

Nevertheless, whether one supports or disputes Jović's conclusions, his arguments are strong, his reasoning consistent, and his convictions sincere. That alone is enough for this book—as well as his other works—to find a place on the

shelf of anyone who reflects on intellectuals, and especially of those who aspire to place themselves within that category.

Dragan POPOVIĆ

Синиша У. Павловић, *Незаборављене. Британке у борби за своја права на добродошћу Србије и савезника 1914–1921*, књ. I–III. Београд: Catena mundi, 2025, 420+430+367.

Previous research by Serbian historians has only tangentially touched upon the topic of British women's engagement in providing medical assistance to the Army of the Kingdom of Serbia and to the Serbian people during the Great War and in the years that followed (1914–1921). Once the generation that remembered the efforts of British women doctors and nurses in saving the lives of Serbian soldiers wounded in battle and civilians afflicted by disease passed away, a long silence settled in. Now, that “injustice” is being corrected in the best possible way through the research of Professor Dr. Siniša U. Pavlović.

This is a great and significant subject—neglected for decades and eventually forgotten—which Dr. Pavlović has restored to public consciousness, giving it the rightful place it deserves in the history of the Great War. His study directly integrates Serbian historiography into the global exchange of knowledge about the First World War and its aftermath. It is a work of history written by a physician and university professor whose primary scientific commitment lies in

cardiology, yet who also proves to be an accomplished historian of medicine. The book's complex title, *Nezaboravljene. Britanke u borbi za svoja prava na dobrobit Srbije i saveznika 1914–1921* (*Unforgotten: British Women in the Struggle for Their Rights for the Benefit of Serbia and the Allies, 1914–1921*), itself contains the author's central thesis (“Unforgotten”) and principal theme (“British Women in the Struggle for Their Rights for the Benefit of Serbia and the Allies, 1914–1921”). Finally, it also represents a remarkable publishing endeavor by *Catena mundi*.

The scope of the research and publication is eloquently reflected in the numbers: the book comprises three volumes totaling 1,217 pages; its material is organized into 39 thematic chapters that form a coherent narrative; the text is enriched with 940 photographs—eloquent and vivid—grouped into 27 image sections occupying 311 pages, almost one-third of the first two volumes; the third volume contains 741 encyclopedic entries that expand the scope of the work; and the bibliography includes 472 titles. This

represents an extraordinary achievement by both author and publisher. The initial ideas and motives of the research have grown so profoundly through the process that they have “surpassed themselves,” becoming part of the broader history of a multinational war fought across Europe. In this way, more than a thousand life stories—historical destinies—of women, most of them named and identified, have been rescued from oblivion. These were the often “invisible companions” of fathers, husbands, and sons living in what was then an overwhelmingly male world.

The book bears witness to the histories of multiple European nations; it speaks of a war marked by brutality but also calls attention to its humane dimensions. It directly enriches the historiographical understanding of medical conditions in Europe and the Balkans during the war, sheds light on the various forms of women’s struggle for their rights, and revitalizes the collective memory of the Great War and the first postwar years. At its heart, it tells the story of a remarkable group of women—popularly known as suffragettes—united around an organization that emerged from the British movement for women’s suffrage. During the First World War, they set aside their political goals and joined the Allied cause, undertaking a profoundly humanitarian mission.

In the introductory sections, the author outlines the thematic and historical framework and explores the “collision” between traditional and emancipatory

(modern) values in the women’s struggle for equality. He focuses on the global conflict in which the number of wounded soldiers and civilians far exceeded the capacity of trained physicians and medical staff. He situates this within the broader political processes that had begun in the first decade of the twentieth century and culminated in the Great War, costing millions of lives. Special attention is devoted to the formation of the women’s movement to aid Serbia and to the factors that made it possible for British women to come to that war-torn country. Dr. Pavlović comprehensively examines the results of women’s wartime engagement, which, through the strength of evidence, strikingly refutes earlier skepticism and prejudice toward their participation. He traces the process from its inception—when British women doctors first asked, “Why don’t we establish our own hospital?”—to its culmination in a campaign of service and sacrifice worthy of admiration.

