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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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of presentation over the “constructivist” approach, which views the past as a “textual, narrative, and ideological ‘creation’ and thereby questions the epistemological power of science.” As the author had already covered the main currents of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s political history from the spring of 1991 up to its international recognition on 6 April 1992 in the third volume of *Jugoslavija, poslednji dani: 1989–1992*, this book does not contain an introduction recounting the events leading up to the outbreak of the brutal armed conflict. Instead, it opens with a description of combat operations in the spring of 1992, covering the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Semberija and Podrinje to Bosanska Krajina and western Herzegovina. The second chapter is dedicated to the period during which units of the Yugoslav People’s Army (JNA) withdrew to Serbia and Montenegro, paralleled by the formation of the Army of the Republic of Srpska. This chapter also pays close attention to the events in Sarajevo, particularly the blockade of JNA barracks and the crime in Dobrovoljačka Street. The third part of the book opens with the crime that occurred in a similar fashion during the JNA’s withdrawal from Tuzla. It also discusses the battles in the summer that led to the establishment of a corridor in Posavina – one of the most significant successes achieved by the Serb side during the entire war. Simultaneously, the book examines events in western municipalities such as Prijedor, Sanski Most, and Ključ, where fierce battles between Serb and Muslim forces were accompanied by crimes against prisoners and civilians. The author then returns to events in Sarajevo, which became divided, with Muslim forces controlling the city centre and the Serbian forces holding the

outskirts and surrounding hills. As the central parts of the city came under blockade and the civilian population found itself in an extremely dire situation, the issue of demilitarising the Sarajevo airport was raised. However, its transition from Serbian military control to peacekeeping forces for the purpose of humanitarian aid was hindered by repeated ceasefire violations. After this, the author analyses the clashes between Serbian and Croatian forces in Herzegovina, with the epicentre in the Neretva valley.

The topics of paramilitary formations and war crimes have dedicated sections. The involvement of paramilitary groups on the Serb side is viewed from multiple angles: while they held some military value at the beginning of the war, when combat operations resembled a kind of guerrilla warfare, their looting and crimes against prisoners and civilians contributed to the chaotic situation in the Republic of Srpska. Their removal from Bosnia and Herzegovina became one of the top priorities of the Serbian military leadership, and the author presents extensive data on this issue. Unlike the wars in Slovenia and Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina saw large-scale killing of civilians from the very beginning. Since this volume focuses mostly on the Serbian side, the author devotes significant attention to the perpetrators of those crimes in its name against members of the other two warring parties. His analysis of war crimes is conducted municipality by municipality, with the most extensive coverage given to crimes committed in Višegrad and the surrounding area by the paramilitary group led by Milan Lukić. On the other side, the author also examines camps for Serbs, including the most notorious among them, Dretelj near Čapljina and Čelebići near Konjic.

The next part of the book focuses on the attitude of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia toward the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the conflict was not formally at war, the FRY found itself in a highly complex situation as it came under international isolation from 30 May 1992. This prompted numerous peace initiatives from Belgrade, which did not exclude aid sent to the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After sections on the military operations conducted in the second half of 1992 in Posavina and around the town of Jajce, the author once again returns to Sarajevo, covering events up to the beginning of summer 1993, followed by the final part of the book. This section covers the beginnings of the war in Srebrenica and neighboring municipalities, serving as an introduction to the controversial events of the summer of 1995.

At the time of the events described in this book, Kosta Nikolić was among

the first authors whose objective perspective on World War II contributed to the progress of Serbian historiography. Thirty years later, Nikolić once again takes on that role, thanks to his work on the dissolution of socialist Yugoslavia. While a comprehensive assessment of his monograph on the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to wait for the remaining two volumes, it can already be concluded that this work provides a vast number of facts about the armed conflict. Through thorough research of the extensive documentation housed in The Hague, as well as digital archives of US President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Nikolić has not only significantly illuminated these events but also has provided a valuable guidepost for those intending to pursue similar research.

PAUL H. STAHL, *STRUCTURES SOCIALES EN EUROPE DU SUD-EST*

[Social Structures in South-Eastern Europe]

Edited by Irina Stahl, Stelu Șerban and Andrei Timotin (Collection of the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy).

Brăila: Editura Istros a Muzeului Brăilei Carol I, 2024, 463 p.

*Reviewed by Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković\**

Paul Henri Stahl (1925–2008) is a well-known Romanian ethnosociologist who made crucial contributions to the comparative sociological research of the South-Eastern European area. His studies of premodern forms of property, organization of social groups, religion and sacrifice represent important landmarks in this field, remaining points of reference

to this day. Paul H. Stahl was a continuator of the tradition of Romanian interwar sociology, which presented obvious avant-garde characteristics in European social sciences, especially through its interdisciplinary dimension.

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