

= Petar Parchevich =

Petar Parchevich (Bulgarian : ????? ????????? , pronounced [pɐˈtɐr ˈpartʃɐˈvitʃ] ; Croatian : Petar Parčević) or Petar Mihaylov Parchev (????? ?????????) (c . 1612 ? 23 July 1674) was a Bulgarian Roman Catholic archbishop , diplomat , scholar , baron of Austria and one of the architects behind the anti @-@ Ottoman Chiprovtsi Uprising .

A native of Chiprovtsi and one of Bulgaria 's most educated people of the 17th century , Parchevich was among the leaders of the Bulgarian Roman Catholics . His numerous diplomatic visits to the royal courts of Europe were mostly in an attempt to garner support for an anti @-@ Ottoman uprising in Bulgaria , which he did not live to witness . Nevertheless , his efforts in defending Christianity earned him a noble title from the Austrian emperors , and he took up several important positions within the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical hierarchy .

= = Education and early diplomacy = =

Petar Parchevich was born circa 1612 in Chiprovtsi to an influential Parchevich (Parčević) family , having Croatian roots and being the ancestral house of the House of Pejačević , a notable and distinguished Croatian noble family in the 18th and 19th century . Chiprovtsi was then a Catholic @-@ populated town in the northwestern Bulgarian lands under the rule of the Ottoman Empire . In the 17th century , Chiprovtsi was a rich merchant town in its cultural heyday . Like many Bulgarians from Chiprovtsi at the time , Parchevich was sent to be educated in Italy . Having studied in Rome and Loreto , he returned to Bulgaria in 1643 as a doctor of theology and canon law , which made him one of the most educated Bulgarians of his age .

Upon his return , Parchevich engaged in diplomacy with the ultimate goal of ensuring the Liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule . Receiving papal support , Parchevich visited the royal courts of Europe and advocated the formation of an anti @-@ Ottoman alliance which would drive out the Ottoman Turks from the Balkans . Parchevich was received by the courts of the Austrian Empire , the Polish ? Lithuanian Commonwealth , the Republic of Venice , the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia , and Pope Innocent X himself . There , he requested backing for an anti @-@ Ottoman campaign which would lead to the liberation of the Balkans , and " most of all , of the great Bulgarian Empire " .

Parchevich made several visits to Poland , such as once in 1647 , when he was met by Władysław IV Vasa , and once in late 1649 , when he was received by the new king John II Casimir Vasa . In his speech before the Senate of Venice from 1650 , Parchevich referred to the " unbearable Ottoman yoke " and told of the Bulgarian people 's long struggle against the Ottomans . After meeting with Innocent and persuading the pope that Bulgaria could collect an army of 20 @, @ 000 for an anti @-@ Ottoman campaign , Parchevich remained in Rome until the spring of 1651 .

= = Archbishop , major diplomat and baron = =

In 1658 , Parchevich was appointed head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marcianopolis (named after an Ancient Roman city near modern Devnya , northeastern Bulgaria) . Along with the Diocese of Nicopoli headed by Filip Stanislavov , Marcianopolis was one of the two sees which succeeded the Bulgarian Custody as the governing body of Catholicism in Bulgaria . Parchevich also held the position of Bulgarian internuncio to the Viennese court . In 1661 , Parchevich had to step down as Archbishop of Marcianopolis due to pressure from Rome , which condemned his clerical inactivity , though in 1668 he became apostolic vicar to Moldavia despite continuing suspicion .

By the mid @-@ 1650s , Parchevich had entered major European politics and was the central figure of a significant anti @-@ Ottoman plot . In 1656 , Parchevich arranged a meeting in Târgoviște between the members of the plot , which included the rulers of Moldavia and Wallachia and high @-@ ranking clerics , including the Serbian Patriarch . After the meeting , Parchevich sent revolutionary messages to Bulgaria , Serbia , Albania and Greece , hoping to incite a rebellion . His plans were backed by the rulers of the Romanian lands which border Bulgaria north of the Danube :

Gheorghe Ștefan of Moldavia and Constantin Șerban of Wallachia . However , the lack of clear support by key accomplice Austria meant an eventual uprising had to be delayed . In 1657 , Parchevich was received by Cossack hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky , whom he visited on a special mission . In the same year , he was granted the noble title of baron by the Habsburgs owing to his merits in defending Christianity . As an Austrian noble , he was styled Peter Freiherr von Parchevich .

In spite of Parchevich 's efforts , conditions would not be favourable to a Bulgarian anti Ottoman uprising until well after his death . While on a diplomatic mission to Pope Clement X , he died of illness in Rome in the summer of 1674 and was buried at the Sant 'Andrea delle Fratte basilica in the city . Parchevich 's letters and reports have been preserved and are an important source of information regarding his activities .

= = Honours = =

Various institutions around Bulgaria have been named after Petar Parchevich , including streets in the capital Sofia and Shumen . A Catholic football club known as SK Parchevich was founded in Plovdiv in 1923 and later merged into what is today PFC Lokomotiv Plovdiv . One of the neighbourhoods of the mostly Catholic @-@ populated town of Rakovski in Plovdiv Province is also known as Parchevich . In addition , three schools , in Plovdiv , Rakovski and Chiprovtsi , are named after him , as is a community centre (chitalishte) in the Banat Bulgarian village of Asenovo , Pleven Province . Parchevich Ridge in the Breznik Heights on Greenwich Island of the South Shetland Islands , Antarctica , also bears his name thanks to the efforts of the Antarctic Place @-@ names Commission of Bulgaria .