
IN MEMORIAM

DEJAN MIKAVICA (1964–2022)

Dr. Dejan Mikavica died before his time yet left behind a significant body of historiographic work. During his three decades of scholarly endeavor, he wrote or coauthored over twenty monographs and left a permanent mark on Serbian historiography. His areas of interest were primarily connected to the history of the Serbs in the Habsburg monarchy, but he also took an interest in the history of Serbs in Montenegro. In all these fields Dr. Mikavica gave momentum to historiography and future researchers alike through his new and original interpretations.

Of his vast opus, what truly stands out is the extraordinary *Sabrane Spise Svetozara Miletića* (The Collected Writings of Svetozar Miletić), coedited with Dr. Čedomir Popov and published in three volumes between 1999 and 2002. These books are indispensable for the exploration of liberal ideas and thought among the Serbs in the Habsburg monarchy. In the same vein is his superb 2004 monograph on Laza Kostić, *Poslednji srpski pankalist: političko-filozofska biografija Laze Kostića* (The Last Serbian Pankalist: a Political and Philosophical Biography of Laza Kostić), which is a comprehensive political biography of the celebrated Serbian poet, presented in way that was innovative, original, and until then, unprecedented. His 2007 monograph *Mihailo Polit-Desančić, vođa srpskih liberala u Austrougarskoj* (Mihailo Polit-Desančić, Leader of the Serbian Liberals in Austria-Hungary), uses the same style to create an original, nuanced image of Serbian liberal politics, and it is a definitive guide to the history of the Serbs in the Habsburg monarchy. In his studies of the history of the Serbs in the Monarchy, Dr. Mikavica's remarkable endeavors were embodied in the books *Srpsko pitanje na Ugarskom saboru 1690–1918*. (The Serbian Question at the Diet of Hungary, 1690-1918) (2011), *Srpska politika u Hrvatskoj i Slavoniji 1538–1918*. (Serbian Politics in Croatia and Slavonia 1538-1918) (2015), *Srpska politika u Vojvodini 1526–1918*. (Serbian Politics in Vojvodina 1526-1918) (2017), *Jovan Subotić i Svetozar Pribičević* (Jovan Subotić and Svetozar Pribičević) (2017), *Srpska politička elita u Austrougarskoj monarhiji 1526–1918*. (The Serbian Political Elite in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, 1526-1918) (2018), and were rounded off with *Srpska politika u Hrvatskoj: 1538–1918*. (Serbian Politics in Croatia 1538-1918) (2017) and *Srpska Vojvodina – od autonomije do prisajedinjenja: 1683–1918*. (The Serbian Vojvodina: From Autonomy to Unification, 1683-1918) (2018) which, when taken as a whole, present a complete picture of the political, social, and economic events in the history of the Serbs in the Habsburg Monarchy.

It is with profound sadness that I mention the 2013 monograph *Istorija Srba u Crnoj Gori 1496–1918*. (History of the Serbs in Montenegro), coauthored with Nenad Ninković, that Dr. Mikavica and I wrote together as a team; along with *Srbi u Habzburškoj monarhiji od 1526 do 1918*. (Serbs in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1526–1918), coauthored with Nenad Lemajić and Nenad Ninković) (2016); *Prečanski Srbi u Velikom ratu 1914–1918*. (The Serbs of the Habsburg Monarchy in the Great War, 1914–1918) (2018), also coauthored with Nenad Ninković. These are all examples of amazing collaboration, full of support and understanding, and assistance for one another during the long processes of archival research and writing. During extended research trips, Dr. Mikavica, Dr. Ninković, and I thought over and sought out new ideas, objectives, and projects that could further the study of the Serbs in the Habsburg monarchy.

Dr. Mikavica was especially proud of his participation at academic conferences. He attended dozens of them in Serbia and abroad, always presenting his work in his original and appealing manner.

He used anecdotes as a source of new ideas and new inspiration, and he was always supportive and open to younger colleagues who gathered around him. In this, the younger generation of historians can be especially thankful to him for his help and support, for his understanding and advice, but mostly for his constant and ubiquitous admonition that the role and place of the historian in Serbian society are of crucial importance to an understanding of current developments. He was often deeply emotional about Serbia's tragic and turbulent history, and he was always searching for answers to difficult questions, but in his signature style—original, innovative, and full of enthusiasm.

Dr. Dejan Mikavica will be remembered for his books, lectures, public appearances, and anecdotes, which is just as how he would have wanted to be remembered. As he often told us, eternity only lasts for as long as we are remembered as historians and lecturers. Through his books and contributions to historiography, Dr. Dejan Mikavica has secured his place in the pantheon of Serbian historiography.

Goran Vasin

doi: 10.19090/i.2022.33.221-222

© Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad, 2022

ISTRAŽIVANJA – JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCHES 33, 221-222