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ANTUN RADIĆ'S HYPOTHESIS ON TWO CULTURES AND CROATIAN ETHNOLOGY

SUMMARY

Antun Radić's hypothesis on the culture of gentlemen and the culture of peasants makes, together with his questionnaire for studying folk life ("The Basis for Collecting and Studying Material on Folk Life"), the basis of Croatian modern ethnology. In this paper, the hypothesis is not only studied for its ethnological significance but also as a part of its author's political activity. Antun Radić founded the Croatian Peasant Party together with his brother Stjepan; the Party was very influential during the first half of the twentieth century. He was important figure in the ideology of the Party, whose aim was to convert peasants into politically enlightened Croats.

Besides that, the paper views Antun Radić's European role-models (J. Michelet) that influenced his construction of the Croatian ethnological paradigm.

The author interprets the relationship between the two cultures, the gentlemen's and the peasants', as ambivalent. On the one hand, he warns about the gap between the gentlemen who lost their national identity and the Croatian peasants that are, according to him, the carriers of the original national culture. On the other hand, he describes the phenomena of the transmission of the cultural heritage of the upper national strata to the peasants.

Radić's assumptions about two cultures is therefore possible to be understood as a frame for the research of the complex mutual relationship between national and cultural identities.

(Translated by Sanja Kalapoš)

Keywords: ethnology, Antun Radić