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## REVIEWS

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Charles Ingrao, *The Habsburg Monarchy 1618-1815*, Beograd/Novi Sad: Zadruga Res Publiko-Centar za regionalizam, 2014, 216 pages.  
(Čarls Ingrao, *Habzburška monarhija 1618-1815*, Beograd/Novi Sad: Zadruga Res Publiko-Centar za regionalizam, 2014, 216 strp.)

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In the second half of 2014 the readership in Serbia got the opportunity to become acquainted with a classical work of history of the Habsburg Monarchy (Cambridge University Press, 1994, 2000) written by a Purdue University professor Charles W. Ingrao.<sup>1</sup> The famous book, which has long been synonymous with the overview of the history of the Habsburg dynasty during their struggle for power and domination, has prompted us to re-think the place and role of central Europe in a wider European context. It has also inspired us to consider the importance and heritage of the universal Habsburg dynasty and it opened up new topics for the analysis of the place of Serbs and Serbian history in relation to the long existence and symbolism of the Danube monarchy.

In the first part (*The distinctiveness of Austrian history*, pages 1-21) the author introduces us to the dilemmas, attitudes and thoughts related to the diversity and ambiguity of the history of Austria and its place in the domain of the history of Europe, and vice versa, of smaller units of which the future empire consisted. A whole series of dynastic marriages and successful political maneuvers created a basis for strengthening the influence of the house of Habsburg, Emperor Maximilian and his successor Charles V. Similarly, a set of circumstances and dynastic contracts led to the division of the country into the Spanish and Austrian parts. Around the latter Central and Southeastern Europe would gather and unite for four whole centuries. Hungary, the

Czech Republic, Croatia were all parts of a diverse country which relied on the Habsburg hereditary lands based on political agreements and rulers' skills and thus lasted through several long crises until the end of the First World War. In that respect the author guides us in a nuanced and skillful way, while his talented style of narration makes the first chapter relevant to the understanding of the history of the Habsburgs.

The following chapter entitled *The Thirty Years' War* (pages 21-48) evokes a crucial event in the Habsburgs history, their defeat in the battle for the dominance in the Holy Roman Empire and the beginning of their turn towards the narrower monarchy and hereditary countries. The author analytically approaches the war that raged for three decades, from 1618 until 1648, and decided the fate of the Habsburgs as well as the entire Central Europe and German countries. The war started on religious grounds and eventually turned into a bare fight for dominance in which both Protestants and Catholics exhibited aggression and often changed sides. The Habsburgs, German Protestant princes, German Catholics, Spain, France, Sweden, thousands of mercenaries and professional soldiers were engaged in tiring battles in which rulers (Swedish King Gustav Adolf) and the famous condottiere Wallenstein were killed. Yet, the essence of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 brought a great change in the strategy and policy of the house of Habsburg embodied in the ruler of the time, Ferdinand III. It also brought a complete separation from the policy of the Spanish Habsburgs, thus limiting the number of enemies, and a reliance on the hereditary lands and the beginning of centralization of the monarchy, primarily tying Hungary and the horribly ravaged Czech Republic to the domain of the ruling house and court institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Charles Ingrao was visiting professor at Brown University, University of Indiana, University of Washington and University of Cambridge. He was a long-time editor of

the journal *Austrian History Yearbook*. The book was translated by Gojko Mišković, PhD.

The third chapter *Facing East: Hungary and the Turks (1648-1699)*, pages 48-98, is a particularly important section for understanding the rise of the Monarchy into the leading force of the European southeast, as well as the final break with the policy of binding to the key influence of Germany in the Holy Empire. In particular, the author analyzes a multitude of factors of internal politics in the monarchy itself, the particularities of the relationship of the Court with the Hungarians and simultaneously the increasingly aggressive politics of the Ottomans in their effort to regain the status of a first-class force. In a narrative and descriptive way the author also skillfully writes about intra-dynastic relationships among the Habsburgs themselves, but also, in a wider context, about the relationships of the Habsburgs with other European dynasties. The Turkish quests in the period 1663-1664, Wesselényi conspiracy and uprising of Imre Tekelija were described in a dynamic and effective manner. The process of centralization, recatholization, and a stronger integration of disparate regions are inexhaustible topics for readers' consideration. The author devoted the necessary amount of attention to the military operations in the Great Viennese War. No detail has been overlooked, while, on the other hand, he descriptively summarizes the effect of the military campaign of the Habsburgs and analyzes their position in the days after the Karlovci Treaty in 1699.

In the following chapter *Facing west: the second Habsburg empire* (pages 98-142) Charles Ingraio provides interesting and picturesque portraits of the Habsburgs, their families, Vienna that rises to the rank of a European capital, along with descriptions of cultural, scientific, church elitist manifestations of the increased power and reputation of the Habsburgs. The author also addressed the wars with Turkey in 1716-1718 and 1737-1739, the uprising of Ferenc Rákóczi in 1703-1711, but also the crucial wars for the Spanish heritage in 1701-1714, which demonstrated that the power of the dynasty and the monarchy was not unlimited and that the diplomatic experience and skills of balancing between France, England and small and powerful countries of the Holy Empire was a serious

challenge. Economic circumstances, the development and internal consolidation of the Monarchy, as well as major political crises caused by the personality of Emperor Charles VI, his favorites and the court camarilla were all effectively described. Slow maneuvers regarding the adoption of the Pragmatic sanction is described in a vivid and memorable manner, while the disappointment and the breakdown of the army after the defeat in the war with the Turks and a whole range of diplomatic errors of Charles VI in relations with France was written clearly and in an inspired way.

