

ABSTRACT

The period between 1848 and 1861 was a time when the identity of Montenegrins started to thrive. However, this thrive was proceeding in connection with the international situation, as the Great Powers of that time cast their eyes upon The Eastern Question as the then problem which, besides enduring friction was also about a collision of different theses that were looking for a solution for both its domestic as well as international policies.

This collision finally resulted in the Crimean War, which was the only all-European conflict since The Napoleonic Wars until the World War.

Against the background of the events there was a change in ruling in Montenegro. Petr II. Petrović Njegoš, who was the last Vladika, lived in celibacy. His follower Danilo Petrović then succeeded as the prince. In connection with the rise of Principality the central institutions started to be created in Montenegro. This, on one hand, contributed to realization of the common interests, but on the other, these centralizational activities started to rise the tension between the particular Montenegrin tribes and the Prince. Many a time this tension broke out into a conflict which the Prince had to solve by force. In the consequence of these frequent revolts and the rapid centralization, the Prince Danilo I. lost his life.

Talking about the identity of the Montenegrin ethnicity it is necessary we talked about the Serbian ethnicity as this comprised the same language as well as the culture. Montenegrins, however, began to create their own subculture as, taking the historical circumstances into consideration, they were living in the area occupied by the Turks. Therefore in the Modern period, two centres of Serbia were created – namely Serbia and Montenegro.

After the death of the Vladika Petr II. Petrović Njegoš there was a rising tension between Serbia and Montenegro. The creation The Principality of Montenegro and the territorial identification which was guaranteed by settled boundaries (signed by the counsels of the Great Powers) led subsequently to not only the political emigration of the Montenegrins but also to the creation of two centres in Serbia.

Against a background of the decay of power of the Osman Sultan over the Balkans there was a birth of self-realization of particular South Slavs ethnics and their mutual cooperation with the other West Slavs and great powers. These, subsequently, by means of uncontrolled loans in the period after the Crimean War slowly led the Osman's Empire into the secondary insolvency.