

noted (p. 12-13), there was a sense of apotheosis, sometimes an almost teleological relationship towards the object of the study. The invention of tradition was set as an implying form, which makes the author's inventiveness unlimited and highly desirable. In that context, Bešlin, not by a mistake, used his narrative to move away from the classic biographical approach, insistently placing Savoy in a wider context. That built a stronger literary perception, which was previously discussed, but excluded the determination towards the subject matter, thereby avoiding the risk of a bias. Once again the paradigm of the "epoch" in the very title of the work served as a safe, beaten path of the objective scientific approach. Choosing the narrative approach, the author deliberately woke the position of intellectual history (the history of ideas); rejecting the phenomenon of personality in the history, he elected the contextualization, and remained consistent to positivistic exactness. However, unlike conventional positivist fetishism of facts, left behind to speak for themselves, the importance attached to the interpretation approximated Bešlin's approach in the full sense to narrative historiography.

**Miroslav Pavlović**

doi: 10.19090/i.2015.26.208-211

© Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad, 2015

ISTRAŽIVANJA 26, 208-211

---

Zoltán Györe, *Habsburg Monarchy 1526-1792*, Novi Sad: Filozofski fakultet, 2014, 394 pages.  
(Золтан Ђере, *Хабзбуршка Монархија 1526-1792*, Нови Сад: Филозофски факултет, 2014, 394 стр.)

---

The book *Habsburg Monarchy 1526-1792* presents the history of a very important state, which often and to some extent influenced the shaping of history of many European countries during the Modern Age. The author describes how the Habsburgs, as an average noble family, managed to grow into the most important European dynasty and create a truly impressive monarchy. The book by Zoltán Györe, PhD, Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, is of particular importance because until now

books related to the history of the Habsburg family from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century have not been published in Serbian. Until 2014, there was a book by J.P. Taylor, *Habsburg Monarchy from 1809 to 1918*, in the Serbian language, but it only covered the period of the Napoleonic Wars until the First World War. However, 2014 was a turning point for the Serbian historiography related to the Habsburg monarchy, as three monographs were published dealing directly or indirectly with the history of that country. The first monograph book was by professor Györe. The second book by Charles Ingraio, *Habsburg Monarchy 1618-1815*, covered the history of the Habsburg state since the beginning of the Thirty Years' War until the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The third monograph was *Eugene of Savoy and his era* by Professor Branko Bešlin, which indirectly dealt with the history of the monarchy during the life of the famous military leader Eugene of Savoy. Professor Györe, as he notes in the preface to his book, intended to partially compensate the gap in the Serbian historiography about the history of the Habsburg Monarchy, so while writing the book, he primarily emphasized the political, economic and cultural history of the monarchy between 1526 and 1792. While writing, the author had another motivation – to finally provide his students with a textbook for an exam.

The book of 392 pages is divided into 34 chapters. The monograph contains 66 illustrations, which represent important personalities and important historical events related to the Habsburg house. At the end of the book there are appendices, such as the list of the rulers of the Habsburg Monarchy, the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire, and also the rulers of Austrian historical provinces. As an addition, there is a simplified genealogical panel of the Habsburg dynasty until 1792, as well as a selected chronology of the history of the Habsburg Monarchy.

The monograph begins with the early history of the Habsburg family in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. From the first chapter we learn that that dynasty originated from Switzerland, from where, in the next century, they spread their family's estates over

significant portions of Europe. By the end of the Middle Ages, the family had already gained power in the Holy Roman Empire and in so called Austrian hereditary countries (present-day Austria, Slovenia, parts of today's Italy and Southern Germany). Further text indicates the circumstances of gaining power in Spain, Hungary and the Czech Republic in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by favorable marriage contracts. By winning the throne of Spain, the Habsburgs stood at the head of a state which in the later decades colonized areas of Central America, a major part of South America and parts of North America, and thus Habsburgs gained global power and held in their hands the fate of many states and numerous populations. However, the effects of the global power, as the author indicates in the book, were difficult political and military conflicts, which the Austrian house led with their biggest rivals, France and the Turks, but also with the German provincial princes. In the west of Europe, they almost constantly interfered in the wars with France in order to acquire hegemony in Europe.

In addition to monitoring the relationship with France, Germany and the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the book, which is dedicated to the modern age history of the Habsburgs, the author analyzes the circumstances that led to the formation of the Habsburg Empire from 1526 and also pays a lot of attention to explaining the religious situations in the Habsburg monarchy and German countries. He describes in detail how the Habsburgs acquired the name of the protectors of the Catholicism. Since the beginning of the rise of their dynasty, the Habsburgs considered themselves protectors of Christianity and believed in their divine mission. Their struggle with the Ottomans from the Middle Ages until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century still reinforced that idea about them, so over time they were seen as the firmest and most enduring fighters against Islam in Europe. It should be noted that they fought with almost the same determination against the spread of ideas of Reformation, which they considered to be perhaps an even more dangerous enemy of the Catholic faith than Islam. Firmness of faith and devotion of members of the dynasty were

generally known.

