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Srđan Mičić, PhD  
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## Foreword

This volume, with its individual chapters written by six different authors, tackling diverse though complimentary topics from the diplomatic and economic history of the two Yugoslav states, both the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the socialist Yugoslavia, tends to undertake an in-depth, often comprehensive and somewhat comparative analysis of the origins, formation and evolution of Yugoslavia's immediate historical experience with the two distinct foreign policy strategies of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment, all observed under the specific historical conditions of the inter-war and post-Second World War periods. Therefore, with this overarching goal in sight, this volume purports to expand our current scientific knowledge about this particular dimension of Yugoslavia's foreign policy activity during the better part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, thus placing our understanding of these two specific historical processes into a different perspective, while adding new facts and explanations of the historical phenomena at stake.

On the one hand, political and historical studies of the policies of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment have been quite frequent during the past few decades, with the majority of them primarily focusing their analysis and elaboration on either of these two strategies by setting up a specific theoretical framework for such kind of research, although without going deeper into concrete historical analysis of certain trends or key historical events. In fact, some of these studies that largely dealt with specific historical episodes eventually did that without trying to use their concrete findings to establish a systematic and coherent historical knowledge by putting individual events or processes into an adequate general context or perspective.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, studies of Yu-

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1 See Peter Lyon, *Neutralism* (Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1963); Laurence W. Martin, *Neutralism and Non-Alignment: The New States in World Affairs* (New York: Praeger, 1962); G.H. Jansen, *Afro-Asia and Non-Alignment* (London: Faber and Faber, 1966); Robert L. Rothstein, "Alignment, Non-Alignment, and Small Powers: 1945-1965", *International Organization*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (1966); Satish Kumar, "Non-Alignment: International Goals and National Interests", *Asian Survey*, Vol. 23, No. 4 (1983); H.W. Brands, *The Specter of Neutralism: The United States and the Emergence of the*

goslavia's specific participation in fully-fledged or quasi political-military alliances, at both regional and global levels (Little Entente, Balkan Entente, Soviet bloc, Balkan Pact), or of its more or less successful attempts at pursuing the policies of neutrality/non-alignment throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century (right on the eve of the Second World War or since early 1950s inside the non-aligned group or the subsequent Non-Aligned Movement) have been quite present in both domestic and foreign historiography. However, none of this important research ever attempted to generalize its findings by observing these two distinct strategic phenomena through the lens of a comparative historical experience, thus drawing corresponding lessons with respect to both these outstanding foreign policy orientations.<sup>2</sup>

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*Third World, 1947-1960* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1989); Kathryn C. Statler, Andrew L. Johns, *The Eisenhower Administration, the Third World, and the Globalization of the Cold War* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006); Rami Ginat, *Syria and the Doctrine of Arab Neutralism: From Independence to Dependence* (Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2005); Bradley R. Simpson, *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian Development and U.S.-Indonesian Relations, 1960-1968* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008); Ragna Boden, *Die Grenzen der Weltmacht: Sowjetische Indonesienpolitik von Stalin bis Brežnev* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2006); Sophie Richardson, *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010) etc.

