

Holiday Practices

Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Pa u Bosni i Hercegovini se slave državni praznici, ali uz jednu minornu, je li, devijaciju koju ću objasniti, i slave se naravno religijski praznici, te se slave raznorazni neki praznici u osnovi neke, možemo reći, pop kulture. Kad smo kod državnih praznika, postoje dakle Dan nezavisnosti i Dan državnosti, koje ljudi više ili manje ne slave u cijeloj državi; dakle, recimo, ljudi u jednom entitetu, konkretno Federaciji Bosne i Hercegovine, gdje živi najveći postotak ljudi koji se nazivaju Bosanskim Hrvatima i Bošnjacima, slave recimo Dan državnosti, Dan nezavisnosti, dok recimo u entitetu koji se naziva Republika Srpska, gdje živi najveći broj naroda koji se naziva Bosanskim Srbima, veoma često čak i državne, odnosno entitetske institucije ne priznaju državne praznike kao što su Dan nezavisnosti i Dan državnosti. Postoji još dosta tih nekih državnih praznika, no oni su mi više-manje nezanimljivi. Mislim da njihov... Protokolarnost njihova i njihovo slavljenje je zapravo znak... „Slavljenje“ pod navodnicima je znak koliko je čvrsta država; recimo u Americi svako slavi Dan nezavisnosti, 4. juli, i mislim da to zapravo govori koliko je dobro izgrađen mentalitet američke nacije – bar iz moje neke perspektive. Ljudi koji ovo gledaju će imati neki svoj komentar na ovo, slobodno pošaljite mailom.

A onaj, u Bosni i Hercegovini se recimo također slave Nove godine, dakle 1.1. Određeni broj populacije, najčešće pravoslavne vjeroispovjesti, slavi i pravoslavnu Novu godinu, koja se u našem žargonu zove „Srpska Nova godina“, kao da je niko ne slavi u Rusiji. Također se slave i vjerski praznici, kao što su Uskrs, Vaskrs, zavisi dakle katolička ili pravoslavna varijanta, dva Božića, pravoslavni i katolički, slave se i bajrami, Kurban bajram i Ramazan[ski] bajram, i slave se praznici...

Doduše, to malo teže ide, ali možemo reći da se slave recimo, slavi se praznik, recimo „Halloween“, odnosno Noć vještica, 31.10. Malo pomalo sve više ulazi, je li, hajmo reći u neku popularnu kulturu Bosne i Hercegovine, iz normalnih, je li, kapitalističkih prohtjeva da se ljudi našminkaju, obuku, kupe odjeću; pa se našminkaju, obuku, pa odu da piju, pa i tu nešto kupe, tako da je veoma vjerovatno da će, je li, onaj, i taj praznik, kao i slični praznici te vrste, zaživjeti sve više i više u Bosni i Hercegovini.

Veoma je zanimljivo da u Bosni i Hercegovini se također slavi i veliki broj datuma koji su, možemo reći, karakteristični za ovaj prethodni rat koji je bio u Bosni i Hercegovini – nadam se, zadnji – od '92. do '95, pa se slavi oslobađanje ovoga ili oslobađanje onoga, ili datum opsade ili nešto slično, što nije karakteristično za zemlje u regionu, ali to je dio naše historije, tako da se i ti možemo reći datumi obilježavaju ne baš kao praznici formalno, ali na neki način se obilježavaju, nekim manifestacijama lokalne prirode.

Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Па у Босни и Херцеговини се славе државни празници, али уз једну минорну, је ли, девијацију коју ћу објаснити, и славе се наравно религијски празници, те се славе разноразни неки празници у основи неке, можемо рећи, поп културе. Кад смо код државних празника, постоје дакле Дан независности и Дан државности, које људи више или мање не славе у цијелој држави; дакле, рецимо, људи у једном ентитету, конкретно Федерацији Босне и Херцеговине, гдје живи највећи постотак људи који се називају Босанским Хрватима и Бошњацима, славе рецимо Дан државности, Дан независности, док рецимо у ентитету који се назива Република Српска, гдје живи највећи број народа који се назива Босанским Србима, веома често чак и државне, односно ентитетске институције не признају државне празнике као што су Дан независности и Дан државности. Постоји још доста тих неких државних празника, но они су ми више-мање незанимљиви. Мислим да њихов... Протоколарност њихова и њихово слављење је заправо знак... „Слављење“ под наводницима је знак колико је чврста држава; рецимо у Америци свако слави Дан независности, 4. јули, и мислим да то заправо говори колико је добро изграђен менталитет америчке нације – бар из моје неке перспективе. Људи који ово гледају ће имати неки свој коментар на ово, слободно пошаљите маилом.

А онај, у Босни и Херцеговини се рецимо такођер славе Нове године, дакле 1.1. Одређени број популације, најчешће православне вјероисповјести, слави и православну Нову годину, која се у нашем жаргону зове „Српска Нова година“, као да је нико не слави у Русији. Такођер се славе и вјерски празници, као што су Ускрс, Васкрс, зависи дакле католичка или православна варијанта, два Божића, православни и католички, славе се и бајрама, Курбан бајрам и Рамазан[ски] бајрам, и славе се празници...

