

Abstract

This thesis explores the transformations of the Muslim community (current Bosniaks) of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Austro-Hungarian occupation between 1878 and 1918. It examines the political, social and demographic changes in Muslim society – including the development of community life and religious, cultural and educational institutions – in the context of the formation of modern Central and South East European nations. Habsburg rule in the northernmost Ottoman province, in hindsight, stood at the beginning of a long, insecure and ambiguous but ultimately successful process of national self-awareness of the Slavic Muslim community of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sanjak. The various chapters of this thesis broadly follow the standard framework of analysis of national movements in Europe. This work is theoretically grounded in the modernist paradigm connecting the national idea to changes in social, economic and political circumstances, the onset of modernity, based on both constructivist and instrumentalist theories. The thesis is largely relied on secondary sources when discussing these subjects as well as newspaper articles, memoirs, biographical essays, declarations and political proclamations.

Keywords

Muslims; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosniaks; National Movement; 1878-1918