

Abstract

The thesis examines the establishment of collective identities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while searching for current conflicting elements of the collective identities of each Bosnian constitutive nation. In the thesis, the author sets three research questions two of which are concentrated on identity formation and development, and consequent seeking of mutually conflicting elements of identities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The third research question is preoccupied with setting into place a set of steps necessary to reconstruct current opposing identities into collective identities ensuring progress in state-building. While the first two research questions are theoretically approached solely through social constructivism, the third research question is also approached through post-conflict reconciliation and consociational democracy. From the perspective of the identities formation was the Bosnian war a watershed moment since it transformed already existing identities and set a path to the three distinct metta-narratives about the past which are nowadays accompanied by post-war self-victimization that is translated into opposing collective identities. From the perspective of reconstruction of identities and state-building, I have outlined a set of concrete measures that will lead to desired change in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are the reach of transitional justice, reform of the Dayton Agreement, educational reform, promotion of seeming homogeneity, and extensive external intervention. However, enforcing the above-mentioned measures leading to the change requires willingness, a lot of political capital, economic assistance, and potentially further military presence of peacekeeping mission EUFOR Althea, which might not occur in the foreseeable future.