Додуше, то мало теже иде, али можемо рећи да се славе рецимо, слави се празник, рецимо „Хеловин“, односно Ноћ вјештица, 31.10. Мало помало све више улази, је ли, хајмо рећи у неку популарну културу Босне и Херцеговине, из нормалних, је ли, капиталистичких прохтјева да се људи нашминкају, обуку, купе одјећу; па се нашминкају, обуку, па оду да пију, па и ту нешто купе, тако да је веома вјероватно да ће, је ли, онај, и тај празник, као и слични празници те врсте, заживјети све више и више у Босни и Херцеговини.

Веома је занимљиво да у Босни и Херцеговини се такођер слави и велики број датума који су, можемо рећи, карактеристични за овај претходни рат који је био у Босни и Херцеговини – надам се, задњи – од '92. до '95, па се слави ослобађање овога или ослобађање онога, или датум опсаде или нешто слично, што није карактеристично за земље у региону, али то је дио наше историје, тако да се и ти можемо рећи датуми обиљежавају не баш као празници формално, али на неки начин се обиљежавају, неким манифестацијама локалне природе.

English translation:

Well, national holidays are [among the holidays] celebrated in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a minor [regional] difference that I'll explain later, as well as religious holidays and some other holidays which are basically a part of our pop culture. When it comes to national holidays, there are two major holidays: Independence Day¹ and Statehood Day², which are not equally celebrated in all parts of the country. For example, people in one of the two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Bosnian Croats and Bosniaks represent a majority of the population, celebrate both Independence Day and Statehood Day, while in the entity of the Republika Srpska, where Bosnian Serbs represent a majority of the population, often even state or entity-level government institutions do not celebrate national holidays such as Independence Day and Statehood Day. There are several other national holidays, but I find them uninteresting. I think that [holidays]... The fact that [holidays] are held in high regard and that they are observed is a sign... a sign of strength of a nation. For example, Independence Day in the U.S. on July 4 is celebrated by all, and I think it's a positive part of the mentality of the American nation, at least from my point of view. I'm sure that people who'll watch this will have their own comments, so feel free to e-mail me with those. [laughter]

New Year's Eve is celebrated in Bosnia and Herzegovina, [on the night before] January 1. A certain part of the population which is Orthodox Christian celebrates the Orthodox Christian New Year³, which is also known in everyday speech as the Serb New Year – as if Russians don't celebrate it. [laughter] Other religious holidays are celebrated as well, such as Catholic and Orthodox Christian Easter, two Christmases, Orthodox Christian and Catholic, and two Eids⁴, Eid al-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr, as well as other holidays...

¹ Bosnian-Herzegovinian Independence Day is celebrated on March 1. It marks the date of the referendum for independence held on March 1, 1992, where 99.7 percent of the turnout (about 64% of the population eligible to vote) voted for the independence. The referendum for independence preceded the actual declaration of independence from former Yugoslavia, which took place on March 3, 1992.

² Bosnian-Herzegovinian Statehood Day is celebrated on November 25. November 25, 1943 was the date of the signing of the declaration of statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina by its political representatives, which defined Bosnia and Herzegovina within its current borders, as well as declared Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member-state of the future Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

³ Although the Gregorian calendar is in general use throughout the world, Orthodox Christians observe their holidays according to the Julian calendar. The difference between Julian and Gregorian calendars is thirteen days, meaning that the Orthodox Christian New Year begins on January 14th. This also explains the different dates for moveable holidays such as Easter, and the difference in dates between Orthodox Christian and Catholic holidays that the speaker refers to later on.

⁴ Bosnian Muslims observe two Eids: Eid al-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr, and they should not be confused with the speaker's mention of two Easters and two Christmases, as Eid al-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr are two separate holidays observed by members of the same religion. Generally speaking, Eid al-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr are considered to be an important part of the Islamic religious observance. However, since the Bosnian-Herzegovinian society is considered to be very secular, these holidays are observed equally by religious and non-religious Muslims as more of a family and social gathering than a religious holiday.

Although it's not as popular [as other holidays], Halloween is also celebrated on October 31. It's slowly becoming a part of the popular culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It's a capitalist holiday in essence, where people are supposed to [spend money in order to] get make up, clothes, dress up in costumes, which they do. Then they go drinking, spending more money in the process. However, it's quite certain that this holiday, as well as other similar holidays, will become more and more popular in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It's also interesting to mention that in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are a large number of important dates that are related to this last war – the last one ever, I hope – which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, so the date of liberation of certain places or the date of the beginning of the siege⁵, etc., are celebrated, which is not typical for other countries in the region, but it's a part of our history. These dates are celebrated somewhat informally. They are usually just local events.

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⁵ Speaker here refers to the siege of Sarajevo, which took place from April 1992 to February 1995. The city was surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces and then continually shelled at random in order to terrorize the citizens, as well as draw the media attention from war crimes in Eastern Bosnia and other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A large number of civilian casualties, as well as destruction of hospitals, media centers, industrial complexes, government buildings and cultural landmarks such as the National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place during the siege, in addition to Serb-imposed embargo on food, medical supplies, gas, electricity and water. The siege of Sarajevo was the longest siege of a city in modern warfare, and it's observed on April 6, which coincides with the Liberation Day of Sarajevo, a city holiday dating back to World War II.