

Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

**A Study on the Minority Protection Policy in Contemporary Croatia:
Through the Dialectical Interaction between Nationalization and Europeanization**

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This dissertation examines how the minority protection policy in contemporary Croatia has been formed through an interaction between processes of nationalization and Europeanization by focusing on the refugee return and the Roma protection policies.

Although minorities are unavoidably threatened by pressures of assimilation, differentiation and marginalization within nation states, contemporary international society includes contradictory tendencies of minority protection and nationalizing movement. Croatia has exemplified this contradiction by managing two crossing tasks of nation state building and participation to the European Integration process.

Since immediately after the independence, Croatia proceeded what Rogers Brubaker called “nationalization” policies of promoting interests of ethnic Croatian residents while depriving minorities of their rights. Though Brubaker’s argument is useful to analyze dynamics of social actions over concepts of nationhood, the analysis of such dynamics should stand on a consideration of fundamental logic of nationalization. This logic can be understood through the process of dialectical interaction between universalism and individualism. In the case of European integration, the logic appears as multi-layered interaction between nationalization and “Europeanization”. By installing the concept of Europeanization, this dissertation pursues reasons why Croatia has successfully managed both processes of nation state building and accession to the European international organizations, which are supposedly contradictory on the issue of minority protection.

According to Croatia’s case, Europeanization actually had caused to change Croatia’s nationalizing policies and to provide inclusive minority protection policy after 2000. However, the process did not mean the transformation of the logic of nationalization which has been rooted in Croatian government’s nationalism. Rather, nationalization and Europeanization worked as confirming processes of each other’s legitimacy. Hence, minority protection regime of contemporary European integration did not pose radical question on Croatia’s nationalism, while provided potential motives to rebuild it in future.