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Karl May's *Durch das Land der Skipetaren* to the last military reports at the end of the Second World War, she convincingly shows how the initial euphoric portrayal of the Albanians as "natural born warriors" and a noble and freedom-loving people makes way to the less favourable reports of late 1944. In them, the Germans, faced with desertions and the inefficiency of SS "Skanderbeg", bitterly brand the Albanians as undisciplined Oriental tricksters who see war merely as plunder.

Answering the initial question of motivation, Zaugg concludes that Muslim Albanians were drawn to the SS because they believed that German victory in the war would be the only way to "accomplish the Greater-Albanian project". Their reasons, therefore, were more pragmatic than ideological. They did, however, share some values with the Germans, namely anticomunism, which, however, was somewhat "instinctive" and stemmed from traditional conservatism.

Despite all its strengths the book somewhat suffers from an oversimplified view of ethnic/state relations in the Balkans, which is inherited from the sources the author used. For instance, the author draws an ethnic distinction between Serbs and Montenegrins while the distinction at that time was purely regional. Likewise, Zaugg classifies all inhabitants of the Bulgarian occupation zone of Yugoslavia as Bulgarians. An example of this unfortunate choice is the description of one victim of Albanian terror as a "Bulgarian of Serbian decent".

In conclusion, *The Albanian Muslims in the Waffen-SS* is a valuable addition to the scholarship about the SS division and volunteers in the Balkans. It points out the key aspect of both the Italian and German occupation, and presents the dilemmas of both occupiers. It highlights the intensity of inter-ethnic violence and its aftermath. Zaugg provides the readers with a thorough and balanced overview of the Waffen-SS division "Skanderbeg".

BORIS MILOSAVLJEVIĆ, SLOBODAN JOVANOVIĆ – *TEORIJA* [SLOBODAN JOVANOVIĆ – *THEORY*]. BELGRADE: BALKANOLOŠKI INSTITUT SANU, 2017, 651 p.

Reviewed by Vojislav Pavlović\*

Most years since the beginning of the twenty-first century the Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, pursued its publishing activity under the committed and caring guidance of Dušan T. Bataković. Among the last monographs he signed as editor before his premature death was a book by Boris Milosavljević devoted to Slobodan Jovanović.

The title of this book does not quite reveal all that it has in store for the reader. The author was not inclined to the contemporary practice of turning book titles into short abstracts and chose a terse one instead. But awaiting inside its covers is a journey into a world long gone but not forgotten by its aficionados. Tracing the roots of the

Jovanović family, the author writes about the cities of Ruma, Novi Sad, Šabac, Belgrade, about leaders of the First Serbian Uprising (1804), merchants, catechists, civil servants, high state officials, army officers, professors bound together by kinship, patriotism and earnest concern for the well-being of their country and society. It is a world which is no doubt familiar to the author, he feels respect and appreciation for it, and seeks to evoke it for the readers with exemplary scrupulousness; one might even say that he hopes his readers will grow fond of that relatively small, close-knit Serbian milieu.

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French historiography has for decades now called for studying the complexities of social interrelatedness, of social networks. In a clear and precise style, the author portrays a milieu where family ties, intra-generational connections and intellectual kinship were features of an elite which led Serbia forward in an incessant struggle to bridge the cultural, political and social gap which separated it from its European models.

Not only does the author feel an affinity for the past milieu he writes about; he also opts for the thoroughness of study which was characteristic of those times but has become almost inappropriate in our times of hectic flow of information. History Professor Radovan Samardžić used to teach his students at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade that a monograph should contain all information necessary for understanding it, i.e. that the readers must not be forced to read a bunch of other books to be able to understand the one at hand. The monograph of Boris Milosavljević is no doubt written with the intention to provide comprehensive information without taking anything for granted, and it patiently lays out its conceptual apparatus and terminology, and the historical context of the subject.

Milosavljević's book is concerned with the intellectual history of Vladimir and Slobodan Jovanović's family and, by extension, with the history of a part of the Serbian elite. Tracing the formation of the conceptual and moral bases on which the deepest convictions of Slobodan Jovanović and his father rested, the author in fact describes the process of formation of the liberal wing of the Serbian elite within a span of almost one hundred years from the Constitutionalists (*Ustavobranitelji*), whom Vladimir had known in person, to communist power-wielders who forced his son Slobodan into exile, trying all along, but in vain, to exile him for good from Serbian culture as well. Writing about nineteenth-century Serbia, the author makes a particular effort to sensitise the reader to the narrow-mindedness

of the materialistic interpretation of history which is due as much to an ideological view of the world as to ignorance about Serbian history. Stressing, inter alia, the damagingly misleading trend of interpreting the nineteenth century from the perspective of our present, using our present-day standards and ideological moulds, he puts extra effort into shedding a clear light on the standards, values and relations of nineteenth-century Serbian society which had a logic and justification of their own.