- 2 See Eliza Campus, *Mica Întelegere* (București: Editura Științifică, 1968); Milan Vanku, *Mala Antanta 1920-1938*. (Titovo Užice: IP "Dimitrije Tucović", 1969); Alvin Z. Rubinstein, *Yugoslavia and the Nonaligned World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970); Eliza Campus, *Întelegerea Balcanică* (București: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1972); Leo Mates, *Počelo je u Beogradu...20 godina nesvrstanosti* (Zagreb: Globus, 1982); Vuk Vinaver, *Jugoslavija i Francuska između dva svetska rata (Da li je Jugoslavija bila francuski „satelit“)*, (Beograd: ISI, 1985); Živko Avramovski, *Balkanska antanta (1934–1940)* (Beograd: ISI, 1986); Darko Bekić, *Jugoslavija u Hladnom ratu: Odnosi sa velikim silama 1949-1955* (Zagreb: Globus, 1988); Magda Ádám, *Richtung Selbstvernichtung: die Kleine Entente 1920-1938* (Budapest: Corvina, Wien: Österreichischer Bundesverlag, 1988); Lorraine M. Lees, *Keeping Tito Afloat: The United States, Yugoslavia, and the Cold War* (University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997); Zdeněk Sládek, *Malá dohoda 1919–1938: Její hospodářské, politické a vojenské komponenty*, (Praha: Karolinum, 2000); *Велике силе и мале државе у Хладном рату 1945-1955* (Београд: ИНИС, 2003); Dragan Bogetić, *Nova strategija spoljne politike Jugoslavije 1956-1961* (Beograd: ISI, 2006); Bojan Dimitrijević, *JNA od Staljina do NATO pakta: Armija u spoljnoj politici Titove Jugoslavije* (Beograd: Službeni list SCG, 2006); Ivan Laković, *Zapadna vojna pomoć Jugoslaviji 1951-1958* (Podgorica: Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 2006); А. Б. Едемский, *От конфликта к нормализации: советско-югославские отношения в 1953-1956 годах* (Москва: Наука, 2008) Jovan Čavoški, *Jugoslavija i kinesko-indijski konflikt 1959-1962* (Beograd: INIS, 2009); *Spoljna politika Jugoslavije 1945-1961* (Beograd: INIS, 2008); *Jugoslavija у Хладном рату: прилози истраживањима* (Београд: ИНИС, 2010); Бранислав Глигоријевић, *Краљ Александар Карађорђевић у европској политици*, (Београд: Завод за уџбенике и наставна средства, 2010);

Therefore, the main purpose of this volume will be to reconcile these two dominant trends in the historiography and bring about specific scientific results and conclusions accordingly, ones that, related to concrete general topics or individual case studies, would put these two major external currents into a concrete historical context, while providing us with relevant historical lessons for today.

Both the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the socialist Yugoslavia, their obvious and profound domestic and ideological differences notwithstanding, shared a rather diverse and often controversial external experience with the policies of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment, conspicuously moving between the compulsion for adherence to the instruments of collective security and regional or global military-political bloc formations and outright aspirations for implementing independent policies of neutrality/non-alignment wedded to a more or less skillful balancing act between different regional or global centers of power. These policies lasted for shorter or longer periods of time, largely depending on the concrete historical circumstances at hand; nonetheless, they produced far-reaching consequences for Yugoslavia's interaction with its neighbors, and with European and global great powers. In fact, as this volume will also try to elucidate, there was very much a causal connection between these two distinct strategies as failed alliance policies often stimulated the clear impulse for an independent foreign policy of neutrality/non-alignment, while, on the other hand, outright limitations of a neutralist and balancing foreign policy often directly implied a return to a safer surroundings of an alliance system headed by different great powers.

Furthermore, fundamental differences between these two distinct foreign policy strategies were even more conspicuous, clearly influencing the very foundations of Yugoslavia's international position at a certain moment in time, while decisively shaping its overall historical experience. It was these differences that would ultimately underpin the overarching

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Vladimir Petrović, *Titova lična diplomatija: studije i dokumentarni prilozi* (Beograd: ISI, 2010); Александар Животић, *Југославија, Албанија и велике силе (1945-1961)* (Београд: Архипелаг, ИНИС, 2011); *Југословенска дипломатија 1945-1961* (Београд: ИНИС, 2012); Драган Богетић, Љубодрог Димић, *Београдска конференција несврстаних земаља 1-6. септембра 1961.: прилог историји Трећег света* (Београд: Завод за уџбенике, 2012); Ljubodrag Dimić, *Jugoslavija i Hladni rat: ogledi o spoljnoj politici Josipa Broza Tita (1944-1974)* (Beograd: Arhipelag, 2014); Vladimir Lj. Cvetković, *Pogled iza gvozdene zavese: jugoslovenska politika prema zemljama narodne demokratije u susedstvu 1953-1958* (Beograd: INIS, 2014) etc.

discourse of this volume. Therefore, differences between the two strategies, as we shall see through different chapters, can be observed at three different levels: *geographic* – while the policy of alliances was more Balkan or (Central) European in its character, exercising more of a local influence, policy of neutrality/non-alignment had gradually assumed a pan-European or even global character stretching over four continents; *internal* – political, economic, social, military, cultural and other factors influencing Yugoslavia's self-perception of its place and role in the current international system and vis-à-vis other countries, as well as the development of the country's comprehensive capacities to actively pursue the policies of either alliances or neutrality/non-alignment; *international* – influence of the Versailles and Cold War international systems on the very structure of the world order and related international relations, number and character of the dominant great powers, nature, scope and intensity of international conflicts as observed from Yugoslavia which ultimately steered the country's individual policies.

