



# SUMMARY



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This book completes and systematizes our knowledge on a group of social transformations which created and shaped the Croatian community in Canada from 1945 to 1995. The chosen period is not coincidental. Within this time frame strong fundamental processes shaped the Croatian community in Canada. An analysis of these processes, figuratively speaking, allowed for an anatomical dissection of the Croatian community in Canada.

Two specific goals were achieved, a) the first goal was to investigate the specific formation of the Croatian community through the formation of political associations and organizations and, b) the second goal was to investigate the specific formation of the Croatian community in Canada through cultural as well as religious associations and organizations. It was shown that the evolvement of the community or the integration of émigré Croats into Canadian society was strongly determined by the socio-cultural formatization of individual aspects of national identity. In this way Canadian Croats were similar to other Croatian émigré communities (Australian, American, German, Swedish, etc.)

From 1945 to 1995, Croats in Canada shaped their identity through a triad of factors. The first factor was Yugoslav state policy towards Croat émigrés. On the one hand, this policy encouraged Croats to emigrate while on the other hand it kept these Croats in an identity trap branding them as „enemy emigrants“. The second factor was the human and social capital invested in these emigrants (their vocational and educational backgrounds as well as solidarity networks). The third factor was the Canadian policy of multiculturalism which provided the framework for Canada’s acceptance of immigrants.

Croatian political associations played a special role in the formatization of Croatian national identity in Canada, as compared to the USA where the latter spurred Croatian

cultural identity within the framework of American fraternalism and was led by organizations such as the Croatian Fraternal Union, the Croatian Catholic community and other smaller associations. Through rational approaches political associations in Canada were more successful in achieving goals conventionally associated with cultural areas (for example, the struggle of Canadian Croats for recognition of their national identity especially the recognition of Croatian as a distinct language).

In this respect this book examines these political organizations as specific operative emanations of the basal cultural associations and organizations. It was reasonable to propose that this very use of political organizations was favoured by the Canadian practice of multiculturalism. These political organizations were specific to the evolution of the Croatian community in Canada.