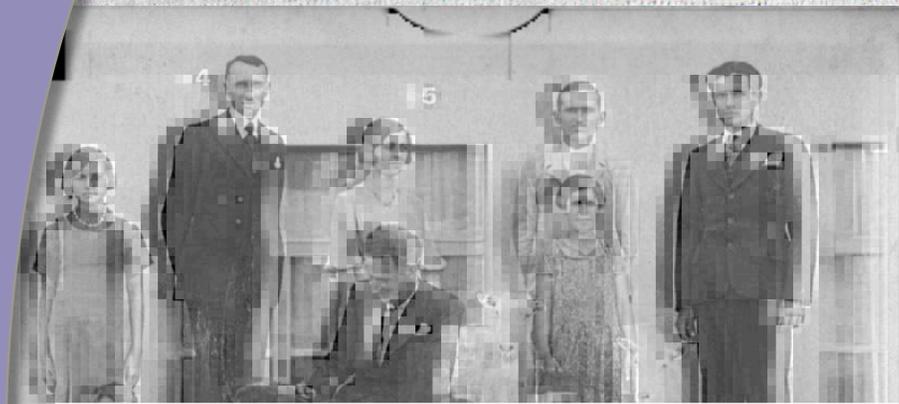


Ljiljana Lazarevic

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# Everyday life in the Kingdom SHS 1918-1941

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**K**

## Everyday life – a choice or a traditional baggage?

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**T**

The module is about the complexity and difference of everyday life in the new country. The pupils should create a wider picture on what was life like in the country with great differences and controversies, regional, national, ...

The period is 1918-1941.

It is relevant because of necessity to improve the level of tolerance and awareness in the region (to be aware of differences and how deeply rooted some issues are, but also how similar some problems are in different parts of the region), and it is controversial in the sense how life has changed in a relatively short period (at the beginning of the period, in some areas people were sleeping with cattle, women didn't have any rights... and children can compare how the life looks like nowadays). Besides, such high regional differences in the quality of everyday life are controversial and sensitive by themselves, and the issue of urbanization in the Balkans is controversial as well.

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**L**

- The students will be able to understand the change and continuity in social phenomena, and notice the difference and similarities between past and present in this regard
  - The students will be able to understand the complexity of interactions between traditional and modern in Yugoslav interwar society
  - The students will develop empathy skills
  - The students will learn about specifics of the quality of everyday life during the interwar period (the difference between town and countryside, the entertainment, the dressing,
- 



**A**

- A critical understanding of the complex nature of the past
- Understanding of national identity
- Support students to understand themselves
- Mutual respect, peace, stability and democracy
- Historical awareness



**T**

**S 1:**

Introduction (contextualization) – 10 ; teacher will read an introduction (Contextualization)/ explain the general situation in the country based on the following introduction

**STEP 2:**

Teacher divides students into two groups:

- 1) T gets the sources – Village / town
- 2) T gets the sources – Traditional / modern

He/she gives the instruction: the groups will analyze the sources, lead by the questions that are following the sources, and when finished, they will do the joint activity.

**STEP 3:**

The teacher asks the students to fulfill the following table, about the women position, from the elements they found in sources:



90  
minutes

# Step 1

## Introduction:

The Kingdom of SHS was formed after the WWI, based on the idea of common roots of all South Slavs. The new state was formed from the regions which had different heritage, developed though centuries. The differences were extreme, in every respect: political, national, cultural, economic... The whole region was mostly agricultural, with the high percentage of people who lived in the country, life based on traditional customs and habits. The process of industrialization and urbanization almost skipped the whole region, but not in the balanced form: the western and northern parts of the country (which were part of Austria-Hungarian Empire) were more developed, while southern parts (which were the part of Ottoman Empire by the beginning of XX century) were much less developed. All of this, plus political and national differences, caused huge problems in functioning of the newborn state.

