

THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION IN THE SOCIOGEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE COMMUNE DAJÇ.

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Abstract

Nowadays this topic is as wide and as specific in terms of its type. Speaking about demographic evolution in the geographic space Dajç Commune requires many studies and observations too. However in this article, the treatment of this topic will have a different view where we will touch its demographic history from ancient times till today, which has not been studied earlier. Here will be listed the four periods, where the Albanian history has left its traces. These periods are: The historic of human populations to the Middle Ages, the population from the Turkish Middle Ages till the late 20th century, the dynamics of population number in the period 1945-1990, the dynamics of population movement 1990-2013. This study has a special significance for a series of demographic processes. To view the demographic evolution of an area can not be reached accurate conclusions without going out of its genesis. This is one of the reasons why this study has its origins from the late antiquity. Specifically the archeological traces of Dajç Commune testify the population of the region since the late antiquity, where they found two impost capitals carved by local masters that show us the presence of an early Christian basilica VI century. Materials and Methodology: Strategic Plan for the Development of the Commune Dajç. Meetings with the community, collecting information from communities through the development of various surveys, cooperation with local authorities of Commune Dajç.

Keywords: Demography, natality, natural increase of population, Buna River, archeology.

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History of human populations to the Middle Ages

The study of earlier populations of the commune Dajç has a special significance for a series of demographic processes. This area has favorable geographical conditions as geomorphological, pedological, hydrological, biogeographical for human's life and economic activity. The archeological traces testify to the population of the region since late antiquity, where they found two impost capitals carved by local masters that "...show us here the presence of an early Christian basilica VI century¹ Impost capitals are of limestone and adorned with crosses and plant motifs, quite similar to the stone impost capitals from Daljani, Doklebasilicas, allowing us to shed light on church organizations and relationships with other areas of the province of Prevala. Even more convincing for urban life in late antiquity is the fact that at a distance of 3-4 km are found traces of the church of St. Sergius on the left side of the river Buna, Church of St. Bacchus. St. Sergius and St. Bacchus saints were saints with origin from the east, but since IV century was founded a monastery² in honor of them. Even today Shirq Catholic population, celebrates their feast St. Baku on October 7, confirming the historical heritage with these holy Christians.

Near these churches is also found the rustic residence³ open with considerable presence of contemporary material culture by the basilicas of the time. These settlements are a clear testimony of an active life of rural population, not only in the sphere of material production, but also in the spiritual one. Despite political differences, the long involvement in the Byzantine Empire dominion of the Albanian territories, the emergence of new kingships and states, their greed on this space didn't hinder the continuation of population of this territory. Even in this period of war, the establishment of fortified settlements takes a special importance which shows the need of defending from the continuous attacks.

The architecture used is the invaders style, the Byzantine one. This is proved because with byzantine origin is also the Obiliquus fortress on the right bank of Buna⁴ river. The presence of this fortress by Croatian scholar, Milan Shuflaj dates from the late tenth century. The existence of this fortress and its position is creating the possibility of the idea of extending other rural settlements around it. Castle Obiliquus must have served as the center of a small town. This castle must be destroyed before the year 1400⁵.

Maybe its position, Serb dominion until 1355 and the resistance of the population to this dominion may be the cause of destruction. So far there are still traces of the castle which must have served as the center of a small town

¹ Gezim Hoxha "Scodra and Praevalis in the late antiquity", Shkoder 2003, pg. 115.

² Gezim Hoxha "Scodra and Praevalis in the late antiquity", Shkoder 2003, pg. 112.

³ Gezim Hoxha "Scodra and Praevalis in the late antiquity", Shkoder 2003, pg. 137.

⁴ Milan Shuflaj "The Serbs and the Albanians" pg.16.

⁵ Ermanno Armao "places, churches, rivers, mountains and different toponyms in an ancient map of north Albania", pg.96.

