

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRADITION IN THIS DAY AND AGE: RITUALS, SYMBOLS AND CONNOTATIONS OF TIME

SUMMARY

Activity such as the production of history or tradition, the concretization of history in space and control of time are considered at the crossroads of two political systems. Political ritual and the symbols which result from it are researched within the framework of the pre-war period in Croatia in the years of 1990-1991.

Even if ethnologists so desire, they cannot avoid the world of politics nor can they pretend that political relations do not shape phenomena such as "culture", "customs" or "the people". At the same time the relations between power and political and other struggles for power, whether we want this to be true or not, to a considerable degree color the ethnological attitudes toward the past and tradition equally as perceptions of contemporary events.

Over the last five decades our life has been determined by socialism, not only when we have supported it, but even when we resisted it. Socialism suggested, or required, what we were to remember and what we were to forget. Using an ethnological approach to the production of socialist history and the corresponding rituals and symbols the author has tried to draw attention to this, at least in part. Her analysis of the change of symbols in the post-socialist period is her attempt to suggest that these same trends are continuing in the process of constructing history, selection of tradition and control of time.

(Translated by E. Elias-Bursać)