**Optionally, teacher can add to this contextualization the sources which strengthen those arguments:**



# Step 1

Source 2

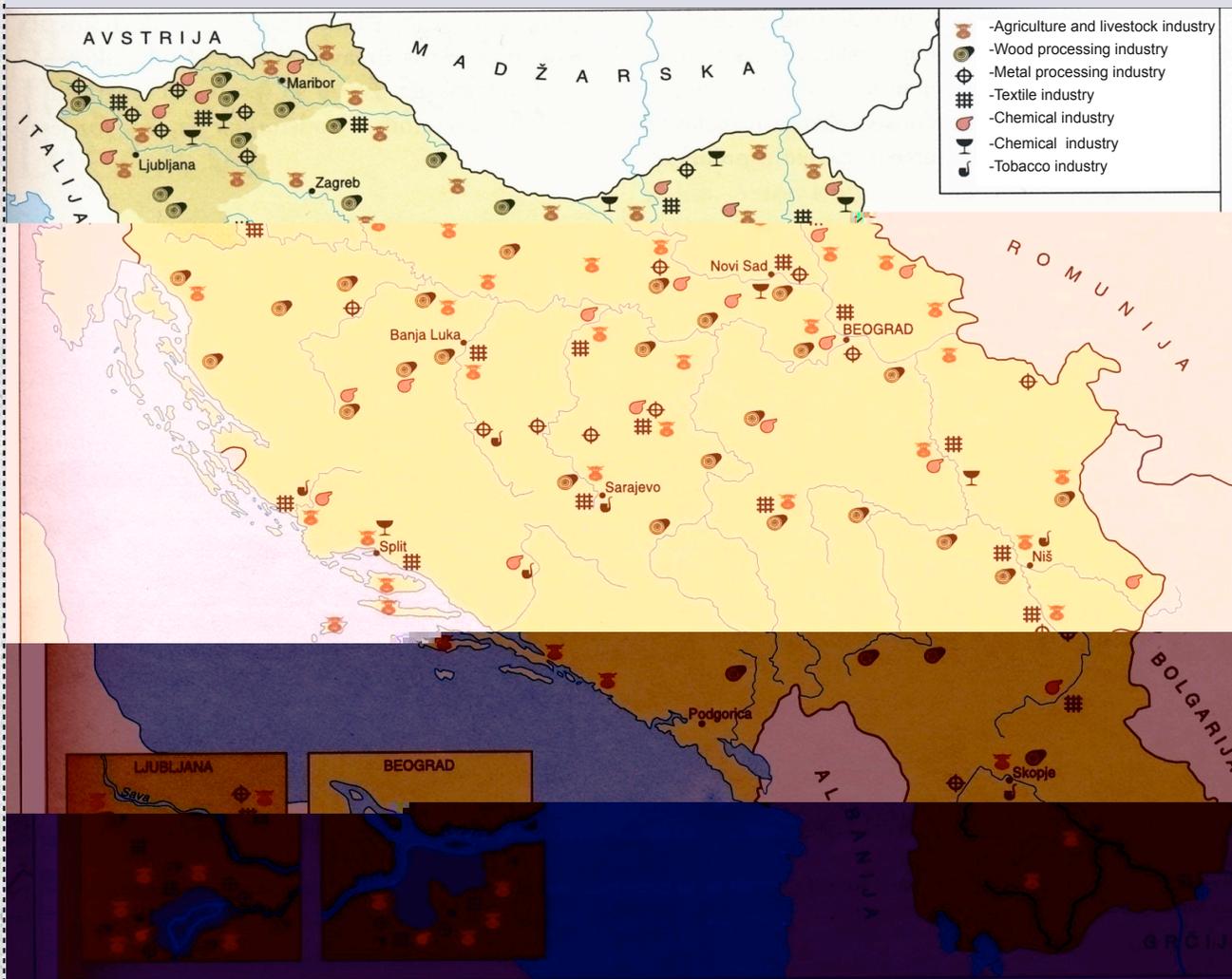
T

	1921	1931
Population (in thousands)	Number of cities	Number of cities
10-20	30	124
20-50	11	25
50-100	3	4
> 100	2	3

Lj. Dimic, *Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije*, p.36

Source 3

I



Repe Bozo, *Sodobna zgodovina za 4.letnik gimnazij. Ljubljana: Modrijan 2007, page 97*

## Step 1

### Source 4

V

K

*Ljubodrag Dimić, Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918'1941, II, p.35*

