

## Summary

The Book of Proceedings *Cities in War: Towards Contemporaneity Through History* contains 13 articles presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> scientific and professional conference *Vukovar '91 — Twenty-Seven Years Later* (November 2018) in Vukovar. The conference was organized by the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar and its Regional Centre during Vukovar's commemoration days — the official Remembrance Day for the 1991 Vukovar war victims.

Ozren Žunec's article *Cities in War, War in Cities: Ten Thousand Years of Battles for «a City»* introduces the overall conference theme. It singles out «a city» (as a civilized way of living in a society) and its significant military function (from Middle Eastern proto-cities, to ancient fortified acropoleis and medieval fortified cities, followed by cities as strategic aims of military campaigns). Namely, a city as a stronghold of defense and projection of offensive occupation of territory is difficult to conquer, thus making the history of warfare inseparably connected to urban history as well as the history of human development. Therefore, this paper provides a comprehensive overview of the longstanding historical relationships between cities, wars and societies whose fatal interaction marks the urban spiritual and material development.

Mladen Trnski's article *Urban Warfare — Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* provides an insight into how contemporary world population growth has resulted in strong urban development creating mega-cities and a corresponding trend of increased urban conflicts. Regardless of how one defines forms of urban warfare, it is, nonetheless, a war against cities and the citizens who live in them. Thereby, it is characterized by an «urbicide» that has a negative impact on cities (as warfare is used as a means to accomplish national interests) where contemporary conflicts become a source of urban instability. As indicated by the author, cities have become central areas of conflict in which irregular forces try to achieve their aims using urban characteristics as a comparative advantage, as well as a city's vulnerabilities and weaknesses against conventional enemies drawn into combat with limited capacities. Therefore, such urban warfare presents itself as very challenging for soldiers, while the complexity of urban combats requires additional efforts from the international community to render civilian human rights and protection inside the functional framework of humanitarian law and laws that regulate military combat.

Andrija Platužić's article *St. Augustin's and Clausewitz's Rendering of Cities and Wars* debates the standpoints of Aurelius Augustin and Carl von Clausewitz on cities and wars, since they both contributed to the theoretical definition of war. Based on Augustin's (*De civitate Dei*) and Clausewitz's (*Vom Kriege*) personal accounts and experiences of war and warfare elaborated in their respective works, Platužić develops an interpretative framework that combines selected aspects of

both theoreticians which enables him to question contemporary relationships and deliberations related to wars in cities.

Mirko Bilandžić's article *Urban Terrorism: From National to Urban Security and Back* states that terrorism in cities is a historical constant — from the Roman destruction of Carthage, and the bombardment of Hamburg and Dresden by the Allies, as well as the atomic strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Those examples thus represent terrorist strikes on cities as a form of state terrorism with elements of uricide, same as the Russian destruction of Grozny (the capital city of the Chechen Republic) and the Israeli destruction of settlements under the Palestinian self-government. Therefore, contemporary terrorist acts are frequently executed in urban areas targeting city locations, mainly committed by non-state terrorist organizations. However, scholarly research into terrorism is insufficient and short of a comprehensive understanding and theoretical underpinning of the very concept and generic terms used to interpret its modern social practices. As indicated by the author (based on the two presented case studies of Belfast and London), a functional answer to urban terrorist challenges thus requires counter-terrorist strategies which then inadvertently transform the city environment into securitized and militarized urban areas.

Davor Marijan's article *A City Within the Yugoslav Military Doctrine and Wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina 1991—1995* provides an answer to the question whether it is possible to draw connections between the Yugoslav doctrine on cities and wars conducted in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. All subsequent armies established during the former Yugoslav state disintegration are strongly connected to the previous system's way of organization, human resources development and warfare doctrine. Based on the archival documentation of the doctrines used in strategic warfare and people's self-defense and social protection in the 1980s, as well as the experiences of organized military exercises by Yugoslav territorial units in Croatia, the author points out the central place urban settlements have in such a context. In doing so, Marijan outlines how pre-war Yugoslav theory impacted warfare practices in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the Croatian case, he bases his analysis on Vukovar, Osijek, Vinkovci and Dubrovnik, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina's case on Sarajevo, Mostar and smaller cities in central Bosnia.

