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TRANSPPOSITION OF TEACHING OF MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY AT UNIVERSITIES IN SERBIA- NEW METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

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Abstract

This work provides a history of teaching of the Modern European History at four state Universities in Serbia, with special reference to the history of the 19th and 20th century since the outbreak of the French Revolution until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Also, the focus was set on contemporary methodological approach of teaching of the Modern European History in Serbia. The Modern European History as a subject in Serbia has a long tradition, and was taught since the establishment of the Lyceum (Higher School), which was established in 1838, in Kragujevac, and since 1841, it was located in Belgrade, the capital of Principality of Serbia. Since 1863, the Lyceum was called the Great School, and since 1905, changed its name to the University of Belgrade, as the first state University in the Kingdom of Serbia. Progress in teaching of the Modern European History was made in 1874, when the famous Serbian historian Stojan Bosković became professor of this subject. Special Department of the Modern European History at the Faculty of

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Philosophy of the University of Belgrade was founded in the school year 1930/31, and by then was within a joint seminar with the General History of Middle Ages. The contemporary methodological approach to the organization of the teaching of history at the the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade occurred in the mid-eighties of the 20th century, when from the subject of the earlier the Modern European History II, which included a period from 1789, until 1914, a new subject, Contemporary European History was extracted and covered history of Europe since the outbreak of the First World War until the Cold War era. With the introduction of the Bologna Process at the University of Belgrade in 2009. the subject the Modern European History II was reorganized as the General History of 19th Century, from the French Revolution to the outbreak of Second World War.

Teaching of the Modern European History at the Universities in Serbia has a long tradition, and has been taught since establish of Lyceum (College) in 1838. in Kragujevac. Otherwise, the seat of the Lyceum was transferred to Belgrade in 1841. as the new capital of the Principality of Serbia. Lyceum since 1863. was called the College, and it was composed of three faculties: Philosophy, Law and Technical, and in 1905. changed its name to University of Belgrade, as the first state University in the Kingdom of Serbia with five faculties: Theology, Medicine, Philosophy, Law and Technics. Since the establishment of the Lyceum the Modern European History was taught by Atanasije Teodorović and Janko Šafarik, who actually was museologist and librarian. From 1859. the subject was taken by Panta Srećković, Serbian historian influenced by Romanticism. The subject was very comprehensive, no single textbook existed hence students then were preparing for the exams from various manuals, from which especially were suggested following books: *French Revolution*, and *The History*

of the World for People and the School by Serbian historian Stojan Bošković.¹⁰⁴

The first major breakthrough in teaching of the Modern European History was made in 1873. by an adoption of the amendments to the Law on the Organization of the University when the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade was divided into two departments: Philology and History, and Mathematics and Natural Sciences, while the General History (for New and Modern time) was studied in the third year on the department of History and Philology. Further progress was made in 1874. when Stojan Bošković became professor of this subject. This interesting personality of the Serbian history of the second half of 19th Century will be remembered besides his teaching career also by his political engagement: liberal leader, Minister of Education on two occasions, a member of the Council of State, an ambassador in Bucharest, Athens, Brussels and Paris. He published numerous scientific papers and discussions from which the most significant is *The Parliamentary development and social transformation in England*. The next year he left the professorship because he became Minister of Education. However, between 1877. and 1879. he taught again this subject, but rarely appeared in lectures, so there were no lectures until 1883. This situation lasted until 1888. when Miloš Zečević, who was secondary school teacher from Kragujevac was elected professor of the History of the Middle Ages and History of Modern Era and he held this post until his retirement in 1895. According to the then curriculum of the General History of Modern Era was lectured to the first three years of faculty three classes per week. In the last decade of the 19th Century the Modern and Contemporary History was lectured at the third and fourth year.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴ "Sto godina Filozofskog fakulteta" [One Hundred Years of the Faculty of Philosophy], (Beograd: Filozofski Fakultet, 1963), p. 212.

¹⁰⁵ *Idem*, 219.

After the retirement of Professor Zečević vacancy for his post was opened on two occasions in 1895. and in 1897. when Dragoljub Draža Pavlović, Professor of the Third Belgrade High School, was elected as associate professor of the Modern European History. In 1905. he was also elected for a full professor in this subject. With special regulation in 1896. the Faculty of Philosophy was undergone major changes because besides the existing departments also were introduced seminars for the first time. For the History of the Serbs and Modern History a unique seminar was formed. The historical and geographical department was also formed where the General History was also lectured.

