

## REBELS WITH A CAUSE? NATIONALIST YOUTH IN CROATIA BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses the phenomenon of nationalist youth in Croatia between the two World Wars. Since today's Republic of Croatia was not an independent entity in the examined period, this paper will address social and political context of the Kingdom of SHS (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) and later Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav idea, which was acclaimed in some parts of the Croatian society as a state-building solution, resulted in “unhappy marriage” mainly between Croats and Serbs (and Slovenes to some point) after its realization in post-World War I period. This article will emphasize on the position of youth during above mentioned period of political and social instability, mostly analyzing the way in which they were constructing their identity and were entering the political arena. Having that in mind, this paper will address three youth organizations (HANA O, ORJUNA and nationalist students in the University of Zagreb) to examine how youth was not only a victim of this period of instability, but also the reason for perpetuating that condition.

**Keywords:** Nationalism, Ustasha Movement, Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Student Movements

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