

## CULTURAL MOVEMENT IN SHKODRA IN 1916-1918

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### **Abstract**

This study throws light on an early complicated historical period in the city of Shkodra from 1916 to 1918 and aims at presenting a detailed picture of the cultural movement in those years. This period was associated with impetuous developments that had effect on all aspects of the economic, political, social and cultural life. In the conditions of political storms that swept the Balkans, and facing a number of objective and subjective factors, the period under Austro-Hungarian occupation combines a number of particularities and achievements for the city of Shkodra. The intellectuals of the Shkodra city had the distinctive merit of rationally evolve at the level of the historical events. The *Rozafat* Society was one of the main cultural-artistic societies of the Shkodra city, distinguished for the fact that it managed to bring together intellectuals that represented the three religious beliefs. The orchestral formations that enlivened the life of the city gave a special impetus to the cultural-artistic creativity in Shkoder. The study reveals the fact that the Austro-Hungarian occupation created a favorable climate for and promoted the development of art and the whole cultural movement in Albania during these years. It even endorsed the invigoration of the cultural artistic life, enriching it with artistic activities which their armies organized. The combination of previous policies of Austro-Hungaria in the field of the promotion cultural development with the recognized liberal policies towards its different peoples in the empire, and the current political interests of the time, led to the peculiarities of cultural developments in Shkodra. These policies were skillfully used by the cultural and political patriotic elite of Shkodra, which, entwined, led to some crucial achievements during this stage.

**Keywords:** *Cultural movement, Shkodra, historical period*