
SUMMARIES



Jacques Paul Klein

UNTAES – SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MISSION

In the backdrop of the Dayton peace negotiations regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina, on 12th November 1995 The Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium was agreed and signed between the Croatian Government and the representatives of the local Serbs from that area under the patronage of the representative of the international community. With this Agreement the basic political and security preconditions have been met for the end of the war in the Republic of Croatia, which was the fundamental factor for the establishment of permanent stability in that area, which was heavily devastated by ravages of war, human sufferings, forced migrations and by general economic setbacks since the summer of 1991. The Agreement came into force on 15th January 1996, when the Security Council of the United Nations Resolution 1079(1996) was adopted. Under the said Resolution, the UNTAES mission was established, which, during a two transitional period at the most, intended to enable the reintegration of the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, as well as the reintegration of its population into the constitutional, political, social and economic system of the Republic of Croatia. The peaceful reintegration was an important factor for the normalization of political relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and as such was somewhat of a bridge between Zagreb and Belgrade, as well as one of the key factors for peace and stability in the wider region, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNTAES mission as such, was an important element of the contemporary architecture of the European security and stability, and therefore its historical value is significant.

Vladimir Šeks

PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The elections in the Croatian Danube Region were a key and unsurpassable step and precondition for the start of the process of its peaceful reintegration into the system of the Republic of Croatia as well as for a successful ending of such process. The fundamental principles of the negotiations for the resolution of issues concerning the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium from 3rd October 1995 were the legal basis for the elections announcements. In accordance with the proclaimed Fundamental Principles of 12th November 1995, the Fundamental Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium was signed. The Security Council of the United Nations at the session held on 15th January 1996 has issued Resolution 1037, by which the UNTAES and the Temporal Administration were formed in territory of the Croatian Danube Region. The Government's office of the Temporal Administration has determined the time period of the peaceful reintegration as regards the elections that were held on 13th April 1997. On 19th April 1997, General Klein has evaluated the conducted elections as free and fair.

Slavko Barić

DEMILITARIZATION OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION AS THE PRECONDITION FOR PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION

Military operations "Flash" and "Storm" from 1995 have imposed peaceful reintegration as the optimal solution for the temporarily occupied territory of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. In many ways, its success depended on the rapidity and efficiency of the demilitarization process of the region, and on the terrain demining. The condition of the communication channels (roads, railways, and other), and of other infrastructures (electrical lines, drainage, provision of petrol, agricultural production, and other) was extremely bad, and it caused difficulties for a functional return of displaced persons. With the start of peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region, Croatian military forces also got involved in ensuring the preconditions for the return of displaced persons. In this context, the Pilot program for demining and the removal of construction waste as the precondition for building new houses in the urban centers of the

Croatian Danube Region is especially important. In this manner, the Subcommittee for Military Issues with the Cabinet of the Republic of Croatia was established, as well as the United Nations Mine Action Centre, and organized forces of the 2nd operational zone – Đakovo were formed and organized, all of it with a goal of as efficient and fast demilitarization and clearing of mine contaminated and suspicious areas as possible.

Vesna Škare Ožbolt

PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION – MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

The reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region into the constitutional and legal order of the Republic of Croatia has up to now remained as the only successfully completed UN mission in the world. It started shortly after the Croatian military operation “the Storm” was executed, by which, through the use of military force, the occupied territories have been liberated. The commencement of the peaceful reintegration has been greeted with disappointment, faintheartedness and disapproving from the general public because of the decision to free Eastern Slavonia peacefully. The new “Storm” was expected to hit Eastern Slavonia. However, that did not happen. The signing of the Erdut Agreement was a heavy blow for everyone in Croatia. Some even thought that Eastern Croatia was going to be left abandoned. Croatian President Tuđman was very decisive when he said that this part of the land will be claimed back with the assistance of the UN troops. His condition was that an American was appointed as the chief of the mission, as the warranty by the international community that the mission will succeed. The condition was granted. American general Jacques Paul Klein was appointed as the chief of the mission. We were on our way. We worked hard, carefully, but also quickly. Demilitarization and retreat. Rebuilding of houses, everyone to retrieve back at their property. The retreat of the Serbian forces was very significant. Croatia has adopted the decision on convalidation, on rebuilding of houses, and in 1997 the first free local government elections took place. New municipal and city mayors were elected. In two years we have fulfilled all the main goals and we have made it. And our action was named “Stormy Peace”.

