

**Marica Karakaš Obradov, *Novi mozaici nacija u „novim poredcima“* [New Mosaics of Nations in the “New Orders”] (Zagreb: Hrvatski institut za povijest, 2014)**

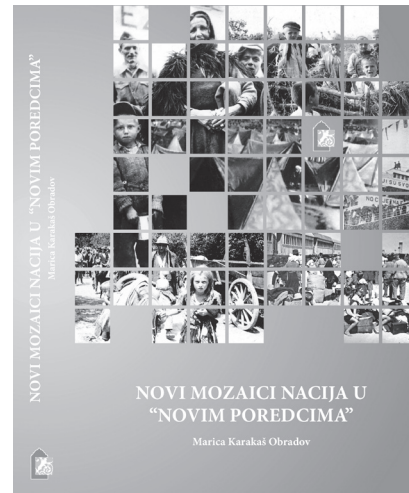
**Summary**

The Second World War launched migrations of numerous ethnic and national groups for numerous reasons: ideological-political, racial, national and religious. The establishment of new states and political systems, in many cases under the auspices of the German Reich and the Italian Kingdom, led to persecutions of some national/ethnic groups. During the war, numerous negotiations were going on about the exchange of population, as well as relocation through evacuation due to war operations; also, many people were sent for forced labour. Rebellious/liberation movements with ethnic and various political colours were active in newly established states and occupied territories, which led to civil wars. As a result, many people found themselves living as refugees and in exiles.

In Croatian territory, the war period was marked with the confrontation of NDH (Independent State of Croatia) authorities with political, racial, national/ethnic and religious groups. Representatives of the German Reich and the Italian Kingdom also played an important role in stirring forced migrations.

In Yugoslavia and Croatia after the war, resettlement and expulsion were used to punish the defeated side, as well as the way in which the state was getting rid of the “unwanted” population and political opponents.

As the Second World War marked the period covered in this book, one can conclude that the migrations during the war operations and in the period immediately after the war took place primarily for political and ideological, military and strategic, humanitarian and economic reasons. Those reasons interweaved as motivators in many types of migrations. For example, migrations, such as emigration, often based on various agreements on “exchange of population”, expulsion, people living as refugees, or sent to forced labour and colonisation, had political and ideological, military and economic reasons. Military-strategic and humanitarian reasons started relocations through evacuation, which were carried out as a measure to hinder recruitment of men mostly into enemy military units, and to disallow rear support to the enemy army; also, to protect civilians against war-related grievances. The economic reasons were partly present in colonisation of population, partly in voluntary applying for work in German Reich, and in some cases, in post-war emigration. The combinations are numerous and confirm, as usual, that the past is made of “gray zones” and



“borderline cases”, which does not diminish the responsibility of the systems, policies and individuals, who were creating migration flows, but rather direct our attention to people and troubles which affected them.

State authorities were creating and writing templates based on which migrations were supposed to flow, such as colonisation and emigration, or exchange of population. However, not even those, so to speak “legal frameworks” were tokens of “legality”, “regularity” and “humaneness” of migrations, especially during war operations. The agreements on population exchange concluded during the war and in the post-war period were intended to, as a rule, define the number of emigrants, but not necessarily; and what was always questionable was the issue of their movable and immovable property. In population exchange, the problem of property was usually solved on reciprocity basis. The template for colonisation carried out by state authorities during the war and in the post-war period was motivated socially, but also politically. Each government was correcting the “injustice” created by the previous colonisation; they were disowning the former privileged groups and allocating the land to their own privileged groups. Colonisation was a measure used by authorities to solve both social and economic problems of “backward areas”.

One could only conditionally say that migrations, such as taking refuge, expulsion and partly resettlement through evacuation did not have a written basis to initiate them. As those migrations were motivated by political-ideological and military reasons, the programmes of the political options in power and public opinion, especially the press controlled by them, served as a written basis for expulsions, forcing people into refuge and exiles, which was a form of civilians’ self-initiated prevention of suffering.

Voluntary and forced migrations during the Second World War and in the post-war period in Croatian territory coincided in type and time with the European tendencies. There were some specific characteristics during the war, related to the civil war in the NDH territory and the political-ideological and military polarisation within the Croat nation (adherence to Ustasha movement, especially its state-building idea, or to the Communist Party or to civil political parties, especially HSS - Croatian Peasant Party). They were also related to the immigration of Slovenes, a non-indigenous minority in Croatian area, and resettlement, expulsion and disowning of Serbs, who got the status of a constituent nation in Croatia pursuant to the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ZAVNOH (State Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of Croatia) session in 1944.

In the post-war period, the Yugoslav communist authorities considered certain national/ethnic groups as unwanted, even disturbing factor in the new state. Therefore, they were inclined to solutions which included some types of migrations (emigration and expulsion).

The minorities in Croatian territory, after various types of migrations and sufferings, especially Jews and Germans, mostly blended into the majority population and reduced their core national identity down to “cryptoidentity”, as a form of mimicry, a guarantee of a better social acceptance.

The political systems during and after the war, in accordance with their ideas on “the new orders”, were putting together their own “mosaics of nations”. In Croatia’s war and post-war reality, there were dramas going on with many tragic scenes, in which all national/ethnic groups played their roles. In columns, transports and loaded wagons, individuals and families were leaving their homes, often leaving their entire properties behind and heading into uncertainty. Those migrations of Croats, Serbs, Slovenians, Jews, Germans, Italians and Hungarians caused soul-stirring destinies of individuals and families, and influenced the national/ethnic, religious and demographic picture, as well as the social and cultural situation in Croatia.