

Mithad Kozličić and Ante Bralić, *Stanovništvo Kraljevine Dalmacije prema službenim izračunima i popisima 1828.-1857. godine* [The Population of the Kingdom of Dalmatia According to Official Calculations and Censuses, 1828-1857]. Zadar: Sveučilište u Zadru, 2012. Pages 459.

Historical demography dealing with the “pre-statistical” period is deficient in the sources which could help trace the demographic processes of the past. How to establish the population size, how to pinpoint the population development processes, how to map trends, how to draw the utmost of conclusions from the scanty evidence available? Historical demography has no other choice but to seek partial sources, “representative drops” on the basis of which it can interpret demographic processes. All this requires huge research energy and labour. In doing so, we are faced with numerous problems and dilemmas. Here is but one, Dalmatian example: According to a survey based on the censuses of the Venetian Dalmatia, the population almost tripled in the course of the eighteenth century—from about 108,000 in 1718 to around 250,000 c. 1766, and almost neared 290,000 in 1795—in other words: population growth rate between 1718 and 1766 was on average more than 17‰ a year, or 150% for the whole period, which is enormous. In the same period, population growth rate in the Dubrovnik Republic was around 30%, almost the same value as in Istria. Indeed, such growth rate in Dalmatia could not have resulted from the natality-mortality ratio, nor could it hardly be attained by the in-migration to the region characterized by “frequent crop failure, poor hygienic conditions, contagious deceases, high child mortality rate, emigration and a very slow process of economic development” (Š. Peričić, *Dalmacija uoči pada Mletačke republike*. Zagreb: Centar za povijesne znanosti Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 1980: p. 16). Evidently, there is an error somewhere—whether due to the difference in the territorial coverage of these censuses, analogy being made between “apples and pears”, or something else is in question—remains to be examined. To date, however, we have not found

a satisfactory answer to the demographic landscape of Dalmatia in the eighteenth century.

The book under review here, *Stanovništvo Kraljevine Dalmacije prema službenim izračunima i popisima 1828.-1857. godine* (The Population of the Kingdom of Dalmatia According to Official Calculations and Censuses 1828-1857), written by Mithad Kozličić and Ante Bralić, treads beyond conventional demarcation between demography and historical demography on the ground of the first general census of 1857. It presents the censuses of Dalmatia conducted at different dates between 1828 and 1857, and on the basis of the statistical data enables population study to start three decades earlier than usual. The first censuses of Dalmatia of 1830 and 1854 have not been accessible until now except in raw statistical materials. Together with the census of 1857, they contain most detailed information on the inhabitants down to the smallest unit, place or part of place, and are thus of great benefit to diverse micro-demographic analyses. The census of 1857, available to us in Mirko Korenčić's manual (*Naselja i stanovništvo Socijalističke Republike Hrvatske 1857-1971*. [Djela JAZU, vol. 54]. Zagreb: JAZU, 1979), has been supplemented in this book by data not submitted by Korenčić (religious structure, residence buildings, citizenship, gender structure, age structure).

In addition to censuses, the authors reconstruct the population size for the years between 1828 and 1857, while some analyses proceed until 1860. The results have been obtained on the basis of demographic indicators available from diverse sources (almanacs, schematism, etc.), presented by tabular and graphic analyses of religious structure (for almost all years), gender and age structure and other demographic indicators. Thus we learn that in the period 1828-1857, the population of the province increased from about 340,000 to almost 415,000, or slightly less than 1% a year. Throughout this period Dalmatia experienced a continuous positive trend of natural population growth, on average around 10‰ a year. Natality and mortality rates were up to 10‰ lower than in the rest of Croatia, which opens a host of questions related primarily to the process of

demographic transition as one of important indicators of the attained development level. In my opinion the answers to these questions could fundamentally change the view of nineteenth-century Dalmatia as an underdeveloped region of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which current historiography acknowledges as a common fact.

The extensive chapter entitled »Geografsko nazivlje u izračunima i popisima stanovništva Kraljevine Dalmacije 1828.-1857. godine« (Geographical Names in the Figures and Censuses of the Kingdom of Dalmatia 1828-1857) includes a comprehensive survey of all the places mentioned in the censuses and numerical values. It should be noted that the names and the territorial coverage of certain toponyms changed over time, that some of these localities are no longer within the territories of the Republic of Croatia, and that meticulous efforts were needed to properly identify and index these micro-localities and correlate them to the contemporary names. The names changed, some places or hamlets often had parallel names, territorial distribution changed through history and was not identical to that of today. The authors identified these toponyms territorially and mapped them on the contemporary Austrian geographical charts, providing the future readers with most useful material.

The book reviewed here belongs to “altruistic” contributions to historiography, of the kind by which the authors “prepare the material” for other scholars to finish off. Many scientists who study the history of Dalmatia, on the whole or focus on a micro-local theme, will benefit considerably from this rewarding book. In fact, it has all the characteristics of a standard work, and as such will certainly have a long future. Historical demography can be furthered only through the production of important reference tools of the kind that will not only help save valuable research energy but will also enable high quality comparative analyses. The book *Stanovništvo Kraljevine Dalmacije prema službenim izračunima i popisima 1828.-1857. godine* is this much-needed manual which, as far as Dalmatia is concerned, provides solid basis for shifting high quality research in historical demography at least thirty years earlier than has been done until recently.

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