Populating from the Turkish Middle Ages until the years 20 of the late 20th century

Continuum of the population in the XIV-XV centuries is displayed through written sources of the time derived from the registrations of the invaders, who for their purposes had to register the population of the area, to have more accurate information about the population of the invaded country. Dajc area has had continuity of life, but maybe during the Venetian invasion was outside their area, namely under the domination of the generous Albanian feudal, therefore the data is not included in Venetian Cadastre in the years 1416-1417. Unlike the thecadastre of Venice, The Diary of Shkodra Sanjak of the year 1485 provides an opportunity to observe, "that its forms of social organization and connections of blood were preserved strong in a range of settlements, which must be created no earlier than one generation or two ahead the generation of the enrolled residents in The Diary"⁶. This Diary creates the opportunity of the recognition of administrative and economic organization, demographic developments of the origin of settlements and the spiritual world.

Table of the registration of the population of the year 1485

Houses	14	7	5	5	5	0	4	10
Villages	Shirq	Samrishti i eperm	Samrishti i poshtem	Dajc	Mushan	Rrushkulli	Pendetar	Darragjat

Registration of year 1485 which was after 6 years when Shkodra and surrounding areas fell into the hands of the Ottomans also gives us a picture of the level of economic development.

From 8 villages recorded in 1485 result 50 houses with an average of 6.25 houses per village. This average is not associated with the limited economic potential, but perhaps with a possible departure of the population after the fall under Ottoman domination.

Taking into account that a family counted 6-7 members⁷, it appears that the total number of population in villages of Dajc in 1485 was at borders of 300-350 people.

In the census of 1582, namely 98 years after the first census, we see a great increase in the number of houses where from 50 houses that were in the year 1485, their number went to 372 in 1582, or 322 more ones.

Villages with the greatest increase result: Dajc with 75 houses, Shirq with 71 houses and Mushan village with 51 houses.

⁶ Selami Pulaha "The Diary of the registration of Shkodra Sanjak in the year 1485", Tirana 1974, pg.21.

⁷ V. Misja, Y. Vejsiu, A. Berxholi "Population of Albania", Tirana 1987, pg. 63.

