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What is (was) the fate of the monument to the anti-fascist struggle at the end of the 20th and in the 21st century?

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

Teaching units/topic: History and culture of memory in the 20th and 21st centuries. The role of institutions in preserving cultural heritage.

3 hours, processing of new material and evaluation

Key question: What is (was) the fate of the monument to the anti-fascist struggle at the end of the 20th century and in the 21st century?

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will

1. explain the place and significance of the anti-fascist struggle monument at the time they were erected
2. to investigate and describe the fate of anti-fascist monuments after the dissolution of the SFRY

The introductory part of the lesson

Students read a newspaper article on the link <https://www.jutarnji.hr/kultura/art/na-spomeniku-zenama-herojima-nob-a-u-novom-zagrebu-preko-noci-osvanuli-skandalozni-grafiti-15348533>

Through conversation, we answer the questions - what kind of monument is the text about (whose, to whom, when was it erected, where was it erected) and what event is the text talking about (monument vandalism, swearing).

We ask the students what they think about the described monument as a work of art, what they think about the described event. Through brainstorming based on the read article, we introduce students to the topic of the class - monuments to the anti-fascist struggle yesterday and today in Croatia.

From 1945 to 1990, about 6,000 monuments to the anti-fascist struggle - events, persons, victims - were erected in Croatia. Memorial complexes (such as Jasenovac), memorial plaques, busts, and monuments were constructed. The places where these monuments were erected are parks, places where something important happened, cemeteries, and the very places where the victims suffered. The authors of the monuments were often the most famous artists such as A. Augustinčić, D.

Džamonja, and V. Radauš. Monuments often have inscriptions, lists of victims, descriptions of events, and a red star symbol. Most of the monuments were erected in the fifties of the 20th century.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the anti-fascist and partisan struggles began to be redefined in all parts of SFRY. Through conversation, the students answer why the periods of the SFRY's near past are being redefined in that period—the reasons range from the introduction of the multi-party system and democracy to different concepts about the arrangement/reorganization of the SFRY.

During the Homeland War in Croatia, around 3,000 monuments were damaged, destroyed or removed, but there is no precise data. After 1995, the Croatian authorities began to condemn the practice of damaging and/or destroying these monuments, so the process was stopped. By 2012, about 400 monuments were restored and returned to their original places.

After the introductory part, the students receive a text based on which they will investigate the causes of the described fate of the monument to the anti-fascist struggle in Croatia.

The text they should read is the text by Holm Sundhausen - Yugoslavia and its successor states. Construction, destruction and new construction of "memories" and myths. Students can work in pairs while answering the questions. They will receive the text and questions on the Teams platform.

Questions for students:

1. List the values on which the collective identity of the FNRJ and later the SFRY rested.
2. What institutions, media, and customs contributed to maintaining the described collective identity?
3. What are the causes of the breakdown of the described collective identity? List them, classify them (economic, political) order them by importance, and argue your choice.
4. What was the fate of the monuments important for the collective identity of the SFRY? Explain on the example of Jasenovac

- research the chronology of changing attitudes (of the scientific public) towards the monument and the victims and try to find the causes of the changes

Students read the text and answer the questions by working in pairs until the end of the lesson. (1st hour)

In the next lesson, through a conversation with the students, we answer the questions. (2nd hour)

In the 3rd hour, as a form of evaluation as learning, they will write an essay with the title Why are monuments to the anti-fascist struggle destroyed at the end of the 20th century - examples from Croatia and Poland. As part of preparing for the essay, students should read the linked texts at home:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/world/prague-to-remove-statue-of-soviet-marshal-who-led-red-army-forces-idUSKCN1VX2FB/> and <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/05/soviet-hero-konev-statue-prague-spring>

During the 1st lesson, we give the students work instructions, and by the end of the lesson, the students read the text and answer the questions in pairs.

Expected answers (2nd hour)

In the second lesson, students read the answers and we comment on them together, supplementing them as necessary.

1. List the values on which the collective identity of the FNRJ and later the SFRY rested.

The values on which the collective identity of the FNRJ/SFRJ rested are:

- Unquestionable authority of the leader – J. Broz, in war and peace
- Victory in the Second World War
- The joint resistance of Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, Bosniaks, Macedonians and others to the foreign invaders (German and Italian armies), but also to the Ustashas and Chetniks. This common struggle is the foundation of the later "brotherhood and unity" of the people who lived in the SFRY
- Abolition of the monarchy, establishment of the republic; the establishment of a federal republic
- Self-governing socialism
- Policy of non-alignment

2. What institutions, media, and customs contributed to maintaining the described collective identity?

Collective identity was built and maintained through museums and memorial complexes. Monuments, commemorative plaques, busts were erected.

By 1965, 30,000 monographs on the anti-fascist struggle and the socialist revolution had been published, and by the 1980s that number had doubled, and the image of these events was transmitted to younger generations through textbooks for various subjects (from history to literature, pre-military training, Marxism etc.)

Numerous films were shot with domestic and foreign actors, often world-famous stars (eg R. Burton, E. Taylor), comics were also popular, among which the comic about Mirko and Slavko, partisan fighters, stands out.

Many holidays marked events important for the creation of the SFRY, the anti-fascist struggle.

3. What are the causes of the breakdown of the described collective identity? List them, classify them (economic, political) and order them by importance and argue your choice.

The causes of the collapse of the collective identity and values described in the answer to the 1st question are:

Economic causes	Political causes of collapse
- inflation, decline in living standards, impoverishment of an increasing number of inhabitants, bad economic policy, corruption - Tito's death	- growth of national tensions because during the SFRY many problems were avoided (they were pushed under the carpet) - strengthening of Greater Serbian ideas (concern about Serbs outside of Serbia, discussions on confederal reorganization of the state...); - breaking taboos (unmasking the partisan cult, the cult of the leader Tito, discussions about partisan crimes after the end of the war)

4. What was the fate of the monuments important for the collective identity of the SFRY? Explain on the example of Jasenovac

- research the chronology of changing attitudes (of the scientific public) towards the monument and the victims and try to find the causes of the changes

Students can display changes on the timeline with the following information:

- immediately after the war, Tito and the Yugoslav State Commission for Determining the Crimes of the Occupiers and Their Helpers - the demographic loss of the population is 1.7 million people, of which 600 to 700,000 Serbs were killed in Jasenovac

- census from 1964 - the number of people killed in Jasenovac is 59,188

- In 1968, a monument was erected in Jasenovac

- 1989 V. Žerjavić – 85,000 people were killed in Jasenovac, of which 48 to 52,000 Serbs, 13,000 Jews, 12,000 Croats and 10,000 Roma)

- Students should look for the latest information on the official website of the Jasenovac Memorial Area, <https://www.jusp-jasenovac.hr/>

The battleground of Serbian and Croatian politics of memory begins at the end of the 80s, and continues parallel to the breakup of the Yugoslav state.

In the next class (3rd class), as a form of evaluation as learning, he will write an essay with the title Why are monuments to the anti-fascist struggle destroyed at the end of the 20th century - examples from Croatia and Poland.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/world/prague-to-remove-statue-of-soviet-marshal-who-led-red-army-forces-idUSKCN1VX2FB/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/05/soviet-hero-konev-statue-prague-spring>

<https://english.radio.cz/czech-debate-about-red-army-monuments-8107482>

Literature:

1. Lj. Dobrovšak, Monuments as places of remembrance of wars in Croatia in the 20th century

(<https://hrcak.srce.hr/294349>), accessed on August 23, 2024.

2. Culture of memory and history, edited by M.Brkljačić and S.Prlenda, Golden marketing-Technical book Zagreb, 2006.

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