# SUMMARY

The book *Constructions of culture. Models of cultural modernisation in 19th century Croatia* is designed so that the methodological and theoretical levels of the two introductory chapters, in fact a theoretical sketch of the concept of culture and the problem of national and cultural identity opens the field to insight at several levels of those elements that are importantly constituent for the 19th century and the process of modernisation and the creation of a civil Croatia. By analytically and critically opening up the discussion, culture is conceived in the broadest sense as "a way of life", despite the fact that it is realised in its specific and special sectors. Similarly, issues of national and cultural identity are methodologically approached. Moreover, polemics are with the most recent and most cited authors (Anderson, Gellner, Hobsbawm, Smith, Wehler) where it is polemically shown that there are arguments for the thesis that the Croatian nation (nationalism) is not "imagined" or "invented", which in analyses of formation processes of Croatian modernisation in the 19th century attempts to prove, especially in language and artistic (and literary) practices.

Further, the book is structured into several chapters. The first chapter presents facts, in their "original" states, which constitutes the structure of society, from the material to the social sphere, with special emphasis on institutions that had a strong driving force in Croatia in the 19th century. These "facts" as "original" could not produce a variety of discursive models, as was the case with epistemological "ordering" or artistic practices. For this reason, the next part of the book deals with the scientific "treatment" of these social facts. This is, in fact, the already determined epistemological arrangement, which "regulates" social reality, on the one hand, and, through discursive work, produces a structural "plan", on the other hand, and also testifies to a high meta-structural level of consciousness, at a third level.

**Summary**

Particular attention is paid to forms of ideologies and models of statehood as an important segment in the constitution and not only construction, of the Croatian nation, which of course has its own history and is not just a "fad" of a 19th century "mode" of nationalism. This segment, that is, that socio-historical fact, is one of the most direct and clearest arguments against the thesis of "inventing" the nation, because in the Croatian case this was built and historically affirmed in a process that can be clearly monitored and its historicity in fact provides a powerful argument.

Culturation processes follow the course of culture in the narrower sense, accompanied by artistic practices that show that they can "skip" double marginality, a position in which Croatia found itself in the 19th century. This applies equally to "materials" as well as form. This shows a segment of language and literature as "more Croatian". Language, namely, by the logic of its diachronic development, through tri-literacy and tri-speech (three dialects), is an exemplary witness to what in the best sense of the word can be called linguistic nationalism, because language in the true sense is the "house of being" (Heidegger), as Croatian revivalists have always had in mind. Literature, again, not only because it was written in the Croatian language, but also because they tried, as Šenoa said, to take primarily Croatian material as building material, which means that it "wrote" a specific social reality of the nineteenth century. Namely, this literature not only "read" the underlying forces which in the changes of the 19th century were found in the "field", but with its "projective" suggestions offered elements for the construction of Croatian identity, even if via negation. On the one hand, this referred to civic ethos, on the other hand, with respect to technology in the narrow sense, it sought to be compatible with European style models, so, in turn, it had its Balzacian peak.

In the final conclusion, like in the briefer conclusions at the end of each section, this book offers a meta--metastructural level of discourse that "abstractly" synthesises the discursive "treatment" and "generalises" the epistemological "ordering" as were offered by culturation processes of the considered century.

*Translated by:*
*Lynette Šikić-Mićanović*