

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office
February 1919 – No. 10, pp.83
(Selected parts)

1. History

"The original population belonged to a prehistoric race of which there are many traces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the neighbouring lands. The Illyrians were the first inhabitants of whom there is historic record, and the north part of Bosnia was for some time occupied by Celts. At the beginning of the Roman conquest of the Balkans, large Roman colonies were established, and when the Roman Empire was divided into two parts Bosnia lay on the boundary. In the sixth and seventh centuries the Serbo-Croatian tribes immigrated and occupied the country. The present inhabitants of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be regarded as in the main the descendants of these tribes, and as a branch of the southern Slav race."

[Note the use of *must* instead of *should* in the last sentence, despite acknowledging (*in the main*) the Illyrian origin of the inhabitants in the very same paragraph. This, a *must*-order, serves as the postulate on which then the entire document keeps claiming the "race identity" between Bosniaks and Serbians. Given the document's intelligence background, and its instructional character, it summarizes both the factual account of Bosnia as well as the British interests in it.]

"The racial type is the same in the two provinces, and does not differ fundamentally from that of the rest of the Serbian highlands, though in the northern plains [Bosnia] it becomes somewhat less vigorous."

[Admitting to the fact that Bosniaks are not Slavs. Insisting on proper "tagging" the racial background of the Bosniaks leads authors to even admitting to anthropological nonsense of identifying the Bosniaks with the Serbians. Further insisting on the racial identity "defined" by the above *must*, has to be justified, so the historical section of the FO applies lies:]

"The people resemble the Serbians both in appearance and character, having the same love for poetry [?], music [?], and romance [?], the same intense pride in their race and history, and the same customs [?] and superstitions [?]. The Mohammedan conquest produced an important religious differentiation [?] in the population to which no racial difference corresponds. The "Turks" of Bosnia, as they call themselves, are not Turks by race, although sometimes [?] distinguished by rigid adherence to Turkish religious forms, social customs, manner of dress, &c." [It is almost hard to believe what kind of manipulation with the facts the FO was/is ready to employ. The above *must* will guide the British foreign policy towards Bosnia for the following hundred years, and can easily be assumed to play an important indicator of why did British insist on arms embargo for Bosniaks while these were exposed to the latest Genocide of 1992-1996.]

"One might have expected that, under Christian rule, they would have reverted to Christianity, but this has not been the case. The great obstacle is the unveiling and emancipation of the women, which would be a violent reversal of secular sentiment and custom."

[Note the tone: Bosniaks have failed to come up to "someone's" expectations. The first organized attempt in the modern age to physically exterminate the Bosniaks will then follow shortly after the 1921-1939 agrarian "reforms" which literally stole the land from the Bosniaks – as the descendants of the original Bogomilians according to the FO -- see the last paragraph in this chapter. The above paragraph indicates also the existence of background goals for the British foreign policy in general, e.g. Christianization of the non-Christians. This could in return explain the British support of Serbians in the latest Genocide of Bosniaks 1992-1996.]

"The Serbo-Croatian language is common to both provinces, the Stokavian dialect prevailing in Bosnia, and in Herzegovina the purest form of Serbian. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Herzegovinian form was adopted as the Serbian literary language. The precise and logical structure of the language is admirable."

[Missing to discuss the reasons behind the Bosnian dialect being the clearest of all Serbo-Croatian dialects. Obviously, the clearness indicates that the Bosniaks indeed accepted the language after Slav penetration of the Balkans, which is why it kept its "preciseness and logical structure".]

"...Bosnia drifted back into the orbit of Hungary under the Ban Stephen Tvrtko (1353-1391), who, in 1376, with the consent of his Hungarian over-lord, styled himself King of Bosnia, and ultimately, shaking off the suzerainty of Hungary, made himself master of a kingdom which included parts of Dalmatia, Serbia, and Croatia."

[Admittance of the true independence and historical borders of the medieval Bosnian state.]

"...the country for many centuries became successively the prey of all its neighbours. Croat, Serb, Hungarian, and Eastern Roman seized it in turn, and lost it again. Native Bans, however,

among whom Kulin (1168) stands out as a national hero, constantly asserted with varying success the claims of national autonomy; and the attempt of the King of Hungary at the close of the twelfth century to strengthen his hold over the country by calculated ecclesiastical re-organisation led the Ban Stephen Kotromaniæ to profess the Bogomilian heresy, as Kulin had done before him. The Bogomilians, who took their rise in the twelfth century in Bulgaria, were really Manichaeans, and rejected the Old Testament, marriage, and the ministry of the Church. Their adherents in Bosnia and Herzegovina were numerous; and their doctrines proved an important factor in paving the way for Islam."

[Admittance of the continuity Bosniak-muslims – Bogomilians. (1) Also admitting the continuity of national feelings of the Bosnian rulers throughout the Middle Ages.]

"There seems little doubt that the persecution of the Bogomilians by the Catholics made the advent of the Turks welcome to a large part of the population."

[Admittance of the continuity Bosniak-muslims – Bogomilians. (2)]

"The dominant feature of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the juxtaposition of a strong conservative, land-holding Moslem aristocracy, in the main recruited originally among the Bogomilians, and an oppressed Christian peasantry burdened with taxation and feudal dues."

