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Yanya/Ioannina Fortress As Presented In The Archival Material*

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The city of Yanya/Ioannina located in the Epirus region of Greece, dates back to ancient times when the city was established. The name of the city, which is accepted to be built under the auspices of St. John, means "city of John". It was conquered by the Ottoman forces in 1431 during the reign of Murat II (1421-1451). The area limited by the castle built in the Ottoman period has become a living space. This study was carried out in order to determine the buildings in the city wall based on the sketch in the Ottoman Archive and to determine their current status. The localization of Fethiye Mosque, Aslanpasha Mosque, Tepedelenli Palace, bastion ruins and the buildings outside the city walls mentioned in the archive document can be easily determined. In 1913, The Ottoman army withdrew from the city and the Greek rule prevailed. In this process, it is observed that some of the buildings have been buried and some are used for other purposes. As result, it is seen that this archival document reveals definitive evidence in terms of determining the city's history and artifacts. The castle, from this point on, whose history goes back to the early dates, was rebuilt during the Ottoman period and made it solid. Although the living area of the city is mostly limited to the castle, it is observed that the walls overflowed in the last period of the Ottoman Empire. There was a community of public buildings such as palaces, madrasahs, libraries and schools, especially places of worship in the castle. In addition to these, the majority of structures such as military depots and barracks should point to the defense side of the castle. In this case, it is understood that the castle located in an area close to the Adriatic Sea had an important place for the defense system of the Ottoman Empire.

Arşiv Belgeleri İşığında Yanya Kalesi

Makale Bilgileri

ÖZ

Makale Geçmişi

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Yunanistan'ın Epir bölgesinde yer alan Yanya şehrinin ilk kuruluşu erken tarihlere kadar geriye gider. Aziz John himayesinde inşa edildiği kabul edilen şehrin ismi "Yahya'nın şehri" anlamını taşımaktadır. Yanya, II. Murat (1421-1451) zamanında 1431 tarihinde Osmanlı kuvvetleri tarafından fethedilmiştir. Osmanlı döneminde inşa edilen kaleyle sınırlı alan yaşam sahası haline gelmiştir. Sur içinde yer alan yapıları Osmanlı Arşivi'ndeki krokiden hareketle tespit etme ve mevcut durumlarının tayini amacıyla bu çalışma gerçekleştirilmiştir. Arşiv belgesinde geçen Fethiye Camii, Aslanpaşa Camii, Tepedelenli Sarayı, Burç kalıntıları ve sur dışındaki yapıların lokalizasyonu kolaylıkla tespit edilebilmektedir. 1913 yılında Osmanlı Yanya, Osmanlı, Fethiye ordusu şehirden çekilmiş ve Yunan egemenliği hâkim olmuştur. Bu süreçte yapıların bir kısmı kaybolmuş bir kısmı ise başka amaçlarla kullanıldığı müşahede edilmektedir. Bu belge şehir tarihi ve eserlerin tespiti bakımından kesin deliller ortaya koyduğu görülmektedir. Bu noktadan olmak üzere geçmişi erken tarihlere kadar geriye giden kale, Osmanlılar zamanında yeniden inşa edilerek muhkem hale getirilmiştir. Şehrin yaşam alanı büyük oranda kale ile mahdut kalmakla birlikte Osmanlının son dönemlerinde ise surların taştığı izlenmektedir. Kale içinde başta ibadet mekanları olmak üzere saray, medrese, kütüphane ve mektep gibi kamuya ait yapılar topluluğu yer almıştır. Bunlara ilaveten askeri depo ve kışla gibi yapıların çokluğu kalenin savunma yönüne işaret etmelidir. Bu durumda Adriyatik Denizi'ne yakın bir bölgede yer alan kalenin Osmanlının savunma sistemi için önemli yere sahip olduğu anlaşılmaktadır.

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INTRODUCTION

We shall try to explain the condition of the Ioannina Fortress as depicted in the drawings (sketch) that have come down to us from the late Ottoman time. The drawing has been preserved within the Catalogue of Plan, Project and Drawing of the Ottoman archives, numbered 872. Although the exact date of its preparation is still unknown, it is likely to have been drawn in 1904 (Yenişehirlioğlu, 1995: 490) Ioannina is a city in the northwest of Greece, near Albany. It is located around a volcanic lake.

