

Abstract:

The thesis focuses on the question of so-called South Slavic trialism of the Austria-Hungary in the period of the First World War. Trialism is a state-law concept that proposes the establishment of an autonomous Croatian state (with its centre in Zagreb) within the Habsburg monarchy. Croatian kingdom would become a third power centre alongside Austria (Vienna) and Hungary (Budapest).

The South Slavic question was very important not only for the further development of the Habsburg monarchy as such, but also for the whole region, which witnessed many political and territorial changes in the decades before the Great War. Moreover, the importance of the nationality issue was further heightened by the World War.

The author focuses on the main ideological sources of the concept of trialism, its position in Croatian politics and on the attitudes of the Croatian politicians who advocated for the creation of an autonomous South Slavic state as part of the Habsburg monarchy. The thesis is based on the numerous primary sources, such as records of debates of the Croatian Parliament (*Sabor*) and the writings of prominent South Slavic politicians. The research of attitude of Charles I towards the South Slavic question is based on his memoirs and on comments of Polzer-Holditz, the director of Charles' cabinet office.

Due to the intransigence of the Hungarian politicians and the lack of Croatian domestic political consensus, the trialist idea was not realized, but despite that, trialism remains an important concept which can be seen as a possible solution to the Habsburg national question, which was, due to the multi-ethnic nature of the empire, important in the times of the rise of nationalism.

Key words: Austria-Hungary, Trialism, Croatia-Slavonia, First World War, Yugoslavism, Ivo Pilar, the South-Slavic Question