

SUMMARY

Following a brief review of the circumstances in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from 1918 to 1928, there is a description of the situation during the aftermath of the assassination in the National Assembly, the introduction of the dictatorship of January 6 and the Octroic Constitution, the assassination in Marseilles and the state of affairs in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. There is also mention of the Cvetković – Maček Agreement, by which the Banovina of Croatia was established, thereby undermining centralism, the dictatorship and integral Yugoslavism, while restoring the city and district of Dubrovnik to Croatia. A description of the political life in the city of Dubrovnik includes the repercussions of the dictatorship and the ostensible renewal of political life, in which Dubrovnik followed the Yugoslav trend in the formation of political parties, and the conditions within the organizations of the former opposition parties anteceding the Croatian Peasant Party.

With the installation of the regency, followed by the parliamentary elections of 1931, 1935 and 1938, came the period of the collapse of the dictatorship, centralism and Yugoslav unitarianism, as well as public events in Dubrovnik that expressed the desire for changes, with a marked Croatian component, through the activities of cultural societies, especially Gundulić's music and the Croatian Gundulić Choral Society, and later other cultural societies, including the Dubrava Choral Society. Political turbulence, fanned by the Dubrovnik newspapers *Narodna svijest*, *Dubrava (Hrvatska Dubrava)* and *Hrvatski jug*, as well as Catholic youth organizations and sports associations, is also described.

During the interwar period, daily life in Dubrovnik was affected by a shortage of funds in the municipal/city budget, which did not meet the city's needs, particularly communal (electricity, water and transport). In order to provide the basic necessities stipulated in the budget, every year the municipality was forced to borrow at high interest rates and, therefore, could not allocate funds for the construction of school buildings, new municipal slaughterhouses outside of town and so forth. During the 1930s, the city expanded into Lapad, Ploče and Gruž, thereby creating a new Dubrovnik that did not harmonize with the architecture of the old city, to the dissatisfaction of many citizens, as well as architects. Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, there was extensive construction of individual residential objects because the wealthy considered real estate to be a safe investment. The economic circumstances in Dubrovnik, dominated by maritime affairs, banking, commerce, trades and tourism, and in the surrounding parts of the municipality agriculture (viticulture, the growing of olive trees and other crops, such as Dalmatian chrysanthemum, medicinal herbs, almonds, tobacco etc.), accelerated urbanization in the Dubrovnik area throughout the 1930s, which was not even slowed by the Great Depression of 1929. During the 1930s, Dubrovnik had the highest cost of living of any

city in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In addition to wealthy and well-off residents were the many poor, who depended on soup kitchens. Daily life was particularly difficult just prior to the Second World War, as there were major shortages of basic foodstuffs (flour, meat, sugar, fats, etc.), while the prices of commercial goods were constantly rising. Merchants would even remove items from their shelves in hopes of selling them at higher prices later.

Owing to the food shortages, there was much theft in the city. Worker strikes occurred during the late 1930s, with political overtones. The workers wanted higher pay and better living conditions. Nevertheless, despite everything, regime anniversaries were celebrated and commemorated in the city, with emphasis on the Croatian heritage, including the anniversaries of the births and deaths of famous Dubrovnik natives, such as Bošković and Gundulić, as well as other distinguished Croats, including Matija Gubec, Petar Zrinski and Fran Krsto Frankopan, Stjepan Radić and Josip Juraj Strossmayer. The religious life of the Dubrovnik citizens was inevitably and traditionally entwined with the celebration of the feast of St Blaise, the activities of Bishop Josip Marija Carević, Catholic fundraising campaigns and so forth. Integral to the daily life of Dubrovnik and its inhabitants were social and cultural activities revolving around the Dubrovnik Philharmonic, the Dubrovnik Theater Society, the Dubrava Singing Society, the Serbian Sloga Singing Society, church choirs, Sokol music and so forth. Many social events, as well as musical and dramatic performances, were held at the Bondin Theater.

This chronicle of the daily life in Dubrovnik during the interwar period concludes prior to the year 1941, when the war in Europe and the world afflicted all people indiscriminately, and thus the every day life of the city of Dubrovnik and its inhabitants. Following the establishment of the Independent State of Croatia on April 10, 1941, the new authorities sought to obliterate the achievements of the previous decades and that which had been deeply rooted in the lives of the inhabitants of this centuries-old city.

Translated by Margaret Casman-Vuko