The History of Ioannina

The first establishment of the city is taken back to the ancient period. In the history, around 600, large Slavic groups migrated to the area. In the tenth century, the Vlachs coming from the north and sixteenth century Albanians followed them. All these people settled in Ioannina and appoint the names of many villages (Kiel, 2013:317-321).

The city was conquered for the first time by Murat II in 833/1431 (Pouqueville, 1987: 115-145; Delilbaşı, 1987: 99) and later at the time of Sultan Muhammad II the security in the city was ensured by Ali Beg son of the Veteran Evrenos Beg. Towards 17th century the city became the Sancak center of the Province of Rumeli (Thrace). This Sancak had 22 districts (Evliya Celebi, 1993: 397; Lowry, 2008; Kılıç, 2016: 149). Ali Pasha from Tepedelen was appointed governor to the city of Ioannina (Delilbaşı 1997: 1-41). However, the governor began to act somehow semi-independent of the Ottoman State and consequently got into direct relationship with various European countries for his own interest. When Ali Pasha of Tepedenli came to nearly a stage of establishing his own autonomous rule, with the help of his own kinsfolk, Sultan Mahmut II at once deposed him from the post of governorship. Then he was shot dead on January 24, 1822 and his head torn off and sent to Istanbul (Feyzioğlu, 1998: 75-107; Sezer, 1995: 155-176). In 1869, a great part of Ioannina was destroyed by fire. Nonetheless, the marketplace was soon reconstructed according to the plans of the German architect Holz and supports the personal interest of Ahmet Rashim Pasha, the local governor. It is reported by Şemseddin Sami that two-thirds of the population of Ioannina was composed of Muslims and there were 30 mosques, 3 dervishes lodge, many madrasas, an Idadi and a library (Cam, 2000: 339). On March 6, 1913 the city of Ioannina was annexed to Greece. And today it is regarded as one of the important cities of Greece.

J.C. Hobhouse visited the city at year of 1809 and he described the city as follows: "The city stands on the western banks of the lake, at about two miles from its northern extremity. In its utmost length it may be perhaps two miles and a half; and in breadth, through in some places it is much narrower, nearly a mile. Immediately nar the lake it stands on a flat, but the north and north-western parts of it are built on slopes of rising and uneven ground." (Hobhouse, 1813:67).

Henry Holland also visited the city the date of 1812 and exposed social and political details. According to his glance, the city has got sixteen mosques, seven churches and population consisting of Greeks, Turks, Albanians and Jews. In 1820, just before the outbreak of the Greek war of independence, Ali pasha of Tepedelen openly revolted against the Ottoman reign. A great force under the command of Hursid Ahmed Pasha surrounded the city and the city suffered great destruction during this time. After the murder of Ali Pasha, the administration of the city was surrendered to the Ottomans (Holland, 1815: 134-135).

In 1828, J. Hütz described the city as narrow but well-furnished streets, some palaces, fourteen mosques, eight churches and with the other monuments (Hütz, 1828: 283-284).

According to Ş. Sami, there are thirty mosques, six churches, two synagogues, three lodges, a library and some primary schools in the city (Semseddin Sami, 1306: 4788-4789).

The Fortress:

The fortress was constructed over the peninsula near the lake of Ioannina. The date of its first construction is unknown; however, it is chronologically traced as far as back to the year 5 BC (Keil, 2013: 317-321).

On the basis of Evliya Celebi's observation, the length of the Fortress is about three thousand foot-pace. Unfortunately, it is in a dilapidated condition. The drawing in our possession shows the existence of a high number of military compounds in the fortress. This is an obvious indication of the fact that considerable investment was made rather towards strengthening the military architecture in the fortress after the time of Evliya Celebi, which can be explained that the dwellers might have faced serious problems in preserving the security of their city, Ioannina (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 397).

