

Nikola Marinković

The Political and Cultural Ideology of Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz

Summary

Through an analysis of the journalistic writings of Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz, collected in the book *Kazivanja i ukazivanja (Telling and Indicating, 1994)* we can reconstruct the cultural and political ideology as a key element of the non-literary work of this author. In the chronological perspective, these texts span the period from the early 1950s to the crisis- and war-stricken beginnings of the 1990s. Most frequently they cover important social and later also political topics and only in retrospect reveal an intellectual tradition which the author chose to follow when he stepped outside of his competencies of a literary critic and writer. Analyzing and reconstructing the allusions and quotations in his essays, statements and interviews, we identify the tradition which Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz relied on as the “Serbian liberalism”, as defined in the works the author himself quotes and works relevant to the social and political circumstances in modern Serbia from 1903 to 1914, i.e. the era into which Mihiz projects his cultural and political ideals. Assuming that the author’s cultural and political views were coherent, the texts published before the death of Josip Broz Tito, i.e. printed during the time of the limited freedom of speech, were submitted to a detailed stylistic and narrative analysis, which showed that the author’s explicit stance in the texts published at the turn of the eighth and ninth decades of the 20th century is mostly implicitly present in the texts from the previous decades. At the same time, by comparing certain texts from *Telling and Indicating* with the relevant places in *Autobiography – On Others*, we have reached a similar conclusion, which enables us to define the cultural and political ideology of Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz as classical liberalism, in the tradition above all based on the corpus of the Serbian liberalism, mostly within the oeuvre of Slobodan Jovanović.

Keywords: activism, intellectual tradition, liberalism, politics, ideology, Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz.