

# Comparative Territorial Politics

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Comparative Territorial Politics

ISBN 978-1-137-58584-4 ISBN 978-1-137-58585-1 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-58585-1>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017952155

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Cover illustration: Vibrant Pictures / Alamy Stock Photo

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature

The registered company is Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

The registered company address is: The Campus, 4 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW, United Kingdom

## PREFACE

*Zoή*

This book marks the end of a long academic journey that started with my PhD thesis at the European University Institute (EUI), which the manuscript is partly based on. Some of the thinking about the monograph can be traced back to my MA in Nationalism studies at the Central European University (CEU). The experience of having spent parts of my life in the three regions this book talks about is intimately related to my maturing both as a person and as a researcher. I hope the book will find a broad audience from students of nationalism and territorial politics to those, who like myself, could not find themselves content with explanations that only consider socially constructed groups such as nations as agents in politics while disregarding the complexities of identities and context.

I would like to thank the editors and reviewers for their insightful comments and encouragement. My friends and colleagues from the EUI, from the University of Edinburgh, especially those working on the CITSEE project, sustained my interest wholeheartedly throughout this process. Colleagues at the University College Dublin should be mentioned as well. Many others who offered unfaltering support I will not mention explicitly. All of you deserve my warmest thanks. Thanks to Clare for designing the maps of places she has not been to and to Nick for proofreading text that lacked the imaginativeness of his fiction.

Completing this book would not have been possible without the help I received with the interviews, data, and personal stories many shared with me. My understandings of regionalisms presented here would have been much poorer had it not been for them. The Centre for Regionalism in Novi Sad deserves special mention, whose contacts and networks I used on many occasions.

Without the support of my wife Galina and the joy my daughter Zoi inspired, this journey would not have reached its conclusion. I thank my family for believing in me despite not always grasping the complexities of this endeavour. My aunt and uncle, my cousins, and their hospitality made my research trips to Dalmatia always a pleasant experience.

My research, fieldwork, and book preparation have been generously funded by the Irish Research Council, the Frankopan Fund, and the RRPP Western Balkans.

Edinburgh, UK

Dejan Stjepanović

# CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
2	Politics, Territory, and Nationalism: A Conceptual Framework	13
3	Istria in Croatia: The Politics of Plurinational Regionalism	49
4	Dalmatia in Croatia: The Politics of Sectional Regionalism	101
5	Vojvodina in Serbia: The Politics of Multinational Regionalism	137
6	Statehood Alternatives: Plurinational, Sectional, and Multinational Regionalisms Compared	191
	Index	213

## LIST OF MAPS

Map 2.1	Yugoslav republics and autonomous provinces	40
Map 3.1	Istria	50
Map 3.2	Unemployment rates in Croatia (2013)	72
Map 3.3	Support for the SDP-led coalition “Hrvatska raste” in 2015 parliamentary election and the difference between the IDS and SDP vote in Istria	87
Map 4.1	Dalmatia during the Venetian rule	102
Map 4.2	Ethnicity/dialectal map of Dalmatia (1991 census)	126
Map 5.1	Ethnic map of Vojvodina	152
Map 6.1	Croatian counties, Istria and Dalmatia	198

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Ethnic/national breakdown and census population of Istria in Croatia	61
Table 3.2	IDS electoral results in the Istrian County	80
Table 4.1	Population, mother tongue, and national self-identification in Dalmatia historically	115
Table 4.2	Census 2001, nationality	116
Table 5.1	Ethnic/linguistic/national identification of population on the territory of modern-day Vojvodina (1880–2011)	147
Table 5.2	Basic indicators of Vojvodina's economy (1990–2000) ( <i>index 1990 = 100</i> )	160
Table 5.3	What status should Vojvodina have?	169
Table 5.4	Results of the Vojvodina regional elections in 2008 including the change from 2004	178
Table 6.1	Analytical grid	193