The immediate agenda of this volume is to use different case studies from Yugoslavia's vibrant and rich foreign policy experience, including the immediate relationship between its internal policies and external performance, as to undertake a comparative analysis of different domestic and foreign political, economic, military, social and other state or non-state factors and their respective roles in the formulation and evolution of these two dominant foreign policy strategies both before and after the Second World War, thus ascertaining the role of specific successes or failures endured in this process. Therefore, particular research results of each of these case studies will be utilized within this volume to draw concrete conclusions about Yugoslavia's concrete historical experience with the policies of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment under specific conditions, as well as what kind of a historical correlation existed between these two strategies. Essentially, this volume will be part of a rising trend in international historiography of applied historical studies where accumulated historical knowledge and concrete lessons drawn from history are being used to explain the nature of a historical process or to clarify the origins of current events.

### **Conceptual contribution**

Even though past historiography on Yugoslavia's foreign policy often dealt with different aspects and outcomes of the country's policy



of alliance participation and neutrality/non-alignment, none of that research ever attempted to observe and study the formulation and evolution of Yugoslavia's foreign policy through the lens of a more comparative approach of these two dominant trends which constituted the basic framework within which the country's foreign policy generally operated throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, above all scrutinizing how these two strategies influenced each other and which factors gave rise to one or the other specific outcome. Therefore, only by moving away from the already established paradigm of earlier research does this volume aim to expand our general understanding of these issues beyond just simple interpretation of separate historical phenomena, while concurrently establishing something of a new framework within which we can initiate a new cognitive engagement with this entire research topic. With regards to that, throughout their research all six authors devote particular attention to the analysis of both general and individual results comparative research theory has brought forward, especially taking into account the objective incentives and limitations induced by immediate implementation of such a specific analytical approach.<sup>3</sup>

In fact, by setting up this specific approach to the understanding of the two major strategic trends fundamentally shaping the Yugoslav foreign policy before and after the Second World War, the overriding ambition of this volume is to re-invent, re-interpret and re-evaluate the general notion about the nature and immediate performance of the country's foreign entanglements, above all by dedicating its attention to the general surroundings and key domestic and international factors that largely contributed to the character, contents and dynamics of Yugoslavia's performance on the international stage before and after the Second World War. This kind of interaction would not only reward us with a new angle for analyzing issues related to alliance-making or neutrality/non-alignment, but this volume, each in its own segment, as well as in general, also constitutes an attempt at re-directing our general perception and under-

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3 Marc Bloch, "Pour une histoire compare des societies europeens" [For a Comparative History of European Societies], in *Melanges historiques*, vol. 1, Paris, (1963), 16-40; Mattei Dogan, Ali Kazancigil (eds.), *Comparing Nations: Concepts, Strategies, Substance*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994); Deborah Cohen, Maura O'Connor (eds.), *Comparison and History: European Cross-National Perspective*, (New York: Routledge, 2004); Drago Roksandić (ed.), *Uvod u komparativnu historiju*, (Zagreb: Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2004); Heinz-Gerhard Haupt, Jürgen Kocka (eds.), *Comparative and Transnational History. Central European Approaches and New Perspectives*, (New York-Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2009)

standing of the basic character of Yugoslavia's foreign policy where its entire diplomatic history would be explored as a complex process of acquiring or losing greater degrees of independence on the international stage throughout the 70 years of its existence in two distinctive state formations.

In addition to this general sense, where the previously mentioned major research issues are dealt with, all volume contributors with their individual case studies also provide us with new ideas, unknown facts, and innovative interpretations of different historical episodes or particular historical phenomena, especially since most of their research is grounded in previously untapped primary sources coming from archival institutions of a number of countries around the world. This kind of approach generally enables researchers themselves, as well as future readers, to closely observe, minutely analyze and profoundly comprehend different aspects of Yugoslavia's foreign policy from a number of different perspectives and on many different levels, thus enriching our historical knowledge with numerous unknown details about certain events and processes. Even though some of the case study topics have been occasionally treated by earlier historical studies, it is this novel approach and diverse documentary basis, together with an expanded capacity of volume contributors to easily grasp different facts and ideas of different origins, that directly contribute to the innovative character of this volume.

