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HISTORY, CULTURE AND RESEARCH OF KOSOVO AND METOHIJA BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS*

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Abstract: The research of Kosovo and Metohija in the period between the two world wars is not simple. During this period, this area did not have that name, but first belonged to the province of South Serbia within the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and then was divided among three provinces (or banates called banovinas) of Vardar, Morava and Zeta within the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In our paper we will give an overview of the political, economic and cultural situation in Kosovo and Metohija between the two world wars, with particular emphasis on the period approaching the Second World War. In our research, we relied on archival sources, professional literature and magazines. In the end, we concluded that this area, despite the investment of state authorities, due to the patriarchal way of life, traditions, long-lasting conflict between Serbs and Albanians, remained passive and on the margins of society.

Keywords: Culture, History, Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Kosovo and Metohija, Period between two world wars, Research.

Under Ottoman rule, the Serbian-Albanian relations and everyday life in Kosovo and Metohija were determined by Albanian privileged position². Albanian autonomist ideas were also significant, realized in the requirements of the League in Prizren and the League in Peć3. Serbian people were not legally protected and often migrated4. Serbian government was trying to protect its population by opening consulates,

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⁴ Dorđe Mikić, Društvene i ekonomske prilike kosovskih Srba u XIX i početkom XX veka: od čifčijstva do bankarstva Beograd, CANIII. do bankarstva, Beograd: SANU, 1988, p. 26.