

Abstract:

The thesis focuses on the transition process from charismatic leadership to a system of collective leadership in socialist Yugoslavia at the turn of the 70s and 80s. This was related to the death of Josip Broz Tito in May 1980, the undisputed and, so far, the only leader of the Yugoslav socialist regime. Therefore, the dissertation focuses on the circumstances in which the power elite members were preparing for this moment, representing a fundamental milestone in Yugoslav history. The researched topic is approached through a so-called actor's perspective, which is also the basis of the interpretation itself. This conception allowed me to follow in detail the specific (mainly political-institutional) preparations for the impending departure of J. B. Tito. Moreover, it enabled us to capture how Tito and his colleagues (who later became his successors) perceived the whole range of problems and challenges within their contemporary context without being distorted by later events. We were interested in what attitudes, preferences and forecasts they expressed and how this reflected their mental world as representatives of the Yugoslav model of socialism. As the interpretation focuses on the crucial period of 1977–1982, we analysed the negotiations, argumentation and communication strategy of the Yugoslav ruling nomenclature regarding, among other things, the deepening economic crisis, the international position of Yugoslavia, the demonstrations in Kosovo or the growing dissatisfaction of the critical voices in the ranks of society.

Keywords: charismatic leadership, collective leadership, policy, actor's perspective, communism, Yugoslavia