

Iva Lučić, *Im Namen der Nation. Der politische Aufwertungsprozess der Muslime im sozialistischen Jugoslawien (1956-1971)*. Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Studia Historica Upsaliensia 256. Uppsala, 2016. 335 pp. Index. £69.00

This is an extremely important book that illuminates how the Croatian Spring of 1971 evolved within the context of democratisation, de-centralisation and economic reform of Communist led Yugoslavia. But this book is much more. Ante Batović, a graduate from the ancient city of Zadar/Zara on the Dalmatian coast, provides an excellent and succinct survey of Yugoslav history 1945-1965, before moving to analyse the reforms which were eventually stalled when the Croatian Spring was repressed. The Croatian leadership was removed or forced to resign and similar fate soon followed the Serbian and other liberal communist functionaries in Yugoslavia. We only miss an analysis of the leftist student protest of 1968, which might be intentional as their views never made it onto mainstream, equally discarded by unitarists and nationalists. Instead Ante Batović, chronicles the endless debates of the late 1960s and early 1970s about economic issues and how they related to or inspired national grievances. Yet the book's greatest strength may be the analysis of Yugoslavia's international role during the Cold War, Israeli-Arab conflict, Prague Spring and Soviet Military intervention and detailing Yugoslav relations with the Soviet Union and the United States especially as President Nixon's visit happened right in the midst of the crisis and became part of debates.

In addition to the research in Belgrade and Zagreb, Ante Batović studied British, American and NATO archives and surveyed literature and memoirs of the participants. This brings new and different conclusions as Americans and British always worried about the shadow of Russia looming and threatening if the Yugoslav federation trembles. While that may reflect their interest and bias it is nevertheless important and has been missing in previous works. At the time US and UK diplomats especially feared any manifestation of nationalism. Moreover US supported the idea of the unified country because it provided a larger market though they showed sympathies for liberalisation that decentralisation seemed to have brought. Batović's entire narrative is interspersed with lucid comments and analyses of US and UK diplomats stationed in Belgrade and Zagreb providing a necessary distance, an outsider perspective and enjoyable reading as opposed to bureaucratic language of official sources. The author often sides with his diplomatic sources or foreign press reports and uses them instead of his conclusion on many an issue raised. From today's perspective the debates how to restructure Yugoslavia in order to make a more fair and efficient federation seemed to have led only to more conflict about representation, staffing of joint institution, ethnic quotas or competence – all highly relevant for the European Union and many complex countries in contemporary world.

Even though the book is about events in the late 1960s and early 1970s, its index reads like who's who in Croatia in the 1990s. Student leaders reappear twenty years later but often on the opposite sides with former Communist candidates featuring high in Tuđman's nationalist establishment whereas the most prominent non-Communists Ivan Zvonimir Čičak and Dražen Budiša opted for the opposition or human rights and minority protection activism. Yet no evidence in the book emerges on the links between the Communist leadership of Croatia and more radical and nationalist Matica Hrvatska, a hub for intellectuals or student activists. Further issues to explore would be how realistic were the demands of Croatian leadership for hard currency and

language sovereignty given Yugoslavia was socialist country with central price and currency control and Croatia had a large and powerful Serbian ethnic group. Finally, the evaluation of the Soviet role awaits opening of their archives.

With the Croatian question a key issue for both the first and second Yugoslavia it is hard to believe that this is the first monograph on the subject, apart from the memoirs of the protagonists. The text has been translated in English impeccably and is meticulously packaged and presented with only a handful of typos and problems with Slavic diacritics. The endnotes are so rich that they form an annotated bibliography of Croatian/Serbian and English language literature on the book's subject but also the history of Socialist Yugoslavia. There is only a rather strange and rare spelling of Ustaši(s). While there is no consensus on the matter the literature has mostly used Ustaše, Ustashe, Ustahas, or simply members of the Ustaša movement.

More significantly, the book would benefit from a discussion of its sources and definition of its key terms such as liberal, liberalism, decentralisation, democracy and parliamentarism in the context of Socialist Yugoslavia. Furthermore, it is regrettable that 1945 is taken as a year zero and there is hardly any mention of the first Yugoslavia and the civil war that took place alongside Partisan resistance during the World War Two. This, in turn, fed most of the grievances of the Croatian Spring and all instances of nationalism in Yugoslavia. Especially since Tito and the defenders of Yugoslav federation wanted to believe that the issues of relationship between Yugoslavia's nations and republics were solved during the war and joint resistance against the Nazi invaders and local nationalist collaborators.

*UCL SSEES*

BOJAN ALEKSOV