The main objective of this volume is to use its specific approach to somewhat alter our viewpoint about the character and performance of Yugoslavia's foreign policy throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, both in general and with respect to individual policies, while simultaneously increasing and expanding our current knowledge about the origins, process of implementation, as well as results of the country's external performance, both in its alliance or neutrality/non-alignment forms, through an extensive and informative empirical exploration. Concurrently, this volume, both in its theoretical introduction, as well as throughout individual chapters, also employs major theoretical models from the field of historical and international relations studies to frame up guiding principles of this research and set up a general discourse that will integrate all individual case studies into this general framework of Yugoslavia's comparative historical experience with the polices of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment. Therefore, this volume holds some ambition to become a recognizable point of reference for anyone dealing with the history of Yugoslavia's foreign policy in general, particularly scrutinizing the concrete

history of its specific historical experiences with these two major foreign policy currents in particular.

In order to attain adequate answers to all these research questions, this volume is, both theoretically and empirically, grounded in the best practices of historical methodology. Each of the case studies presented here is written by using a critical method of evaluation and analysis of both published and unpublished historical sources, as well as secondary literature, coupled with a synthesis of the acquired knowledge that will draw concrete conclusions in each of these cases. Essentially, in the context of specific historical episodes, contributors primarily concentrate their attention on the nature of the international system Yugoslavia operated within and the country's threat/opportunity perceptions at a specific moment in time, followed by their evaluation of the mechanisms and processes of foreign policy decision-making and their assessments of the implementation of certain strategy and effects it had produced on Yugoslavia, the region and the world. Therefore, as we already pointed out, one of the strong points of this volume will be the collection and use of a rather diverse archival documentary basis, with some of these documents being only recently declassified.

As part of its trans-disciplinary approach, since the study of diplomatic history today is closely associated with the scientific field of international relations, this volume also based parts of its analysis and elaboration, particularly in its theoretical introduction, on the active use of concepts and ideas set up by different theories of international relations, relating both to the theory of alliance-making (Stephen M. Walt, Robert A. Mortimer),<sup>4</sup> the position of small powers inside the international system (Michael Handel, Marshall R. Singer, Elmer Plischke, Christine Ingebritsen, Jacqueline A. Braveboy-Wagner),<sup>5</sup> realist and structuralist theories of international relations where concepts of national interest, power politics, balance of power and bandwagoning dominate the discourse (Hen-

4 Stephen M. Walt, *Origins of Alliances* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987); Robert A. Mortimer, *Third World Coalition in International Politics* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1984) etc.

5 Michael Handel, *Weak States in the International System* (London: Frenk Cass, 1981); Marshall R. Singer, *Weak States in a World of Powers: The Dynamics of International Relationships* (New York: Free Press, 1972); Elmer Plischke, *Microstates in World Affairs: Policy Problems and Options* (Washington, DC: AEI, 1977); Christine Ingebritsen (ed.), *Small States in International Relations* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006); Jacqueline A. Braveboy-Wagner, *Small States in Global Affairs: The Foreign Policies of the Caribbean Community (Caricom)* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) etc.

ry A. Kissinger, Edward H. Carr, Hans J. Morgenthau, Kenneth N. Waltz),<sup>6</sup> as well as with regards to the concept of neutrality/non-alignment as opposed to the dominant theoretical postulates in international relations, positioning policy of non-alignment into a sphere of new approaches to relations between great powers and smaller countries (Leo Mates, Ranko Petković, Bojana Tadić, Peter Willets, M.S. Rajan, Cecil Crabb).<sup>7</sup>

Therefore, the topic of alliance participation and neutrality/non-alignment has always been relevant, we could even say it was substantial for the existence and external performance of the Yugoslav state throughout the last century, not only in the historical sense as this volume purports to define or demonstrate, since that could unassumingly suggest certain detachment from the current issues, but also in the context of the contemporary necessity for the Serbian state to eventually define its concrete position and course of action on the international scene in a more comprehensive manner. Like in the past when, due to the rapidly changing international environment, Yugoslavia was either compelled to opt for participation in one of the alliances, thus surrendering responsibility for its security and development to outside factors, or to undertake a more independent and sovereign foreign policy course often associated with the concept of neutrality/non-alignment, the situation today gives rise to similar dilemmas about issues that have become even more pressing.

