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Dr. Ivo Pilar



Dr. Ivo Pilar (b. 19 June 1874, Zagreb; d. 3 September 1933)

A respected attorney in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zagreb; politician, publicist, sociologist, and the father of Croatian geopolitical science.

Having studied law in Vienna and Paris, Pilar practiced law in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zagreb until his unexplained and questionable "suicide" in 1933. He was the founder of the "Croatian National Union" for Bosnia and Herzegovina (1910). During the First World War he advocated retaining the integrity of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, including the Croatian lands and Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the war he was an opponent of the Greater-Serbian regime, and supported the idea of federalization of Yugoslavia.

Pilar also studied the sources of Bogumilism (*Bogumilism as a Religious, Historical, and Socio-Political Problem*, Zagreb, 1927). He wrote philosophic treatises, and was one of the founders of the Croatian Moderna movement in visual arts. In the article entitled "The Secession" in the *Vijenac* (1898), he pleaded for artistic freedom, democratization of the arts, and a place for new art techniques (poster art, reproductive arts).

Pilar was the author of the first political geography of Croatian lands (1918). In his main work, *Die Südslavische Frage* (The Yugoslav Question) which was published under the pseudonym of L. von Südland in Vienna in 1918 (Croatian translation by F. Pucek, 1943), he proposed unification of Croatian lands, and rejected state union with Serbia.

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