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## MONUMENTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN CROATIA

Name of the relevant document according to which the teaching is conducted: Curriculum for the history subject (2019)

Course unit/topic: Croats in the First World War

Four teaching units in total: 1st the 2nd units are an introduction to the topic and content processing, 3rd and 4th units students are presenting their research.

Key question: What is the Role of the First World War victims in Croatian collective memory/history?

### Learning outcomes:

The students are going to

- explore and describe terms of politics of memory, places of memory
- exploring and describing the number of victims from the First World War from Croatia
- explore, describe, and evaluate the importance of the memory of the First World War in Croatia

### I. Introductory part and topic announcement:

The lesson starts with questions about two topics – the first is about monuments about the First World War and the second topic is concerned about monuments in general and about the policy of collective memory.

**Questions to the first topic:** Do you know where is the monument to the victims of the First World War in Zagreb? We expect that the pupils do not know where the monument is.

The second question is – what is the historical meaning of the First World War in Croatian history? How is possible that we do not have more monuments to the soldiers of the First World War? Expected answers are that the Second World War is more important in Croatian history, the First World War was at the beginning of the 20th century, so long ago...

**The second set of questions** is about monuments in general – where in Zagreb are monuments to the soldiers of the Second World War or Homeland War? What can we conclude about the policy of

memory in Croatia? Expected answers are – we have more monuments for the victims of the Second World War, even more for the Homeland War; we can conclude that these are more important to contemporary Croatia

Students are answering according to their knowledge about the First World War and, in the second set of questions, according to everyday life in the city.

**The teacher announces the topic – the memory of the First World War and its Croatian victims. Also, we are going to learn about the *policy of memories*.**

**Students are given links to online work materials and also questions for each topic.**

## **II. Processing of the topic and analysis of sources**

Students are divided into 4 groups that have materials for their research and questions

### **1. group : What is the policy of memories?**

Material for students research: Lj. Dobrovšak, Spomenici kao mjesta sjećanja na ratove u Hrvatskoj u 20. stoljeću ( <https://hrcak.srce.hr/294349>), str. 83. do 89.

Questions :

1. What is the definition of the term *culture of memories or politics of memories*?
2. Culture of memories can be individual or collective. What is *collective memory*?
3. What could be *the place of memories*?
4. What is the *monument*?

### **2. group: What is the number of Croatian victims in the First World War?**

Materials for students research: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/200142> ; B. Ostamajer, V. Geiger, Spomenici - kenotafi poginulim, nestalim i od posljedica rata preminulim vojnicima iz Đakova i Đakovštine u Prvom svjetskom ratu

Questions :

1. What is the number of Croatian victims? Make a diagram about the number of victims in the First World War comparing the numbers from different countries.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_I\\_casualties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties)

<https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/233073>

<http://prvisvjetskirat.arhiv.hr/PopisStradalih>

<https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069>

### **3. group: Croatian victims of the First World War in the contemporary newspapers – different ways of commemorating.**

How did contemporaries, according to newspaper articles, photos, and registers, deal with losses on the front line?

<https://virtualna.nsk.hr/1914/prvi-svjetski-rat-pregled/>

<https://virtualna.nsk.hr/1914/listina-gubitaka-novosti/>

<https://virtualna.nsk.hr/1914/galerija-junaka/pali-u-ratu/>

<http://prvisvjetskirat.arhiv.hr/Publikacije/PublikacijaDetalji?PublikacijaId=746>

(8. p., 16. p., 22. p., 23. p., 24. p., 28. and 29. p.)

<https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069>

### **4. group: What kind of monuments were erected for the victims of the First World War?**

Materials for students research: Lj. Dobrovšak, Spomenici kao mjesta sjećanja na ratove u Hrvatskoj u 20. stoljeću ( <https://hrcak.srce.hr/294349>), str. 90. - 94. p.

