

Political Extremism in Cyberspace of Serbia

Summary

According to the research that was conducted by CDCS over five months of 2012 and 2013 on the subject of political extremism in cyberspace, a study was written with a compilation of expert articles. During this research contents of websites, blogs, forums, social networks and the left and right radical organizations (total of 11 extremist organizations). The articles are the result of qualitative, quantitative, and combined content analysis.

The authors of the articles have different theoretical perspectives, moreover they are supporters of opposing political views. Therefore, a major shortage of this research lies in its inability to compare the results of analysis because the authors did not harmonize their theoretical approaches or ideological grounds. Based on the foregoing, the authors agreed that the very terms used in the expert articles will be defined separately according to the theoretical beliefs of each author.

Data gathering was conducted by the CDCS from the beginning of November 2012, until the end of March 2013. Websites of left organizations and groups which were systematically monitored are the following: Marks 21 (Marx 21), Savez komunističke omladine Jugoslavije - SKOJ (Young Communist League of Yugoslavia), Anarho-sindikalistička inicijativa (Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative) and Studentske borbe (Student Struggles), as well as right-wing: Srpski narodni pokret 1389 (SNM 1389), Srpski narodni pokret Naši (SNM Nasi), Stormfront Serbia, Nomokanon, Obraz, Srbska akcija (Serbian action) and the Twitter account of Serbia's most famous convicted Nazi Goran Davidović. It was also allowed for authors to collect their own data for their expert articles, if they wanted to explore a certain topic in a more detailed way, or if the collected data by the CDCS were not enough for the analysis.

Ethical reasons enabled the monitoring and analysis of closed websites because that would require false impersonation of the researchers. However, data were indirectly collected about the activities of these organizations via secondary sources such as previous research, the contents of "traditional" media, the primary experience of the viewer, as well as through discussions with and about extremists.

The data collected by the CDCS were somewhat sorted out and handed over to the authors for further analysis. CDCS tended to preserve the code classifications in their raw form for the authors to have their creative freedom for further analysis and interpretation of the material. This enabled the objectivity of the research, but also consideration of certain phenomena with various scientific and nonscientific perspectives and thus a certain contribution to the creation of preconditions for the emergence of the modern left-wing, the political center and the Serbian right-wing is enabled. In the following paragraphs the topics that the authors have dealt with in this study and the conclusions of each analysis will be briefly presented.

The article of Dalibor Petrović *Particularities of political actions in cyberspace*, deals with the characteristics potentials and obstacles of using the web for political purposes. His analysis underscores the power of

information and communication technologies and the web that allows greater visibility and more efficient organization and better enforcement of social and political processes.

The author of the article *Particularities of cyberspace regarding ideological and political extremism* Miroslav Keveždi deals with the phenomenon of cyber-space, how it evolved and what are the technical, cultural and social characteristics, based on observations of attitudes, as well as on organization and communication of social actors. All this in order to detect the moments that can be applied to the ideological and political extremism.

The article *Methodological and theoretical framework for understanding the source and development of extremism in Serbia* of Miša Đurković represents an attempt to establish a methodological framework for understanding and studying the political extremism in Serbia. The author's conclusion is that it takes a comparative study to determine the true extent of the extremist forces in Serbia.

In her article *Current foreign policy's support and connections and the advocated foreign policy* Olivera Risić analyzes the extent to which the foreign and domestic policies of radical organizations were developed or undeveloped. She emphasizes that the interplay and interdependence of these policies have a very strong influence on one another. However, the political actors themselves are often unaware of these links, and so it leads to an under-developed foreign policy that restricts and hampers further analysis on this topic.

Vladimir Ilić in his article *The view of a desirable manner of the organization of political life* deals with the potentials of developing democracy in Serbia. This development primarily involves the formation of the right-wing, political center and the left-wing. The author gives an analysis of the political reality in Serbia as well as potential solutions for better organization of political life.

In the article *Characteristics of gender regimes within the cyber reality of the right-wing extremist political groups and individuals* Isidora Jarić deals with the issue of basic normative and ideological coordinates underlying the gender regimes within a certain, relatively small group of right-wing political extremists. They operate in the virtual and real space in Serbia and are hidden from the public eye. The author believes that this analysis provides an insight but also an understanding in this kind of invisible and diffuse fractions within the political life of Serbia, which can be significant guidelines for future political discourse in this country.

The aim of the author Akesandra Marković in the article *The view on the education system and different use of cultural contents of right- and left-wing extremists in cyberspace of Serbia* is to analyze the relationship between left and right extremist organizations on the education system in Serbia, as well as to analyze the promotion and use of various cultural events of these groups. Her conclusion suggests creating a desirable social view that a certain community should develop and nurture.

Snežana Ilić in her article *Ethnic and religious minority groups in cyberspace: between hatred and indifference* states that the frequency of political extremism in cyberspace is highly expressed. She

emphasizes that the right-wing and left-wing radical organizations are mostly disinterested, but in extreme cases even violently oriented towards the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, in any case, however, none of these extremist organizations are mentioning these minority groups in a positive context.

The article of Jovo Bakić *Activities of the far-right organizations in cyberspace* aims to analyze and recognize the actions of the Serbian extreme far-right organizations in cyberspace in Serbia. He also seeks to establish the frequency and nature of the messages that these organizations send into cyberspace. His conclusion is that there is a sufficiently developed social order in Serbia, which prevents the extreme right to ideologically unite and create a strong independent organization.

The author of the article *The LGBT community and the left wing organizations in Serbia: without extreme virtual support* Boban Stojanović analyzes the historical context and the connection between the radical left and the movement for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. He emphasizes that there is no support for the affirmation of rights of LGBT population, this is especially evident in the actions of the radical left, especially in cyberspace.

The author Fahrudin Kladničanin in his article *Wahhabis in the cyberspace of Serbia* writes about the ideological connections, similarities and the way that the Wahhabi movement operates in the Balkans. He paid particular attention to their actions in the cyberspace of Serbia. He emphasizes, that, based on the analysis of the work of Wahhabis in cyberspace, it is possible to understand and also to discuss the activities of other religious extremist organizations on the web. The author believes that this is possible only because the Wahhabis have perhaps the most advanced cyber activism in Serbia. He further adds that there is a serious threat to society from extremism in cyberspace and that young people, in this case, are the most vulnerable.