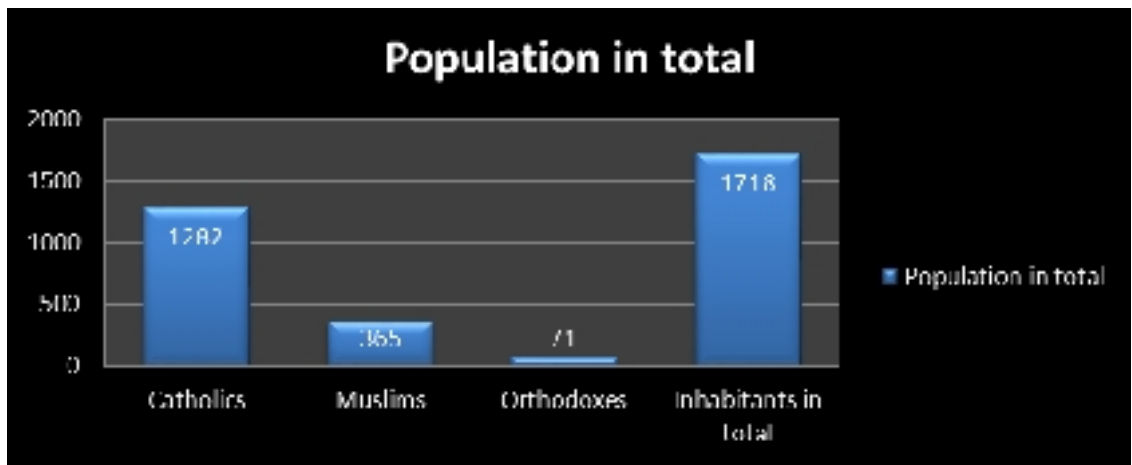
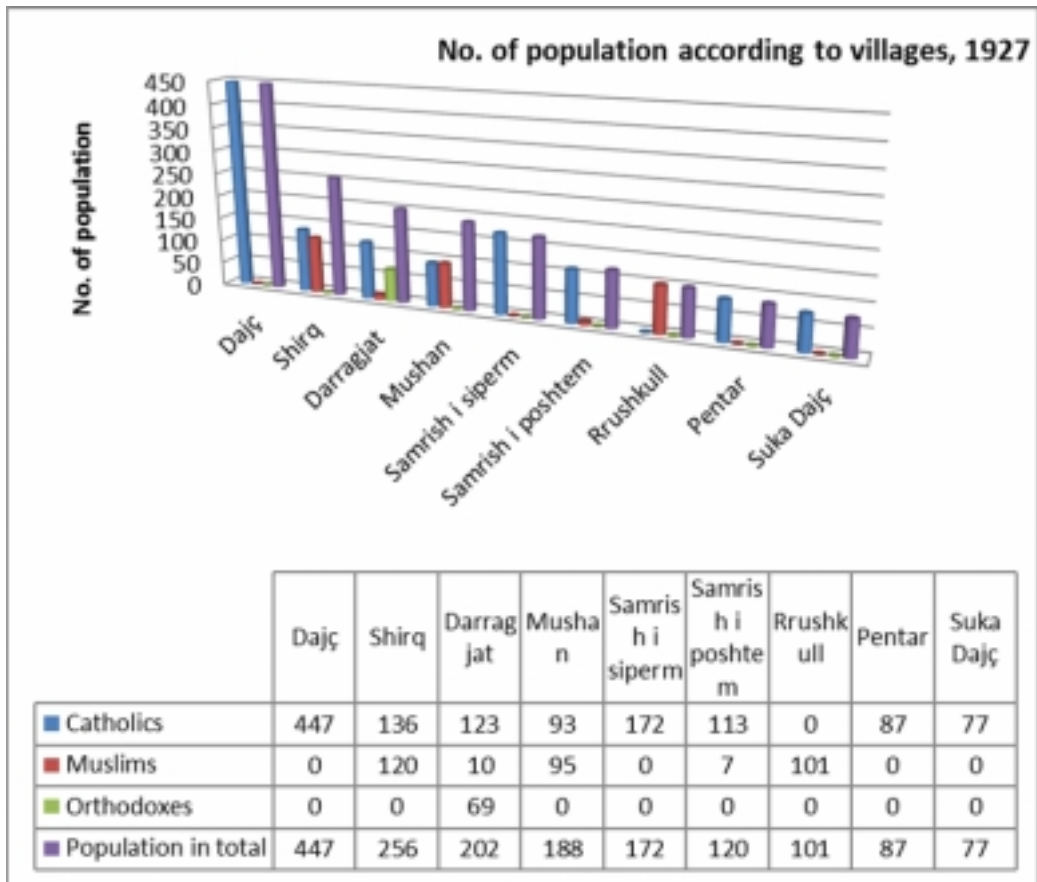
The demographic situation must be seen in its complexity. Number of population based on average 6-7 people per house varies in values from 2232 to 2604 inhabitants or 7.44 times more than the census of the year 1485.

In terms of religious structure in the 1582 census we see a new picture. This picture is related to the establishment of Ottoman rule in the area of Dajc, which was associated with the process of Islamization of the population. At that time 334 houses or 89.8% of the population belonged to the Catholic faith, while the orthodox belief in this period was not present in the population of this region. Unlike in 1485 when the area was not a Muslim population, in 1582 we find in every village a total of 38 houses or 10.2% Muslim population, excluding only Darragjat village, where we do not find the Muslim population. The two records of the year 1485, 1582 are important sources of demographic study, as in the subsequent period there is lack of performance data that show us the demographic development in its entirety.

