

# *The First Review*

**I**n early XIX century, Europe itself already began to feel all good and less good consequences of recently finished French bourgeoisie revolution. This was followed by Napoleon's conquests, his crash, and new rearrangement of the world of that time among victorious forces...

However, in early XIX century, many things which had certainly not been related to wars, chaos, conquests, victories, and defeats, occurred: the first public railway line (southern England) was opened, French chemist Chancel invented matches, Triumphal Arch was built in Paris, Beethoven composed his Symphony No. 6, Goya created his greatest works, and, around 1820, Europe enters the epoch of Romanticism.

At the beginning of the same century in the Balkans, after the centuries of confinement and futile attempts of relying on Christian world, Serbia and Serbian people, forgotten and left by the very same world, initiated desperate, and due to that, incredible process of national and state liberation: through Karadjordje's First, and afterwards Milos' Second Serbian Uprising. This process lasted for almost 30 years, it claimed many Serbian, but also Turkish, lives, and it was completed by providing autonomous status to Serbia within Turkey, which, in the later decades, created the opportunity for the liberation of new territories, towns and villages, and country's expansion and progress, the obtaining of independence, and further progress. The fact that the process of the national and state liberation and union has not been finalised even today, two centuries later, and that it seems that it is further than ever, is another story, which will not be dealt with here.

The Second Serbian Uprising, its origination, the conditions that had resulted in it, i.e. the position of Serbian people until the beginning of XIX century until obtaining the Hatisherif in 1833, are the topic of detailed and studious work of Dr Zeljko Fajfric, the author who has already presented and proven himself with his similar major projects. The work in front of us has no research character, but it rather summarises the majority of existing knowledge to this topic, using not only the works published up to date, but also memoirs material about the participants of the events written about (Prota Mateja, Vuk Karadzic, Ibrahim Manzur Effendi, Aleksa Simic, M. Milicevic, etc.), as well as published correspondence and archive material. His reflections, conclusions, and assumptions are added to all this, which, in a very successful manner, lead us through the time and events in which some more and some less significant names of local historiography have been lost.

The manuscript of the work in front of us has 327 pages of large format, it is divided into 27 chapters of almost identical space, and the last part of the manuscript, "Appendixes" include the following: "Knez Milos' Family", "Teodor Filipovic (Boza Grujovic) – the First Writer of Laws in Karadjorde's Serbia", "Sultan's Hatisherif ...1830...", "Order to Knez Milos...", "Sultan's Hatisherif...1833...", and finally, author's "Curriculum Vitae".

Dr Fajfric guides a reader through the Second Serbian Uprising in a systematic manner, providing, to necessary extent, the image of the First Uprising, international balance of power, conditions for its origination, the events and flow of the Second Uprising, the personality of Milos Obrenovic and other uprising leaders, diplomatic games, negotiations, tensions and the attempts of deceit, Serbian persistence, life in Serbia, the customs of rulers and subjects, Turkish oppressions and Serbian reactions, as well as modest, almost shy attempts of inclusion in the events of modern Europe.

The method in which the author narrates the story of the origination of Serbian state in the first three decades of XIX century, provides a textbook character to this work: the book has numerous data, chrono-

logically ordered, from day to day, month to month, without any boring observations and judgements of our authors, who, sometimes, gave higher significance to themselves than to Karadjordje, Milos, or the epoch they were writing about. In this book, the starting point of the writer is the fact that a work which simply discusses the uprising and preceding or succeeding events has not occurred for a long time, and his desire to present them to a reader with a simple message: "This is how it was." For example, he does not either criticise or praises Karadjordje or Milos in the situation provided to us: the murder of the Leader of the First Uprising. But, what remains after his sentences is that there is no Milos without Karadjordje, as well as that Karadjordje without Milos is another needless victim which Serbian history is full of.

Besides, he has not failed in any rule of his profession, thus he has enabled a reader to get overall picture on one of the most significant periods of recent Serbian history. Therefore, it would be good that libraries in both urban and rural areas have this book within their holdings, but it is more significant that it is possessed by schools, church and monastery libraries, educational and cultural institutions and offices. This book should be a must for above mentioned, and as far as individuals are concerned: whoever is able to afford it, he will not make a mistake if he buys the book. The one who may not do this, he should borrow or steal it, but it should be read by everyone.

Added value and great magnificence of this work refers to the illustrations of one of the best present day painters – Mihajlo Mile Kulacic, who is not a part of entertainers who astound us on TV, in newspapers columns, and similar means of information of public and less public services, yet, his art will continue to last even when today's "great people" are given the position they objectively deserve. But, this is another story, which will not be dealt with here.

Finally, something about the publisher: for some time, I have had an opportunity to follow, and in a modest and poor manner give my contribution to the publishing of the works of the publishing company of double name: for here and for Srpska, which gives an additional, unwilling, but mystical character to the miserable time we live in. After "1804", "The Nemanjic's", hopefully, the book "II Serbian Uprising" will be published very soon, in capital format (just like above works), which will, in the only possible way, complete this first "S" or "Serbian" cultural circle, and, at the same time, open up the possibility of drawing new circles and publishing new works.

With my modest judgement, I sincerely recommend the work of Dr Zeljko Fajfric, "II Serbian Uprising" to be appraised by readers, professionals, and general public.