Albert Bing

**INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND REINTEGRATION
OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION: REAL-POLITICS
AND MULTIETHNIC RELATIONS**

The work explains and analyses particular aspects of relations between Croatia and the international community, which are the consequence of reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region. The correlation of the process of a peaceful reintegration and identification of Croatia's position (1996–2008) in the context of international politics – positioning of the State of Croatia in the Region and in the international community – occupies the centre stage of the paper. After a successful realization of the military-police operation „Flash” (May 1995) and „Storm” (August 1995), the Croatian Danube Region remained the only part of the territory which was not under the governance of Croatian authorities. Although nobody in the international community questioned its status as the integral part of Croatia, the reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region was an extremely complex process, which the international peace mediators faced. Its integration into the constitutional and legal affairs system of the Republic of Croatia was the *condition sine qua non* of the Croatian participation at the Dayton Peacemaking Conference in 1995, and the Erdut Agreement on peaceful reintegration (November 1995) became an essential component of the peacemaking process and stabilization of the Region as a whole. The United States of America had the most important role in reaching the agreement on peaceful reintegration and political control over its implementation. From the perspective of the four-year wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina the American insistence on the peaceful solution of the reintegration problem of the Croatian Danube Region in the late 1995 – acceptance of democratic standards and reconstruction of multiethnic society as an alternative to ethnically motivated conflicts – was contrary to the real-political compromises, which the peaceful reintegration of the former mediators (David Owen, Cyrus Vance, Thorvald Stoltenberg) was based on. The process of peaceful reintegration proved to be an exceptional venture, which was imbued with facing complex problems, above all when it comes to the cancellation of compulsory migrations and the establishment of the disturbed relations between Croatian and Serbian population. In the initial phase of reintegration, American diplomacy played the most important role in it. The peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region appeared to be a kind of

a historic „conclusion” of the divergent social processes of the first half of the 1990's – of the national (ethnic) homogenization and the adoption of democratic acquis of the civil society. The post Dayton period as a whole witnesses how exactly the question of the capacity of individual states that emerged from the collapse of Yugoslavia in the adoption of democratic standards (which American administration particularly insisted upon) was an important divide of their international positioning, above all in turning to social and economic reforms and seizing the connections to the current international processes. In this respect the peaceful reintegration and reconstruction of multiethnic society in the Croatian Danube Region was a maturity test of the Croatian politics, and for the USA and the international community, an important righting lever of the Region and one step forward in seeking a solution for other neuralgic points in the Region.

Sanja Špoljar Vržina

**PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION, IMMORAL „JUSTICE“, UNCLEAR
INTERNATIONAL CONSCIENCE – CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ANTHROPOLOGY OF VUKOVAR**

The conventional explanation of international programmes of peacemaking has for decades been exposed to fierce criticism, but to the idealization as well. The protocol alphabetical list of the highest bodies of international community in their superior achievements of the ”development” of culture of democracy and tolerance introduce the programmes in the area of peacekeeping and peace building. In the history of important decisions regarding the emergence of these conceptions, the decision when in 1992 the UN Secretary-General reshaped the Cold war conception of exclusively military shaped ”peacekeeping” into a new and completely different form of the necessary international intervention may be the most important one. It was the first time that in the document of the UN Security Council, in the service of a broader conception of the peacekeeping forces, Triassic was mentioned, which was created as a preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peace building (Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Agenda for Peace, 1992). It is important to notice that this paradigmatic turning point at the highest level of international community happened not long after the collapse of international politics and the humanitarian engagement in the heart of Europe – Great Serbian aggression on Croatia, the Fall of Vukovar and the beginning of the war in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, as well as bearing in mind the necessity for an urgent reorganization regarding all earlier failures of the UN missions in Haiti, the Far East, and in Africa. The purpose of this work is to consider anthropologically a peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region, not only as an international success of the Croatian politics, but also as a failure of international politics in the local community. Familiarity with the events in the Croatian Danube Region, as well as in the wider Balkans Region in the past ten or more years allows us to say that the peaceful reintegration, between the local Croatian prudence with a high awareness of the importance of democratic processes and the global one (belated processes and decisions of the international bodies, like the United Nations and the Hague Tribunal) is exclusively the success of the Croatian prudence. In fact, the awareness of it pledges for a more serious calling of the international community to correct the conditions of amorality, from which many experimental projects have been conducted, like the "peaceful reintegration" or the Hague Tribunal.