Questions:

1. How was the fact that in the common state – Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians later Kingdom of Yugoslavia – were together enemies during the war? Is there any difference in commemorating victims of the First World War after unification in the Kingdom of SHS? What is the difference? What is the cause of this change?
2. Compare the number and the significance of the monuments erected in different parts of the contemporary state. What can you conclude?
3. Take the example of the small town of Đakovo and find out how many victims were from this town, where they were killed and who erected and what kind of monuments for them.
4. Analyze data from text on link <https://www.matica.hr/vijenac/613%20-%20614/tragovima-hrvatskih-kostiju-27048/> about the marked graves of Croatian soldiers in Galicia.

The time of creation of the cemetery, the monument and the place of creation	Who is the cemetery/monument dedicated to?	Current state

**During the third school hour, students are presenting the results of their research on materials.**

**Expected answers for the first group:**

1. What is the definition of the term *culture of memories or politics of memories*?

- interdisciplinary scientific discipline; examines the significance of memory for the creation of identity and relationship to history in one society

2. Culture of memories can be individual or collective. What is collective memory?

- memory that is formed in the community and that influences the formation of the identity of a community

- every society has an image of itself; there are texts, images, rituals ... that serve to create an image of oneself

- self-image based on past events serves to legitimize the existing order in society

3. What could be *the place of memories*?

- symbolic places; monuments, commemorations, pilgrimages, anniversaries; places where memory is "crystallized and secreted"; places that have become symbols by human will; such places serve to revive the past and block the process of forgetting, and this process is organized and maintained by the community - the state, for example.

- places of memory can also disappear, if the group that considers them important disappears

4. What is the monument?

- an object whose content and form marks a historical event or a person who is important for the national history, culture and politics of a country

- the monument has architectural, sculptural, painting value

- busts, memorial plaques, fountains

**Expected answers for the second group:**

1. What is the number of Croatian victims? Make a diagram about the number of victims in the First World War comparing the numbers from different countries.

Look for information on the links below:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_I\\_casualties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties)

<https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/233073>

<http://prvisvjetskirat.arhiv.hr/PopisStradalih>

<https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069>

	Austria-Hungary	Croatia
Population	51.4 mil.	
Military casualties, missing in action	1.016,200	
Total military casualties from all causes	1.200,000 do 1.494,200	
Civilian casualties	120.000	<b>109.000</b>
Civilian victims increased by the victims of the Spanish flu and fig.	467.000	
Total number of dead	1.787,000 do 2.081,200	<b>137.000</b>
The percentage of the dead in relation to the total number of inhabitants	3,5 do 4%	
Wounded soldiers	3.620,000	
Source of data	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World War I casualties</a>	<a href="https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/233073">https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/233073</a> <a href="https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069">https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069</a>

### Expected answers for the third group:

How did contemporaries, according to newspaper articles, photos, and registers, deal with losses on the front line?

- Information contained in the registers of fallen soldiers - date and place of death, unit, rank, name and surname, place of birth, religion, year of birth, marital status, occupation, cause and source of death certificate, place of burial, information about who conducted the record and where the record was

taken from (hospital, Polish hospital); the register is kept by a military chaplain or the command of the unit, and the list is forwarded to the Apostolic Military Chaplaincy in Vienna

- Already in 1916, for example, there was a desire of the citizens to erect a monument to the fallen (Otočac)

**Expected answers for the fourth group:**

1. How the fact that in the common state – Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians later Kingdom of Yugoslavia – were together former enemies (during the war)? Is there any difference in commemorating victims of the First World War after unification in the Kingdom of SHS? What is the difference? What is the cause of this change?

Contrary to expectations - there was not so much removal and hesitance to erect monuments to soldiers of the army - most of them were removed after 1945! after 1918, most signs related to Francis Josip were removed...

- monumental monuments were not erected in Croatia, and one of the largest, on Mirogoj, was made and erected for 8 years

- at the same time, smaller monuments and commemorative plaques were erected in smaller towns

- historians believe that although there is a difference in the number of monuments erected in these two periods - the difference is smaller than one would expect

- the reason could be that they have been in the same country since 1.12. 1918. found by those who were enemies during the war

2. Compare the number and the significance of the monuments erected in different part of the contemporary state? What can you conclude?

