

DEALING WITH THE PAST IN MULTIETHNIC SOCIETIES

Panel at the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

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General Informations:

The seventh international seminar is organized in co-operation with the Dept. of Comparative Politics and the Rokkan Centre, Univ. of Bergen, Norway, and supported by the Project *The Politics of Democratic and Welfare Development in South Eastern Europe: A Network for Research and Education*, backed by the Center for International Univ. Cooperation and the Norwegian Research Council, Oslo.

Date: July 12-17, 2004.

Place: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Although there is no set deadline for the submission of papers, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Ute Möntnich: Moentnic@students.uni-marburg.de

For details on the seminar, please contact Dzemat Sokolovic: Dzemat.Sokolovic@isp.uib.no.

Transport and accommodation information is available at the Institute's web site: <http://www.democracy-konjic.org> or http://www.bosnet.org/democracy_institute/

Since the Third Wave of democratization the problem of dealing with a violent past has become a very popular topic. Almost every society which has escaped from dictatorship, ethnic strife, war or genocide debates about some kind of coming to terms with the past.

However, there is still no clear line whether and how this special problem should be handled. Some argue that there are more essential problems to solve (e.g. economic development) before one could think about the heritage of the past. Some fear for stability and peace after the end of collective violence if one do not let bygones be bygones. On the other hand, one could point out that it is not possible to manage present and future problems without getting a proper understanding of the past. Even if it seems to be inconvenient, one is committed to come to terms with the past for the sake of those who suffered, of historical justice and last but not least for the sake of oneself.

We regard this seminar as an opportunity to discuss the problems of »Dealing with the past«, especially those in multiethnic societies after mass violence. We invite scholars and practitioners working on the subject to make a contribution to our panel. These contributions could include one or several of the following questions:

- What is dealing with the past? What are e.g. the aims, conditions, consequences of dealing with the past in different theoretical concepts?
- How is dealing with the past related to democratization?
- What are the special problems of dealing with the past in multiethnic societies mass violence? Is there a need to consider perils that do not exist in other societies?
- Which instruments are appropriate for dealing with the past in multiethnic societies?

It is also appreciated to make a presentation on a topic that is not mentioned. Especially welcome are case studies and contributions by practitioners.