The chapter entitled *The Prussian challenge: war and government reform (1740-1763)*, pages 142-169, is important for understanding the way in which the monarchy survived and lasted for centuries, occasionally being on the brink of collapse. The war of the Austrian succession (1740-1748) was a major challenge in this respect. The author writes about resourcefulness, political pragmatism and agility of the ruler Maria Theresia, her determination to preserve the throne and hereditary countries, as well as about her rival, the young Prussian king Frederick William. The analysis of the Theresian reform, its achievements and success, the transformation into an efficient absolutist monarchy, the struggle to preserve the position in the German world constitute the essence of the author's considerations. The diplomatic revolution that occurred due to the Franco-Austrian alliance and the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) make a small separate effective whole that brings us back to the complex unstable time and shows the ability and vitality of Prussia to overcome great losses and great challenges, but also the inability of Austria to defeat its increasingly stronger competitor. The fight would last for a whole century and the outcome seemed to be laid out much earlier.

The next section under the title *Discovering the people: the triumph of cameralism and enlightened absolutism (1765-1792)* is not as dramatic in content as the previous one, but the meaning and analysis certainly captivate the reader's attention. The author skillfully and gradually discovers all the aspects of the second Theresian reform, the segments of agrarian,

military, educational and confessional policy of Maria Theresia and her associates and advisers. The gallery of personalities that surrounded her are described faithfully and impressively. The author writes dynamically about Emperor Joseph II and his reformist energy, character traits and attempts to lift centralism and absolutism on a pedestal of state ideology. The portrait of Joseph II is one of the most distinctive in the entire monograph, as well as of the next ruler, Leopold II, to whom the author pays special attention and gives special recognition. The economic issues are an important segment of each chapter of the book and it is the case here, too, so the author has remained true to the concept of a nuanced analysis of the crucial pillar in the existence of the monarchy. As the author himself noted for the Monarchy in the wake of the Revolution of 1789, "in comparison with other countries and societies on the continent, the Habsburg Monarchy was neither poor, nor backward, nor in decline. Yet the world around it would change."

The chapter *The age of revolution (1789-1815)*, pages 210-232, is clear and captivates the reader with its precision of writing. The author analyzes briefly and concisely the most important events related to Revolutionary wars and the place and role of Austria in these events. Unsuccessful wars with the revolutionary and Napoleonic France led the monarchy once again to the brink of collapse. The diplomatic skills of Chancellor Klemens von Metternich, to whom the author devotes several pages, transformed Austria from the defeated to the winning side. Metternich's clever diplomatic maneuvers and his ability to calculate and observe the politics two moves in advance, which the author writes dynamically and vividly about, are just some of the details that brought Austria into the center of European events. The author again focuses on the necessity for the Monarchy to stay within its borders, which would be a factor of stability of European diplomatic balance. He, of course, does not fail to briefly comment on the economic situation in the torn Austria in this chapter either.

The last section *Decline or disaggregation?* is the analysis of the last century of the monarchy's existence from the perspective of the author,

Professor Charles Ingrao. On several pages the author sublimates and analyzes the domestic and foreign policies of emperors Franz I, Ferdinand V, and Franz Joseph, their errors and misconceptions in Germany and in the Balkans. The dynasty as a role model for the existence of a diverse state, the strengthening of national and dynastic patriotism (as a process that was not brought to an end), the defeat of Prussia and the increasingly intensive ties to problems of the Balkan countries without a clear vision of transformation and strengthening of the country that did not have a strong competitor in the foreign policy of southeast Europe are all described as crucial factors of the rise and fall of the Habsburgs in the era after Napoleon. The author's conclusion in this respect paves a clear and necessary road for further research.

The Serbian edition of the book *The Habsburg Monarchy 1618-1815* by Professor Charles Ingrao is necessary and important for the Serbian public historiography. Its publication is an invitation for dialogue and discussion regarding the place of Serbia and Serbs in relationships and connections with the Habsburgs during many centuries in the Empire itself and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The frame is there. The image can be neither black nor white. The book *The Habsburg Monarchy 1615-1815* in this respect can only be a model that can be analyzed and followed.

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Dragica Koljanin, *Building identity: history of Yugoslavia in textbooks for primary schools in Serbia 1929-1952*, Novi Sad: Faculty of Philosophy, 2014, 359 pages.

(Драгица Кољанин, *Изграђивање идентитета: историја Југославије у уџбеницима за основне школе у Србији 1929-1952*, Нови Сад: Филозофски факултет, 2014, 359 стр.)

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History of the Yugoslav state is imbued with the ever-changing political and social order. Accordingly, its national identity has suffered