

History of Croatia from its Origin to the Middle Ages

Croatian transcript:

Zoran: Pitanje je bilo „postanak hrvatske države“, ako se ne varam?

Aleksandar: Da.

Zoran: Pa tih postanaka je bilo više. Znam da su, prema jednoj teoriji, Hrvati došli u 7. stoljeću u seobi Slavena. Preplivali su jednu veliku rijeku u Rusiji, i onda su preko ovih ravnica došli do ovih tu dijelova, planina, mora i tu su ostali kao jedan od naroda iz te grupe južnoslavenskih naroda. E sad, to su bila nekakva plemena, baš ne nekako ustrojena na nekakav način države – nacije, naravno, pogotovo ne – tako da jedan od tih nekakvih početaka ozbiljnijih se smatra 925. godina mislim, kad je kralj Tomislav krunjen kod Duvna, kojeg su kasnije preimenovali u Tomislavgrad, u to ime. Znači, 925. hrvatski kralj Tomislav je krunjen na Polju duvanjskom, i ovaj, to je na teritoriji današnje Bosne i Hercegovine, i...

Onda su bile razne, ovaj, povijesne, kako bih rekao, vjetrometine. Svašta se nešto događalo, mislim da smo izdali bili nekog kralja... Jel se taj zvao Petar Svačić? Nekog kralja smo izdali, bila je neka frka, nešto smo se, ovaj... Nešto se zaratilo, jedan kralj je bio izdan, i tu je to hrvatsko kraljevstvo od tog trenutka bilo vazalsko za raznorazne Austrijance, Mađare itd. Bio je, bili su stalno sukobi sa Turcima negdje od, kojeg stoljeća, 15. stoljeća, je li.

Onda, šta smo imali? Imali smo još jednu veliku izdaju kad smo, ovaj, makar to sad nije bilo pitanje, ali kronološki mi nekako dolazi... Kad su Zrinski i Frankopan naumili kao neki hrvatski velikaši da se, dignu bunu protiv austrijskog cara, i onda su bili izdani, i onda su pokušali prebjeći Turcima, ali i Turci su imali neki deal, uglavnom, to nisu baš nešto najpametnije izdali, pa su im ovaj, onda u Bečkom Novom Mjestu odsjekli glave te neke jedne godine. I to dosta neuspješno, kažu neki svjedoci da je to bilo onako dosta ružno za gledat u smislu tehnički, kako su se te glave odsjecale.

English translation:

Zoran: The question was about the origin of Croatian state, if I'm right?

Aleksandar: Yes.

Zoran: Well, there are several theories on the origin [of Croatian state]. I know that, according to one of those theories, Croats came [to the Balkan Peninsula] in the 7th

century, during the Slavic migration. They crossed a larger river in Russia¹, and then they traveled through the plains to reach this part of the world, the mountains and the sea, and stayed here as one of the peoples from the group of South-Slavic people. They were organized in different tribes, so it wasn't really a state of any kind - definitely not a nation, of course. A more concrete beginning can be found in 925, when King Tomislav was crowned near Duvno, which was later renamed to Tomislavgrad² in his name. So, in 925, Croatian king Tomislav was crowned at the Duvno Field, which is now a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and...

And then several bleak episodes in our history took place. All sorts of things happened - I think we even betrayed a king... Petar Svačić, was it? We betrayed our king, there was some sort of a trouble - we went to war and a king was betrayed, so this Croatian Kingdom became a vassal state for the likes of Austrians, Hungarians, etc. Conflicts with Turks became constant since, what, the 15th century or so.

What else happened? There was another great treason, although I'm not sure it fits with the question you asked, but it fits chronologically... Croatian nobles [Petar] Zrinski and [Fran Krsto] Frankopan decided to start an uprising against the Austrian emperor. They were soon betrayed and subsequently tried to flee to the Turks, but the Turks had a deal of some kind as well so their uprising didn't really work out the way they planned. They were beheaded in Bečko Novo Mjesto. Quite unsuccessfully, I might add. Some witnesses claimed that it was quite a nasty sight in terms of the actual beheadings.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

¹ The origin of South Slavs is still a matter of debate and research, but a general consensus is that they originally lived near the Carpathian Mountains in Eastern Europe, between the rivers Vistula, Dnieper and Dniester (today Ukraine, Belarus and Poland). Influenced by the invasions of the Huns, Slavs migrated to the flatlands between the rivers Danube and Sava in the Balkan Peninsula in the 7th century.

² Literal translation of *Tomislavgrad* would be “Tomislav’s City”.