Professor Draža Pavlović gave a strong contribution to promoting the teaching of the Modern European History with a new methodological approach. He graduated at the Philological and Historical Department of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade in 1888. and he had professional training in Freiburg and Tübingen in Germany, where he obtained his doctorate in 1895. Upon his return to the country, at first he became associate professor, and since 1901. professor of the Modern European History. He was engaged also in politics, so in 1919. he was elected as the first President of the Interim People's Parliament of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. In methodological terms his sphere of interests were: individuals in history, historicism, rationalism. His reviews and articles are very reliable because they are based on serious archival research, of historic data. Particularly following works stand out: *Unification of Germany* and *the Movement in Bosnia and Albania against the reforms of Mahmud II*. Pavlovic modernized teaching of the Modern European History, introducing a new methodological perspectives, criticism and authenticity of historical sources.

However, the Department of General History of Middle Ages and Modern European History after 1905. was comprised of a single seminar. Since the school year 1930/1931 the first or special

seminar for the Modern European History was established. The head of the Department of the Modern European History from 1905. until 1920. was Draža Pavlović, and after his death in 1920. the department was left temporarily vacant. Since the summer semester of 1923. a part-time professor Djordje Afanasijev held this subject by teaching in French, while at the same department as an assistant professor held lectures the famous historian Vasilj Popović, who was also the director of the seminar from 1930. Since 1934. at the Department of the Modern European History held lectures Vasa Čubrilović, at first as assistant professor, and since 1939. as associate professor.

Besides Draža Pavlović in the period between the two world wars a special contribution to the teaching at the Department of the Modern European History given by Professor Vasilj Popović, who was also a distinguished scholar and one of the greatest Serbian historians of the Modern European History in the first half of the twentieth century. He was born in Stolac in Herzegovina in 1887. completed the grammar school in Mostar, and studies in Vienna and Graz. He was engaged in politics, as a member of the Constituent Assembly of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians in 1920. His work *Tendencies of the modern historiography* from 1924. represents one of the most important works in the history of the methodology among the Serbs in the 20th Century. His main motto was that we must constantly monitor developments in the modern world historiography. He published a number of studies on the Modern European History where the most valuable: *The National Principle in History of Modern Era*, *The Development and the Spirit of French History*, *The Berlin Congress*, *Metternich's Policy in the Middle East*, *The Agrarian Issue in Bosnia and Turkish riots during the reformist regime of Abdul Mejid 1839-1861*, and textbook history of the *History of Modern Era 1492-1815*, which was one of the most modern textbooks of that time. However, the most important work that are still quoted

by the European and world historians is his book *The Eastern Question. Historical Overview of the Struggle over the Survival of the Ottoman Empire in the Levant and in the Balkans* from 1928. With this study he qualified for the one of the best experts on the Eastern Question, and his definition of the East question is still being quoted today.¹⁰⁶

After World War II, the frequent organizational changes at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade happened, so from 1948. the seminar of the Modern European History became the Department of the Modern European History. Due to the enormous bulkiness Faculty of Philosophy in 1958. was divided into the Faculty of Philosophy and History and the Faculty of Philology, but separate lectures began in the school year 1960/61. According to the the new statute of the Faculty of Philosophy, which was adopted in 1962. classes were created which encompass related departments and seminars. Thus, the Department of Historical Studies consisted of five seminars, including the Department of History of the Modern Era. With the Statute in 1966. teaching groups were introduced and which were reorganized into two groups: the General History group and the History of the Peoples of Yugoslavia group and a new group for the Contemporary European History where history was studied from the end of World War II until present time.¹⁰⁷ The next major reform was made in 1973. when with the new Statute a merge of historical groups was performed into a single historical group. The subject of the Modern European History was listened two years or four semesters in the third and the fourth year of studies, where two following subjects existed: the Modern European History-I, from 1492. to 1789. and the Modern European History-II from 1789. until 1914.

106 Idem, 245-246.

107 Rade Mihaljević, Nenad Havelka, "*Filozofski fakultet (1963-1998), Filozofski fakultet 1838—1998. Period 1963-1998*" [Faculty of Philosophy (1963-1998), Faculty of Philosophy 1838-1998. Period 1963-1998], (Beograd: Filozofski fakultet, 1998), p. 4.