Again, according to the records of Evliya Celebi, because of the cliff on the side of the lake there was no need for building a wall on that side of the Fortress. But the other side of it, namely, the side of the land, was built a twofold wall. The same source records as well that the city went far outside of the Fortress and that the Fortress remained among the Quarters. It gives further information about the manners of settlements and structures there (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 397). Evliya Celebi indicates that since within the Fortress there were 4 Muslim quarters, 4 Mosques, and 7 prayer halls, only Muslims could have lived there. He also adds that at the outside of the Fortress there were, in addition, 18 Muslim suburbs, which he calls varos, 14 Roman suburbs, 4 Jewish suburbs, 4000 houses, 1900 shops, 8 Mosques, 12 prayer halls, 6 Madrasas (higher learning institutes), 3 special schools for Qur'an memorization, 11 schools, 7 Sufi convents, 3 Khans (Inns), and two Hamams (bath house) (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 397-403).

On the basis of J. C. Hobhouse's observation the Fortress; "A triangular peninsula (of which mention has before been made) just into the lake, and contains the residence of the Pasha, being defended by a fortification and a tower at each angle." (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

A-Interior Fortress:

The Bastion of the Menzilhane Ouarter¹

The Menzilhane Quarter is located in a place that separates the Interior Fortress. On the drawing, just its location is marked with no information on it. But now there are too many rooms and crenels at the same places.

The Macalala Bastion

The Macalala Bastion is located by the lake to the eastward of the Interior Fortress. As we understood from drawings, it should have been constructed under the ground. This bastion formed many rectangular rooms and it is covered with vault. The crenels are mostly destroyed today.

The Pasha Seraglio

The Pasha Seraglio is located at the Interior Fortress. The complex of the seraglio was constructed for Ali Pasha of Tepedelenli. This big seraglio was burned at the date of the 1870 and it returned to ruined. Now the seraglio excavation was carried out by the Greek archeologist. The new building which was built by Greek government it should be a part of the complex of the seraglio.

The Cannon Foundry (or Arsenal)

It was built just near the Fethiye Mosque. The Cannon Foundry is the place where all the

¹ The word of "Tabya" originated from Arabic language, means that 'provide', 'preparation', 'heap' and 'military' concentration. Bastion is a kind of small military fortification, especially built hill or slope of the mountains at an important strategic region, fort he providing the security and defence of the road or city. It is basically constructed for hindering the enemies at the front part. It is a kind of the police station.

cannons were manufactured and cast into molds. It is rather a rectangular structure in the Interior Fortress.

Fethiye Mosque

This Mosque is also called "Namazgah" (Prayer-House). It was built as centered dome structure and there were a ruined tomb at north part of the mosque. It is a typical structure of the time of the Sultan Bayezid, according to Evliya Celebi, who also relates that it was converted from Church into Mosque (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 339). E. Ayverdi is of the opinion that it had been used initially as a prayer hall for the Friday ceremonial services after the Conquest, in the name of which then it was re-arranged and converted into a full-fledged Mosque (Ayverdi, 2000: 310). There had been a Sufi Lodge attached to it before, which later disappeared as the years passed by.

The Wall of the Fortress that Awaits Renovation and Restoration

The wall on the eastern part of the Interior Fortress is in need of renovation. The area to be renovated appears rather very long.

The Sahin Room

It is located at the west of the Interior Fortress. This room very likely belonged to a person named Sahin Beg. On the other hand, according to Evliya Celebi, there was a tomb attributed to Sahin Beg within the edifice of Aslan Pasha (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 339).

The Bastion of the Sahin Room

There was a Sahin Bastion in the room known as Sahin's. This bastion was situated at western gate of the Interior Fortress and it was presented in wide area.

The Cistern

It is found out at western part of the Interior Fortress. It is constituted adjoining places. It must be one of the cisterns that supply necessity of beverage. But it has not existed today.

The Karabelâ Bastion

It is a bastion located at the west of the Interior Fortress.

The Military Ward

It was built in the shape of rectangular on a spot close to the northwest corner of the Interior Fortress. It is not possible to determine how many floors it was built on because it does not still exist up to now.

The Well

The well out of which the soldiers used to obtain water for drinks and other basic needs is located somewhere near to the wards. Evliya Celebi says that water was scarce in Ioannina. He also indicates that while the residents in the suburbs used to receive their water supply from the well, the inhabitants of the Fortress would generally obtain it from the lake (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 402).

The Kitchen

It is situated near the wards at the north of the Interior Fortress. Ioannina was reputed for its kebabs, white bread, bagels and pastries made of chicken, as well as baklavas.

The Pantry

It is attached to the kitchen and used as a storage for the goods of the soldiers.

