

bia but particularly in Croatia, led by the Brothers Radić, would not have transformed the peasant society into a more humane community than the present one. The process would have been slower but happier. It would have given to the peasantry a greater feeling of what the modern life should be, and it would have prevented the ever increasing migration that has transformed entire villages particularly in Croatia to desolate desert. It would have definitely prevented the dehumanization of the peasant world.

Among other minor points of inaccurate statements one cannot agree when the authors define the Chetniks as the «Serbian nationalist group» and in the same vein the Ustashi as the «Croatian fascists linked with the German and Italian occupiers». The truth is that some of the Chetniks as well as some of the Ustashi were fascists and some among their chieftains worked closely together with Germans and Italians. Some of Tito's partisans did the same. Abundant documentation proves similar collaborations and similar affinities.

The book is beautifully illustrated with pictures that depict the changes in social relations. It contains a very useful and significant glossary with a nearly complete bibliography of foreign and Serbian and Croatian sources and studies.

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BOGDAN RADITSA

Ivo Omrčanin, *Diplomatic and Political History of Croatia*, Philadelphia, Dorrance & Company, 1972.

Ivo Omrčanin, a native Croatian possessing numerous academic degrees from such institutions as the Gregorian University, University of Trieste and Catholic University (Paris) and currently professor at Indiana University, has written a well-documented encyclopaedic account of Croatian history from antiquity to the present. The early chapters deal with the migration of «aryan» Croats from present-day Iran into Europe, their settlement among Slavic tribes and then their eventual «Slavicization». In reiterating ancient Croatian history, Professor Omrčanin stresses and validates the existence of the Croats as a people with their own state organization. We are told that as early as 626 the Croats entered into an international treaty of assistance with the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius to help the Emperor defeat the Avars. As a consequence of this treaty the Croats were introduced into Christendom.

Professor Omrčanin's account is well-footnoted from many sources in which the author is well-versed and competent and which assumes a background knowledge of the reader. Without this knowledge the author's work can tend to be confusing and difficult to follow as there is limited in -depth exposition of the many events in Croatian history. The writer devotes most of his account to the development of the concept of Croatian state sovereignty.

The author validates the nation's concept of state by drawing from Church history. We are informed that the Holy See negotiated a treaty with the Croats in 680 whereby the Croats promised to live in peace and wage only defensive wars. The existence of this treaty is used by the author as proof of papal recognition for the existence of a powerful Croatia. It is also pointed out that over 1.000 years ago the Croats were accorded the privileged use of their national language in Church rites while others were forced to accept Latin. These facts cannot be denied but it certainly cannot be doubted that many Croatian foreign involvements, including those with the Church, were due to its unique geo-political position between the East and the West

Professor Omrčanin documents the development of the native Croatian dynasty and the

eventual transfer of the crown to King Koloman of Hungary in the Zagreb Treaty of 1102. He is very careful to emphasize that Croatia continued to exist as an independent kingdom, maintaining its own crown. Throughout the ages, the Croatian position deteriorated as subsequent rulers attempted to weaken and divide her sovereignty. In 1526 after the Battle of Mohács the Croats looked to the Habsburgs for a king. Omrčanin contends that Croatian loyalty oscillated between the Hungarians and the Habsburgs in order to better protect their own state rights. When such diplomacy failed, the writer states that the intelligentsia, especially the clergy, fostered Croatian state interests. This statement makes one doubt whether, despite the documented historical confirmation for Professor Omrčanin's account, his measurement for the existence of a concept of Croatian consciousness as a national state is valid. The vast majority of the state's population was comprised of the peasantry whose attachment to national state ideas is questionable. It would appear that the strong nationalist sentiments would be found among the literate upper classes, the intellectuals and the clergy, rather than the common people. It is well known that as late as World War I the Croatian peasant was a loyal soldier and defender of Franz Joseph. Omrčanin himself, on the other hand, possesses the characteristics of a Croatian national.

Despite the author's prejudices this account sheds light upon the modern day Croatian nationalist movement. The lengthy bibliography and references open the way for an examination of possible explanations as to how the intense Croatian nationalism was inherited by the present-day youth of Croatia who were born in post-World War II Yugoslavia. My major reservation concerning Ivo Omrčanin's *Diplomatic and Political History of Croatia* is that it tends to be more of a polemic than a history and polemics should be left to Zagreb.

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FRANCES KRALJIC

A. G. Chloros, *Yugoslav Civil Law, History, Family Property, Commentary and Texts*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1970, pp. xiv + 285.

This unique volume by a Professor of Comparative Law at King's College, the University of London, provides a unique and useful summary of the post-war period and includes as well some historical background. The study is based on research conducted during 1963-64 at the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade. Given its relative brevity, the complexity of the subject and the involved historical antecedents, the treatment is summary rather than definitive.

A brief historical background is given in the forty-two pages of the first section. Included here are brief references to the Byzantine background, the Code of Dušan, the Austrian Civil Code, the Serbian Civil Code of 1844, and codification in Montenegro with interspersed references to the Turkish civil codification in the nineteenth century, Moslem customary law, and the early medieval codes of Dalmatian cities. These sparse notes will not be particularly satisfying to readers of this journal.

Professor Chloros does, however, provide the more general reader with a feel for the overall complexity and problems faced by the prewar Yugoslav state in merging the various traditions under a unified legal tradition. This situation is exemplified by the variation in the legal regulation of marriage, which ranged from accepted civil ceremony to a variety of required religious observances. For example, in the Vojvodina, Medjumurje, and Prekomurje, where Hungarian law was the system, civil marriage was mandatory, while in Slovenia, Dalmatia and Istria, where the Austrian Civil Code was in force, civil marriage was possible under certain