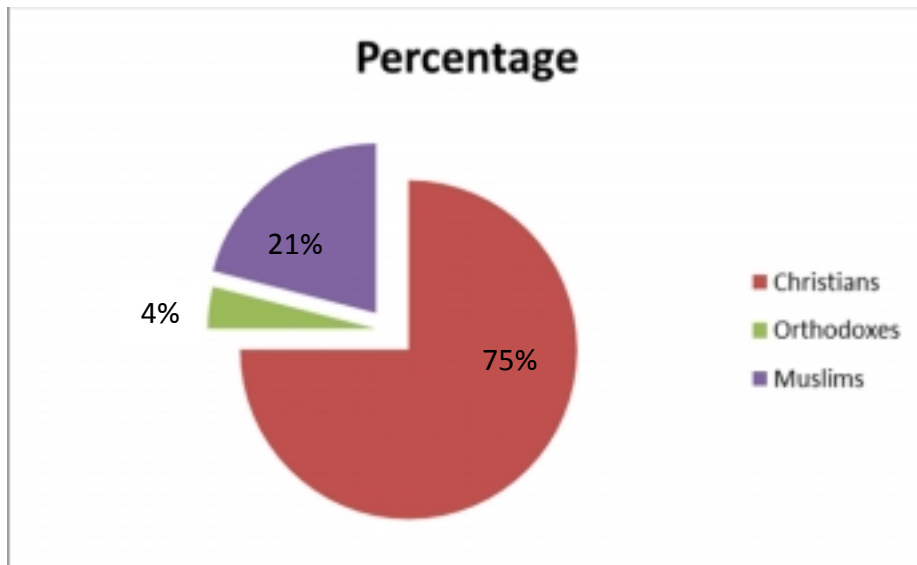
Following centuries until the declaration of independence will be accompanied by many important events that have left a negative impact on the population dynamics. Territorial greed and constant wars have been present especially after the 30s of the XIX century, when predatory intentions appear to Albanian lands from neighbour states. Submission of Ulcinj in November 1880 brought the departure of the population and its placement in Shkodra and its surroundings.

With the declaration of independence, political instability and the First World War created no opportunity to create a picture based on the dynamics of population censuses. The new administrative organization after the declaration of independence in the prefecture of Shkodra, in the province of Obot included the 10 villages of Buna coast (of Dajci), from 17 that were in total.

Graphic of Population according to villages and faith



Population in total = 1718
 Christians = 1282
 Muslims = 365
 Orthodoxes = 71



Given the data table 1927, we see that in the province of Obot where 10 villages were part of Dajc, from 11 that are today with a total population of 1718 inhabitants, will observe this religious structure, Catholics who constituted the majority of the population with 1282 residents or 75%, Muslims: 361 residents or 21% and Orthodoxes: 71 residents or 4%. In these data we lack information about mountain of Gjymti, that is thought not to have been involved in the Dajci area, or is familiar with one another designation, which was part of the province of Obot. The density of population in the area Dajc territory in 1927 was about 40 inhabitants/km², while the density in the prefecture of Shkodra was 24 inhabitants / km² and nationally 30 inhabitants / km². High rates of population in Dajc commune per unit of land are obvious, with 16 inhabitants / km² more than Prefecture of Shkodra and 10 inhabitants / km² more than the density of Albania.

Population dynamics in the period 1945-1990

Demographic developments after liberation of the country were accompanied with an increasing performance as a result of population increase at a rapid pace, a result of high levels of fertility and systemic declining levels of mortality. This performance seems quite clear if we will compare the dynamics of population in the 1927 census (where the population was 1718 inhabitants), with that of 1950 when it went to 8998 people. This increase so high population relates to the administrative division of territory in Albania, where even Dajc area was included in an administrative territory much larger than today (territory, which today belongs to the municipality of Anamali). This division justifies the increase of population but the data obtained are shown for reasons of demographic study. The new administrative division of Dajc area regards 1978. So in a period of 23 years we have an absolute increase compared with 7280 inhabitants in 1927. These data are taken from the office of INSTAT and as it is seen, there are fluctuations in population size, which is related to occasional changes to the administrative division, of the area in question, because it can not be explained otherwise this emphasized difference in the number of residents from 1927 to 1950.

