

Abstract

Northwestern Bosnia is very compact area with specific mentality and strong identity. This mentality was built over long time and under sepcific historical circumstances, mostly in the era of Othomans ruling. The popuation of this region changed their traditional way of life during the 20th century and their self-perception was informed by their incorporation in the new Yugoslav state which brought different cultures and values . Also, migrations from this area to Western Europe and western republics of SFRY in the last three decades of 20th century has changed the economic status of this population. It helped them to fight poverty and allowed them to take place in the Yugoslav modernism. Later on, rebirth of the Bosnian state and the Bosniak nation brought them new/old identities built on ethnicity. All of those processes gave to the Krajišniks sense of strong self-identification, but also, strong influencees from others with whom they shared life-space.