[Admittance of the continuity Bosniak-muslims – Bogomilians. (3)]

2. Education

"Here it may be said that Kállay's guiding principle was to avoid the creation of a body of highly cultivated men, for whose attainments so primitive a society as the Bosnian could offer no outlet except political intrigue, by preferring the claims of a practical and technical [e.g., Technical School in Sarajevo] education. Thus the promise gradually to transfer the administration to competent natives has been rendered impossible of fulfillment, and the number of Austro-Hungarian officials in the province has multiplied."

[An analysis of the real background of Austrian educational policy in Bosnia, in conjunction with their strategic goals. (1) Note the amazing coincidence with the promise given by OSCE and present governor of Bosnia in 1999, again gradually to transfer the administration to competent natives.]

"The country contains no university; a circumstance which illustrates the principle adopted by the [Austrian] Government of encouraging practical rather than theoretical studies."

[An analysis of the real background of Austrian educational policy in Bosnia, in conjunction with their strategic goals. (2)]

"On the other hand, the construction of roads and railways, the entire cost of which was borne by the provinces [of Bosnia and Herzegovina], was carried out entirely in the strategic and economic interests of Austria-Hungary, and the outlay brought no compensating advantages. The railway constructed from Sarajevo to the eastern frontier at a cost of 78,000,000 Kr. had admittedly a strategic object and little economic importance. At the same time, Austria refused permission to build a line connecting Bosnia with the commercial ports of the Adriatic."

[A critique of the general policies of Austria carried in Bosnia to the contrary of the frame agreement of Berlin given to Austria by great Powers.]

3. Resources

"The forests of Bosnia and Herzegovina cover a greater extent than those of any country in Europe except Finland."

[Admittance of the importance of Bosnia for the Western interests. (1)]

"The [Austrian] province of Bosnia is rich in minerals of commercial value. The most abundant of these are salt, coal, and iron, but the manganese and chrome ore deposits are also of great importance. The copper and quicksilver mine at Mascara was closed in 1909, but both copper and lead have been worked during the war [WWI]. Asbestos was discovered at Halilovar in 1897, and it is believed by experts that Karst bauxite seams extend into Bosnia and Herzegovina. In olden times both gold and silver were worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Gold is actually found in connection with galena, especially at Srebrenica, where the mines had already been worked by the Romans and in the Middle Ages."

[Admittance of the importance of Bosnia for the Western interests. (2)]

"Owing to its excellent natural water supply, and to the precipitous course of its rivers, Bosnia-Herzegovina is assured of a plentiful supply of hydraulic power."

[Admittance of the importance of Bosnia for the Western interests. (3)]

"The coal of Bosnia-Herzegovina is most satisfactory in quality, and were there better facilities for transport and greater enterprise shown by the producers a considerable export trade might well be developed. The three mines of Kreka, Zenica and Kakanj Doboje alone supplied all the requirements of the province in 1903. At the most recent international congress of geologists it was estimated that the lignite deposits amounted to 3,676,000,000 tons, of which half have been opened up."

[Admittance of the importance of Bosnia for the Western interests. (4)]

"Chrome ore. – The chrome ore mines at Dubostica are the only mines of their kind in Europe. The deposits of chrome earth are abundant, but scattered over a considerable area, which necessitates the periodic shifting of the mining plant. Operations are carried out by the *Gewerkschaft Bosnia*, and their chemists reckon that the raw ore, as extracted, contains 44 to 50 per cent. of oxide of chromium."

[Admittance of the importance of Bosnia for the Western interests. (5)]

"About 94 per cent. of the timber for industrial purposes is exported, of which 50 per cent. goes to Italy."

[Admittance that the resources of Bosnia have been stolen and built into the wealth of several European countries. (1)]

"The ultimate destination of Bosnian timber were very varies, including Egypt, the Argentine, Belgium, China, Great Britain, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Asia Minor, the East Indies, the Persian Gulf, and West, South and North-West Africa; a little went to the Balkan countries, Germany and Switzerland. For the years 1906-8 the respective percentages of Bosnian timber taken by the chief foreign customers were: Italy 39.66 per cent., Egypt 14.46 per cent., Hungary, Croatia and Slavonia 13.77 per cent., Austria 6.53 per cent., France 5.78 per cent., Tunis and North-West Africa 3.53 per cent., Spain 3.02 per cent., Germany 2.84 per cent., Senegal and West Africa 2.79 per cent., Great Britain 2.64 per cent."

[Admittance that the resources of Bosnia have been stolen and built into the wealth of several European countries. (2)]

"The timber trade, which is the most important of Bosnian industries, is almost entirely in foreign hands; the largest firms being the *Bosnische Forstindustrie A/G Otto Steinbeis*, owners of the railway from Ribnik to Knin, by which the timber is carried to Dalmatian port of Sebenico [Šibenik]; *Eissler and Ortlieb* of Zavidoviæ; and the Italian firm of *Giuseppe Feltrinelli* at Sjetline, with headquarters at Milan. The greater number of the shares of the *Steinbeis Company* were recently acquired by the State."

[Admittance that the resources of Bosnia have been stolen by the above listed foreign companies and built into the wealth of several European countries. (3) Bosnia could proceed to file a claim against these companies and their Governments as the major shareholders.]