TYPES OF VACATIONS	1921	1931
Agriculture, forestry,	78.87%	76.58%
Industry and handicrafts	9.91%	11.00%
Trade, loans, traffic	4.35%	4.85%
Public admin; army,	3.80%	4.08%
Other	3.07%	3.49%

### Source 5

I

			R				
Province	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	Total
Dravska	94,13%	92,41%	93,23%	1,80%	1,23%	1,23%	5,54%
Drinska	56,37%	18,56%	37,49%	0,32%	0,42%	0,40%	62,11%
Dunavska	82,03%	59,67%	70,52%	0,45%	0,77%	0,61%	28,87%
Moravska	60,76%	16,01%	37,70%	0,41%	0,27%	0,34%	61,96%
Primorska	55,48%	29,37%	42,08%	0,41%	0,51%	0,46%	57,46%
Savska	80,06%	63,78%	71,60%	0,37%	1,07%	0,73%	27,67%
Savska	80,06%	63,78%	71,60%	0,37%	1,07%	0,73%	27,67%
Vardarska	43,89%	14,32%	28,84%	0,41%	0,18%	0,30%	70,86%
Vrbaska	39,73%	13,95%	27,09%	0,38%	0,24%	0,31%	72,60%
Zetska	50,69%	16,69%	33,50%	0,51%	0,41%	0,46%	66,04%
Belgrade	92,66%	84%	88,69%	0,24%	0,68%	0,44%	10,87%
Total	67,31%	42,90%	53,83%				44,51%

*Ljubodrag Dimić, Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918'1941, II, p.192*

## Source 1

T

.....Over ¾ of all households in the Kingdom lived of agriculture, i.e. 80% of active population earned its salary in agriculture... Although in the period 1921-1931, according to some sources, about a million of people moved towards the cities, the fact is that there was an increase in number of small towns with underdeveloped economy and with no urban living standard... According to the Ministry of Interior, in 1925 there were 24255 villages and 4595 hamlets, which made 96% of all settlements, while the rest were in total 1265 (cities, towns, suburbs, spas, monasteries). According to the same source, in cities and towns lived 15,8% of population.

*Lj. Dimic, Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije, 1918-1941, p.35*

## Source 2

T

Tuberculosis appeared as typical, chronic, people's social disease. In medical literature it was classified in the group of so-called 'dangerous peoples' missions'. About 14% of all deceased died of tuberculosis. There was also a large discrepancy in that respect as well, so in Savska province one of five deceased died of tuberculosis, while in Belgrade it was one of fifty. The discrepancy was present between rural and urban as well. At first, tuberculosis appeared as a town disease – an illness of bad flats. Faster acceptance of hygienic habits made the mortality rate of tuberculosis fell in the city twice faster than in the village, which had hard time in getting rid of cultural and health backwardness. Dravska province was the only place in the whole interwar period where the mortality of tuberculosis was greater in the village than in town..."

*Lj. Dimic Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918-1941, p.66/67*

## Source 3

L B

Belgrade citizens had some entertainment in the town. The first movie theaters were there. An interesting solution was the one at 'Pariz' on Terazije square. Since the 'hall' there was improvised in the long and narrow yard, the screen was left to hang in the middle of the space, so it was viewed from both sides, and to keep the picture clear, the screen was sprayed with water. The audience were seated at tavern tables, eating and drinking (at the front side was only a bar, and at the back side dinner tables), the music was provided by a piano, and later a small orchestra with two-three instruments. Serious music was played for tragic scenes and something fast and jolly with comic scenes. The films, were, of course, without sound...

*"Detinjstvo u prošlosti", Bgd 2001, iz: Aleksandar Deroko, "A ondak je letijo jeroplan nad Beogradom"*

S 4  
F T (B )

<https://www.facebook.com/Crno.beli.Beograd>, (19.5.2012.)

## Source 5

F (D )

"The nutrition of village and town started to differ in the 1930s. In the town eating habits, food of animal origin started to prevail (increase of use of meat and milk & dairy), while food of herbal origin still prevailed in the village. In the town, there was a little difference between winter and summer food, while in the village there r two basic types of food – summer and winter... Along with bread, beans and potato are basic food..."

