdom. The last category included the Blinishti, Skurraj, Ionims, etc., who according to Charles I had returned from “his faithfuls” (*fideles sous*) into “my traitors”

(*proditores nostros*). It was this vast anti-Anjou environment that made Charles I not only “fear that discontent would take on the dimensions of an uprising” (Pepo 1975: 26) in Arberia, but was more afraid of an attack by the Arberian-Byzantine unifying factor, which was more than present to act. And it did not delay. The Alliance acted swiftly in time aiming first to obtain Anjouin holdings on the east flank. In August 1274, the clash between the Anjouins and the Arber-Byzantines was showing that victory was on the side of the alliance. A considerable number of Anjouins were killed and many were enslaved. While in November 1274, according to a report that the Anjou commander in Arberia addresses to King Charles, “the Arberians and Byzantines had besieged Durres” (Anamali 2002: 249).

According to later information, the alliance owned the vast majority of the territories and was rapidly moving towards the Anjou castles of the coast. Charles Anjou's Arberian possessions, which were in fact a plurality of the possessions of his vassal Arberian nobles, were reduced to the unsafe coastal castles of Durres, Vlora and Kanina. Berat in their hinterland had become the most important center of the Arberian and Byzantine nobles from where operations against the Anjou coastal castles were organized. Organizations from the castle of Berat, which was commanded (governed) by the Arberian prince, Sebastian Stano, enabled the penetration to the coast, taking possession of Spiranica (Zvěrnec) on the northern side of Vlora. This wedge-shaped penetration cut off the connection between Durres in the north and Vlora and Kanina in the south. Maritime communication also became difficult because the Byzantine fleet based in Butrint and Spiranica periodically attacked Anjou ships. The gap that was created between the Arber-Anjou relations and the Arber-Byzantine alliance against the Anjous was causing difficulties for the achievement of the Anjou's strategic goal, the capture of Constantinople. The Papacy's rapprochement with Michael VIII Palaiologus also influenced this aspect. This new position of the Pope was sanctioned at the Second Council of Lyon (1274), which met “to ratify the ecclesiastical union with the Greeks, who had knelt in the hope of escaping the possible threat of a new invasion by

west, this time from Charles of Anjou" (Potesta 2012: 250). The Council of Lyon isolated Charles Anjou because he suppressed the unconditional support of the Pope. Under the action of all the factors: the Arberians, the Byzantines and the papal, Charles Anjou finally gave up the fulfillment of the strategic goal (the invasion to the East and the capture of Constantinople). He, in 1276 was forced to sign a ceasefire with Michael VIII Palaiologos (Anamali 2002: 248). But Charles Anjou did not give up the intention to maintain and why not to expand the rule in the Arberian territories. To this end, he focused his primary attention on the review of his policy towards the Arberian princes. Some of them, in the framework of the alliance with the Byzantines and the attack of this alliance against the Anjouan possessions, were imprisoned in the Italian-southern prisons. Such were GjinMuzaka, DhimitërZogu, Kasnec and GuljelmBlinishti, who enjoyed authority in their possessions in Arberia. Through this movement Charles Anjou aimed to improve relations with the Albanian princely class, to break it from Byzantine cooperation and at the same time to be an active part of an attack against the Byzantines. Among the imprisoned Arber princes was GjinMuzaka, to whom repeated requests for his release were addressed. He was a prince who enjoyed authority and prestige. Apparently for the time he was the head of the dome of the Arberian aristocracy. Anjou therefore tried to use this capital of his to turn the Arberian leaders to his side who were positioned against. The order for his release was made on 30 July 1280 (Prendi 1962: 104), but on the condition that they keep him dependent on Charles Anjou (holding his wife and children hostage and taking an oath that he would not act against him) (Anamali 2002: 249). At the same time, Charles Anjou through talks with Serbia (on the northern side of the possessions) and the Despotate (on the southern side) concluded the alliance. The despot of Epirus, Nicephore I, who feared Michael VIII the Palaiologos the most, was proclaimed vassal of King Anjou and handed over the most important castles of the Ionian coast: Butrint, Sopot and Porto-Palermo (Anamali 2002: 248) (Himara). After these efforts, with the Arberian factor and the two states north and south of his possessions, Charles Anjou, thought of organizing a campaign with a dual goal: to subdue the