The Woodshed

It is a room where woods are stored for cooking purposes.

Ammunition House

At the north of the Interior Fortress a special room was constructed for storing ammunitions. Its location is mostly likely chosen for cautionary purposes, in the hope of protecting the Fortress from any attack that might possibly come from the side of the lake.

B- Exterior Fortress

1-Menzilhâne Quarter

It is located between the Interior Fortress and the land outside. Around the suburbs there located military buildings and but towards the centrum, especially around the narrow streets there located residential buildings, among which there was also Cilali Pasha Mosque.

Cilali Pasha-Ali Pasha- Mosque

It was built at the Exterior Fortress in the Menzilhane quarter. Though it was registered in the drawing as Cilali Pasha Mosque, it was also known as Ali Pasha Masjid. Evliya Celebi describes the congregation as many in the interior side of the gate of the Fortress. The date of its construction is uncertain, but since it was still intact when Evliya Celebi visited it, it was very likely to have been built in 1081/1670. Unfortunately, it was abolished now.

Cannoneers Wards

Located at the southeast of the Fortress, it consisted of two buildings shaped in rectangular. It covers virtually all the southeast of the Fortress and occupies a vast space which sheltered military units.

Lake Bastion

It was built at the southeast corner of the Fortress and located on a crucial spot overseeing both the lake and the land. There is no trace from this bastion now.

Butcher Bastion

Since it was located on a place facing the street known as Kasaphane, it was called by this name. It stands on the wall constructed by the ditch.

Footrace Bastion

At the edge of the ditch it was constructed on a location connecting the land with the Fortress.

Head Bastion

It is a section located at the west of Bas Bastion. Each in a way completes the other.

Iron House

It is an edifice shaped in rectangular.

Police Station

It is adjoining to the Demirhane. There were interestingly a few police stations in the Fortress.

Sancak Tower

It is tower edifice located on a spot close to the Grand Gate. It was constructed there possibly

for controlling the gate.

2-The Jewish Quarter

It is the quarter facing the main entrance. The military buildings located on the side of the ditch were shown in the drawing. Besides them, no other buildings were situated there.

The Main Gate

There were two grand doors of the Fortress according to Evliya Celebi. The larger one was located at the northern part of the Fortress, facing the quarter. It has a lower arch. The pedestrians can easily go in and come out. The other gate opens to the lake to get water therefrom. It is also recorded that there are still more yet eight small doors. And today there are ten gate around the Fortress.

The Clock Tower

The Clock appears to be located in the Jewish Quarter. Over the walls of the Exterior Fortress it was built. On the other hand, Evliya Celebi informs of the existence of another clock located outside the Fortress (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 400).

Dervish Hasan Bastion

It stands over the walls located at the west of the Fortress Gate.

3-Aslan Pasha Ouarter

At the heart of the Fortress was located Aslan Pasha Quarter. At this place, the buildings constructed by Aslan Pasha who also gives the name to the Quarter, as well as other military buildings were found in this Quarter.

Ammunition House

There is a second ammunition house by the bastions. It looks like a rectangular in shape. It was constructed on a land close to the ditch. In fact, all the military needs of the soldiers in the Fortress were provided from these places.

Abbas Bastion

It constitutes its sample in the west, as they are located through the ditch.

Former Pharmacy

It is situated on a place over the walls near the ditch. This phrase is inscribed in a square tablet. As it is understood, it could be one of the earliest examples of pharmacies that existed in the Fortress.

Police Station

It was constructed over a place that connects the ditch with the walls. Probably, it was built for safeguarding the security of the Fortress from that side.

Mansion of Aslan Beg

It was constructed on a wide area and formed by two adjoining buildings. According to Evliya Celebi, these mansions were surrounded by wide courtyard sitting on a building with no skeleton. The foundation of the mansions was made up of stone, while the structure above it was made up of limestone. Together with these mansions, Evliya Celebi has also mentioned by name of some other mansions as Kaplan Pasha, Murat Pasha, and Şahin Pasha Mansions. J.C. Hobhouse spoke about these houses at length: "The houses are, many of them, large and well-built, containing a court-yard, and having warehouses or stables on the ground, with an open gallery and the apartments of the family

above...Though they have but a gloomy appearance from the street, having the windows very small and latticed with cross bars of wood, and presenting the inhospitable show of large folding doors, big enough to admit the horses and cattle of the family, but never left open, yet the yard, which is often furnished with orange and lemon trees, and in the best houses communicates with a garden, makes them very lively from within..." (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

Granary of Beg

It was an edifice that was built in rectangular shape nearby the mansions. It served as a grain store for mansions. In another words, the food for the mansions was supplied from this granary storehouse.

