



ABSTRACTS

Maja Štambuk

**VILLAGE AND MODERNISATION: A SHORT HISTORY
OF MISUNDERSTANDING**

When one takes into consideration (late) development of Croatian village, it occurs that the starting point would be a neoruralist approach to village and to concepts of its development. First of all, this means pleading for changes that necessarily happen under the influence of modernisation process, but which keep the already mentioned rural singularities in the context of local and national traditions. Inside this concept the important place also belongs to considerateness in all development projects and procedures. Thus the process of growth from traditional to modern rural world develops gradually and through phases. In order to identify rural changes, the text uses B. Kayser scheme according to which the development of rural society is analysed through three phases: composition, decomposition and recomposition.

In this process, predominantly “community” characteristics of traditional village are gradually replaced by the characteristics of society. The way to progress of rural province leads through stimulation of social and economic heterogeneity which will be, first of all, based on research, valorisation and use of endogeneous sources, including the knowledge and experience of local population, and naturally, their proper education for development. The strategy of regional arrangement in the Republic of Croatia should emphasize more strongly the role of “middle” and “small” towns and support their development, because they are the closest mainstay of rural development processes. Their social and economic stabilisation could ensure the balance between two Croatian tendencies: metropolisation of larger towns and already critical development weariness of Croatian outskirts.

Nenad Pokos

**THE METHODOLOGY OF SEPARATING RURAL INHABITANTS,
ITS DISTRIBUTION AND CENSUS CHANGES BETWEEN
1953–2001**

The movement and distribution of the rural population between 1953–2001 is analysed in this study. Depopulation of the rural population in the noted period amounted to 37% while the share of that group in terms of the entire population of Croatia decreased from 75% to 42%. At the level of natural-geographic regions, the most intensive depopulation was noted in Gorska Croatia, which had the largest share of rural inhabitants for all the census years. In Northern Croatian coastland areas where the lowest number of rural inhabitants lived, the relative decrease of the population in the analysed period was the lowest. In this fifty-year period the number of tiny and small settlements increased significantly such that in 2001 less than 300 people inhabited 40% of rural settlements. Simultaneously, the share of the population in smaller settlements increased while the population decreased in middle-sized and big rural settlements. It is especially unfavourable that 85% of all rural settlements depopulated while in 45% of settlements the number of inhabitants decreased by more than 50% between 1953–2001.

Anđelko Akrap

**REGIONAL AND SETTLEMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF VITAL
PROCESSES IN THE CROATIAN RURAL POPULATION**

The author considers the regional and settlement characteristics of the natural population changes in Croatia during the 20th century. While doing so, he calls attention to the economic, social and political actors who have influenced the development of the population. Along with the marked role of migration in the dynamics of the natural population changes in the first half of the 20th century, followed by noticeable regional differences during the inter-war period, natural depopulation is distinctly analysed throughout Croatia after the second World War in this study. The author emphasises the unreadiness of regional urban centres (small and medium-sized cities) to accept a large number of inhabitants who in the processes of deagrarianisation and deruralisation abandoned villages. With regard to depopulation, departure to work abroad played a significant role. In the second half of the 20th century two great waves of migration are noted: employment abroad motivated the first, that is, “temporary work

abroad” and second, the newest wave, which has lasted since 1990 until today. The conclusions from this analysis suggest that this can be referred to as a biological extinction throughout most of Croatia. Developmental policies that favoured large cities as well as the neglect of the regional and local communications network contributed a great deal to this extinction. The Croatian village since the 1960s has been affected by depopulation trends and a progressive process of demographically getting old. Finally, the author suggests that a coherent, economic and national strategically-founded regional system of city centres is an important condition for holding back the population throughout Croatia.

Dražen Živić

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF CROATIAN VILLAGES 1953–1991

The subject of this research are the selected characteristics of demographic structure of Croatian villages in the period between 1953 and 1991. The purpose of this paper is to establish the basic developmental characteristics (trend and relations) of sex-age, economic and educational structure of Croatian rural population as a contribution to general knowledge of contemporary demographic conditions in Croatian village.

Thanks to current socio-economic processes (industrialisation and urbanisation), demographic development of Croatian village shows all the characteristics of demographic regression, even of demographic break-down, which has had a major influence on the development of the most important population structures, especially sex-age and economic.