Arberian rebellious leaders and retake the castles occupied by the Byzantine emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos and for this purpose the preparations started for the landing in the city of Durres (Bozhori 1975: 199). But the main focus was on the castle of Berat as the main Byzantine base that exerted pressure on Durres and Vlora. The capture of Berat would be the strongest point for the advancement of the Anjou inside Arberia (Bozhori 1975: 201). Regarding the importance of Berat, Charles I Anjou wrote to the commander of the Anjou army in Albania that "he could not express in words the importance he gave to the conquest of the castle of Berat" (*ad captionemcastrisBellgradi, que ultra quam dicivaleatcordinostrosidet*) (Anamali 2002: 243).

The neutralization of Muzakaj, who had undisputed authority in this area, was considered a factor with great effect for its acquisition. Almost at the same time with the release of GjinMuzaka, the march of the Anjou's army for the capture of Berat begins, as the beginning of the implementation of the treaty (binding) of Viterbo, under the command of Hyg de Syl (Faveirial 2004: 233). The army, reinforced by forces coming from Durres, Kanina and Butrint, was getting closer and closer to the siege of the castle of Berat. In December 1280 they managed to take the suburbs of the city (*suburbia*) (Anamali 2002: 244). But the Anjou's progress that seemed successful, in content was not such. Simultaneously with the march the Anjous acted against the forces, which gradually became an important factor. According to the news that went to Charles Anjou, on the eve of the final battle for the capture of Berat, "the Arbers had risen again and attacked the Anjou troops" (Anamali 2002: 244). When the Anjouins were closer than ever to the castle of Berat, the Arberians attacked the coastal castles under Anjouin domination. This action forced the Anjouin commander to withdraw part of his forces to reinforce the coastal castles. This attitude changed the fate of the Anjou march against Berat. In the final battle that took place in the spring of 1281 on the banks of the Osum River, the Neapolitan forces suffered a complete defeat, where the captain of the army, Ugo de Sully, was taken prisoner and sent to Constantinople (Bozic 2002: 24). This was the last attempt of Charles Anjou and his descendants to create

an empire in the Byzantine east (Xhufi 2009:19). Defeat of this battle was not considered by Charles Anjou (Bozhorri 1975: 2003) as his end. He, based on the preparations he had made, believed and was determined to carry out the invasion to the heart of the Byzantine Empire (Faveirial 2004: 234). But for the moment, Charles I, frightened by the rumors that had spread that the son of the Palaiologos had started with a large army in the direction of Durres (Bozic 2002: 25) did everything possible to maintain the Arber coastal cities, constantly sending military and material aid. In the following year (1282) Charles Anjou planned another campaign against the Byzantines, but he could not carry it out. In this year a great anti-Anjou uprising of the "Sicilian Evenings" broke out, for the organization of which "Byzantine gold played an important role" (Chaline: 185) (engaged Michael VIII Palaiologos) and the king of Aragon. The aftermath of this uprising from a 20-year clash between the Anjouins and the Aragonites for political rule was a factor that "led to the weakening of Charles's rule in Arber".

Durres and other Anjouin castles on the Arber coast continued to be isolated islands under the constant siege of the Byzantines and Arberians. The 15-year period of the Anjou ruler in Arber did not provide the required stability. The Arberian and Byzantine factors put constant pressure on him and, in the circumstances of the Anjouin conflict in Sicily, Charles I Anjou, until 1285 was forced to leave the city of Durres, Vlora and Kanina. While the fortresses of Porto-Palermo, Sopot and Butrint that he continued to own were points of no particular strategic importance (Anamali 2002: 246). Meanwhile, the vast majority of Arberian territories were restored under Byzantine jurisdiction. In 1288, Andronik II "conquered the provinces of Vlora and Kruja and granted privileges to the cities of Kruja and Durrës" (Pepo: 27). Although a brief passage of time through the Arberian coast under the Anjouins, a new economic system took root, which "superimposed on the exhaustion of land trade". The overburdened bureaucracy of the Anjouin administration and the application of a predatory customs system in the major ports of Durres and Vlora were accompanied by the departure of Venetian and Ragusan merchants. The isolation of the coastal ports with Arberian land or with the

Slavic states on the northern side disrupted direct trade between Venetian, Ragusan, etc. merchants, on the one hand, and the Arberians and Slavic princes, on the other, who sold their agricultural and livestock products. Then many crops (mainly grain) that previously penetrated the coastal area from the interior, during the Anjouin rule moved from Puglia towards the east coast. A new coastal system was outlined that privileged the princely layer to the detriment of the traditional ports of Durres and Vlora.

