

presents findings that confirm existence of a very strong Serbian and Bulgarian ethnic self-awareness among the Hilandar monks. This issue is presented from within the monastery walls through the figure of monk Paisius and his work, *The History of the Slavic-Bulgarians (История славянобългарска)*.

In this highly regarded book, *The Hilandar Monastery and the Eastern Balkans in the 18th Century: Cultural and Economic Ties*, significant new research findings are presented and some long-held beliefs in historiography are thoroughly reexamined. Thus, the contribution made here to historiography is manifold. The primary significance of the findings outlined in it are fully considered and clearly explained through the Ottoman legal context within which the monastic community managed to survive. The very existence of self-awareness of ethnicity, as the authors concludes, did not affect the survival of monastic community's common social, cultural, and religious behavioral patterns or behavioral patterns among Orthodox faithful. This conclusion is supported through an investigation of the Ottoman administration's attitude toward divisions among the empire's non-Muslim subjects. Considering the research findings it presents, this monograph greatly contributes to clarifying the position of Orthodox Christians during the transitional period of Ottoman history. The true value of the book, however, is the wide range of archival material it analyzes.

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Radoš Ljušić, *Prince Miloš Obrenović I of Serbia: the State-building Monarch*, Pravoslavna reč, Novi Sad, 2021, 923 pp.

(Radoš Ljušić, *Knez Miloš: državotvorni vladar*, Novi Sad: Pravoslavna reč, 2021, 923 str. (Serbian Cyrillic))

From the pen of an esteemed Serbian historian and Belgrade University Lecturer, Professor Radoš Ljušić, a leading expert on 19th

century Serbian history, has come a monograph about Prince Miloš Obrenović I of Serbia. This monograph is a seminal publication in Serbian historiography. A quick glance at Professor Ljušić's curriculum vita, which includes 500 bibliographical references and several dozen special editions, shows immediately that this monograph, along with its focus, stands out as an endeavor of the utmost significance. It should be noted that the author has spent decades researching and documenting 19th century Serbian history. Some of his monographs are currently regarded as canonical books of Serbian historiography, such as *Биографија Војвода Карађорђа (A Biography of Vozhd Karadjordje)*, the monograph *Српска државност 19 века (Serbian Statehood in the 19th Century)*, *Кнежевина Србија 1830–1839 (The Principality of Serbia, 1830–1839)*, and *Књига о Начертанију (The Book of Nacertanije)*. The author focuses specifically on defining and documenting the chronological history of Serbia, including all of the crucial events and turning points during the 19th century, thereby assuming a pivotal role both as a historian and a contributor to the field. To that end it can be stated that the this book is the product of decades of devoted research and writing, and an entire century after the biography written by Mihailo Gavrilović, it has emerged as a full and complete historical account of life and politics of Prince Miloš Obrenović.

The book demonstrates impeccable methodology and structure. It has been assembled and organized according to the highest standards of contemporary historiography. The author has skillfully composed a historical narrative that informatively and consistently includes all the relevant sections that comprise the chronology of events in the turbulent personal history of Prince Miloš Obrenović. Organized into six chapters with several well-grouped subchapters, the author narrates the life and history of Prince Miloš with a clear, comprehensible style and in a consistent and lucid manner. Not a single event in Prince Miloš Obrenović's life has been left unaccounted for. Starting with his early childhood, we discover a string of historical

events that were significant not just for the life of Prince Miloš but for the overall history of the 20th century in Serbia. In a highly competent yet unassuming manner, the author leads his reader through relevant historical events and intervals with a confident demonstration of flawless narrative skill.

In the first part of the monograph (*From Shepard to Vozhd*, pages 39–199), the principal focus is not solely on the life of Prince Miloš; it also shifts to the historical events in Serbia prior to and during the First Serbian Uprising. This is the consistent and dominant narrative style throughout the book: through the perspective and viewpoint of Prince Miloš Obrenović, the author portrays a dramatic chronicle of the entirety of Serbia. During countless battles and armed encounters, with Prince Miloš Obrenović as an outstanding leader, and with a multitude of events from the life of Karadjordje, through the intertwined fates of the two most prominent figures in the political history of Serbia during the 19th century, the reader discovers these historical events within a dynamic and compelling storyline. The historical facts presented in the book demonstrate the extensive depth and vast knowledge of the matter presented by the author. This fact may be the most prominent characterization of the monograph as a whole. The next thread of events surrounding the Second Serbian Uprising and the dramatic rise of Miloš Obrenović is narrated with equal narrative strength and zeal.

In the same light, Part Two (*The Prince*, pages 199–411), puts on display the historical and personal events surrounding the first reign of Prince Miloš Obrenović. The historical flow of the period was unmerciful toward Prince Miloš. From the negotiations with Mehmed Ali Pasha, the tragic assassination of Vozhd Karadjordje, several rebellions against him as a ruler, and the insistent pressure in Constantinople to assert Serbian autonomy, to daily life and political perplexities, this historical account demonstrates a superior command and mastery of the relevant historical facts.