Contemporary methodological approach in the organization of the teaching of history at the University of Belgrade occurred in the mid-eighties of the 20th Century, actually in 1985. when from the earlier subject of the the Modern European History II as a new subject was singled out as Contemporary European History since the outbreak of the First World War until the Cold War era. Then also was formed Department of the Contemporary European History.¹⁰⁸ With the introduction of the Bologna Process at the University of Belgrade in 2009. the subject of the Modern European History II was divided into the following subjects: General History of the 19th Century I – from 1774. until the reunification of Germany in 1871. and the General History of the 19th Century II - from 1871. until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. A new subject – the Modern History of Europe was introduced, and covers the period from 1789. until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Speaking of the subject of the Contemporary European History, it was transformed, as well, into two new subjects: the Contemporary European History-I, from the outbreak of the First World War to the Second World War in 1939. and the Contemporary European History-II, from 1939. until 2000. And in this department a new subject was introduced The Non-European world in the Modern era since 1914. until 2000. From 1963. until the introduction of the Bologna process, post-graduate master and doctoral studies were performed within the subject General History of the 19th century and the General History of Modern era and after the introduction of Bologna process, accredited master and doctoral studies were introduced. Within the master program the following subjects are taught: General History of the 19th and early 20th Century, the Eastern Question, Eastern

¹⁰⁸ Nikola Samardžić, "Odeljenje za Istoriju (1963-1998), Filozofski Fakultet 1838-1998. Period 1963-1998" [Faculty of Philosophy (1963-1998), Faculty of Philosophy 1838-1998. Period 1963-1998], (Beograd: Filozofski Fakultet, 1998), p. 302-303.

Question in the 19th and early 20th Century, Europe in the 19th and early 20th Century, while within the doctor degree studies teaching takes place in the following modules: Empires and nations in the Modern world, the Eastern Question, War and Diplomacy: From Napoleon to the First World War.

Since the liberation in 1945. at the Department of the Modern European History classes were conducted by the famous Serbian historians and academics Jorjo Tadic, Radovan Samardzić, Dragoljub Živojinović, Andrej Mitrović and Mihajlo Vojvodić. Than from 1945. until 1948. the head of the historical group was a famous historian Viktor Novak, and academician Vasa Čubrilović was the head from 1948. until 1966.

Besides Belgrade, the Modern European History and the Contemporary European History were lectured at the University of Novi Sad, Priština, and for several year in Niš. The subject of the Modern European History at the University of Novi Sad has been taught since the establishment of the Faculty in 1954. within the group of History.¹⁰⁹ Namely, the University of Novi Sad was established in 1960. The first two years of the course in the the Modern European History was done according to the curriculum of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, and then it was adapted to the local area. Since the school year of 1965/66, a new curriculum was adopted when the subject General History of the Middle Ages and Modern Era was established. Exams in this subject was at first in writing form as a condition for taking the oral exam.¹¹⁰

Reform of the teaching at the University which started in 1975. was completed in 1977. when instead of the former Department

109 Čedomir Popov, *Filozofski fakultet u Novom Sadu u sastavu Beogradskog univerziteta 1954-1960. godine* [Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad as part of Belgrade University 1954-1960], *Zbornik Radova Univerziteta u Beogradu 1838-1988*, (1988), p. 374.

110 "*Filozofski Fakultet u Novom Sadu 1954-1984*" [Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad 1954-1984], (Novi Sad: Filozofski Fakultet, 1984), p. 54.

of History was established the Institute of History. It was created by merging the Institute for the Research of History of Vojvodina founded in September 1968. and the Department of History of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, in order to improve the teaching and research work. The newly formed Institute was a teaching and research institution. The next major reform took place in 1993. when Institutes were closed among which the Institute of History and established departments, among them Department of History with the re-emphasis on teaching rather than on teaching- research work. Finally, with accepting the Bologna Process at the University of Novi Sad, teaching the subject of the Modern European History has been again reorganized and divided into four subjects that are taught in one semester: General History of the 19th Century- the first part (from the French Revolution 1789. until the Revolution of 1848), General History of the 19th Century-the second part (from the 1848. revolution until the beginning of World War First in 1914), the Contemporary European History-the first part (from the beginning of World War First until 1941), the Contemporary European History- the second part (from 1941. until 2000). From 1975. postgraduate, masters and doctoral programs were organized at the faculty. After accepting of the Bologna system at the Faculty, master and doctoral studies have been organized. Master studies of the Modern European History was done through modules: the World Wars, U.S. History 1774-1914, History of the United States in the 20th Century, the History of the Soviet Union, International relations between the Two World Wars. Doctoral studies are carried out through the following subjects: The Ottoman Empire and the Eastern Question 1774-1923, Russia and the Balkans from 1801- 1917.

Teaching of the Modern European History since the founding of the faculty until his retirement in 1969. was performed by Petar Popović, associate professor at the University of Skopje, who following his arrival to Novi Sad became a full professor. Profes-

sor Popović in the period between 1957. and 1960. was Dean of the Faculty, head of the Department of History and Director of the Institute for the study of the history of Vojvodina since its establishment in 1967. until 1973.¹¹¹ After the retirement of Professor Popović academician Radovan Samardžić temporarily was the head of the department, and since 1970. the department was administered by Čedomor Popov who went all the titles from assistant professor in 1960. until the full professor. He retired in 2000. Meanwhile, Professor Popov became the academician, and dean of the Faculty of Philosophy between 1979. and 1981. After the retirement of Professor Popov, professor Duško Kovačević began teaching this subject.