Sandra Cvikić

A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH IN A CRITICAL REVIEW OF SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF „PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION“ IN VUKOVAR

On the basis of the Security Council resolution 1037 from 15th January 1996, and by approving another mandate of the new UNTAES troops, whose purpose was to keep peace in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, the process which acquired its "peaceful framework" by signing of the Erdut Agreement on 12th November 1995 continues. By internationalizing the problem of violent aggression, and after the operations "Flash" and "Storm", Croatia, as a free and sovereign democratic state, defines the politics of peaceful and non-violent reintegration of the occupied territory, where Vukovar also belongs. By full cooperation with the international community, and through the initiated process of Euro-Atlantic integration, Croatia gets rid of the undesired and imposed control, and frees itself from the aggressors in a peaceful way. Therefore, peaceful liberation of Vukovar in such conditions is a process which does not end by formal-legal and political agreement between relevant and international parties, but it includes deeper social consequences for equal future of its citizens and local community. By the reintegrational takeoff into the unknown after winning the war, the country enters a new era of great social changes, which signi-

ificantly change the image of socio-economic life in Vukovar. The purpose of this paper is to examine and critically review, through the prism of international influences, as well as national and local policies, the consequences of the peaceful reintegration process in the context of modern sociological theories.

Dražen Živić
Ivana Žebec

OVERALL DEPOPULATION AND POPULATION AGEING – THE MOST IMPORTANT DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN THE FORMERLY OCCUPIED AREA OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION (1991–2001)

Pursuant to the official (census) statistics, as well as the secondary sources, the most important dynamic-structural demographic changes in the area of the Croatian Danube Region during the last inter-census period (1991–2001) have been analysed and displayed. Together with the inherited „inner” and „outer” movement determinants and population development, the baseline of the contemporary demographic changes, processes, relationships, directions, and structures of the discussed area is the Croatian War of Independence, i.e. Serbian armed aggression and occupation which has, due to the soaring direct and migration war casualties, aroused more and more unfavourable trends in the demographic dynamics and structures. In that way it provoked an imbalance in demographic picture of that region, but also in its social and economic development. In that, however short time fraction, a two-year transition period of peaceful reintegration (1996–1998) fundamentally changed the direction of demographic developments, particularly as far as the displaced persons-refugee-returnee procedures are in question.

Ivo Turk
Marijan Jukić

THE CHANGE OF NUMBER AND SHARE OF THE CROATS AND THE SERBS IN THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CROATIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION (1991 – 2001)

Two ethnic components are dominant in the national structure of population of the Croatian Danube Region. The Croats are the majority nation, and the Serbs are the most numerous national minority. Under the term the Croatian Danube Region this work implies the County of Osijek-Baranya and the County of Vukovar-Srijem. The Croatian War of Independence has greatly changed the national structure of population of this region. In the inter-census period from 1991–2001 the increase of share of the Croats was registered, as well as the decrease of share of the Serbs in the total population. During the occupation, the Serbian authorities exiled the Croats systematically. The population of Serbian nationality moved out to Serbia due to the war activities, bad economic situation and political instability. The quoted processes resulted in a significant total decline in the number of population. The Serbian occupation ended in the peaceful reintegration, during which the former occupied areas were returned to the territorial judicial system of the Republic of Croatia. After the end of occupation, the exiled Croats have been coming back to their homes. A part of population of Serbian nationality moved out even after the peaceful reintegration, because of disapproval of the idea of independent Croatia. Since the first results of 2001 census of the national and religious structure of population in towns were published in 2007, this work points out the changes in national structure of population on the level of town. In this matter, formerly occupied towns were studied in particular, as a change of national structure in them is very important for the whole demographic circumstances and processes, which influence a balanced socially economic development of the monitored area.

