



ABSTRACT

VUKOVAR '91 – MEANING, VALUES, IDENTITY

The published works in this anthology were presented at two expert-scientific conferences entitled *Vukovar '91 - seven years later* and *Vukovar '91 - eight years later* which were held in Zagreb in 1998 and 1999. The conferences were organised by the *Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar* in Zagreb to mark the anniversary of the heroic defence of Vukovar against the Serbian armed aggression. A number of renowned persons from public, scientific and spiritual circles participated at these conferences and spoke about different aspects of the events that took place in Vukovar in 1991. The anthology is divided into three parts according to thematic criteria and consists of the presented works submitted to the organiser in authorised form.

The first part of the anthology, entitled *Vukovar '91 - events and meaning*, consists of two works that refers to the persons involved and the decisive importance of the Vukovar events for the defence of the Republic of Croatia against the Serbian armed aggression in 1991, as well as the principal meaning of Vukovar 91 in the context of the Croatian homeland war and the process of establishing an independent Croatian state.

In the second part of the anthology, entitled *Vukovar '91 - spiritual values and messages*, five works examine the different aspects of spiritual values which were dominantly recognizable among defenders of Vukovar, that were features of the entire Croatian homeland war. The contents of these works included the following themes: spirituality as a factor of the defence of Vukovar; the rosary and spirituality in the Croatian homeland war; Christian solidarity in the Croatian homeland war; Christian morality and defence of a small nation; and self-sacrifice.

In the third part of the anthology, entitled *Vukovar '91 - cultural identity*, there are three works that deal with different culturological aspects. The first is about the Croatian homeland war and cultural identity, the second describes the means of Vukovar communication as a factor of defence of the city, and the third contextualises the close relationship between the geographic and moral borders of Croatia during the defence of the Republic of Croatia against Serbian armed aggression.