*Lj. Dimic Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918-1941, I, str.62*

## Source 6

F (D ) II

Food in the village mainly comprise of rye bread, onion, cheese, salad. Salt is scarcely used, as peasant find it expensive. Oil and fat are very rarely used in food preparation, people fast a lot. I calculated that there are 260 fasting days in a year. Village priests do not allow people to use oil or fish, while they fish all day long in Crna River and prepare it. Army recruits often do not weight 40 kilograms, but their priests go over 100 and 120 kilograms.

Д с с 2 с .20, Izvor  
Pismo iz Ministarstva unutrašnjih poslova Kraljevine Jugoslavije doministerstvu prosvete za stanje u bitoljskoj oblasti,  
22.11.1926.

## Source 7

C

"It is said that is well dressed if his/her suit is new, or at least well preserved, expensive and clean. However, it is believed that the one who is too careful about his suit, is not or will not be a good head of a household. He loses too much time on clothing and spends too much on himself. It is customary for a man and a woman, before marriage, to be well and clean dressed. They are being judged according to the suit, maiden family about the financial situation of the boy, and groom's family about the girl. Freshly married dress well during the first year of marriage. For one thing, because they are still freshly married, and they still have what to wear. As time go by, the wedding suit gets worn out, for both of them. No new clothes is bought. As for the children, they are supposed to be clean, when they go to church and in general for holidays or when they go visiting someone. Nevertheless, 'children are children, so they can never be clean'."

*Aleksandar Petrović, Rakovica. Socijalno - higijenski problemi, Beograd 1939, 148*

## Source 8

C II

"The manner of dressing, as living style in general, has fallen under the prevailing norms of behavior in a given

Source 1  
R

Figures of peasants we see today in larger cities, and in villages, dressed in dirty, torn and God knows what clothes, are a temporary phenomenon, caused by rapid economic decay of peasants and their turning into a labor force in urban areas, and particularly in their social confusion in a wave of modernization where a peasant, with its traditional-patriarchal culture, feels weak, backward, and above all – helpless. This deviation from outside is a reflection of his internal social and not only material-economic indecisiveness. As long as a peasant holds on firmly and in balance to the economic basis of his life, he expresses that condition with his suite and decoration.

V.Dvornikovic, Bgd, 1990,463.

Source 3  
M

“Today, a hundred years later, Belgrade does not – ‘eat and digest’ anymore: It has been eaten by Mediterranean, Balkans, (Buda)Pest, but mostly by rural newcomers of all races, languages and religions, who, taken off their roots, do not live under their roof or in their street, but on the street, in a café, movie theatre, bar, buffet, kebab place, countless taverns with outdoor barbecue or pig’s head in the window, or in so-called ‘artistic bohemia’ places, one of the most banal industries in that small-town crowd. In today’s Belgrade, which is barely three times its size compared to before the law, there are thirty times more of those aforementioned, and only now, after skyscrapers and Paris magazines, Belgrade became a small-town of kebabs and local tavern singers”.

M. Г , И С , Б  
1939, 18.

Source 5  
T

“Faithful to Serbian old customs, the Idvor people were holding their counsels during long winter nights. As a boy, I used to attend many of those in my father’s house. Older people would sit around the warm stove, on a bench made of the same material as the stove, usually of soft bricks, finished and painted with chalk. People would smoke and talk, and they looked like senators, self-proclaimed keepers of all the wisdom in Idvor. At the feet of the elderly, younger ones would sit, and each of them would hold a basket with corn, cleaning the corn-grains off. They would do it the whole night. Elder women would sit on small benches along the walls; they would spin the wool, or flax, or would saw or embroider. As my mom’s favorite child, I was allowed to sit beside her and listen to the words of wisdom and fantasy from the mouths of the elders, and sometimes from middle-aged or younger ones, if the elders would let them. From time to time, they would sing a song about the events mentioned. For example, when one of the elders would finish his story about Karadjordje and his battles against the Turks, women would sing songs glorifying the brave Karadjordje and duke Hajduk Veljko, who was defending Negotin with a small company against large Ottoman army under the Mulan Pasha. This brave company, as it is in the song, reminds of a small company of ancient Greeks in Thermopiles”.

Mihailo Pupin, Autobiografija iz: Detinjstvo u prošlosti, BGd 2001, str.13.

