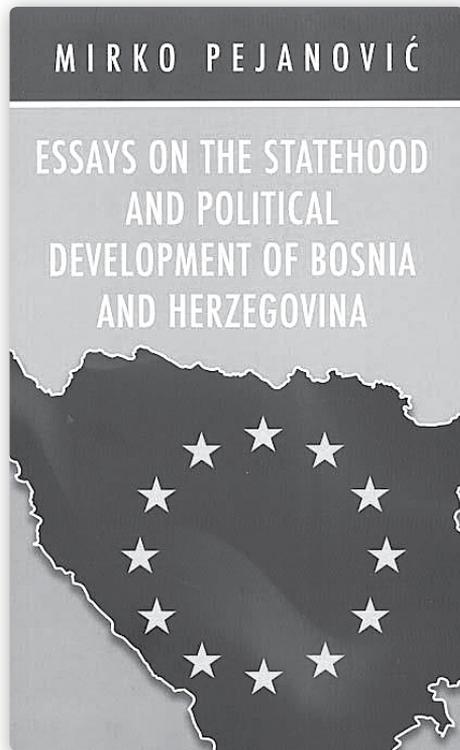


Polona Dovečar

Mirko Pejanović
ESSAYS ON THE STATEHOOD AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Translated into English by Gordana Ristić
 TKD Šahinpašić, Sarajevo, 2016, 381 pages, Šahinpašić 3. Supplemented ed.
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Essays on the statehood and political development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is carefully selected textbook, written by academician Mirko Pejanović, professor, Vice-Rector and Dean, also a member of the war time presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (further on BiH), born in 1946 near Tuzla. Mirko Pejanović has compiled this book chronological due to his presence in the country unique situation since many years, featuring dozens of publications about BiH and its political development and European integration process, which officially began in 2008 and is the necessary result and solution for country's stabile and growing potential as well as future. The book is a quality summary of events since the independence of BiH and enables the reader to understand the situation, even it is not up to date. The text is thematically structured research study and drives the reader to quick interest of the content. The book is interested to the academic public and students, as well as to open public.



Development of BiH is centuries old, author is introducing the country as unique land in the world in the situation, which was and still is going through the content of adapting to moments that should have happened long time ago. Country with

radical change of ethnic structure, municipalities and cities after year 2007 (first steps of integration to EU). Country with decades of multinational community. Country is fighting with nationalism and disintegration process, democracy deficit is gaining bright results, future is yet not so close to be cleared, but the time for BiH being a stabile European country is behind the door. During country's historical development, the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina became a historical, political, legal and cultural framework for the development of national identities in full political equality of the Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian people.

The book is interesting for the academic public and students, since the content is very educationally focused. Part with the title Essays contains structured research studies, articles and interviews, created in the period from 2000 to 2010, which contains projects in the fields of development of the character, structure and functioning of the political pluralism and local self-government, so the content drives the reader to accomplish important knowledge about the country's history and present time. The studies and researches were written and published within scientific-research projects carried out at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo and Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana and published in relevant journals and academic conferences.

The third supplement edition of the book contains eight chapters, where author has chronologically presented statehood of BiH from historical view, through the structure and development of political pluralism and democracy followed by political development and European integration process with the migrations, prerequisites for acceleration and controversies in the development of parliamentary democracy.

The analysis of the social-historical process of the development of political pluralism in BiH during the post-Dayton period has shown that a single ethnic and ethnics politics-based multiparty structure has no power to shape an interparty consensus about the issues from constitutional competence of the Parliamentary Assembly of country. The parliament - decision making body do not have (yet) a democratic capacity to implement the ruling of the European Court for Human Rights. BiH elaborates for political pluralism and parliamentary democracy critically in the controversies in the post-Dayton political development. With the year of 2008, when BiH signed Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, which was the first step to enter the contractual relation, the development of parliamentary democracy is still not stabile and didn't reach its peak. Pejanović has been for years observing and explaining that democracy in BiH is an appearance, while the political scene is domi-

nated by the power of partocracy, instead of equal multicracy.

One of the most important historic dates in the contemporary history of BiH is November 25th 1943, where the statehood was established and authentic people's representation was found. It is a fact that BiH after the World War Two was in progress in social, economic and cultural development. The followed referendum in 1992 elaborates the will of citizens to decide for dissolution with the SFRY and for independent state of BiH, which was stopped by the forces of the Great-Serbian state hegemony and brought war. Under the leadership of the United States government, BiH won the peace by signing the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995.

The author leads the way with eight chapters having in mind the importance of the decision in 1943 to the ideas and reality after the Dayton Peace and the present situation in European integration process which is complicated, but more than necessary. The ethnicization, the phenomenon of BiH space, which occurred after the victory of national parties in 1990 and led to the forced expulsion of population and ethnic cleansing, is still not come. On the other side, while European countries developed regional structure, BiH was falling to abysses of ethnic divisions and ethnic closing of territory. Domination of the ethnic criterion became the main provision of all peace plans created

in the time of war (1992-1995),

The author also explains various challenges with the final and most important question – the EU membership. The BiH with the achievement of the statehood is in process to become the EU member and the member of NATO. Historical process of integration of BiH into the EU assumes the establishment of a regional structure appropriate to the politics of regional development with the EU. The outcome will significantly depend on the assistance of the international community.

The respected author has analysed BiH democracy, which is still facing deficit instead of stability. There are deep marks of political pluralism with historical delay together with country's uncertainty of the state status. There is still existence of anti-democratic formula in exercising the multiparty parliamentary rule. The force of European integration influences on internal integration of BiH by conducting the reforms, which EU membership depends on. This process is not only for achieving European living standards, for BiH this is in achieving stability in the political development of the state, termination of political forces, both internal and external, which can lead to the ethnical division of the state.

The author, Pejanović, who gives his academic afford to his state, has shown to the readers the facts, which are necessarily, not just de-

sire, for the country to become self-sustainable, democratic, European and secular state. He invites all of us to learn and gain modern knowledge in order to be equal

at European market, to believe in values of peace, freedom and joint living, justice and interethnic tolerance in the territory of BiH.