The common characteristic of structural demographic development of Croatian village is significant oldness of age structure and marked unevenness of sex structure, especially towards large population age groups. Sex-age structure of Croatian rural population is characterised by demographic growing old as a global process of depopulation characteristics. The share of young people in Croatian village has fallen to one fourth, and the share of old people has exceeded one fifth of the entire population. The index rise of the old age rural population from 0,36 in 1961 to 0,81 in 1991 has indisputably shown the trend of equalisation of young and old population.

Current socio-economic processes in Croatia, especially processes of industrialisation and urbanisation, have strongly affected Croatian village too, so they have not

only influenced changes of certain demographic structures through deagrarisation and deruralisation, but they have also significantly predetermined the entire demographic development of Croatian village.

Processes of deagrarisation, that is to say, abandoning agriculture as an activity is clearly manifested through two processes: the fall of the number and the share of agricultural population and the abandoning of agriculture as an occupation, as well as simultaneous strengthening of industrial and service trades.

Agriculture is no longer the leading economic activity of Croatian rural population. Considering the populational transfer from agricultural to non-agricultural activities, and thereby the populational transfer from village to town, which mostly includes the most vital part of labour-capable population, the changes of economic populational structure, among other things, not only influence dynamics of demographic structure, but also the entire demographic movements and characteristics of agricultural, village and the whole Croatian population.

Ante Marinović-Uzelac

MORPHOLOGICAL TYPES OF THE CROATIAN VILLAGE

The definitions of settlement concepts as a geographical expression of population patterns and the physical modes of their groupings is outlined in this study. In addition, village is defined as a settlement whose population is predominantly involved in primary activities: farming, cattle-breeding and the fishing trade. The implications of these facts on the physical morphology of the village are the theme of this study. First, the relation between the location of the village and the natural geographical conditions are considered: water, side exposed to the sun, topography, geological composition of the soil, as well as conditions observable primarily through its position in terms of traffic. Two types of villages can be distinguished according to density: (i) loosely, dispersed villages and (ii) compact, condensed villages. The author mentions a few more criteria for defining forms of the village and recommends that other features of the village should also be taken into consideration. These include houses, agrarian structure, type of farming property, type of products, ethnic traditions, social system of the village and other elements which work simultaneously, but have varied effects during different time periods. In any case, it is important to emphasise that the typology of the village is very complex and above all points out the heterogeneousness of the vil-

lage. In conclusion, the author warns about the danger of every determinism as well as every correlation between elements of location and types of settlement.

Maja Štambuk
Anka Mišetić

SOME ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CROATIAN VILLAGE

In this study, censuses from 1991 and the latest were compared to analyse how equipped is the Croatian village with regard to selected elements of social and technical infrastructure. The selected indicators of social and technical infrastructure include: primary school, medical clinic, post office, parish office, (number) of doctors, veterinary clinic, agricultural advisory service, farming cooperative.

The general state of Croatian villages in terms of these indicators was very inadequate in 1991, and negative trends continue until today. It is especially disconcerting that there are less rural communities that have a primary school. Moreover, a decrease in the number of general practitioner clinics, dental clinics and doctors is evident. Almost certainly, the current poor state of social and technical infrastructure in the Croatian village is enormously a consequence of the destruction that occurred during the Croatian War of Independence. In addition, it is evident that during the process of deagrarianisation the remaining and inadequately used role of farming cooperatives lost their significance as a technical and social support to the village.

Finally, the authors point out the importance of uniform, spatially positioned and well-maintained, organised infrastructure, which should and could be the foothold of a better spatial and social integration of the entire Croatian territory.

Marijan Maticka

THE HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EVOLUTION OF PEASANT PROPERTY IN CROATIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY

The author presents the historical circumstances of the evolution of peasant property in Croatia. The starting point of this analysis is the abolition of feudal social relations in the middle of the 19th century and the creation of private land properties. The focus of analysis in the following chronological periods, especially in the 20th century, is the analysis of opportunity and circumstances, po-

litical to begin with, which brought about the introduction of agrarian reforms and related colonialisation, and changes in the structure of properties. The main feature of this entire period is the existence of private land properties and the continued process of their fragmentation.

The article is based on published documents, especially legal regulations and proportionally profuse literature. The basic conclusion indicates the existence of deeply rooted peasant private ownership even under circumstances when political authorities opposed this, as well as the process of continued land fragmentation. From the beginning of the formation of private peasant land ownership those properties that were up to 2 hectares, so-called "tiny" to those that were 5 hectares, so-called "small" peasant properties were especially dominant. During different historical periods those categories of properties became the bearers of the largest part of land surface.

