

BETWEEN MODERNIZATION OF SOCIETY AND NATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF BOSNIAKS IN BiH 1945-2005

Research objective: In line with the project's aim to explore and explain the framework context for affirmation of national identities, I will focus on analyzing the relationship between modernization of the Bosnian society and the process of national integration of Bosniaks after the Second World War in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Development of the Muslim community should be analyzed in particular (demographics, social and political aspects) in three major time-periods: the period from the end of the Second World War to the end of the 1960's; the period from the end of the 1960's to the beginning of the 1990's; and the period of the 1990's, with a special analysis of the 1992-1996 period. I will show who were the leaders of national agitation (changes in composition of the elite, 1945-2005), and how national agitation involved a wider population and integrated it into a modern nation. I will particularly focus on the phenomenon of promoting beauty of the homeland (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the influence this promotion had on affirmation of the Bosniak nation at the end of the 1990's and after the 1992-1996 war.

Theoretical framework: To show the role of individual social groups in changing social relations and the relationship between the federal status BiH had in Yugoslavia and the affirmation of the Bosniak nation, I will apply the known models of forming small nations (HROCH, 2006, BRUBAKER, 1996). The process of small nations' building has been especially important since the mid-1960's, when the Bosnian political elite focused on the need to promote the particulars of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I will also apply the model of relationship between center and periphery, and by using examples of strengthening and integrating peripheries (individual regions) within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I will show how the process of affirmation of Bosniaks as a nation took place in a broader Yugoslav context. Specifically, I will emphasize the end of the 1960's, a period when Josip Broz Tito stimulated strengthening of the so-called political periphery in Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Vojvodina) in order to achieve a balance in relation to Serbia and Croatia. In that respect, Tito encouraged Bosnian leadership to act as independently from the political centers in Serbia and Croatia as possible. In order to strengthen the Yugoslav political periphery (Bosnia and Herzegovina), it was necessary to integrate individual regions within the periphery (in fact, to integrate individual Bosnian

political peripheries with the center: Western Herzegovina and Bosnian Krajina with the center in Sarajevo). Thus, we discover two circles of relations between the center and the periphery. 1) The first broader circle has Yugoslavia at its center and Bosnia and Herzegovina as the periphery. 2) The second, narrower circle, with Bosnia and Herzegovina at its center, and its individual regions (Herzegovina, Bosnian Krajina, Eastern Bosnia) as its periphery. The model of strengthening the periphery (in both circles) was conducted with the objective of maintaining the center. An important segment of strengthening BiH as the political periphery in the Yugoslav federation was also the affirmation of Bosniak national identity. This affirmation may be viewed at two levels: the position that the political elite has regarding that identity, and the position that the individuals have regarding that identity in the every day life. All of that may be viewed in the context of modernizing the society that encouraged a gradual national affirmation of Bosniaks in the 1945-2005 period.

Sources: There are numerous sources on the basis of which it is possible to approach this theme. Primarily, there are demographics and political decisions made by governmental and political institutions. Personal notes of individual political leaders are of major importance in showing the relationship the political elite has had toward national identity, but also these documents testify about the personal relationship involved in constructing a broader national identity. Articles in daily newspapers are a valuable source of information because they contain not only the positions of individuals (letters of readers) but they also reveal a broader social context and the spirit of the times. Newspapers not only record numerous events that show the degree of affirmation of the Bosniak national identity, but they also influence the strengthening of that identity, especially since the beginning of the 1990's.

The catalogues of individual collections in the museums will also be useful as an illustration of the awareness of the national identity, even though this source had no major influence on developing that identity.