The author identifies internal divisions within the British women’s rights movement, between activists who insisted on maintaining their political agenda for suffrage and those who, during the war, viewed professional service in medicine as the most effective path toward recognition and equality. Voluntary work, compassion, expertise, persistence, and endurance emerge as defining virtues of these women doctors and nurses who believed that participation in the war represented the “right thing to do,” consistent with their moral and professional codes.

In subsequent chapters, Dr. Pavlović offers a compelling response to a key question debated between conservative politicians and liberal intellectuals: Was women's participation in war and their emancipation a sign of civilizational decline or of unprecedented progress? Using Serbia as a case study, he presents war as the "negation of everything civilization represents." He provides a well-documented account of the wartime contributions of women's hospitals in London, those located near the Western Front in France (Calais, Royaumont, Troyes, Villers-Cotterêts), on Malta, in war-ravaged Serbia, on Corfu and in Greece, and later in Russia, Romania, and postwar Yugoslavia. He includes portraits of distinguished women doctors and nurses who saved thousands of lives, some of whom lost their own in their struggle against infectious diseases and the severe physical demands of wartime service.

Particularly significant are the sections of *Nezaboravljene. Britanke u borbi za svoja prava na dobrobit Srbije i saveznika 1914–1921* (Unforgotten British women in struggle for their rights, to the benefit of Serbia and allies 1914–1921) in which the author examines in detail the activities of British women (predominantly Scots) in Serbia between 1915 and 1921. He illuminates the reasons that motivated them to travel to a distant and unfamiliar country and to channel their medical expertise and compassion into saving the lives of Serbian soldiers and civilians. Dr. Pavlović's

research reveals that, from the moment of their arrival, these British medical workers were daily engaged in treating the war-wounded and improving the health of the civilian population. Their presence on the front lines and their struggle against the typhus epidemic that struck Serbia in late 1914 and early 1915 came at a great cost, often paid with their own lives.

The author examines from many perspectives the work of women doctors and nurses in Kragujevac (two hospitals), Belgrade, Valjevo, Mladenovac, and Lazarevac; during the Serbian army's retreat in the autumn of 1915 in Kruševac and Niš; and during the years of exile on Corfu, in Salonika, Corsica, Tunisia, Russia, Mesopotamia, and, finally, once again in Serbia during the final year of the war and in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in the early postwar period (hospitals in Skopje, Vranje, Niš, Kragujevac, and Sarajevo). His findings show that during the war, ten Scottish women's hospital units were established, saving between 8,000 and 10,000 lives.

The courage of the Scottish women doctors and nurses was also evident during the retreat of 1915–1916 through Albania to Corfu and Salonika. Equal attention is given to those who remained behind in Serbia to care for the severely wounded and were subsequently subjected to suspicion, interrogation, harassment, imprisonment, and deportation by the occupying authorities. The horrors they witnessed—described as requi-

ring “Dante’s pen” to capture—are reflected in grim statistics: 77,455 dead and 77,278 missing soldiers, 166,422 civilian deaths, including 23,000 children. These figures only begin to suggest the biblical scale of Serbia’s suffering and the sacrifices of the Scottish women doctors and nurses, illustrating what it meant to be a woman physician in a war that engulfed Serbia and the Serbian people.

The British women continued their mission while caring for Serbian refugees on Corsica and during the rehabilitation of Serbian army units in Bizerte, Tunisia. Their wartime accounts, as the author observes, express loyalty to their homeland, to Serbia, to the Allied nations, and to all the wounded and suffering regardless of faith or nationality, as well as to the medical vocation itself, demanding daily sacrifice and fidelity to the Hippocratic Oath.

