



International Interdisciplinary Conference

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State

Location: Vila Lanna (V Sadech 1/1, Prague 6, 160 00, Czech Republic)

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 (10:00-18:00)

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/eNAc2ukmisd7Whe6>

Organized by: The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

In cooperation with: The Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI)

Financed by Strategy AV21 (Strategie AV21), research program of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Conference program

10:00-10:30 Conference opening

10:30-11:00 Xavier Bougarel – Can Bosnia and Herzegovina Survive Without an Empire?

11:00-11:30 Radan Haluzík – “The Time When Each Nation Got Its Own Glasses”: Crisis of Modernity and the Arrival of New “Political Climate” Before the Fall of Yugoslavia

Coffee break 30 min.

12:00-12:30 Ivo Goldstein – Historical Revisionism, Neo-Ustashism, Neo-Chetnikism and the Monopolization of the Just Side

12:30-13:00 Zora Hesová – Bosnian Islam as ‘European Islam’: Thirty Years After the Independence

13:00-13:30 Ger Duijzings – What Went Wrong and Why? Reflecting on the NIOD Srebrenica Report Twenty Years Later

Lunch break 60 min.

14:30-15:00 František Šístek – Representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Czech Public Discourse (1992-2022)

15:00-15:30 Mario Katić – Mechanism of Social and Urban Design in Post-war Bosnia: The View from the Periphery

15:30-16:00 Petr Stehlík – Bosnian-Herzegovinian Literature: The History of a Transnational Concept and Its Prospects in the Post-Conflict Society

Coffee break 30 min.

16:30-17:00 Anja Grabovac, Tamara Grabovac, Markéta Slavková – Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Geopolitical Influence of External Actors in Post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina

17:00-17:30 Srećko Latal – Bosnia and Herzegovina Reaches Critical Crossroads at the End of 2022

17:30-18:00 Concluding debate with the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Czech Republic Martina Mlinarević

Description of the event

In 2022, three decades have passed since the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995), one of the most devastating conflicts on European soil since the end of the Second World War. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent and sovereign European state. Despite considerable long-term international engagement in post-war reconstruction and state-building efforts, the civilian peace implementation is still supervised by the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina selected by the Peace Implementation Council (PIC). The country is lagging behind in the process of European integration and remains negatively affected by nationalism, internal divisions, social problems and wounds from the past.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had a specific position in the wider European context already in the second half of the 19th century, as Austria-Hungary's de facto only colony (1878-1918) and a land with a high proportion of autochthonous Muslim inhabitants. Its multiethnic, multiconfessional and multicultural character represented Bosnia and Herzegovina's most prominent feature in interwar as well as socialist Yugoslavia. Many current problems the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are facing have historical roots or analogies, but there are also some notable discontinuities. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state officially built upon key

European values, especially the coexistence of diverse nationalities, cultures and religions. On the other hand, the possibility of multiethnic coexistence has also been seriously put into question in the recent past.

The international conference “Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-Colonial and Post-Conflict Heritage of a European State” attempts to provide an opportunity for an exchange of the latest research results and ideas among top scholars from different countries and disciplines (especially history, political science, anthropology, media and religious studies) who have been focusing on various aspects of the country's past and present. We would like to approach, analyze and contextualize selected key problems of Bosnian and Herzegovinian society (heritage of the Ottoman past /colonial rule /Yugoslav period, nationalism, multiethnic and multiconfessional coexistence, coming into terms with genocide, modernization, Europeanization etc.) in a broader historical perspective from the second half of the 19th century until present.

In the second half of 2022, the Czech Republic holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The integration and stabilization of Southeastern Europe belongs among its top priorities. As part of the conference, we also aim to emphasize the role of the Czech Republic as a country, which has contributed to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and has been significantly engaged in the Balkan region both politically and economically. Furthermore, we intend to highlight the role of the Czech Republic as an important academic/scholarly center for the research of the Balkans in the European context.

Last but not least, we would like to bring to focus the attempts at undermining the integrity and even existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina by both European and regional populists, which in our opinion threatens the progress of European integration and regional stability. These issues represent a challenge for the Czech presidency of the EU. Therefore, we would like to put special stress on the idea of statehood in relation to the multiethnic and multi religious society in a historical and interdisciplinary perspective. These discussions will also include the role of Europe as a guarantee of a certain normative order in its approximate neighborhood, ideas of transnational integration, constitutional state and also the concept of the “ontological security”.

The conference will consist of individual presentations (20 minutes and 10 minutes of discussion will be provided for each paper) and a final round table discussion. Selected papers from the conference will be published as thematic issue of the scholarly journal *Slovanský přehled / Slavonic Review (Journal for the History of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe)*, founded in 1898 in Prague and published by the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The conference will take place in the Vila Lanna, a neo-renaissance villa built by the entrepreneur Adalbert (Vojtěch) Lanna in the second half of the 19th century and now used by the Czech Academy of Sciences for top level scholarly venues and ceremonial occasions.

**From 20:00 an informal social gathering of the conference participants and guests will take place nearby the conference location. Refreshments are not covered.*