From the perspective of twentieth-century experience, the personal history of Vladimir Jovanović strikes us as almost unreal. Vladimir travels alone and then with his family from Novi Sad to Belgrade, to Geneva, London, Paris. A prominent member of liberal circles, considered the fiercest opponent of Prince Michael Obrenović, one of those whom the architects of the assassination of the Prince saw as a leading figure in a changed political situation that would ensue, he, only ten years later, during the Great Eastern Crisis, held the office of finance minister under the same dynasty. Nineteenth-century Serbia was able to value its elite and would not let it drown in the mud of political bickering. That was the formative setting of Vladimir's son, whose name, Slobodan (Free), was something of a political statement. One of Vladimir's life priorities was the education of his children, Slobodan and Pravda (Justice), and the family changed the place of residence in accordance with their educational needs. The education of new generations was a project on which the state and its elite worked together, and Vladimir was not an exception: Slobodan was granted a government scholarship for only a year, and his studies took more than four years. The award of government scholarships was based on merit, their recipients were best students. Nineteenth-century Serbia perhaps understood the world that surrounded it better than it would in the twentieth century, if for nothing else then because former government

scholarship holders would, as a rule, become the backbone of government and institutions; but, it should be noted, of the Serbian, and not foreign, governments and institutions, because most of them returned home after graduation abroad.

One of the strengths of this monograph is an entire gallery of portraits of little- or well-known historical figures, such as the president of the Consistory of the Eparchy of Bačka, priest of the Orthodox cathedral and catechist of the Grammar School (Gymnasium) of Novi Sad, Konstantin Marinković, Slobodan's Jovanović's maternal great-grandfather; Dimitrije Matić, his relative, professor at the Lyceum in Belgrade; Stojan Novaković, his superior at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and Ljubomir Nedić, professor of philosophy and literary critic. The book also provides a comprehensive picture of Slobodan Jovanović's generation, his friends and schoolmates, to mention but Pavle Marinković, the brothers Pavle and Bogdan Popović, Boško Čolak-Antić and Živojin Perić; in fact a few generations of Belgrade Gymnasium alumni who were going through life together, setting the tone of Serbian culture and politics.

To those knowledgeable about the history of Serbia of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, this gallery of portraits demonstrates Slobodan Jovanović's divergence from the direction pursued by his father. Liberally-minded, one of the ideologues of the United Serbian Youth and the

Liberal Party, Vladimir Jovanović was more spontaneously a liberal than his son. Much less a politician than his father and much more inclined to theoretical thinking about political systems, Slobodan Jovanović began his career at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs surrounded by Progressives such as Stojan Novaković. The political scene in Serbia was dominated by the Radicals, whose understanding of democracy was alien to him or, to put it in today's language: he considered them demagogues. In his search for a political system which would ensure that the principle of check and balances was applied, Slobodan Jovanović gave precedence to the British bicameral system – in which the upper house played the key role as a corrective to the populist aspirations of the articulated popular will – over the French parliamentary tradition, the preferred model for Milovanović and Pašić's Radicals. Yet, his bicameral system was not a mere copy of the British one. Among other things, the upper house he called for would not have been a hereditary but elected or appointed body; it reflected his genuine conviction that the popular will needed a corrective intervention by a patriotically-minded elite.

It should be noted that this monograph devoted to theory is only the first in a series which will elucidate the work of Slobodan Jovanović in its entirety.

For this book, Milosavljević was awarded the prestigious (2017) Vuk Foundation Award for Science.

ALIN CIUPALĂ, *BĂTĂLIA LOR. FEMEILE DIN ROMÂNIA ÎN PRIMUL RĂZBOI MONDIAL* [LEUR BATAILLE. LES FEMMES DE ROUMANIE DANS LA PREMIÈRE GUERRE MONDIALE].

IAȘI: POLIROM, 2017.

Par Florin Țurcanu\*

Le livre d'Alin Ciupală, professeur à l'Université de Bucarest, est une première historiographique qui doit être saluée d'autant plus que l'histoire de la participation des femmes à la Grande Guerre et de la

condition féminine pendant ce conflit sur le territoire de la Roumanie n'a pas fait

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