

ETHNIC CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

THE CASE OF YUGOSLAVIA

edited by Dušan Janjić



Scientific Committee

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This book addresses five specific aspects of the complex problems related to the crisis and disintegration of former Yugoslavia's multiethnic and divided society, namely, ethnic conflicts and the crisis of national identities (D. Janjić); the initial experience in establishing the rules and institutions of parliamentary democracy and their influence on ethnic relations (V. Goati); a psychological approach to the roots, processes and results of multiethnic conflicts (I. Šiber); issues about the status and protection of ethnic minorities (T. Varady) and, finally, ethnic conflict management in the context of the crisis of national identity. The issue of minorities has been included, since the brief but eventful 1989-1995 period confirmed it as an exceptionally explosive question as well as the most serious test of democracy. The book covers the general social and political developments in the final stage of the crisis in former Yugoslavia as well as the main political and social trends in the newly created states the authors come from. Numerous other aspects of this complex set of issues have been left out, as they have already been addressed by several other authors. The book is intended as an addition to existing accounts of the stormy years in the unstable territories of former Yugoslavia. It also describes the apex of the crisis, the collapse of the Yugoslav federation and the transformation of its republics into independent states, defined by their respective authorities and by public opinion as national states. Simultaneously, it is also a record of the tragedy of a war whose violence affected not only the lives of the people involved in it, formerly citizens of the same state, but also of other European countries and of the entire world.

In view of the fact that this is an analysis of an ongoing process, the book is also an attempt to draw on the valuable knowledge of the social sciences and the

direct insight of authors from Croatia, Serbia and other parts of former Yugoslavia, as well as of numerous foreign authors, in order to provide an explanation of what has happened and, at least hypothetically, indicate the institutions, principles and actors who may help prevent the repetition of this tragic experience. Numerous findings and statements in this book reflect the authors' first hand experience. It is precisely because of this, that this book may also be understood as an invitation to open a dialogue on the problems of nations, nationalism, ethnic conflict and the world of politics in the territories of former Yugoslavia and other post-communist states.

Dušan Janjić