

**For a Croatian Independent State.
Reconstruction and Use of Contemporary Yugoslav Historical Events (1945-1990)**

Abstract

In May 1945, a few days after the German surrender, the short-lasting experience of the *Nezavisna Država Hrvatska* - NDH [Independent State of Croatia] ended dramatically. The NDH left in its wake a country torn by civil war and a sense of guilt for the crimes committed by the Ustashi on its own soil. Once in power, the Communist Party tried hard to heal the wounds left on the cultural, political and social tissue of the Yugoslav nations. It was necessary to lay the foundations of a common identity, a Yugoslav identity, which had to be created out of the myth of the People's Liberation War. The making of the new Yugoslav man passed through the construction of a new Yugoslav historical narration which was made up of the contributions given by each nation of the Federation. The atrocities committed by the Ustashi against other nationalities, the Cetniks' crimes and the partisans' acts of vengeance had to be omitted: in this way it started the «drafting of memory's blank pages». The aim of this research is to understand if and how Croatian nationalism, which had showed up in the NDH, was cultivated in the Federation and how it contributed to the birth of the first independent Croatian state.

The history of Croatian culture and of the Federal republican institutions is useful to answer these questions. Here I decided to limit the research to the study of the evolution of a divisive historiography and a historiographic-political journalism which showed up both inside and outside Croatian borders and which had an important role in maintaining, empowering and strengthening the Croatian nationalism.