Ljiljana Dobrovšak

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE COUNTY OF VUKOVAR-SRIJEM IN 1991 AND 2001 CENSUSES

Various national minorities live in Croatia traditionally. Vukovar-Srijem is one of the counties in the area of which, in the past, as well as today, a greater number of minorities has been concentrated. They settled in different historical periods – from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Nineteen national minorities live in the county of Vukovar-Srijem, among whom the most numerous is the Serbian minority, but it will not be discussed in this writing, as the work deals with issues of other national minorities, and these are: Albanians, Bosniaks, Bulgarians, Montenegrins, Checks, Hungarians, Macedonians, Austrians, Germans, Polish, Romanians, Russians, Russians, Ukrainians, Slovaks, Slovenes, Italians, and Jews. 1991 and 2001 population censuses have been analysed, and their share of national minorities for the County of Vukovar-Srijem, when extensive changes in their number also took place because of the war activities and peaceful reintegration processes. Due to the war, bad economic situation and political instability, not only the majority population decreased, but the population of minority communities as well. There is no national minority in the County of Vukovar-Srijem for which from 1991 to 2001 a population decline was not noted, and the causes and consequences of that decline have been analysed in this work. Although some members of several national minorities have returned to these areas after the peaceful reintegration, their total number has been continuously declining.

Mateo Žanić

PRESENTING AND MONITORING THE ERDUT AGREEMENT IN CROATIAN AND SERBIAN EDITION OF *VUKOVAR NEWSPAPERS*

Through the content analysis of Croatian and Serbian editions of *Vukovar newspapers*, the work analyses the way the Erdut Agreement was presented to the public and how its implementation was monitored and evaluated. Moreover, it is analysed how international forces were evaluated in the newspapers, and how the Serbian party was described in the Croatian edition, and vice versa. The analysis has revealed that an extremely negative way of writing about the other party dominated in both editions, and that the signed Agreement was presented in a different way. In so doing, the idea of autonomy was pointed

out in the Serbian edition, and in the Croatian one the Agreement was presented as a guarantee of establishing full sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia in the up-to-then occupied territory.

Renato Matic

FUNCTIONAL LEVEL OF TRUST

The article problematizes a possibility of the existence of functional level of trust in social relations in the Croatian Danube Region. The term functional level of trust can be operationalized in terms of the existence of social responsibility (*adhering to social norms, principles of solidarity and mutual respect*) in relations between social actors (citizens-citizens, citizens-social institutions), namely, at a level sufficient for a stable growth of regional social relations in the field of economy, culture, and politics. It assumes that, despite various occasional attempts at international, national, and local social level, the level of trust, which is functional for the development of regional society, still has not been achieved. Bearing in mind the given assumption, the purpose of the paper is to define main dysfunctional phenomena, but the so far unused potentials as well, the implementation of which would enable achieving the functional level of trust in the sense of the continuous and sustainable harmonization between the economic and cultural capital, and the human capital of the regional society. The first part of the paper defines the basic terms to be used, while the second section analyzes the inhibitory circumstances and phenomena whose final effects, that is, its consequences, function in such a manner that they keep previously ruined or severely disturbed adhering social norms within dysfunctional structures. The third section analyzes the preconditions for progress; the existing, but unrecognized or consciously ignored capacities that can set off social participants' mutual trust in the functional level. Finally, the fourth section offers some concrete suggestions for maintaining and progress of functional trust in the citizens-citizens and citizens-social institutions relations.

ROLE OF HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM IN THE PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION

According to the population census from 1991, there were 85 thousands inhabitants in the Vukovar County, and 45 thousands in the city of Vukovar itself. There were 933 employees (92 of them were doctors) in the Medical Center "Vukovar". Ravages of war in this area began after 2nd May 1991. At that time, the war hospital "Vukovar" was also built up, where, except taking care of the wounded, a complete health-care was provided to all inhabitants of the city and its surroundings. After the capture and exchange of the prisoners, at the time of the banishment, 350 employees of the Hospital were located all around Croatia. According to temporary work schedule, they were working in the closest health-service facilities, and preparing for return. With the beginning of peaceful reintegration of the Danube Region in 1996, the Committee for reintegration of the health-care system into the regular health-care system of the Republic of Croatia was founded. During 1997, the following health-service facilities were established: "Vukovar" general hospital, community health center "Vukovar", community health center „Beli Manastir“, and a number of medical clinics were joined together with the community health center "Vinkovci" and community health center "Osijek". In 1996, the district office of the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance was founded in Vukovar, where 23 thousands of health-insurance cards were issued. The organized return of health-care workers began in 1997, and thereby, until 15th January 1998, when the Danube Region was also formal-legally incorporated into the Republic of Croatia, the health-care system was fully established, even though it was functioning under difficulties. The majority of the exiled health-care workers returned during 1997 and 1998, and those coming from the area under the UNTAES control were reintegrated from other parts of The Republic of Croatia into parent institutions. During 1998, an intense renewal of the "Vukovar" general hospital began, and a new facility for primary medical care was built in Ilok. Today, there are 520 employees in the "Vukovar" general hospital, 91 of them doctors.

