

## EDITORIAL: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION “FRANJO TUĐMAN: 20 YEARS LATER”

On December 10, 2019, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of first Croatian president Dr Franjo Tuđman, the round-table discussion “Franjo Tuđman: 20 Years Later” was held at the Croatian Institute of History. The discussion was organised by the Croatian Institute of History, the Institute of Social Sciences “Ivo Pilar”, the Croatian Memorial-Documentation Centre of the Homeland War, and the Matica Hrvatska. A wide range of scholars, including historians, sociologists, political scientists, communicologists, literary historians, and demographers, participated in the discussion. In their presentations, they discussed the life and work of President Tuđman, from his joining of the Communist Party, membership in the Matica Hrvatska, founding of the Croatian Democratic Union, and activities during the collapse of the communist system, to his role as statesman and supreme commander of the Croatian armed forces during the Homeland War. Tuđman’s heritage still draws attention and prompts various reactions among the Croatian public, from disapproval to unconditional approval. Conversely, there exist numerous scientific and professional papers and monographs that offer scientific bases for different approaches to issues regarding Tuđman. So as to achieve a more complete picture of Tuđman’s life and work, which are often incorrectly interpreted, the editorial board of the journal *Review of Croatian History* has decided to publish a number of expanded and supplemented presentations from the round-table discussion as a thematic group. It should be noted that one of the goals of launching the *Review of Croatian History* in 2006 was to make topics from Croatian history more accessible and understandable to foreign scholars and the broader public in English and other foreign languages, as such topics are often incorrectly or arbitrarily interpreted.

The authors of this thematic group do not cover only the life and work of Tuđman, but also the complex social and political conditions in socialist Yugoslavia in the late 1980s and in the independent Republic of Croatia. Authors Domagoj Knežević and Darjan Godić address the beginning of the political rise of Franjo Tuđman in 1989. Željka Križe analyses the depictions of Tuđman in the Serbian press from the first general assembly of the Croatian Democratic Union to the beginning of the Serb rebellion in Croatia. Ante Nazor writes about the anti-Croatian propaganda and depiction of Tuđman in the archival sources of the rebel Serbs. Ana Holjevac Turković examines the role of Tuđman in the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Podunavlje

region. Dražen Živić studies the views and policies of Franjo Tuđman towards the demographic issues in Croatia. Sanda Cvikić examines the depiction of Tuđman in international discourse. The final paper in the thematic group, written by Mato Artuković, presents the way in which Tuđman is depicted in Croatian school textbooks.

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Guest editor:  
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