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*Political, Social and Religious Dynamics in South-Eastern Europe
Dynamiques politiques, sociales et religieuses dans le Sud-Est européen*

ABSTRACTS

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extent the Albanian affair was responsible for Regent's decision and the consequences that followed.

Rastko Lompar (Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade)

Drangnach (Süd-)Osten: Reassessing the German Efforts to Establish a Foothold in Yugoslavia 1935-1941.

After the National socialists seized power in 1933, the foreign policy of Germany took a sharp expansionist turn. Although the prime foreign political goals lay in the neighbouring lands, Germany was by no means disinterested in South East Europe. After the murder of King Alexander and Milan Stojadinović's ascend to power in 1935 Yugoslavia adopted a foreign political orientation more favourable to the Axis. In addition to fostering bilateral relations, Germany attempted to penetrate all levels of Yugoslav society (military, government, church). In communist historiography the scope of German infiltration in Yugoslavia was over-emphasized and portrayed as complete. Almost all enemies of the communists during the Civil war were portrayed as German agents from the interwar period. The aim of this paper is to reassess, based on German and Yugoslav documents, how far reaching this infiltration really was. It will be an attempt at reconstructing the German intelligence apparatus in Yugoslavia as well as the scope of the pro-German sentiments amongst the populace.

Boris Milosavljević (Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade)

Balkan "Propaganda Wars". Participant and Interpreter: Historian Slobodan Jovanović

Slobodan Jovanović (1869–1958) was a renowned Serbian scholar and statesman, political philosopher, lawyer, historian, literary critic and writer, professor of public and constitutional law. He was president of the Royal Serbian Academy, rector of Belgrade University, dean of The Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, and president of the Serbian Cultural Club, a leading Serbian political and cultural organization in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia on the eve of the Second World War. He died in 1958 in London, where he had served as prime minister of the Yugoslav government-in-exile during the Second World War. Slobodan Jovanović was the son of Vladimir Jovanović (1833–1922), minister of finance, senator, the leading ideologist of Serbia's Liberal, Party and of the United Serbian Youth, a patriotic youth organization, inspired

by similar European organizations of the time such as, for example, Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Italy.

Both Vladimir and Slobodan Jovanović were highly critical of the "Bismarckian" type of imperialist nationalism of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Vladimir Jovanović put forth a caveat against imperialism in his *The Near-Eastern Problem and the Pan-German Peril* (London 1909), especially in the chapter "The 'Drangnach Osten', or the Pan-German Peril". Having received a law degree from the University of Geneva, Slobodan Jovanović continued his studies in Paris, at the prestigious *École libre des sciences politiques*, today popularly known as "Science Po". His early career was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Serbia (1892–1897). At that time, Balkan states were involved in ruthless propaganda war among themselves. Jovanović was appointed attaché to the Serbian Legation at Constantinople (1893) and, in 1894, promoted to the Chief of the Educational Section of the Political division of the Ministry, the so called "Propaganda" (1894–1897). Propaganda was a division similar to Eastern departments in other foreign ministries. In July 1894, Jovanović visited Serbian Consulate in the Ottoman Empire and delivered a confidential report to the foreign minister. In government lead by Stojan Novaković (1842–1915), prominent Serbian scholar and statesmen, the leading expert on Macedonian Question, Jovanović was his secretary (1895–1896). Both, Novaković and Jovanović, were participants of historic events, and later history writers. Having personal experience, knowledge of documents, and broader insight into the issues, Slobodan Jovanović, as a historian deals with issues he personally witnessed or participated in. His historiographical work on Balkan issues before the Balkan wars and World War I, are of the greatest importance for understanding the policies of the Balkan states and Great powers while dealing with the "Macedonian question" as a part of "Eastern question".

Vojislav Pavlović (Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade)

US decisive influence on the issue of the Second World War in the Balkans

The Roosevelt administration gradually, from December 1941 onwards, took over from the British the overall conduct of the war. The economic and human potential of the US enabled the Roosevelt administration to impose its views on the strategic issues, such as the Second front in Europe or the post-war reorganisation of the Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Whereas the Churchill's government involvement in the affairs of the Balkans and especially in Yugoslavia and Greece gave the impression of its decisive influence, US strategic