After 1955, in 1960 there is a normal rate of population growth, with 583 inhabitants, with an average of 117 inhabitants per year, the period from 1960 to 1967 has an additional rhythm of

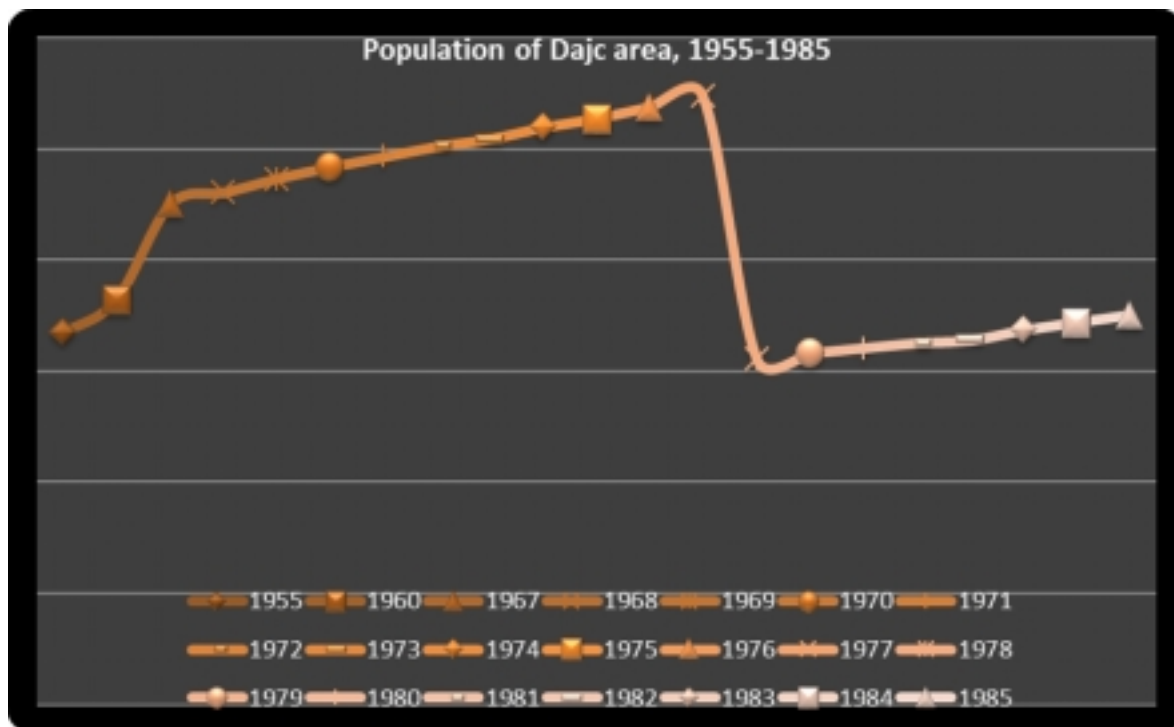
population with 1720 inhabitants, or an average of 245 inhabitants per year. Period 1967-1972, there is a growth rate of population with 1040 residents, or an average of 208 inhabitants per year. While for the period 1972-1977 the population additions to this 5-year period was 908 inhabitants, or an addition of 182 inhabitants per year.

As seen in the period 1960-1967, it is the largest addition of population, with 245 inhabitants per year. This relates to the improvement of living conditions and the consolidation of the new government.

Table of Dajci population, 1955-1985⁸

Years	1955	1960	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Population	669	7278	8998	9216	9448	9671	9854	10038	10172	10385	10539	10744

Years	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Population	10941	6218	6327	6406	6495	6552	6739	6870	7000



⁸ Data obtained from the office INSTAT, Shkodra.

From 1978 to 1984, with the new administrative division, we see a new demographic picture, with a total addition of population of 652 inhabitants or 108 inhabitants per year, for 6 years. While in 1985, it is noticed an addition of population with 130 inhabitants in a year.

