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Influence of the coalition of Croatian Peasant Party with Serbian radicals on the 1927 election results in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Summary

The paper deals with the results of the Croatian Peasant Party (HSS) in the 1927 regional and parliamentary elections in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The paper is based on the unpublished archive materials and literature. Other Croatian political parties and dissidents of HSS in Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the coalition of HSS with the Serbian radicals as a suitable moment to decrease influence of HSS among Croats. Croatian People's Party (HPS) and a part of Catholic Church clergy announced the victory through emphasizing HSS involvement in the authorities with Serbian radicals, giving up on republicanism and recognizing the Vidovdan Constitution with accusations that Stjepan Radic fought against Catholic religion. Having received information on possible dispersion of members and reducing of support in the following elections, HSS leadership used more aggressive campaign visiting every place with potential voters and establishing new party branches. Despite the conflict with a part of the Catholic Church clergy in B&H and the fact that Serbian radicals, state authorities and opposed Croatian parties sabotaged their party activities, HSS won among Croats. They got the majority support both in the regional and parliamentary elections with significantly decreased number of voters, therefore Radic was not politically endangered with the number of mandates he got and HSS was still the leading Croatian party in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Keywords: Croatian Peasant Party; Croatian People's Party; Stjepan Radic; elections; agitation; region; parliament; Serbian radicals.