

It is a great service to have these important scholarly contributions by Professor Babić collected in one place. The book deserves to be widely read.

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CRNA GORA I FRANCUSKA, 1860–1914. By *Dimitrije-Dimo Vujović*. Istorij-ski institut u Titogradu. Cetinje: "Obod," 1971. 515 pp.

The intractable limitation of this book is that relations between France and Montenegro in the second half of the nineteenth century were neither extensive nor important. For a few years, during the period when Napoleon III flirted with East European nationalists, France held the dominant position at the court of Cetinje, supporting Prince Danilo until his assassination in 1860 and favoring Montenegrin claims after the unsuccessful war with Turkey in 1862. But the problems posed by the German unification movement shortly thereafter led France to a new Balkan policy of peace and status quo, which she continued to advocate through thick and thin until the Ottoman Empire was pushed out of Europe in 1912. Prior to 1878 such a policy could not attract the Montenegrins, who were seeking independence at Turkey's expense, and after 1878 it did not appeal to the vain and ambitious Prince Nikola. Hope in Russia, fear of Austria, conflict with Turkey, and squabbles with Serbia all became more important realities to Montenegro than relations with France.

The author, a former Partisan and member of the federal parliament whose doctoral dissertation was highly praised in Yugoslavia a decade ago and who is director of the Historical Institute of Montenegro, is only partially aware of this limitation, and he does not transcend it. Instead, although he provides excellent descriptions of changes in France's international position and the resulting modifications in her European policy objectives, he assumes too readily that his readers have a detailed knowledge of Montenegrin history. The impression of parochialism this produces is intensified by his propensity for citing and summarizing what appears to be every document he uncovered in the French archives concerning Montenegro. Thus the reader will find detailed discussions of dozens of unsuccessful and fruitless negotiations concerning Montenegro conducted by French representatives over a fifty-year period, but he will not find satisfying descriptions of the Balkan context in which many of these negotiations occurred. The effect is to restrict further an already restricted subject.

The rigorous documentation, exhaustive research, and attention to detail which characterize this study make it a reliable guide to the minutiae of Franco-Montenegrin relations and a valuable source of hitherto unpublished archival material. But the narrowness of the author's purview makes this book most useful to those who are intensely interested in Montenegrin diplomatic history and thoroughly familiar with Montenegrin affairs. Those who do not fall in that category can turn to the sixteen-page French résumé for a good overview of the subject and a summary of the author's broader conclusions.

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