

PREFACE

The Third International Interdisciplinary Scientific and Professional Symposium titled *The Homeland War – Its Economic, Demographic and Social Effects and Perspectives in the Croatian East*, is co-organized by: the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb - the Regional Center of Osijek and the following partners: the Department of Cultural Studies, the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Osijek; the Faculty of Philosophy, the University of Mostar; and the Branch of Matrix Croatica in Osijek. The Symposium, as well as the previous two Symposia (*The Croatian East in the Homeland War - Experiences, Insights and Consequences*, and *The Homeland War and Its Socio-Economic Impact on the Development of the Croatian East*), represents continued efforts, that the scientific, technical, cultural and other community has undertaken in order to deal with issues regarding the Homeland War and the post-war reconstruction of the Croatian society in the Croatian East. This has been the matter of the strategic national interest both for the homeland of Croatia and the Croatian Diaspora.

In the early beginnings of the Homeland War, it was in the Croatian East where the fiercest fighting took place, with the greatest war dynamics and the intensity of action of the Croatian Armed Forces against the part of the rebel Serbs and the Yugoslav People's Army (the JNA), resulting in the greatest military and civilian casualties. The Croatian East is located in the area where the Republic of Croatia borders directly with Serbia, thus the rebel Serbs and the JNA had an unlimited logistical support. In addition, the national structure of the population in the Croatian East, where there were Serbian enclaves (Tenja, Bobota, Vera, Pačetin, Trpinja, Bijelo Brdo and other villages), facilitated the Greater-Serbian aggression and hindered the defense activities of the Croatian authorities.

The magnificent victory in the Homeland War over the Greater-Serbian aggressor, unfortunately, did not mean the defeat of the concept of "Greater Serbia". It is still present and we are witnessing its recurrence in everyday life of the citizens in the Republic of Croatia and in its immediate neighbourhood. Among the best-known recurrences of the idea of Greater Serbia belongs certainly the Documentation Information Center *Veritas* seated in Belgrade and having the branch office in Banja Luka, where the truth about the Homeland War has been obviously falsified. Another Greater-Serbian project of recent time and, perhaps, it is the most important project, is the Law on the Organization and Jurisdiction of Government Authorities in Prosecuting Persons Guilty of War Crimes, colloquially known as the Law on Universal Jurisdiction. In this Law the Republic of Serbia explicitly declared itself to be solely in authority to conduct trials for the

“serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since January 1st, 1991, regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator or of the victim. This Law and its application are in conflict with the fundamental principles of the UN Charter being the basis of the relations between sovereign states. Furthermore, the Law is in conflict with the basic principles of international public law, international criminal and criminal procedural law, as well as the fundamental principles of the European Union formation and functioning.

Part of the political scene in Croatia who had directly and indirectly flirted with the Milošević’s regim during the Homeland War, although being financed by the Croatian budgetary funds, is continuously stigmatizing the Homeland War, the Croatian defenders and the official policy of the government. They have been assigning them political attributions which seek to discredit them before the international legal and political factors. These revisionists of the Croatian history, especially of the part that refers to the Homeland War, have created for themselves a viable ethno-business by using these false accusations.

This year Symposium of the 2nd and the 3rd December will try to give some complete or partial answers to certain thematic areas that have been partially or completely unknown to the scientific and general public. This Symposium represents in terms of content the continuation of the previous two Symposia, and there are fifty-five scientists participating, who come from inland and abroad including prominent doctors, theologians, lawyers, historians, economists, humanitarian activists, university and high school teachers, legislators, former and current officials in the legislative, executive and judicial power and so on. During the two days the participants will present to the public thirty-seven papers regarding the fields of: theology, education, culture, anthropology, medicine, history, military tactics and doctrine, law, sociology, economic, political science and humanitarian action.

In addition to the war and post-war issues related to the Croatian East, this year we have included the one topic that relates to the Homeland War on the territory of another Croatian homeland, e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to the well-known events regarding a rather suspicious arrest of the ten Croatian war veterans from the Bosnian Posavina, arrested by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian state police agency, officially titled the State Agency for Investigation and Protection (acre. SIPA), under dubious circumstances in Orašje on October 31st, we decided to accept the following paper for the Symposium programm: *The Homeland War in Bosnia and Herzegovina Has not Yet Ended for the Croats*. The Homeland War

is a unique entity in both homelands of the Croatian national corpus because its causes and effects are identical. Namely, since the constitutional obligation of the Republic of Croatia is to take care of Croats outside the home country, there is an identical obligation of the Croatian academic community to question and problematize the issues of the Homeland War in the neighboring Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Third International Interdisciplinary Scientific and Professional Symposium titled *The Homeland War – Its Economic, Demographic and Social Effects and Perspectives in the Croatian East*, is taking, just like the the previous two Symposia, in a highly complex financial period, with the financial support provided by business companies and by some of regional governments and local governments in the Croatian East. They expressed their sensitivity to the themes related to the Homeland War and the post-war period, which in this area have not yet been systematically addressed.

On behalf of the organizers and co-organizers, as well as on my own behalf, I hereby express my gratitude to the representatives of business companies and the local self-governments, whose financial support has enabled the organisation of the aforementioned Symposia. At the same time, I appeal to the public officials who manage the public finances, and whose fiscal or financial capacity of the budget has the capacity to support such projects, to do so, because anyone who does not nurture the very own history, can not build a better future. In other words, a nation without the national history is a nation with no future and it is subject to assimilation and other processes leading to the national entropy.

This year's Symposium, as well as the previous ones, is dedicated to the veterans of the Homeland War, as well as to all the patriots and the martyrs who lost their lives, were persecuted, imprisoned and harassed fighting for the identity and the survival of the Croatian people in the course of thirteen-century-long Croatian history. Likewise, the Symposium is also dedicated to every person, who was not a member of the Croatian national corpus but fell victim in the Homeland War. Therefore I extend my special gratitude to this group of Croatian citizens for everything they had done for the identity and viability of our only and beloved Homeland.

On December 2nd, 2016 in Osijek,

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