

FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF JOVAN CVIJIĆ
– Selected Pages and Interpretations –

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– прикази и тумачења –

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In the notebooks of Jovan Cvijić, we find the manuscript entitled “*Homogeneity and Uniformity of the Dinaric Serbs*”. It was recorded by one of his travel companions. In it, he paid particular attention to the characteristics of the Dinaric Serbs, their strengths and development in different historical circumstances. In the introductory part, Cvijić gave an illustrative example of Gokčanica, describing it as “*a hidden, remote valley that never had better conditions for connection with the surrounding areas*.” Its position between the Ibar River and the mountains of Željin, Goč, Ravna Planina, Studena Planina, Žaračka Planina and Planjansko Brdo influenced Cvijić to mark it as “*a region bound only by difficult passageways*.”

Cvijić also dedicated attention to the origins of the population and noted: “*There are many old people or old immigrants from the surrounding places that were invaded*.” This is one of the reasons why Cvijić claimed that this “*separate population is completely the same people, with the same feelings and thoughts*” as everyone else in the new, liberated area “*from Raška to Mitrovica*.” Interestingly, he compared them with the population of Jadar, stating that their similarities are to be found in the facial features, eye expressions, the heart and the spirit. He gave a prominent role to women. Cvijić described them as possessing “*small faces, with sensible and intelligent expression*” who, owing to their conservative nature, have even better preserved those “*profound, traditional qualities, full of soul, the ones that move the world*.” According to Cvijić, rural women “*as part of this more rudimentary people, are of greater importance, because, alongside men, they carry a struggle for life*.”

In his capital book *The Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands: Basics of Anthropogeography* (1922a), in the chapter *Ethnic Unity and Psychological Types*, Cvijić particularly distinguished the role of the Dinaric type with its varieties. He emphasised that, due to various events and experiences, the development of this population has become especially evident: “*They are now able to evaluate and weigh complex issues*”, therefore it is “*difficult to mislead them with phrases and spark uproar or dispute among them, as it was previously possible*.” As he stated on several occasions, the Dinaric Serbs have a clear national consciousness and soul and deep-rooted national moral and thought, and the Balkan Wars and the Great War (First World War) are just one out of many proofs.

More details on this area and its population can be learned from later research by Radoslav Pavlović. In his book “Podibar and Gokčanica” (1948), he wrote that Gokčanica represents well-closed *župa* [parish] on the northern, western and northwestern branches of Mount Željin, the Gokčanica Creek and the Ibar River, consisting of four villages: Gokčanica, Cerje, Rudnjak and Predole. In this area the name Gokčanica is also used for the villages (hamlets) of Borovo, Duboko, Crvanj, Dobra Bukva and Ravnj. In the aforementioned work, the author stated that apart from native families, there were also a large number of immigrants belonging to the Dinaric, Kosovo-Metohija, Vardar-Morava, Timok-Braničevo and Šop drifts. According to Pavlović, the migrations of the population from Vasojevići, Donji Kolašin on the Lim River, Ibarski Kolašin, then “from Pazar”, “from Deževa”, Ibar and Stari Vlah had a crucial impact on the ethnic composition of this region.