Classes at the Department of History of the Faculty of Philosophy in Priština have been performed since 1963. Otherwise, this faculty acted within the University of Belgrade, and after the founding of the University of Priština, in 1971. the changes were made in the curriculum so that the subject of the General History included chronologically a range from antiquity to contemporary times.¹¹² With the reorganization of teaching in 1967. lectures of the General History were reorganized into two subjects: the Modern European History-the first part until the French Revolution and the Modern European History- the second part from the revolution until 1989. By accepting the Bologna process lectures of the Modern European History were again reorganized into four one-semester courses: General History of the 19th Century 1-which includes chronological range from 1774. till 1848. General History of the 19th Century 2-from 1850. until the end of World War First in 1918, the World in Contemporary Age-1, since

111 Dušanka Dinić Knežević, "Filozofski Fakultet u Novom Sadu-Odsek za istoriju" [Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad-Department of History], *Enciklopedija Srpske Istoriografije* (1991), p. 155.

112 Vesna Zarković, "Filozofski Fakultet u Prištini-Odsek za Istoriju" [Faculty of Philosophy in Priština-Department of History], *Enciklopedija Srpske Istoriografije* (1991), p. 156.

1918, by the end of the Second World War, the World in the Contemporary Age-2, from 1945. till 1989. Since the establishment of the Faculty there have been post-graduate studies in history.¹¹³ Today, lectures of the Modern European History are conducted besides undergraduate studies also at master studies in two subjects: General History of the 19th and early 20th Century-the first part within the chronological framework from 1800. until 1850. and the General History of the 19th and early 20th Century-the second part from 1850. until 1918. Classes of the Modern European History I-II, to 1991. were conducted in both Serbian and Albanian, and after the withdrawal of Albanian professors from the education process, only in Serbian. This subject were taught by professors: Andrija Lainović, Skender Rizaj, Živko Avramovski, Djordje Mikić, Milan Vanku, Ismet Drmaku.

History also was taught since the school year 1998 / 99 at the Faculty of Philosophy on the University of Niš within the Department of History.¹¹⁴ Classes of the Modern European History since 2008. had been taught within the subject the Modern European History-the first and second part, where in the first part covered the period from 1492. till 1789. and the second part from the beginning of the French Revolution until the First World War in 1918, as well as the subject Contemporary History of the 20th Century from 1918. until 1989. After accepting of the Bologna Process, the Modern European History has been taught in several courses within the undergraduate studies, as follows: the Modern European History from 1789. until 1871. the Modern European History from 1871. until 1918. Contemporary European History since 1939. Contemporary European History from 1939. Classes are organized also at master studies in the following subjects:

113 Radenko Krulj, "Povodom Četrdeset Godina Filozofskog Fakulteta u Prištini" [On the Occasion of forty Years of Faculty of Philosophy in Priština], *Zbornik radova Filozofskog fakulteta* XXX/2000 (2001), p. 9.

114 "Filozofski Fakultet u Nišu 1971-2006" [Faculty of Philosophy in Niš 1971-2006] (Niš: Filozofski fakultet, 2006), p. 15.

Contemporary European History (from 1492. until 1918), and the Contemporary History of the 20th Century (from 1918. until 1989). Since 2012. doctoral studies of history are also organized at the Faculty within the subject: Eastern question (1774-1923), Revolutions in the 19th and 20th Century and the History of international relations in 19th and 20th Century.

From the given information one can see that the teaching of the Modern European History lasted more than a hundred and seventy-five years, and it was lectured by then most prominent Serbian professors and scholars who with their works became popular and respected to the wider European and international circles. However, at the methodological point of view an apparent incoherence is visible in the title of the subject and regarding the thematic and chronological boundaries which bind studying of this subject. Most lectures in this course begin with the outbreak of the French Revolution, and finish with the most recent period that is the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disappearance of the Soviet Union. However, as the initial threshold 1770. was chosen or the start of the American Revolution or the struggle for liberation. Over time, subject of the Modern European History are fragmented into two or even more subjects. Firstly, the division was performed on the Modern European History-the first part encompasses a period from 1789. until the 1848. Revolution or the unification of Italy and Germany in 1871. and the Modern European History-the second part from 1848. or 1871, until the beginning or the end of the World War First in 1914/1918. The new methodological approaches influenced that in the mid-eighties of the 20th Century a new subject was singled out from the Modern European History named as Contemporary European History from 1918. until 1989. With the introduction of the Bologna process changed its name into Contemporary European History of the 20th Century, and that the subject which was listened for four semesters was reduced to one semester.

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