

Cultural and Educational Aspects of Yugoslavia's Resistance During World War II: The Shades of Ideology

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Abstract

A retrospective look of Yugoslavia's resistance during World War II, besides its military and political aspects, additionally reflects on the culture that marked everyday life at the liberated territories, but also built foundations for cultural and educational policy in the future. The Communist Party of Yugoslavia led the resistance and the struggle for people's culture and enlightenment, which was an integral part of revolutionary fighting. The cultural policy of the People's Liberation Movement had been developed in accordance with the needs of the front and the struggle for liberty. Cultural and educational work had progressed in terms of partisan military units at liberated territories, within the framework of anti-fascist activities. Establishment of the Cultural and Propaganda Committees as a part of all district and communal National Liberation Committees marked the beginning of process for emancipation, but firstly – to educate the masses in spirit of People's Liberation Struggle. The strife against the occupiers and fascism was in focus of all activities led by Yugoslav Partisans, apart from already attained political achievements which were proclaimed as main benefits. Therefore, culture and education had one of the main roles in order to prepare, preserve, improve and develop the ongoing struggle for liberation. This paper offers a micro picture and retrospective for better understanding some of the non-military aspects of the Yugoslavia's resistance, using published resources and literature with special emphasis on the role of culture and education in the process of People's Liberation Struggle. It also analyzes the role of that process in the further education and culture policy in post-war Yugoslavia, which in fact was ideology-driven.

Key words: *Yugoslavia, World War II, The Communist Party of Yugoslavia, Yugoslav Partisans, Women's Antifascist Front, culture, education, anti-fascism, cultural values, ideology, language, Borba, Bilten, Iskra, Proleter, Nova Jugoslavija, Omladinska borba, Slobodna Vojvodina, Nova Makedonija, Pobjeda, Glas Sandžaka, Slovenski partizan.*