

POLITICAL CONCEPTION AND ACTIVITIES OF CROATIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE UNDER BRANIMIR JELIĆ'S LEADERSHIP

Abstract

Political conceptions and activities of Croatian emigrant political organizations have not been much scientifically explored in Croatia and that is the reason why they were neglected in scientific literature and papers which refer to contemporary Croatian history. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to give a systematical overview of basic determinants of development of Croatian National Committee political conception and activities under Branimir Jelić's leadership in order to contribute to further researches and their integration into knowledge about Croatian national history. The paper was mostly made on the basis of the published historical materials about activities of B. Jelić and HNO as well as contextualization and interpretations on the basis of adequate references and published historical sources. The results showed that Jelić was the most important person in HNO till his death and that he created a new, realistic political conception, whose main aim was functioning because of establishing independent and sovereign State of Croatia. He was trying to realize cooperation with all people who could give their contribution to that. Thus he tried to realize cooperation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from the middle of 1960s, especially with young political forces in the country, including Croatian nation-building communists. Available historical sources confirm that that cooperation was undoubtedly realized and further researches have to determine its details and levels of influence on many events of modern Croatian history, from Croatian Spring to establishment of the Independent State of Croatia.

Key words: Croatian emigrants, Croatian National Committee, Branimir Jelić, Croatian Spring