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A. DJURIĆ MILOVANOVIĆ, J. KOLUNDŽIJA, M. MĀRAN, O. HEDEŞAN AND C. D'ANCA, eds.,
NEW CULTURAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SERBIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.
 New York: Peter Lang, 2024, 380 p.

*Reviewed by Marija Milinković**

In early 2024, the reputable publisher Peter Lang, in collaboration with the Balkan History Association (BHA), released an international edited volume titled *New Cultural and Political Perspectives on Serbian-Romanian Relations*, as part of the South-East European History series. As the first of its kind in English, the volume aims to provide an overview of the political and cultural interactions between Serbs and Romanians for an English-speaking audience. The edited volume includes contributions by researchers in history, anthropology, philology, ethnology, and art history, and explores the interconnectedness of Serbs and Romanians during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries through the perspectives of diplomacy, history and culture. The volume comprises into two parts.

The first part features eight studies by Serbian and Romanian historians on historical and diplomatic relations, based on a diverse body of literature and archival material. The first paper in this section, written by Romanian historians Miodrag Milin and Victor Neumann (pp. 19–42), discusses the political involvement of prominent individuals in Banat and Transylvania in the second half of the 19th century, as well as the concept of nationality among Romanians in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Ivana Spasović's contribution (pp. 43–64) explores the relationship between Serbs and Romanians in the Banat Military Frontier in the late 1860s and early 1870s. The paper also highlights

the main challenges experienced by the Serbs and Romanians living in the Banat Military Frontier.

The first part also includes studies on notable figures who made an impact on the history of Serbian-Romanian relations. *Romanian-Serbian Relations Reflected in Vasile Popeangă's Works: Historiographical Insight*, by Felicia Aneta Oarcea (pp. 65–80), explores the cultural exchanges between Serbs and Romanians and the role of Vasile Popeangă (1920–2012), one of the most prominent figures in the Romanian educational system, in these exchanges. Srđan Mičić's contribution (pp. 81–123) focuses on diplomatic relations, specifically the influence of the first Yugoslav plenipotentiary minister in Bucharest, Boško Čolak Antić, on the policies of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians/Yugoslavia towards Romania. Anđelija Miladinović examines the dynastic relationship between the Serbian and Romanian royal houses and the figure of Maria Karađorđević, the Romanian princess and Yugoslav queen consort (pp. 125–146). Dragan Bakić (pp. 147–171) focuses on the role of Jovan Dučić, a prominent writer, poet and diplomat, during his tenure as the Yugoslav ambassador in Bucharest from 1937 to 1940. Vladimir Lj. Cvetković and Nemanja Mitrović focus on the post-World War II period.

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Cvetković explores Josip Broz Tito's dealings with the Romanian Prime Minister Petru Groza between 1945 and 1947 (pp. 173–197), and Mitrović analyzed the relationship between Josip Broz Tito and Nicolae Ceaușescu and its impact on Yugoslav-Romanian relations in the late 1960s and early 1970s (pp. 199–224).

The second part of the volume brings interesting insights into the relations between Serbs and Romanians in art, religion and literature. This section comprises six studies, including three focusing on the artistic aspect of cultural transfer between the two nations. The section also discusses prominent figures in the fields of culture and religion, as well as literary connections between Serbs and Romanians.

The first contribution, authored by art historian Raluca Prelipceanu (pp. 227–255), delves into the influence of Serbian painters on Transylvanian art during the 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as the involvement of Transylvanian painters in Banat. *Stefan Tenecki: The Baroque Painter of Serbs and Romanians* by Jovana Kolundžija (pp. 257–274) provides insight into Tenecki's influence in adapting the Byzantine tradition to the Baroque style, as well as his legacy for the art and culture of the Serbs and Romanians in the Habsburg Monarchy. Maria Alexandra Pantea and Virginia Popović's paper (pp. 275–292) zooms in on Serbian intellectuals in Arad and their impact on education, science, and culture from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The authors specifically highlight the prominent Tekelija family, focusing on the political career of Sava Tekelija, the first Serbian Doctor of Law and a philanthropist.