Since the regional, European and global security environment has been rapidly changing for the past two decades, similarly to the past historical processes we tackle here, one could even say that it has been constantly deteriorating, the Republic of Serbia, like the two Yugoslav states in the past as this volume demonstrates, has found itself in a peculiar position where any kind of political or economic alignment is beyond imme-

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6 Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994); Henry Kissinger, *World Order* (New York: Penguin Books, 2014); Edward H. Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001); Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1993); Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Man, State and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001); Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979) etc.

7 Leo Mates, *Nesvrstanost: teorija i sveremena praksa* (Beograd: IMPP, 1970); Ranko Petković, *Nesvrstanost: nezavisna, vanblokovski i globalni faktor u međunarodnim odnosima* (Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 1981); Bojana Tadić, *Nesvrstanost u teoriji i praksi međunarodnih odnosa* (Beograd: IMPP, 1976); Peter Willets, *The Non-Aligned Movement: The Origins of a Third World Alliance* (London: Frances Printer, 1978); M.S. Rajan, *Non-Alignment and Non-Aligned Movement: Retrospect and Prospect* (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing, 1990); Cecil V. Crabb Jr., *The Elephants and the Grass: A Study of Non-alignment* (New York: Praeger, 1965) etc.

diate realization, military alignments are still out of the question, while reliance on its own foreign policy prowess and more or less independent foreign policy orientation, one could even say a non-bloc one, has become the necessity of maintaining and elevating the country's international profile, while safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity and promoting its overall security. Therefore, any serious and in-depth historical study of Yugoslavia's often conflicting historical experiences with the two dominant strategies of alliance-making and neutrality/non-alignment presented in this volume, by ascertaining and emphasizing both positive and negative factors and repercussions of these two options, could prove to be quite edifying not only for scholars interested in such research topics, but also for decision-makers looking for particular recommendations for formulating and developing the country's strategic foreign policy course.

As for the academic community, this volume also contributes more to the closer integration of foreign policy studies based on an empirically founded and systematically applied historical research closely wedded to theoretical studies of international relations where both sides of this wider scientific spectrum would make concrete contributions to the better understanding of certain current and policy related issues against the concrete historical background. This kind of approach stems from a coordinated endeavor combining a meticulous study of specific historical facts and processes that create an integrated historical knowledge that can be successfully implemented in supporting and explaining the theoretical tenets of particular political and social concepts or phenomena. Therefore, this kind of volume, together with others following suit, will gradually usher in an era where applied historical research starts to figure even more prominently in any policy-based studies in Serbia, thus inspiring more researchers to undertake a similar line of investigation.

### **Volume structure**

This volume consists of a theoretical introduction and six long individual chapters, each divided into thematic subchapters dedicated to more specific topics or aspects existing within these general subjects they are evidently related to. We have opted for such a structure so as to give more space to each author to carefully position and minutely elaborate their own case studies and concurrently present their concrete views as related to the general framework of analysis-specific historical relationship between alliances and neutrality/non-alignment.

As for the theoretical introduction, by using the most relevant historical and IR theory, the editors of this volume aspire to dissect the overall role of alliances or neutral/non-aligned policies within the world orders existing before and after the Second World War, with the first part mostly tackling issues of collective security and regional pacts and what was their specific relationship with the Versailles system, since such kind of security arrangements were its primary strategic expression, while the second part analyzes the emergence of a neutral/non-aligned foreign policy option, a rising European and global option, as a direct response to the dominant bloc policies of the Cold War. In both these world orders alliances constituted their backbone, while neutrality/non-alignment before 1945 was an occasional phenomenon, whereas after the war it became a worldwide movement and a global strategic alternative.

Chapter 1, written by Srđan Mičić, is dedicated to the evolution of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia's strategic orientation from a strict alliance-based foreign policy in the Balkans and Central Europe, firmly related to the concurrent policies of the victorious powers of 1918, to its first attempts at experimenting with a neutral stand at the time when the post-First World War order was crumbling under the German and Italian onslaught. From this chapter we can not only see what the origins and evolution of the inter-war alliance system were and how Yugoslavia's individual policies successfully operated within it, but we can also discover the underlying currents of an independent stand, one that never faded away from the background, and that gradually led Yugoslavia to try and stay aloof of the new conflict between great powers, increasingly acting as a balancer in regional affairs, with a potential that could have tipped the scales in the Balkans, at least for a short period of time before the German attack.