The dynamics of population movement 1990-2012

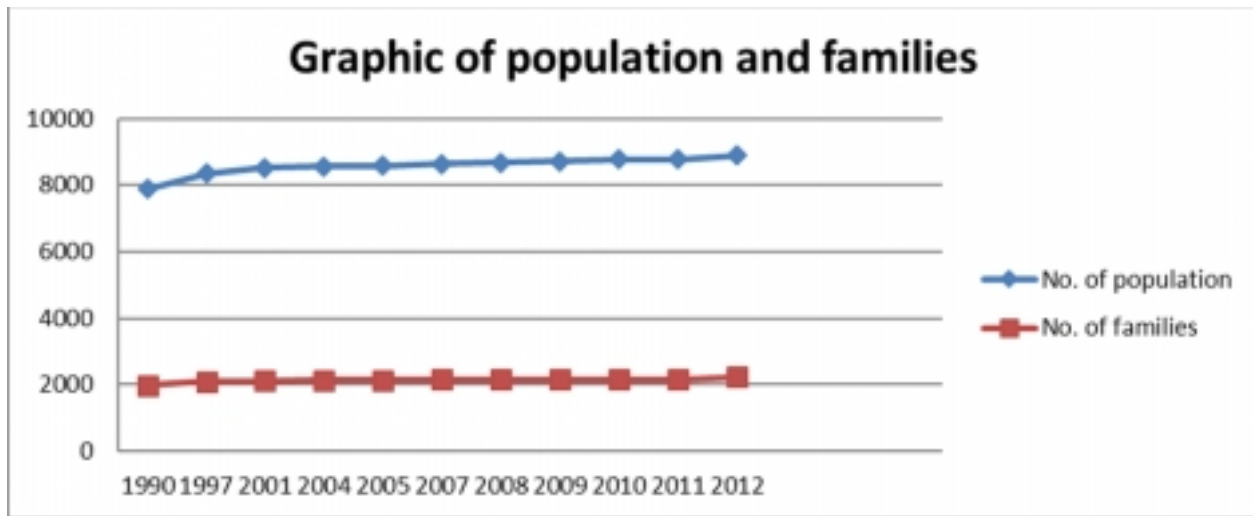
This stage is accompanied by drastic changes in economic, politic and social fields in Albanian society. The failure of the centrally planned economy model, the deep political crisis, led to the establishment of a new model, the pluralistic one. Albanian society was affected by various phenomena, which had not been in the 45-year history. Family planning orientation towards smaller families and fewer children brought significant decline in natural population increase. Free movement of people, significant reduction of the natural increase of population defined negative balance in the period 1997-2007, where there was a small increase from 286⁹ inhabitants or an average of 28.6 inhabitants per year. Another factor is the decline of natural add delaying the age of marriage, when once, age of marriage for women was 17-22 years, today there is an increasing trend, as well as for the men that once was 20-25 years old and today is 25-30 years old.

Referring to the increasing population in the table below, it is evidenced a constant growth of population which comes as a result of natural population growth, while there is no evidence for mechanical increase. According to the table, between 1990-2007, the population has increased from 7885-8636, only 751 inhabitants. It should be considered the problem of discrepancies in the number of people from the registry and the actual number of residents, who in 2005 moves with 2,000 inhabitants. Taking for granted Dajç data, where this difference is due to immigration inhabitants, it is estimated that the population of the municipality (including the number of immigrants) by 2015 will reach a figure of 8900 inhabitants).

Table of population from 1990 to 2012 and graphic of population and families

Year	1990	1997	2001	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of population (inhabitants)	7885	8350	8517	8566	8579	8636	8680	8710	8770	8775	8888
No. of families	1984	2096	2122	2131	2133	2151	2153	2154	2156	2160	2240

⁹ INSTAT



The population that was affected by migration furthermore, was the young age, the most vital: 20-30 years old. This negative phenomena brought the decline of the number of marriages from 10.9/1000 in 1985, which was 3.2% higher than the average marriage in the villages of Shkodra district. This indicator fell 6.2/1000, which is the average of the last 5-year period from 2004 to 2009. At a higher level, it is presented the addition of population for 2007-2012, which is only 252 inhabitants, with an average of 50.4 inhabitants per year. If we compare with the previous period we have a slight increase. These factors have determined the dynamics of increasing populat

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