Antun Šundalić

THE EVOLUTION OF RURAL PROPERTIES AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Time encapsulated by changes – is a feature of contemporary civilisation. Constancy and stability have almost disappeared as a feature of life, especially when reference is made to urban milieus. The village shares this reality even though changes in rural areas are slowed down, as if it is more difficult to repress the influence of rural community traditions.

In this article, the author points out one of the segments of change in the life of a village; the changes that occur on farm properties (its size, its meaning to the family, market transformations, and similar.). Its evolution is a consequence of external processes of modernisation (industrialisation and urbanisation), but also owing to internal influences of a political dictation (socialistic industrialisation and deagrarisation). The effects of these changes can be negatively read through the dying out of the village (rural exodus of the young and educated population, infrastructural neglect) and agricultural neglect (unprofitability of fragmented properties, neglect of cultivable land, insecurity of income from a farming property). Transition is a period when Croatian society took on the serious task of revitalising the private agricultural economy, assuming a change in relations towards farmland properties and farmwork (incentives and credit grants) towards the village and rural environment.

THE FAMILY FARM ECONOMY IN CROATIA

The author in this article proceeds from three constitutive elements of family farm economy: (i) a household that is defined as a family group or community of persons who share a home and income to secure the basic life necessities; (ii) land property and means for work (family assets and ownership); (iii) economy in a narrow sense according to which it is understood that there is a dynamic connection of human and material factors which testify as a work and production unit, the so-called economical subject. It is emphasised that equally the role of social and economic factors are necessary for the successful functioning and maintenance of the peasant farm economy. In this study, the following is analysed: the development of family farm economy in Croatia, its state and dynamics; the number and the land capacity of the family farm economy; the changes in property structures of peasant farms; an analysis of farming work capacity; and the socio-economic structures of rural households. The possibilities of essential farming structure development are limited by a number of difficulties. As a result, only a low level of peasant farms have a good modernisation perspective. The author suggests some advantages of small properties and that this problematic should not be considered using productivist logic and that there is a need to preserve a healthy natural environment.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROATIAN AGRARIAN LANDSCAPE

In each stage of social development, specific agrarian systems, which are created by their own specific agrarian landscape are established. The author follows the development of agrarian systems and the succession of agrarian landscapes for a considerable period from the beginning of farming until today. In Croatia, four different farming areas form four agrarian systems and four characteristic agrarian landscapes whereby areas mutually differ and are recognised. These include: Slavonian - low-lying flat country oriented towards the production of cereals; Central Croatia - rolling country, gentle hills with plough-fields, orchards and vineyards; Goranian - mountainous areas (Lika) which are characterised by grazing lands, meadows and livestock produce; and the Dalmatian area with its Mediterranean climate oriented towards fruit, olive, and wine growing. The author presents their main features and

considers their development throughout time. Finally, he states some thoughts about the future of agrarian landscapes especially under the influence of deagrarianisation, which returns a agrarian landscape in many ways to its original natural landscape. As a result of the evident limitations of the productivist principle of development, new developmental policies will encourage a new approach in which there will more elements of traditional spirited landscapes.

Ivan Cifrić

POLLUTION AND ENDANGERMENT OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

The author approaches the problem of pollution and the endangerment of the rural environment from a sociological standpoint, placing them within the context of social changes and influences. Beginning with the definition of the basic concepts: rural environment, social and institutional-normative factors of influence, and the endangerment of the environment, a socio-cultural evaluation of the environment is insisted upon in this article. An analysis of the polluter is used by the author to identify the economic and socio-cultural basis of pollution. At a global level, in comparison to industrial farming, more and more is dedicated to ecological farming that pretends to become a new paradigm in farming production; searching for its affirmation alongside already well-known peasant paradigms and industrial paradigms. Contradictorily, at first sight the negative and positive consequences of pollution are outlined in this article. The negative include: the endangerment of biological heterogeneity, influence on the conditions of economic development, changes in the landscape, and the costs of improvement. In comparison, the positive include a changing awareness about the environment, influences from developed countries and the effects of education. The author considers it necessary to develop awareness about the need to link development and protection of the environment, as well as the activity instigated by the civil society sphere.

