
REVIEWS

Pieter M. Judson, *The Habsburg Monarchy, A New History*, Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2016, pp. 567.

Habsburgology as a branch of modern historiography on the global level has engendered a book by one of the greatest contemporary experts, Pieter M. Judson, which represents a model of how to write, in a modern and original manner, about complex and complicated topics of integration and disintegration of the Monarchy that lasted for entire four centuries. The author rationally and systematically lays the foundation of the new and original interpretation of the Habsburg history on the basis of archive material and a great number of sources in a manner that captures the reader with new interpretations, new views and ideas, accompanied by the author's conclusion and assessment concerning the causes of the rise and fall of the Habsburg dynasty in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

As far as the titles of chapters are concerned, the concept of the book goes beyond the usual pattern and offers the headings that intrigue the reader. The chapters are even in the number of pages and make up a harmonious whole. Judson himself has tried not to miss a single detail from the history of the Monarchy or some of the processes that shaped the direction of the political and economic history of mid-18th century until 1918. Already in the introduction the author writes in detail about the complicated terminology which has to be mastered in order to define the state framework of the Monarchy, and then about his predecessors who thoroughly investigated the Habsburg dynasty thus offering a complete picture of Habsburgology from several decades ago until today.

Judson very bravely ventures into a process of deduction of the 18th century by analyzing the integration of the Monarchy into a unique whole,

which was a demanding and difficult administrative task and which is why the Monarchy was late in comparison to France and Great Britain. The great era of Maria Theresa and Joseph II was especially analyzed and the author tried to use numerous examples to illustrate all the diversity of life in cities and villages, as well as the difficulty of economic problems that the Monarchy had, mutual distrust of religious communities, a complicated relationship of the state hierarchy based on historical law. Judson provides vivid images and descriptions of every part of the Monarchy substantiated by serious examples of creating an absolutist supranational state of the Habsburg dynasty. The author competently presents new ideas and thoughts on the interpretation of the 18th century in terms of interior and exterior politics of the Monarchy. The chapters *The Accidental Empire, Servants and Citizens, Empire and Fatherland, 1780-1815, An Empire of Contradictions 1815-1848* illustrate an entire era of attempts to first transform and modernize the Monarchy and then to preserve it during the era of Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in the period 1792-1815. Subsequently, in the era of Metternich, they would again work towards a stronger state integration and attempts of economic reforms – stabilization of merchant and monetary ties and especially processes to suppress national tensions that started occurring.

An especially illustrative chapter *Whose Empire? The Revolutions 1848-1849* is nuanced and presents in layers all the issues connected with the organization and fight for the survival of the multinational Monarchy which rested on the foundations of a dynastic and historical legitimism in an era of national revolutions. The author uses dozens of examples to analyze the ideological postulates of the revolutions in Italy, Hungary and Croatia as well as events in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Galicia, so he could make important conclusions concerning the

crucial events regarding the survival and different internal organization of the Monarchy. The full, dynamic chapter convinces the reader that the author perfectly knows the events he is writing about with mathematical precision in clear and accurate theses.

The following chapter, *Mid-Century Modern: The Emergence of a Liberal Empire*, is written in a similar manner and testifies of attempts to transform the Monarchy in the economic and social sense through the coherent factor of the Habsburg dynasty with Emperor Franz Joseph, who would be one of the main symbols of its existence until the very end. The economic progress that the Monarchy would go through in the era of controlled liberalism, with great individual success in the fields of art, culture, theatre with a new and different image of the ruling family, did not lead to a solution of the national issue which would again be re-ignited in the 1860s and would lead to a final constitutional redefinition of the relations in the state through the Settlement of 1867. On the basis of the politics of historical Hungarian law and the laws defined in the Revolution of 1848-1849 Hungarian liberals managed to use the political opportunity after the defeat of the Monarchy in the wars for Italian and German union (1859, 1866) and impose themselves as an unavoidable factor in solving the internal constitutional issue. The formation of the new Dual Monarchy Austria-Hungary permanently defined its direction of both interior and exterior politics. National politics would be left to Austria and Hungary as separate wholes, which would be one of the factors of disintegration in its end (Hungarization, economic nationalism, unsolved Slavic issue), while external affairs and the army would remain mutual. Even in that respect the situation was often problematic.

The author, however, offers a completely different approach to this issue through the analysis of integrative factors in the field of economic development, economic expansion of the Monarchy on the Balkans, unprecedented development of the Vienna University, then a huge number of artists and scientists who would emit an image of a stable and successful state. The

author has not omitted a single segment of the social, cultural or daily (political) life in his analysis. In the chapters *Culture wars and Wars for Culture, Everyday Empire, Our Empire 1880-1914*, Judson illustrates vividly the decades of the rise of the Monarchy – its attempts to transform the political system, the fight for the general right to vote, the press, new impulses in architecture and art, the changing image of the Monarchy, the unification of towns and the improvement of living conditions. The author uses dozens of examples to paint the picture of Austria-Hungary at the turn of the century fitted into the system of European states as a community which in daily life, despite national opposites, resonated stability and prosperity.