Ruined Buildings of Sasu Beg

In this place only the name of the building remained marked without there being any trace about the forms of the structures. Besides, not enough information was available about the life and personality of Sasu Beg himself.

Bastion of Sasu Beg

It stands over the walls located at the west of the Fortress.

The Well at the Great Cellar

As we understand, the water demand of the fortress was provided generally by wells. And one of these important wells was excavated and built at the Aslan Pahsa Quarter.

Aslan Pasha Mosque

Aslan Pasha was one of the most important figures who served as an officer in the Balkans under the Ottoman rule. For quite some time, he was a governor for the districts of Tırhala and Ioannina. During this time, Aslan Pasha constructed complex of buildings, including Mosque, Tomb, Madrasa, Mansions, Library, Imaret (the place which served free food to the poor and to others, such as madrasa students) and Dervish Lodge (the small place for dervish accommodation). On the basis of the information recorded in the charter of the waqf registrations (Ev. K.K. Number 629, pp.199), E. Hakkı Ayverdi dated the buildings 1017/1608 (Ayverdi, 2000: 309). However, Evliya Celebi mentions that the mosque was erected in 1027/1618 (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 400).

This modest mosque which stands under a tomb in the center includes a special narthex (placed outside and added to north part of main hall) and a slender minaret which bears a balcony on it. According to the sketch we have examined, no detailed drawings but only the draft of buildings is provided. Although the place of the mosque appears marked on the sketch, nothing whatsoever is mentioned of the tomb. The tomb which today still exists as adjacent to the south of the mosque was probably considered as part of the mosque and hence was not shown on the sketch.

The Madrasa of Aslan Pasha

According to drawings, it is located at the west of the Mosque at a lower slope. It was constructed as axle stretching from south to north. The madrasa was centered at the courtyard surrounded by student rooms. This system was quite common among the Ottoman educational buildings as seen in its capital İstanbul. (Yenişehirlioğlu, 1995: 493).

Police Station

It was built on the north-west side of the Fortress. Just near the ditch there was another police station at the Aslan Pasha Quarter. So, the existence of these buildings is a clear indication of the problem of security around the Fortress.

Ammunition House

It is not unusual to see the Ammunition House near the police station. For in every quarter there were a police station and an ammunition house.

The Well

There must be a very big well at the north part of the Fortress. This is well understood from the drawing which displays the well just near the lake, and hence it must have contained large amount of water.

The Stables

The stables were situated along the north of the fortress. It is obvious that these places are used for nourishing horse and cattle for the purpose of combats and transportations.

C-The Buildings Outside the Fortress

The buildings outside the Fortress were situated along the street across the ditch. As it is understood from the settlements that spilled over outside the Fortress, those structures were used as the center of the commerce. According to the observation of J.C. Hobhouse, "There is one street which runs nearly the whole length of the town, and another that cuts it at right angles, extending to the fortress. These are principal streets." (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

The Ditch

Of the number of the buildings outside the Fortress we have a limited knowledge. Among these buildings is also mentioned of the ditch, which might have served its function until the XX. century and which is however no longer in existence today. Because the Fortress is surrounded on its three sides by the lake, the ditch should be at the south rampart. But now this ditch was completely filled and had the function of street.

The Bridge

It connects between the Fortress and the land. The bridge is linked to the main gate of the Fortress. As we observed from the sketch, this was the only bridge on the ditch that was most likely built as a draw-bridge. And J.C. Hobhouse affirmed these possibilities and described about it; "... The entrance to this fortress is over a draw-bridge." (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

Tanner Quarter

The term tanner is one of the words we have been hearing about from the medieval times. The house of tanning was a place where animal hide was processed and converted into leather. By this way, the workshops of tanning contributed significantly to the employment and production. All these evidences prove that there were so many workshops in this Quarter.