Source 2  
A F



Private collection of Mitrovic family

Source 4  
I From Stinjan (near Pula)

Now and then

“As the whole Istria knows, Stinjan used to be the pride of the whole peninsula. Our youth always kept the high level morality and honor... Everyone used to admire our village and our youth. Today, however, thing have changed even here. Our finest boys had to run over the border or to go to the army, due to the outrageous terror... Here we have a few bad girls who simply cannot live without kisses of Italian sailors. Those girls run like crazy to Pula and called Italian sailors to come to Stinjan. Naturally, sailors as young men answered to that call and organized a dance here... It is high time parents take better care of their daughters; otherwise, it might be too late. Stinjan, Stinjan, Quo Vadis”?

Novine Istarska rijec, 1923

## Source 6

M M (M M ),



"Mika Mis –Hristos se rodi" (Merry Christmas)  
 Clarification: The picture shows Mickey and Mini (children heroes of famous American comic author, Walt Disney) roasting a pig for Christmas, a traditional Serb custom. The whole scene is accompanied with traditional Serb Christmas greeting "Hristos se rodi", which is also the title.

naslovna strana (front page), br.II, 1937.

## Source 7

W

"But no matter what were the relations within the house, the father did not rule. (Perhaps that home empire was small and insignificant to him). It was the women who actually ruled: They were remembered just as rulers were. That matriarchate in patriarchy (all the power in the name of the master-of-the-house) solid and undisputed, secure and unchallenged, removed the very thought of a rebellion..."

Mesa Selimovic, *Sjecanja, Detinjstvo u proslosti*, str.27, Bgd, 2001.

## Source 8

I

Number of literate men and women in provinces in 1931

P	M	W
Vardarska	43,89%	14,32%
Zetska	50,69%	16,69%
Drinska	56,37%	18,56%
Moravska	60,76%	16,01%
Primorska	55,48%	29,73%
Dunavska	82,03%	69,67%
Savska	80,06%	63,78%
Belgrade and administration	92,66%	84,00%
Dravska	94,13%	92,41%

Lj. Dimic, *Kulturna politika Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918-1941, II, str.192*

## Source 9

W

In the 30's of the last century, after a few successes of females in the world's aviation, a few women applied for the course for the pilots. The course was led by Miodrag Tomic, one of the pilots who finished the school in France. The first woman who passed the pilot exam on Zemun airport was Danica Tomic, the spouse of the course leader.

The second woman to pass the exam for pilots was Kristina Gorisek, born in Sticna, Slovenia, in 1906. After completing the school she found herself in Belgrade, where she worked first as a telephone switchboard operator, and then she asked to be transferred to Post Office Zemun 1, to be closer to the airport.

A few months ago, when I was in the company of one veteran pilot, we started to talk about female pilots. I said then that Ms Gorisek was the second woman pilot in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The veteran said:

- No, she was the first woman pilot.  
 - ?

The word among veteran pilots was that Kristina Gorisek was the first one to finish the flying part of the course, that she was the first woman who flew independently, several times, before Danica Tomic. Danica's husband took the opportunity of Kristina's absence from the training flight (she was officially absent, or ill), to quickly form the commission and allow Danica to pass the pilot's exam. That is how Danica Tomic entered the history of Yugoslav aviation as the first woman with the pilot's exam.

<http://www.megaupload.com/?d=JOCR7Q9Qhttp://www.megaupload.com/?d=JOCR7Q9Q>, (5.5.2011).

## Step 2

Group II - traditional/modern

Source 10

W 2



<http://www.megaupload.com/?d=JOCR7Q9Q>  
<http://www.megaupload.com/?d=JOCR7Q9Q>, (5.5.2011.)

Q

1. How did the contemporaries see the life in the city?
2. What kind of girls' behavior was considered 'decent'? Do you think the same applied for boys?
3. How do you explain a female pilot in a society where most women were illiterate? Does it prove equality?
4. Was every woman able to choose her own future? What is the situation today? Give arguments for your opinion.
5. How did the rural influences change the cities? Was it vice versa?
6. Was Mickey Mouse a traditional hero? What traditional heroes do you know? Who are children's heroes today?

## Step 3

T

Urban	Rural	Traditional	Modern

E

T