Ivanka Miličić
Karolina Majsec

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REINTEGRATION IN VUKOVAR – IN THE LIGHT OF SOME STATISTICAL DATA

When it comes to number and structure of pupils regarding the language being taught, considerable, in fact, crucial changes have been carried out in the elementary school system immediately after the period of peaceful reintegration in Vukovar. Above all, they have been reflected by the fact that between the school years 1997/98 and 2007/08 the number of pupils in tuition in Serbian has decreased by 61,6%, and the number of pupils in tuition in Croatian has increased by as much as 2.151,4%. In the same period, the total number of pupils in elementary schools in Vukovar has increased by 139,0%, which is, among other things, a valuable indicator of the return process after the end of the peaceful reintegration. Today, there are six elementary schools in Vukovar – elementary school Blago Zadro and elementary school Siniša Glavašević in a part of town known as Borovo naselje, elementary school Mitnica, elementary school Antun Bauer, elementary school Nikola Andrić and elementary school Dragutin Tadijanović. In the three elementary schools (Siniša Glavašević, Nikola Andrić and Dragutin Tadijanović) classes are held in Croatian and Serbian language, while in the elementary schools Mitnica, Blago Zadro and Antun Bauer, the tuition is organised only in Croatian. Such a situation in the elementary schools of Vukovar is the result of implementation of the Constitutional law on the rights of national minorities from December 2002, and the Law on education in languages and letters of national minorities from May 2000.

Antonija Kukuljica

CULTURE AND PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN VUKOVAR – THE PROCESS OF PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION

Personal testimony of the author, at that time the head for social activities at the city government of Vukovar. June 1997. Preparations for practical return into Vukovar are begin. International transition administration UNTAES acts as a local authority in Vukovar. The Croatian authority in Vukovar enters with passes issued by international and Krajina authorities. They provide necessary location for the work of local authority and some equipment. Completely organised bodies of the so called Krajina authority still act in Vukovar. They are located in several repaired buildings, even in private houses. A group

of about ten people, the representatives of Croatian local authority, among them the author as well, are shocked by the appearance of their town, which is a ruin. They cannot recognize it. All efforts seem to be hopeless and useless. The roads disappeared due to shelling, and the rest is overgrown with weeds. Ruins; mined; hostile environment. Local authorities do not refuse cooperation, but it is very hard to realise anything. Legal basis of Croatian system in all activities needs to be organized first. The question which poses itself to everybody is – where to start from. What is the priority? In a line of procedures everything is essential, because one thing cannot be done without another. There are not enough workers for such a quantity of work. They start with the so called overtaking of workers from Krajina institutions. Out of the three pre-war institutions in culture: the City-museum, the City-library and the Centre for culture – two of them are functioning almost in ruins, and the Serbian Centre for culture has, evidently, been repaired and is working. From the eight pre-war kindergarten buildings, there is only one in function in today's A. Stepinca Street. The building has been repaired. 291 children got settled there. Educational process is in Serbian language and Chirillic alphabet. A recitation among parents is being conducted for integration into the Croatian educational system – 290 parents declare themselves negatively and want *status quo*. One parent declares himself in favour of it. A tireless work is being done. Results are not seen immediately. It was a great improvement to hold a constructive meeting at which both parties agreed about something.

Zvonimir Šeparović

**THE VICTIM OF VUKOVAR IN THE CONTEXT OF
(PEACEFUL) REINTEGRATION**

We have said that Vukovar is the deepest Croatian wound. What has Croatia done to reveal the truth about the great victim of Vukovar? In what way has it been scientifically examined, how has it been presented in the world of politics, how has the international public accepted it, and how does the International Crime Tribunal, and its chief prosecutors refer to it? What have we said about our greatest victim in the indictment of Yugoslavia, now Serbia, in the Hague International Crime Tribunal, where the discussion about the jurisdiction of the court over the Serbian genocide over Croatia with the example of Vukovar, and about the war damage, has begun? The paper answers the given questions, and it offers solutions for the future of the Vukovar victim syntagm.