Separate chapters on Austria-Hungary in the First World War and its disintegration, *War and Radical State-Building 1914-1925, Epilogue: The New Empires*, were written in a unique manner of the analysis of war events through the decisions of crucial people, military-strategic mistakes, defeats on the front, daily life during the war and national movements that intensified since 1917. The death of Franz Joseph in November 1916 was a symbolic blow to the body of the fallen Monarchy. Its peoples and intellectual elites of Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs and Romanians felt that the moment had come, after the USA had entered the war, to present more clearly the demands for a total reorganization of the Monarchy and since the summer of 1918 for the formation of national states. The association of the Monarchy to Germany since May 1918 additionally worsened its chances of survival. The moves that the ruling elites in Austria and Hungary made were late and wrong and disintegration was inevitable since October 1918. In only one month the Monarchy ceased to exist. New national states were made – Czechoslovakia, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Poland was renewed, Romania extended its territory, while Austria and Hungary were reduced to a small portion of its former territory. The challenges of national states proved to be both great and hard to cope with. Unsolved national issues, lack of democracy, narrow freedom of public speech were even more prominent in the

new hereditary states, which would gradually slip into interior problems, economic crises and open up a path to dictatorships and nationalism.

The author Pieter M. Judson has written a praise-worthy monograph without which we cannot imagine the study of the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and which represents an inspiration for thinking and researching the place of national historiographies when this complex issue is concerned, and especially when national historiographies in the region of the Balkans and Central Europe are concerned. On the basis of this research and writing, a whole new school of historiography can be based which tackles the Habsburg Monarchy and its strong foundations and basis were laid by Pieter M. Judson with his book and research.

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Nenad Ninković, *Mitropolit Pavle Nenadović*, Novi Sad – Sremska Mitrovica: Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Historical Archive Srem, 2017, pp. 536.

(Nenad Ninković, *Mitropolit Pavle Nenadović*, Novi Sad – Sremska Mitrovica: Filozofski fakultet u Novom Sadu, Istorijski Arhiv Srem, 2017, 536 str.)

Assistant professor Nenad Ninković, PhD, has already published several monographs and capital books of Serbian historiography as a coauthor (*Istorija Srba u Crnoj Gori 1496-1918* [History of Serbs in Montenegro 1496-1918] with G. Vasin and D. Mikavica, *Srbi u Habsburškoj monarhiji 1526-1918* [Serbs in the Habsburg Monarchy 1526-1918] vol. 1-2, with D. Mikavica, N. Lemajić and G. Vasin) and now he has made an additional effort to present to the scientific public the result of several years of research in a valuable and monumental monograph (previously his PhD thesis) on Metropolitan Pavle Nenadović. Ninković invested a lot of effort, time and energy in archive research in order to find out all the details on the life and several decades of work of

the great Serbian Metropolitan, whose biography is at the same time the history of the Serbian church and society in the 18th century.

The monograph is organized chronologically and thematically so that it follows Nenadović's biography in detail. On dozens of introductory pages the author writes about and meticulously analyzes the data on Nenadović's birth, childhood, how he became a monk, his first church missions and many political problems that marked the life of Serbs in the Monarchy. Ninković expertly contextualizes Nenadović, his life and the church mission with respect to the position of Serbs in the Monarchy, thus painting a unique whole. He retains this manner of writing throughout the entire monograph, thus completing the image of the Church and Serbs in the Monarchy, which only increases the value of the book. Let us also add that the author has used archive documents in German and Serbian on every page of the monograph, as well as all available and relevant literature, which completes the image of a monograph important for Serbian historiography.

The first large segment, *On the way to the metropolitan throne* (pp. 11-79), offers information on the family, childhood and education of young Nenadović, as well as his first steps in the church organization, his first problems in life and relationships with other people he had as a young Exarch in the Metropolitanate. Devoted, persistent and thorough, Nenadović spared no strength or energy to try to transform the Church as an institution, to try to improve the living conditions of priests, to provide better education for monks and help Metropolitan Vićentije (1731-1737) to calm down vain bishops. The path of Nenadović, who was seen as one of the most talented Serbs of his generation, inevitably led to the position of a bishop, which would be his first great church position in the important diocese of Upper Karlovci. Since the first day after his ordaining by Patriarch Arsenije Šakabenta in 1742 Nenadović demonstrated that he would fiercely and energetically defend Serbian privileges and bring order among priests and monks, but he also showed great ambition for the highest position of