Nikica Barić's article *Vukovar Under Serbian Occupation 1991—1995*, based on archival records, published literature and public newspapers, provides an insight into the principal characteristics of Vukovar's state during the Serbian occupation — from its fall into the arms of the Yugoslav People's Army and Serbian forces in November 1991 until the summer of 1995, after the Croatian military operation Storm. Barić summarizes the general features of the Serbian authorities' regime in Vukovar for the period based on analyzed resources.

Danijel Jelaš's article *Late Medieval Urban Settlements of the Vukovo County in the Warfare Context* is focused on the study of the late medieval Kingdom of Hungary marked by wars with the Turkish Empire (along with dynastic struggles). The Vukovo county as a bordering region in such a context was therefore shaped by numerous conflicts with profound impact on the development of its urban settlements.

Hrvoje Kekez's article *The City, the Bordering and the Small War: Dynamic Fluctuation of the Role and the Military and Strategic Significance of Slunj in the Defensive War Against the Turks in the Second Half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and the Beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century* explores the transformation of Slunj as a city under constant threat of Turkish invasions in Croatian territories. Namely, Kekez outlines Slunj's functional transformation — from the landed estate capital to an important borderline fortress — due to the geostrategic changes of the warfare with the Turkish Empire.

Arijana Kolak Bošnjak's article *Osijek in the 1848/49 War* analyzes the military circumstances in which the city of Osijek found itself after the Hungarian siege in October 1848, and later on in February 1849 when it was conquered by the Royal Army, thus providing an insight into the military and political deliberations of the time which are now questioned in light of new scholarly evidence.

Marica Karakaš Obradov's article *Destruction of Cities and Civilian Suffering in Croatian Territory During the Second World War Anglo-American Air Strikes*, discusses WW2 military actions of the Allies in South-Eastern and Central Europe as she focuses on the Dalmatian Coast and the bombardment of all large cities in that area at the end of 1943 and provides an overview of the destruction of settlements in Croatian northern regions (spring 1944). In her conclusion, Obradov points out that next to great human losses, there was extensive damage to urban infrastructure because of the Allies' air strikes as several cities were obliterated and permanently removed from the urban landscape.

Darjan Godić's article *Civilian and Military Relations of the Yugoslav People's Army and Insurgent Serbs — A Case Study of the Occupied Lika Municipality* provides an insight into the relationships developed by civic institutions of insurgent Serbs in the Lika region and the Yugoslav People's Army. Even though scarcely populated and underdeveloped, the Lika Municipality nonetheless had settlements with a predominantly Serbian population that, helped by the Serbian population in Northern Dalmatia, started the so-called log revolution. The rebelled municipalities however did not have the capacity (human or material) to confront Croatian authorities up until they received support from the Yugoslav People's Army in 1991 and proclaimed a »state of emergency«. Thus, Serbian insurgent authorities were ill-equipped to manage their state of affairs under war circumstances, a task which was then overtaken by the Yugoslav People's Army, resulting in limited and often negative effects on warfare performance in the Lika region.

Ivo Turk's article *Demographic Dynamics of Croatian Cities Occupied During the Homeland War* emphasizes to what extent and how the Homeland War negatively affected demographic circumstances in Croatia. Namely, the already present negative demographic processes worsened due to the war, and the overall population decrease is marked by indirect causes such as enemy occupation. Therefore, Turk provides an insight into the demographic dynamics in occupied urban settlements compared to non-occupied ones in order to emphasize to what extent occupation negatively influenced present population trends in Croatia.

Durica Pardon's article *If We Ascend to Heaven, Why Do We Die for the Sake of the Land? Biblical Faith and Patriotism* debates a crucial issue in the con-

temporary practicing believer's life and theological argumentation of religious truths — the land. In his paper, the author outlines Catholic theological discourse by depicting its relationship to »the land« and »the heaven« based on the Croatian Homeland War case study, and provides an answer to the question whether it is justifiable to die for one's country and homeland. Pardon concludes, based on the analyzed biblical texts and recent scholarly theological works, that love for the land represents a concrete expression of love towards God and people.