Br. Ante Perković

SPIRITUALLY-PASTORAL VIEW OF A PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION OF THE CROATIAN DANUBE REGION

In this analysis let us bear in mind that the physical, mental and spiritual belongs to the human integrity, and that the all three are in close touch and mutually permeated, and often inseparable and difficult to distinguish. An accommodation, an encounter, (together) if somebody did not get killed, which is again a new moment in the mental condition, provides time for thinking and plunging into the essence of one's own life in which one finds oneself, where there is an inevitable question of reliance and the value of life. In this period of cognition, questions and seeking was important for us people with spiritual vocation, although, sometimes we also had the same doubts, to be with common people and support the hope and persistence in them. After that comes the time of awoken hope and expectation. The first efforts of entering this area (masses and prayers at Nuštar, a visit to the graveyard) belong to this period as well. The essential thought was to return to the place of your own. It was necessary to prepare people for the forthcoming difficulties. A priest is a precursor. He welcomes. First of all, it was worth finding those who for some reason or by accident stayed and those who managed to come to the place of their own, (1997 Christmas mass in the HTV studio), welcome and encourage those who are coming. The first sacraments held on the ruins of the church of Our Lady Fatima or in the devastated church of Vukovar. What follows are the first masses in the church of St. Joseph. Immediately there was a need for the work of Caritas. It was necessary, by the presence and the work of priests, to support elementary school teachers, secondary school teachers and professors who have done a pioneer work entering schools, particularly helping the children (pupils) who were almost coming one by one. The encounters of clerks of different confessions used to happen... International emissaries, sent or self-invited, did not understand the spiritual and mental condition of our returnees. They had associates on one side only. The returnees do not get along equally, all of them do not make progress equally, so what occurs is mental negativities, envy, greed, arrogance, contempt, selfishness, self-containment, walls are being put up... All the dynamic cultural and pastoral engagement, presence of faith, prayers and blessings as well as the believers' ceremonies and masses and funerals did not give good results, results of proselytism and sanctification. It is not only a consequence of mere struggle for life

but other factors as well, e.g. liberalization, relativization, but also theistic atheisation. Despite everything, there are reasons for optimism.

Ankica Mlinarić

VUKOVAR: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW – PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND VISION OF THE FUTURE

This work from the area of spiritual and cultural heritage provides personal and professional experience of Ana Mlinarić, an instructor in catechism, who during the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region, as a theology graduate, decided to return from exile into her hometown of Vukovar, and started her working experience there, within the recently established educational system of the Republic of Croatia. By illustrating emotional, psychological, biological and professional background of life, she represented her experience of Vukovar in several periods. At the same time she pointed out her experience of painful exile and the consequences of aggressive isolation from the human living environment and various tensions, as well as her longing to return, which alternated during the time of exile, and which each displaced person experienced differently, and according to these experiences and real possibilities decided to return. The results of the questionnaire carried out among the grammar school leavers secondary school of economics leavers in Vukovar in 2003, as well as the project carried out with a group of grammar school students on the topic „Tolerance in Ethnic Conflicts” in 2005, are incorporated in this work as fundamental information which give hope for future and represent many mature views of young people of Vukovar. Contrary to the efforts to represent in the public that the young are fed up with the topics about the Croatian War of Independence, the young who Ana Mlinarić had the opportunity to work with, proved the opposite – the sense of importance of the truthful information about the Croatian War of Independence. The author cites St. Paul, who in the epistle to the Romans says: „God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8, 28). In the same way, she believes that a sincere divine worship of the people of Vukovar will contribute to it. Taking into account the relevant information about the number of declared believers according to the population census in 2001, there were 59.28% Catholics (57.53% Roman-Catholics and 1.75 % Greek-Catholics) and 32.51% Orthodox in the city of Vukovar. Assuming that they are both Christians, and altogether they make 90% of the population of the city of

Vukovar, the author hopes that a spiritual revival, quiet and retiring, but visible according to its outer products, is also going to take place in her town. In fact, what kind of God would not be truthful and would not do everything within his powers – work for the good? There only remains a question whether we are mature enough to fulfil a prerequisite for this promise?