Vladimir Lay

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL SPACES IN CROATIA ON THE BASIS OF ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

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The author discusses the possibilities of creating a principled strategy of sustainable development in Croatia from

which a successful plan of developmental measures could be operationalised. This strategy would have to satisfy at least two criteria: local sustainable developmental solutions in an ecological and simultaneously in an economic (management) sense. In this article, it is noted that rural spaces and the natural capital of Croatia have a strong developmental potential in a modern, European context. The objective of a successful developmental strategy would be to reconcile “sustainable development” and “modernisation”. Thus, the author recommends an interdisciplinary approach, firstly, at the level of regional planning as a basic condition of rural space development. The general concept of sustainability applied to rural areas refers to the fundamental problem of existence and reproduction of life in rural villages, the revitalisation of those villages and the entire rural space. The key support of such development would be the encouragement of “bio-economic” activities and an affirmation of “bio-economic” branches of activity. In conclusion, the author points out the importance of analysing the demographic, structural and other indispensable starting points for consideration of their development.

Sanja Maleković

**DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT “FROM BELOW” AND LOCAL
DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES – POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE IN CROATIA?**

In this article a new approach towards developmental problematics is considered. This is based on a concept of “development from below”, which turns out to be a successful method of solving developmentally inferior areas. This study includes: an analysis of the meanings, advantages and possibilities of applying this developmental approach “from below” in Croatia, the partnership roles, subjective local development, as well as local developmental agencies. In addition, the author observes a few examples of local developmental initiatives in rural areas in countries with similar developmental problems. The new approach emphasises decentralisation and the opening of possibilities for local communities to engage in “endogenous” development. This is based on three capabilities/possibilities: (i) the possibility to transform the socio-economic system in a particular area by encouragements “from the inside”; (ii) the capability to react to external challenges; and (iii) the capability to introduce specific forms of social regulations at the local level, that would benefit this type of development. The basic subjects of lo-

cal development are the local authorities, government representatives, “self-made” and private institutions. Implementation of this type of developmental model in Croatia would demand strengthening of the existing and potential local actors, strengthening of the non-governmental sector and informal actors, inclusion of the most disadvantaged groups of the local population in developmental initiatives, etc. Local development, still, cannot be exclusively the concern of the local population but needs to be built into the entire framework of national economic policies.

Ivan Rogić

THE DEVELOPMENTAL PARTICIPANTS OF THE CROATIAN VILLAGE AND THEIR STRATEGIES

The first participant of the Croatian village, the “peasant figure” is analysed in comparison to the figure of the city inhabitant and their different roles in the practices of modernisation. The peasant figure is determined by a few factors: the production framework, social identity and cultural markers. In a postmodern reconsideration of the peasant figure, their position of “inhabitant on land” is not only played out from the “heritage of the urban world” but from the “heritage of the rural world” that depends on three continually present, but unaffirmed lines of force in the practices of modernisation: (i) the status of nature as an autonomous “producer” of life; (ii) co-operation between the centre-periphery; and (iii) the rural world as a figure of inhabitant differences.

The main actors that have been identified in the Croatian village are the Croatian rural population, Croatian emigrants, Croatian city population, immigrants from the east, state administration, public companies, large farming factories, corporations, rural associations and religious institutions. Finally, the author provides three scripts for the future of the Croatian village, but a future of successful development related to affirmation of the “postmodern village” in which it is necessary to disentangle the productive partnership between the natural and local communities. In this way, the village is constituted with social and epistemological competencies.

Maja Štambuk

THE VILLAGE IN THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

In this article, the developmental policies of the European Union oriented towards developmental improvement of rural regions are analysed. Awareness of the importance of

rural areas as a factor of the total development was initiated by a number of analyses in European rural areas. The objective of this is to integrate rural regions in a national space, and subsequently into the EU. The characteristics of agrarian policies in European Union countries are based on common standards that are simultaneously harmonising with respect to particular national economies. In spite of the endeavours to strictly regulate the markets and to direct them depending on the interests of individual states or regional wholes, the creation of a common policy that is constructed around three of the most important aims is continually pursued: 1. to allow for a greater market influence so as to decrease the rate of production and spending; 2. this reduction of production will “ease” the limits of social policy and help in the adaptation of economic structure; 3. strengthen farming in “specially sensitive areas” where other solutions are not feasible. The author identifies the programme LEADER, which incorporates developmental actions in the entire rural area of the EU, and permanently supplements and perfects them.

Research in European countries show that revitalisation of the periphery (countries with: high agrarian populousness and agriculture constitutes a large part of the economy, fragmented properties, unmodern farming and low gross products) it is necessary that these areas socially and economically diversify, and that development does not only depend on agriculture. This type of experience would be worthwhile with respect to the developmental perspectives of the Croatian village.