Dr. Pavlović also documents how some of the British doctors deported by the occupying authorities returned to service upon reaching Britain, participating in the commemoration of Kosovo Day on Vidovdan 1916, joining the British Women’s Army Medical Unit composed entirely of women, and serving on the Eastern Front with the First Serbian Volunteer Division, later known as the Serbian Volunteer Corps. Under nearly impossible conditions, these women—surgeons, physicians, nurses—continued their work: treating the wounded, organizing transport from the front, performing routine medical and logistical duties, and constantly risking their

own lives. When they withdrew from the Eastern Front after the outbreak of the October Revolution, their leaders presented the British Foreign Office with an ultimatum: their security during withdrawal would be guaranteed only by the Serbian Volunteer Division. Thus, as Dr. Pavlović shows, the British women traversed the long route from Murmansk and Arkhangelsk, through Newcastle, to Salonika, where they rejoined the Serbian army at the Macedonian front.

The author devotes due attention to the premature death of Dr. Elsie Inglis, founder of the initiative to aid the Serbian Army, as well as to the circumstances that led to the continuation of British women’s wartime engagement through their participation in hospitals operating in the Mont Blanc region of France and in Macedonia. With equal dedication, he examines their role during the final months of the war, the days of Serbia’s liberation, and the emergence of the new Yugoslav state. After the war, some British women doctors and nurses chose to remain in the devastated Serbia, helping to establish and run orphanages, nursing schools, and, notably, the first Children’s Hospital in the country.

In recounting the life and struggle of Draginja Ljočić, the first Serbian woman to earn a medical degree, and of the group of women organized around the association advocating women’s right to education, the author vividly portrays the position, rights, and obligations of women physicians in Serbia at the time. These insights lend particular

depth and authenticity to Dr. Pavlović's manuscript.

The story told in *Nezaboravljene. Britanke u borbi za svoja prava na dobrobit Srbije i saveznika 1914–1921* is, in many respects, a contribution to the comparative history of women's engagement on Europe's battlefields. It is a scholarly reflection on the horrors of war that reveal one aspect of human nature, but also a text that testifies to boundless compassion and the willingness to sacrifice in the service of others. The book stands as an epic testament to the dead, the wounded, the healed, the displaced, the exhausted, the mutilated, and the fearful—those whose lives were irreversibly changed by war.

Dr. Siniša U. Pavlović's work is distinguished by a remarkably high level of research rigor, a thorough and disciplined methodological approach, respect for the principles of historical scholarship, a wealth of factual material, a keen sense for the interplay of events and processes that give those facts meaning, and a refined literary style. In the "Afterword," the author speaks with heartfelt emotion about the personal motives that inspired the creation of *Nezaboravljene. Britanke u borbi za svoja prava na dobrobit Srbije i saveznika 1914–1921*.

Ljubodrag DIMIĆ

Serbia and the Balkans: Three Centuries of Embrace with Europe,
ed. Slobodan G. Markovich. Belgrade: Zepter Book World-
Faculty of Political Sciences, 2025, 464.

As the culmination of the Cultural Transfer Europe–Serbia (CTES) project—an interdisciplinary collaboration between scholars from the Institute of European Studies, the Faculty of Political Science, the Institute for Balkan Studies (SASA), the Faculty of Philology, and the Institute of Contemporary History, funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia's IDEAS program—the book *Serbia and the Balkans: Three Centuries of Embrace with Europe* offers an in-depth exploration of the intricate historical, intellectual, and cultural relationships linking Serbia, the Balkans, and Europe. The book's objective is to

map out the dynamic, often ambivalent exchanges that have shaped the region's modern identity and its evolving place within European civilization.

The opening section, *Europe, South-East Europe, and Serbia*, investigates conceptual and historical frameworks that define Europe's relationship with its south-eastern part. Professor Paschalis Kitromilides challenges the traditional dichotomy between "Europe" and "Southeast Europe." Kitromilides underscores the necessity of an inclusive and pluralistic conceptualization of Europe—one that acknowledges the multiplicity of its intellectual, cultural, and hi-