But the rivalry for the Arber lands was not only between the Byzantines and the Anjouins. A new danger was coming from the north. This was the Serbian state that experienced a period of prosperity during the reign of Stefan Milutin (1282-1321). The goals of this state included the access to the Arber coast, where the Byzantines were gaining ground at the expense of the Anjouins. Thus begins the Byzantine-Serbian clash over control of the Arber coast. The Byzantine Empire, situated between two fires, the Anjouins and the Serbs, maneuvered to choose the lesser harm. Not being able to protect the possessions in the Arber lands, it set in motion the factor through marital ties. In 1299 Stefan Milutin "married the daughter of Emperor Andronicus II and the bride's dowry was Arberia from Durres and north of the river Shkumbin" (Pepo: 27). Such peace for the exhausted Byzantines was necessary. After the departure of the Anjouins, the Arberian state was formed, headed by the Topia family, but not in the wide extent that the Anjouins had. A part of the Arberian territories included in the Anjouin kingdom had been reconquered by the Byzantines, where Vlora should be mentioned in 1281 (Ippen 1928: 377). After the Serbian military penetration, Vlora and Berat, which were under Byzantine rule, passed under Serbian rule and continued until the Ottoman conquest (1417) (Ippen 1928: 378). In the last stage of Byzantine rule, new relations were outlined between the Arbers and the Byzantines. The growing conflict with the Anjouins and the Serbian penetration from the north were the two main factors that made the Albanians prefer the Byzantine influence. This was one of the reasons that influenced the Byzantine penetration in the southern part of the state of Arber. After the death of Charles I Anjou in 1285.

The new crippled King Charles II re-establishes the policy of the Anjou dynasty. He “sought to expand in the Balkans and start this with the occupation of Arberia” (Pepo: 27). He, in 1294 “leaves to the youngest son, Philip of Tarentum, the Kingdom of Arberia. Meanwhile, in the court of Naples, preparations were made for an expedition to Arber and, in 1305, Durres fell into the hands of Philip II, who tried to get in touch with the leaders of the country, giving them privileges, gifts and titles”. But the Serbs had the intention to occupy Arberia and to rule in the Balkan Peninsula, as we have mentioned. They, in 1318, based on the agreement with the Byzantines (1299), undertook a major offensive in Arber areas, conquering Durres and Arberia together with Kruja as its center (Anamali 2002: 273). During this period, Milutin (king of the Serbs) held the title “King of Arberia” (Pepo: 27). In these turbulent situations that were passing the Arberian lands, a necessary Arber-Anjouin cooperation was enabled. It was the year 1319 when the Anjouins asked the leaders of the Arberian leaders to remain loyal to them. Based on the historical interpretation of the sources at our disposal, at that time, the Kingdom of Anjou had a wide spread in the Arber lands and in the city of Durres in this case. Based on the names of the Arberian leaders, found in Anjouin documents of the time, it is thought that the mentioned kingdom stretched on the southern side to Vlora (mainly the Vjosa valley), on the eastern side to Ohrid and on the northern side to Mirdita. According to the data, it is learned that within the above-mentioned spatial extent there was also a city or province, which continued to be under Byzantine rule. This category includes the areas of Berat, Vlora and Kruja.

Conclusions

In striving to reach a conclusion about Arberia and Durres during the Anjouin rule, under the analysis of the whole and the operating factors together with their consequences, we stand to the opinion that the political and socio-economic privileges, which the Arberian leaders aimed to achieve in the framework of the Anjouin regime were not reached at the levels accepted and signed between the two parties. The

rivalry of a number of states to penetrate and possess Arberian territories, especially the coastal ones and their hinterland, which was present since the beginning of the Byzantine rule, but which reappeared with more intensity in the course of time, was a clash that hindered the natural development of the Arberian state life and the city of Durres as the most important center of Arberia.

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