

Abstract

This work examines issues related to the national definition of the Serb community in Dalmatia between 1878 and 1905. It provides a partial assessment of the relationship between the Orthodox Church and the Serbian National Movement in Dalmatia. The thesis focuses on the formation of the Roman Catholic community of Serbs and the internal profile of this community. It also studies how the Serbians approached their conflict with the Croats within Dalmatia. This work also closely considers the historiographical disputes held on this topic between Croatian and Serbian historians.

The work examines the circumstances leading up to the formation of the Serbian national movement and the creation of the independent Serbian political parties. I specifically focus on the political parties within the selected period for which Orthodoxy and the Orthodox Church are closely tied to the definition of the Serbian national identity. I also deal with the contentious issues with the Serbs and Roman Catholic communities. I also study the attitude of Serb representatives to the Croatian national movement and deal with their rights under this national project.

I found that the connection between the liberal Serbian National Movement and the local leadership of the Orthodox Church was closer than is commonly reported in the literature. In the case of the Catholic Serbs, I found a deep conflict between their faith and their national identity, and in their role in the local Serbian-Croatian conflict. I also look at the positive and negative impact of the Dubrovnik nobility and the dissemination of this impact.

I manage to shed light on the former Serb resistance to the Croatian integration. I found that the Serbian approach was characterized by recurring direct confrontation and ongoing efforts to coexistence and cooperation. I discovered that it included both a Serbian recognition of partial claims, and the idea of a Yugoslavian compromise. I also demonstrate that there was a considerable focus on the public dissemination of Serbian ideas about their identity. The work should help to correct a simplified and one-sided assessment contained in a series of other works dealing with the same theme.