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The Establishment and Function of the Security-Intelligence System in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1941 to 1974

Summary

The paper covers the beginnings and development of the Yugoslav, or more precisely the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Communist security-intelligence system from its establishment at the beginning of World War II to the political and constitutional reforms which were completed in the mid 1970s. From beginning to end, the entire system was in the hands of the Communist Party or the League of Communists. In the beginning, it was headed by senior party officials, most frequently by executive secretaries, while later, party and intelligence officials, or rather those with professional training, alternated at its head. Some of the more complex operations could not be executed without a party warrant and its approval. The system depicted the real nature of the Communist regime and reflected its totalitarian ambitions. It was exceedingly repressive and operated within and out of legal bounds. Its boundaries were only limited by party interests.

Keywords: Yugoslavia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; communism; security; intelligence service; police; repression.