

## **Abstract**

### **The Podgorica Assembly 1918, its causes and consequences**

This dissertation deals with the causes and consequences of the Podgorica Assembly (Serbian: Подгоричка скупштина / **Podgorička skupština**) held in late 1918. As this work is a continuation of my doctoral thesis entitled *The Origins of Constitutionalism and Parliamentarianism in Montenegro in the 1918*, let me briefly outline the content of my doctoral thesis as it already analyzed some of the primary causes of the Podgorica Assembly (1918). The doctoral thesis deals with the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro in 1905, its model rules, the process of drafting and adoption of the Constitution as well as with the analysis of the particular provisions of the Constitution and its comparison with the relevant provisions of other selected European Constitutions of that time. Also the constitutional and parliamentary procedures on the establishment of the particular government and their programs, relevant political parties and their profiles, elections, political struggles and other processes relevant to the constitutionalism and parliamentarianism in Montenegrin society in the period from 1905 to 1914, respectively, from the first edition of the Constitution of Montenegro in the First World War, were discussed.

This dissertation covers the period from the outbreak of the First World War to the early twenties. The introductory part of this thesis assesses the legitimacy of Podgorica Assembly in the context of the history and the ancestor state units on the territory of Montenegro and its ruling dynasties.

The chapter on Montenegro's status before the First World War includes introduction to the interior affairs and relationships in Montenegro during the relevant period and also approximation of Montenegro's international relations, *inter alia* relations with Russia, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Serbia.

Subsequently the causes of Podgorica Assembly 1918 is explained. Specifically phenomena of Montenegrin and Serbian patriotism. The attention is drawn also to the unification of Montenegro with Serbia, respectively with the Yugoslav state, and their corresponding forms of the state in terms of vertical

separation of powers. The focus is made on the activities of the Montenegrin political representation just before the beginning of the First World War and subsequent occupation of Montenegro by Austria-Hungary in terms of the set of rules of the International Law. This chapter also deals with the activities of Montenegrin politicians in exile during the First World War and after and to the liberation of Montenegro. A special chapter is devoted to the future of Montenegro within the terms of international law and the occupation of country's allies.

The primary attention is aimed to the Podgorica Assembly 1918 itself. Specifically to the preparation for elections and outcome of these elections, the Resolution adopted by this Assembly and its realization. In this chapter, the core of the process of unification of Montenegro with Serbia is examined, especially in matters related to the process of elections to the Grand National Assembly and activities of the Podgorica Assembly that ruled on the unification of Montenegro with Serbia and in a unitary state under the rule of Karađorđević dynasty which then forms the nation of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

This work presents the views of Montenegrin unionists, that the unconditional supporters of unification, as well as the requirements of the opponents of such unconditional unification, while attention is focused also on both of these approaches. Such a crucial step as the decision of the citizens to dissolve the state, usually causes both intended effects as well as unintended such as responses in the form of opposition supporters seeking to preserve the sovereignty of that State.

Along with the internal response to the dissolution of the Montenegro the dissection in this chapter deals with the consequences of Podgorica Assembly 1918 also on the international field. The efforts of the France, Great Britain, the United States and Italy to preserve the independence of Montenegro and its postwar development is also presented. As a result of the Podgorica Assembly 1918, unification of Montenegro with Serbia and subsequent incorporation into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes took place. This issue is elaborated in the chapter on Montenegro's status in the newly established Yugoslav state. The legitimacy and legality of Podgorica Assembly 1918 is the issue analyzed in the

following chapter. Followed by the conclusions the alleged nature of the revolutionary processes in Montenegro, leading to unification with Serbia is investigated.

Since the unification processes leading to the demise of Montenegro, respectively to the formation of Yugoslavia took place in the same period as the formation of the Czechoslovak state, the comparative method was applied, and where comparison is possible and useful, raised the questions to answer in this dissertation such as: on what foundations and principles both states were built and why similar problems in both countries often arrive at different results. These comparisons permeates throughout the whole dissertation that is supplemented by idea of Czechoslovakism.