

The Second Review

In Zeljko Fajfric's book, *The Second Serbian Uprising*, one will find everything related to such an important part of Serbian history. Unrightfully pushed in the background in relation to the First Serbian Uprising, the Second Serbian Uprising is, according to all its consequences, i.e. successes, far more important than the First Serbian Uprising. Yet, unless there had been the First Serbian Uprising, the Second one could not have had such a big success. Similarly, unless there had been Karadjordje, there would have been no Milos Obrenovic.

Domestic publishers were less interested in Milos Obrenovic than Karadjordje, perhaps because the people are more inclined to haiduks and warriors than politicians and thinkers. It is easier to admire Karadjordje's successes and the things he won with guns, but also lost them with guns, than Milos Obrenovic, who managed to, by the negotiation, get what was unimaginable in Karadjordje's time. And, when speaking of Milos Obrenovic, more interest is focused to all the deceits and provocations he made, than to the ingenious negotiation he had with the Turks. A great injustice was thus made to him.

Milos Obrenovic, managed to, almost from scratch, create an independent state from a simple Turkish province, without many armed conflicts with the Turks. With his wisdom, above all with his tactics and patience, he managed to get what Karadjordje failed to do although he had many military victories.

Comparing the First Serbian Uprising and the Second Serbian Uprising, which is very clearly presented in this book, a reader himself may draw a conclusion what is better for the people, the war or the negotiation, the haiduk or the politician, the gun or the wisdom, the soldier or the householder? Is more achieved with patience or spite? With discussion or sabre?

The book itself was written in a very light style, yet, including the abundance of historical sources and the use of original documents. The author, very skilfully, combines his text with inserted quotations of contemporaries, memoirs literature, or original letters of that time. The reader reads this out imperceptibly without actually noticing what is what in it. This very thing results in the feeling of the spirit of that time, thinking, speech, even the life itself. Actually, this is the way in which history is written so that it may be understood by everyone, thus it is be acceptable for everyone, while containing everything. Nothing was made banal in it, yet, nothing was complicated with too general thoughts and syntheses.

Dr. Zeljko Fajfric usually writes about historical topics using understandable style, which has a nice name – “*narration*”. The one also used by the founder of history, Herodotus. The author, Dr. Zeljko Fajfric, does not try to make a scientific work of his book, but he also does not degrade it to the level of banality.

Therefore, each of his books must be interesting, understandable, and, above all, comprehensive and edifying. There is no classic dullness in it, which does not help a work to be better, quite opposite. Certainly, one of the major qualities of this book is right this narration. Through this book, one may find out everything about Serbian uprisings, everything about Karadjorde, everything about Milos Obrenovic, and many things about minor characters related with the uprising. After reading this book, one will need nothing else, everything is included in it. Complete story about the Second Serbian Uprising, complete story about great achievements of Knez Milos Obrenovic.