

"WE RISE UP BECAUSE WE CAN NOT PERMIT THEM TO BE
GREATER ISTRIAN THAT WE ARE": RITUAL
PERFORMANCES IN SYMBOLIC COMPETITIONS FOR
(RE)SEMANTIZATION OF ONE PARTICULAR SONG

SUMMARY

The transition from ethnic awareness into aroused ethnic consciousness on the territory of former Yugoslavia by the end of the 20th century is associated with the mobilization of collective symbols. The author analyzes symbolical competitions that started in 1990 regarding the song *Krasna zemljo* [Wonderful Country], whose main actors were the Istrian Democratic Assembly and the Croatian Democratic Union. Possessing appreciable emotional capital, the song harnesses highly symbolic capital on the local political market, thus also leading to attempts at its (re)semantization. Observing symbolical competitions, particularly through ritual performances, changes within that competition field are interpreted through the prism of Turner's social drama, from crisis phase to reintegration.

Key words: Istria, Istrian-ness, symbolic competitions, *Krasna zemljo* [Wonderful Country], Istrian Democratic Assembly, Croatian Democratic Union, national anthem, regionalism