Shopping Center around the Ditch

It is located just near the ditch, after which it took its name. We have no knowledge about the boundaries of the shopping center. Evliya Celebi reports that there were many craftsmen in this center, such as tailor, jeweler, and blacksmith (Evliya Çelebi, 1993: 402-403). Probably the must be the place which has been indicated by the J.C. Hobhouse as "the Bazar" or "principal street" (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

The Jewish Quarter

Now we are aware of the second The Jewish Quarter outside the fortress. This quarter was located just opposite the Fortress and close to the shopping center. As it is understood, this is an extension at the outside of the Jewish Quarter inside the Fortress.

Shopping Center

This must be the building of shops which has been described by J.C. Hobhouse as "Bizestein (Bezistan)" or "covered Bazar". (Hobhouse, 1813: 68).

Butcher Shops

As it is known, the place where animals are slaughtered is called butcher house. Butcher houses were built by the Fortress and close to the Lake. The meat which was obtained from the slaughtered animals was no doubt used for feeding human beings and at the same time the offal of the animal was used in the workshops of tanning.

Coffee Shops

In the coffee shops; dervishes, storytellers, musicians, singers, and dancers would gather together to inform and entertain people (Evliva Çelebi, 1993: 402-403). Apparently, a place that accommodates such a wide spectrum of people must be big.

Conclusion

Through the sketch we have been examining, we have tried to determine the boundaries of the Ioannina Fortress, as well as the monumental buildings associated with it. We are struck by the fact that there appear on the sketch some many buildings which today are no longer in existence. In any case, this significant sketch and the information furnished therein shed considerable light on the history of Ioannina in particular and the Ottoman history in general. Even though all the buildings are shown on the sketch in drawn lines, each line in its place, nevertheless, helps us determine the locations of these buildings.

Although Evliya Celebi pointed out that Kaplan Pasha Mosque had been located in the Fortress, no sign of it was shown on the drawing. On the historical pictures this mosque was shown instead outside the Fortress close to barracks.

Because of the security reasons, almost every quarter contained one police station. This is all the more so given the diversity of religious and ethnic communities living there together.

As has been noted, there were numerous bastions inside the Fortress. This is an obvious proof to show that the Fortress was erected strategically on an important spot. The bastions were constructed close to the land. On the other hand, the existence of the bastions at the exterior Fortress also shows the importance of the Interior Fortress.

Fethive Mosque located inside the Fortress is exemplary for the earlier buildings. We conclude that the other buildings at the Fortress were built after the second half of the 17th century. This is again another evidence to show that the Ottomans had been in full control of the territory from the 17th century onwards.

After the revolt of Ali Pasha of Tepedelenli, Sultan Mahmut II built military buildings connected with the Redif organization in order to safeguard the security of the district. In addition, subsequent Ottoman Sultans, especially Abdülhamit II, were engaged in the constructions of buildings structures all around the country. The buildings constructed at that time were; Infantry Barracks, Military Hospital, Government Office, Clock Tower, Secondary School for Girls, and City Hall. All of these buildings were located outside the boundaries of the Fortress and some of them have reached us intact today.

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(Catalogue of Plan, Project and Drawing of the Ottoman Archives, İstanbul, Numbered 872)



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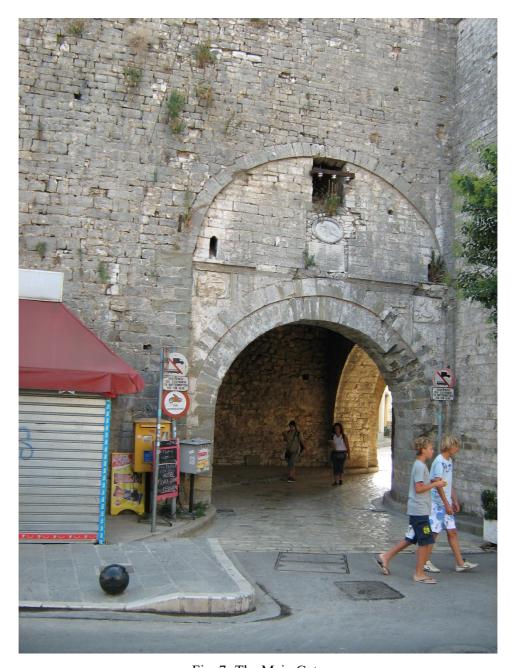


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