SAMPLE MA PROPOSAL

Applicant for MA Program in Central European History (Vladimir Petrovic)

Proposed subject:


Context:

The specific position of the SFRY after the brake-up with Soviet Union in 1948 had an enormous impact towards its role in European integrations. The policy of economic cooperation with both the East and the West meant that SFRY had been more opened for negotiations during various stages of the integration of Western Europe. The first contacts were made during the initiative for the European Defense Community. However, they failed. After this setback, the negotiations were renewed on strictly economic bases, starting in 1967, when SFRY recognized the EEC. Several trade agreements followed. Eventually, Yugoslav policy, generally oriented towards achieving the import and export benefits, combined with the will of the members of the EEC (later EC) to gain political foothold in the renegade communist country resulted in signing the prospective Cooperation agreement in 1983. Besides the economic regulations, this agreement had an implicit political meaning and it was informally considered a kind of association agreement. During the eighties it was broadened, but it was suspended and canceled in 1991 due to disintegration of Yugoslavia. The Cooperation Agreement was in the matters of content very similar to the European agreements offered to the Central European states in the early nineties. It was a role model for the first agreements made after the fall of communism.

Hypothesis:

Since the Yugoslav - EC Agreement (1983) was rather similar to the European agreements offered to the postcommunist states of Central Europe, the political logic behind it also had similarities, i.e. it meant strengthening of the economic cooperation and synchronization as a prelude for political integration.

The objectives of research:

- to give a precise account of the development of the EEC(EC)-SFRY relations up until the eighties
- to examine the political background of the negotiation process that led to EC-SFRY Cooperation Agreement, as well as the background of European agreements
- to compare in details the SFRY-EC agreement with European agreements
- to compare the overall economic and political situation in Yugoslavia in 1983 to the situation in the East European states after the fall of the USSR

Methodology:

- comparative analysis of the agreements, extraction of both similarities and differences
- analysis of the preparatory papers leading to the agreements
- reconstruction of perceptions of the possible enlargement through the analysis of the memoirs of the protagonists

Points of relevance:

- The key point is a possibility of drawing a justified parallel between the SFRY in the early eighties and Eastern Europe in the early nineties
There is also a need to distinguish the similarities and difference of the EC(EU) expansion policy in the eighties and nineties.

**Preliminary bibliography:**

- D.Lopandic, Treaties of European Union, Belgrade 1999.
- Published and unpublished material from the Archive of Serbia and Montenegro
- Published and unpublished material from the relevant European archives.