Vladimir Dimitrijević and Serbian-Romanian Church Relations in the Late

Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries by Mircea Măran and Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović (pp. 293–304) explores the prominent role of the theologian Vladimir Dimitrijević (1868–1928) in strengthening Serbian-Romanian church relations and halting the spread of the Nazarene movement among Orthodox Serbs and Romanians. *Romanian-Serbian Literary Relations at the Beginning of the Millennium* by Octavia Nedelcu and Gordana Nicoleta Peici (pp. 305–333) delves into the remarkable role of translation in the transfer of cultural values. The authors focus on the translation of works by renowned Serbian writers such as Milorad Pavić, Miloš Crnjanski, Danilo Kiš, and Ivo Andrić from Serbian to Romanian, as well as the reception of Serbian literature in Romania. Finally, yet no less importantly, in her case study *In Between Local Identity and National Artistic Heritage: Naïve Painting from Uzdin* (pp. 335–357), Diana Mihuț examines the origins of naive painting in this village in Serbian inhabited by Romanians, by sharing various personal stories. In addition, Diana Mihuț highlights the significance of naive painting in preserving the artistic heritage of Romanians in Banat and delves into the characteristics of this cultural phenomenon.

This volume focuses on the interactions between Serbs and Romanians. However, it is important to note that these relations are not presented in isolation. The contributions offer a comprehensive view of the cultural and political relations of the two nations within the context of Southeastern Europe. The wide range of topics covered in the book allows us to see how the connections between Serbs and Romanians influenced each other in the past. Covering subjects ranging from

politics and diplomacy to culture and religion, this volume offers an interdisciplinary perspective on Serbian-Romanian relations.

In the introduction, the editors state that the volume aims to add to our understanding of the mutual influences, exchanges, and transfers of knowledge and ideas that significantly impacted Serbian-Romanian political and cultural history in modern times (p. 9). Jovan Dučić is an illustrative example of the intersection of diplomacy and literature. During his time as an ambassador in Bucharest, he had the opportunity to connect with prominent Romanian writers, who translated his poetry and prose into Romanian.

The edited volume *New Cultural and Political Perspectives on Serbian-Romanian Relations* presents significant research findings that can be valuable for researchers exploring the relations between Serbs and Romanians. It is worth noting that the research relied on extensive archival material and existing literature, which can also be beneficial for those interested in these topics. In addition to the undeniable merit of this volume, and given the complexity of the longstanding ties between Serbs and Romanians, its significance also lies in the potential to pave the way for new research on Serbian-Romanian relations.

KOSTA NIKOLIĆ, *BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA, RAT KOJI SU MNOGI ŽELELI: 1992–1995.*

KNJ. 1. U IME SMRTI (1992)

[Bosnia and Herzegovina, the War that Many Wanted: 1992–1995. Vol.1. In the Name of Death (1992)]. Novi Sad: Akademska knjiga, 2024, 750 p.

*Reviewed by Dragoljub Mandić**

The civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other events related to the breakup of Yugoslavia, have long remained largely outside the focus of Serbian historiography. Politicisation, the passage of time, and a lack of sources were the main reasons – often also used as excuses – why Serbian historians avoided this important topic. Finally, this gap has only recently begun to be addressed thanks to authors such as Kosta Nikolić, who first published the three-volume monograph *Jugoslavija, poslednji dani: 1989–1992*, followed by *Krajina: 1991–1995*, and, in 2024, the first of three planned volumes of the

monograph *Bosna i Hercegovina, rat koji su mnogi želeli: 1992–1995*, published by Akademska knjiga.

The documents stored in the database of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia form the heuristic foundation of this book. As stated in the preface, the author's commitment to the impartial collection of historical facts led him to choose a "traditional" method

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