Convoluting international relations, moderate and realistic foreign policy, and existing ties with

powerful countries are elaborated on throughout Part Two. These facts and events that dominate this part of the book are the connective tissues of the historical narrative. The author has devoted special attention to Serbian society during the first reign of Prince Miloš Obrenović, elaborately narrating the prince's visit to Constantinople. Professor Ljušić writes about these events knowingly and appealingly.

Part Three (*An Exile and Returnee*, pages 531–639), presents an account of Prince Miloš's life, from his abdication to his return to Serbia, and his second reign until his death. The chapter abounds in significant, noteworthy events and is based mostly on information about Miloš Obrenović's attempts to return to Serbia. The historical events that stand out in this part of the monograph are the Revolutions of 1848–1849, Tenka's Plot, and with special distinctness, the National Assembly. The author narrates this difficult period in Miloš Obrenović's life truthfully and realistically by relying on official historical sources. Significant events line up one after another and the author analyzes them objectively and impartially, including comparisons of the character traits of the members of the two dynasties, Obrenović and Karadjordjević. It should be noted that the author treats the conflict between the two Serbian dynasties with due consideration, characterizing it as one of the milestones in 19th century Serbian history. The intertwined destinies, conspiracies, rebellions, assassinations, and breakdowns that marked this historical conflict paint a dramatic picture of events in Serbia during this time. The last days in the life of Prince Miloš are vividly narrated as they reflect on the views of society during this time about the personality and the legacy of the aging Miloš Obrenović.

Part Four (*The Legacy*, pages 639–713), bears special relevance with respect to Serbian social history. At one point in the book, the author offers a full account of all the Obrenović Dynasty's assets and property. He portrays the Obrenović family and their legacy via a fresh, innovative, and original narrative approach. The author puts special emphasis on the mansions and manor houses in their possession, followed by an equally

interesting, detailed account of Prince Miloš's personal property and belongings. Similarly, in Part Five (*Unfaithful*, pages 713–765), the author narrates various details of Prince Miloš Obrenović's personal life. Among the Serbs, Prince Miloš had the image and a reputation of a man who had numerous love affairs, which makes this part of the monograph amusing but nonetheless still credible in the light of relevant historical information. This chapter also offers details about Miloš's family and family customs.

Part six (*Rudnicanin*, pages 765–861), contains countless details about Prince Miloš's personality and the impressions of others, and it describes his portraits, personal items, everyday life, and character traits. This part of the monograph, supported by the author's extraordinarily impeccable narration, presents Prince Miloš as a real man who had both virtues and flaws, yet was a great man who left an important legacy not only to his family but also to future generations in the Serbian social and political scene.

The part *Goodevil Prince Miloš* (pages 861–869), presents the author's conclusions and final thoughts about Prince Miloš Obrenović. Just like the rest of the book, this chapter can be read in a heartbeat. This section of the monograph is the summation of the life and reign of Prince Miloš Obrenović of Serbia, who undoubtedly was one of the greatest rulers in contemporary Serbian history. The author offers both praise and criticism of Miloš Obrenović, thus putting forward an objective and impartial account clearly, precisely, and realistically through the book's overall organization and composition.

This monograph by professor Radoš Ljušić, *Prince Miloš Obrenović I of Serbia: the State-building Monarch*, is an example of a truly valuable historiographic study that is sure to become a seminal book based on the contemporary principles of historiography as a discipline. What the author has demonstrated is that decades of research, writing, lecturing, and presenting indeed can be integrated into a comprehensive publication about a ruler who left his mark on his era, and which is narrated realistically, vividly, and strikingly. For this

reason, I strongly and wholeheartedly support the view that this monograph should be used as an example to look up to in the field of historiography. This is to state that national history should be regarded as the very initiative that indeed makes the wheel of history turn. It can thus safely be said that professor Ljušić has contributed a great book, one that raises the standards in the field of historiography. To conclude, this is a truly valuable study that deserves the utmost regard and admiration both from the general public and fellow historians.

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Aleksandra Ilić Rajković and Sanja Petrović Todosijević (eds.), *What Would We Do Without School?!: Essays on the History of Education in Serbia and Yugoslavia from the 19th Century to the Present Day*. Belgrade: The Institute for Recent History of Serbia, The Institute for Pedagogy and Andragogy, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, 2021, 486 pp.
(Aleksandra Ilić Rajković i Sanja Petrović Todosijević (ur.), *Bez škole šta bi mi?!: Ogledi iz istorije obrazovanja u Srbiji i Jugoslaviji od 19. veka do danas*. Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, Institut za pedagogiju i andragogiju Filozofskog fakulteta Univerziteta u Beogradu, 2021, 486 str. (Serbian Cyrillic))

The collection of papers entitled *What Would We Do Without School?!: Essays on the History of Education in Serbia and Yugoslavia from the 19th Century to the Present Day* is the result of collaboration between the Institute for Recent History of Serbia and the Institute of Pedagogy and Andragogy in Belgrade, which was initiated by its main editors. Aleksandra Ilić Rajković is an associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, and her research and teaching focuses on the history of pedagogical ideas and the history of education in Serbia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Sanja Petrović Todosijević is a senior research associate at the Institute for