	Croatia	Serbia
Who finances the construction of the monument?	Privately funded; associations	financed by the state
How many monumental monuments were erected?	Mirogoj - monument made by V. Radauš and J. Turkalj; built from 1932 to 1939; finally completed in 1940; financed and initiated by the City Administration	2 monumental monuments, 1929 and 1930; in one of the ossuaries, the remains of Serbian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers are together
Where were the monuments erected?	Local cemetery, crucifix, near the church	

3. Take the example of the small town of Đakovo and find out how many victims were from this town, where they were killed and who erected and what kind of monuments for them.

- 9 soldiers; 133 victims on the billboard

- From Palestine to the Baltic, Odessa, Central India, Africa
- There was no money in the families to transport the bodies of the dead, they were rarely transported, for example from Serbia it was easier; that is why cenotaphs are erected
- Who erects monuments? Members of different social strata - merchants, artisans and farmers; family members, often those who died were buried together with other family members
- What kind of monuments:

1st memorial - photo panel: Memorial to the living and fallen heroes of Djakovo. Heroes rest in peace. World War 1914-18)

- 12 cenotaphs in 9 cemeteries; of those 12, one collective (Krndija, 18 people, built in 1926), and the rest are individual

4. Analyze data from text on link <https://www.matica.hr/vijenac/613%20-%20614/tragovima-hrvatskih-kostiju-27048/> about the marked graves of Croatian soldiers in Galicia.

The time of creation of the cemetery, the monument and the place of creation	Who is the cemetery/monument dedicated to?	Current state
1916 The village of Glibovka, Carpathian slopes and plains with the center in the town of Ivano-Frankivsk	Cemetery of the 25th Zagreb and 26th Karlovac regiments, the only preserved complete Croatian cemetery About fifty people who died, mostly from northern Croatia, were buried there. A monument was erected in 1917 There is an unmarked and neglected cemetery in a nearby village	Preserved, they require the installation of Croatian inscriptions
1916.	Dobrivinci village; a large cemetery, numerous mounds, and a central white stone monument with a reclining lion the Croatian coat of arms and an inscription	Croatian names are transcribed into German; Croatian names can also be recognized on some Romanian monuments Today, the mentioned monument is dilapidated
	The village of Černivica, Bukovina The grave of Slavko Postružnik, a twenty-year-old first lieutenant from Zagreb	The grave was restored by Ukrainian volunteers; the text is in German
	There are numerous graves in the Lviv and Ternopil regions - in Galicia and Volhynia	Neglected and abandoned graves of Croatian soldiers

### **Literature and sources for pupils:**

1. Lj. Dobrovšak, Spomenici kao mjesta sjećanja na ratove u Hrvatskoj u 20. stoljeću ( <https://hrcak.srce.hr/294349>), str. 83. do 89.
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_I\\_casualties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties)  
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<https://www.matica.hr/vijenac/613%20-%20614/tragovima-hrvatskih-kostiju-27048/>

### **Literature and sources for teachers:**

1. Lj. Dobrovšak, Spomenici kao mjesta sjećanja na ratove u Hrvatskoj u 20. stoljeću ( <https://hrcak.srce.hr/294349>)
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_I\\_casualties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties)  
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<https://vojnepovijest.vecernji.hr/vojna-povijest/iz-hrvatske-i-bih-do-190-000-poginulih-1234069>
3. <https://www.pilar.hr/2020/01/prvi-svjetski-rat-u-kulturi-sjecanja-zaboravljena-bastina/>
4. <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/370840>
5. J. Paščenko, Hrvatski grobovi 1914.-1918. Karpati, Galicija, Bukovina:  
Leksikografski zavod M. Krleža, 2016.
6. Kultura pamćenja i historija: izbor/priredile i prevele M. Brkljačić i S. Prlenda, Zagreb, Golden marketing – Tehnička knjiga, 2006.

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