At a first glance, we might expect that the book would mainly discuss hereditary Austrian lands of the Habsburgs. However, the author along with the history of the areas mentioned shows the history of Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Holy Roman Empire, in other words, all those countries which were ruled by the Austrian Habsburgs. Also, the author examines not only military and political history of the Habsburg Monarchy, but also a cultural, economic, religious and demographic history of this important country through the reign of each of the Habsburg rulers. Habsburg heritage actually represents a part of a collective historical consciousness of a large number of European nations such as Austrians, Hungarians, Czechs, Germans, Slovaks, Romanians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and others, and it marked the life, ideas, architecture, the essential characteristics of culture and education, the mentality of the people mentioned, until the beginning of 1918. Perhaps the culture of Austrian baroque and classicism had the greatest impact on Central Europe. Cultural institutions from the period of baroque and classicism in the former areas of the monarchy are well known today. We could say that the Habsburg dynasty was one of the most influential European dynasties in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In his book, Professor Györe refutes the generally accepted theory of many central European historians, who resented the Austrian Habsburgs for taking into account only the interests of the Austrian hereditary countries while the other countries under their reign were of secondary importance. As we could see from the book, the Austrian Habsburgs, through most of their history, ruled in compliance with the interests of the ruling elites of certain areas and in more or less compliance with local legal relations and customs. One of the consequences of such an arrangement was permanent complexity of state-legal and political relations that did not allow any radical changes. Critics pointed out uprisings against the Habsburgs and their bloody suppressions or anti-reformation as an example of the poor treatment of their subjects. However, as we can see from the author's book, those negative

phenomena did not characterize the Habsburg rule to a greater extent than a peaceful coexistence and cooperation between their people, economic and cultural progress, and the conscious pursuit of rulers towards the development and welfare of their subjects.

Professor Zoltán Györe used a wide range of sources in German and English and relevant work of Serbian and Hungarian historiography. We can say that the language and style of the book is clear and readable. Reading of this monograph did not require extensive previous knowledge, because the author presents the most important facts and circumstances which were relevant for the formation of the history of the Habsburg Monarchy in a clear and detailed manner. The book by professor Györe is extremely important because it does not only contribute to filling a gap in Serbian history, but it also contributes to a more nuanced relation towards this country as well as to the correction of certain traditional prejudices towards it.

**Atila Fajfer**

doi: 10.19090/i.2015.26.211-213

© Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad, 2015

ISTRAŽIVANJA 26, 211-213

---

*Region of Vojvodina in the context of European history*, Book of Proceedings 2, eds. Vladan Gavrilović and Svetozar Boškov, Novi Sad-Bačka Palanka: Filozofski fakultet, 2014, 588 pages.

(*Војвођански простор у контексту европске историје*, Зборник радова 2, ур. Владан Гавриловић и Светозар Бошков, Нови Сад – Бачка Паланка: Филозофски факултет, 2014, 588 стр.)

---

The year 2014 was marked by the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation and successful teaching and scientific activity at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad whose integral part is one of the oldest and most respected departments, the Department of History. On that occasion, in addition to numerous scientific conferences and other events, a book of proceedings entitled *Region of Vojvodina in the context of European history 2* was published.

This book of proceedings represents collected works of the International Scientific Conference *People of the Vojvodinian region. Region of Vojvodina in the context of European history* held in Bačka Palanka on 23<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The organization of this scientific conference, as well as the printing of the proceedings which we are reviewing, was wholeheartedly supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (part of its project no. 177002 *Region of Vojvodina in the context of European history*), as well as the Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development and the Municipality of Bačka Palanka.

The book of proceedings *Region of Vojvodina in the context of European history 2* is 588 pages long. Its editors are Professor Vladan Gavrilović, the head of the mentioned project, as well as Ass. Prof. Svetozar Boškov, both from the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. 41 papers written by 42 authors were published in this voluminous book of proceedings. Spatially and chronologically speaking, the papers cover the region of present-day Vojvodina, Serbia, Southeastern Europe and Pannonia, from ancient times until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in other words the Modern Age. Some of the contributors to this collection of papers are our distinguished professors, doyens of historical science in the country and abroad, and young fellow doctoral students, who took their first serious scientific steps. In this way, the book of proceedings is *a meeting place* for several generations of researchers with their distinctive views on the historical science and on the topic of the book of proceedings itself. It should be mentioned that the papers are printed in several languages: Serbian, English, Hungarian, Slovak, Bulgarian and Croatian.

The book of proceedings and the scientific conference that preceded it have had an international character. As foreign guests, scholars from Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria and Croatia presented and published their papers. Among local participants we, of course, call attention to the authors from