Chapter 2, written by Jovan Čavoški, deals with the major part of socialist Yugoslavia's foreign policy until 1989, primarily concentrating the analysis and elaboration on the origins, evolution and consequences of its clear-cut choice for non-alignment as its primary foreign policy orientation during the Cold War. This kind of strategic orientation, where an open tilt towards a non-bloc policy became the most prominent one, eventually rose as a response to the overly centralized policies of the two blocs, with Yugoslavia defecting from the ranks of one bloc and refusing to join the other, with non-alignment related to the rise of the post-colonial world in Asia, Africa and Latin America acting as a reasonable choice for boosting the country's independent policies on the world stage. This

was an era when non-alignment dominated Yugoslavia's foreign policy landscape, while outright opposition to alliances was the fiercest one, primarily expressed through the country's leadership position in the Non-Aligned Movement.

Chapter 3, written by Aleksandar Životić, introduces a military-security dimension to the general debate about Yugoslavia's 70 years of fluctuating between the policies of alliance-participation and neutrality/non-alignment, identifying three main periods when one policy or the other dominated the mainstream, irrespective of whether it was pursued by the royalist government before the Second World War, Tito's national-liberation and revolutionary movement during the war, or the new socialist Yugoslavia after it. In all three instances, under quite different historical conditions, the powers in charge initially opted for an alliance-based policy, while, after experiencing limitations from such an arrangement, they all chose to distance themselves from the great powers and undertake a more independent foreign policy stand with a strong neutral/non-aligned streak. As we can also see from this chapter, in almost all these cases the Soviet factor proved to be the decisive one for making either of the two choices.

Chapter 4, written by Aleksandar V. Miletić, introduces an ideological dimension to the overall framework of the analysis, especially with respect to how Yugoslavia's initially pro-alliance and subsequently non-aligned foreign policy built up relationships and closely cooperated with different non-state and unofficial actors, like the socialist and social-democratic parties in Western Europe, thus assisting Belgrade's foreign policy transition. As we can see from this chapter, these non-state actors, sometimes elevated to power in these societies during the 1950s, ultimately exercised a dual role in Yugoslavia's evolution towards non-alignment, at first becoming one of the channels of communication with the Western bloc for acquiring its material backing against the Soviet bloc, while afterwards providing the regime in Belgrade with an ideological leeway of finding its own path in the world, one that would be both socialist and bloc-free in its essence.

Chapter 5, written by Aleksandar Rakonjac, introduces an economic dimension to Yugoslavia's transition from a full Soviet bloc-affiliate, through its phase of political, economic and military proximity to the West, despite its ideological rigidity, to its ultimate choice for a non-aligned foreign policy, one that was closely related to implementing fundamental changes into the country's ideological, social, political and economic sys-



tems with the rise of the self-management model. This kind of transition from alliances towards non-alignment clearly manifested itself through the changing principles and experiences guiding the economic practice during the 1940s and 1950s, shifting between the initial state-planning system based on the Soviet role model, through the brief phase of economic autarky, with the full-scale rapprochement with the West coming soon afterwards, until finally shaping Yugoslavia's distinctive and independent response to both internal and external challenges.

Chapter 6, written by Natalija Dimić, chose a specific historical episode, one related to the importance of the German Question in the European Cold War politics, to depict the specific relationship existing between Yugoslavia's attitude towards the two military-political blocs, with the bloc division of the world clearly manifesting itself in Germany, and its outright choice of a non-aligned foreign policy, one that was closely related to the issue of resolving the German dilemma, since it could have eventually produced the most profound effect on Yugoslavia's immediate security. Throughout this chapter we can witness how Yugoslavia moved from an initial Soviet standpoint on Germany to its own contemplation and formulation of a specific German policy, one that circulated between taking into account strategies of both blocs, developing Yugoslavia's own approach to both German states, while also influencing its interactions with other non-aligned countries over this crucial issue of world security.