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*The Bolshevik Operation in The Balkans
(Until the mid twenties of 20th century)*

Summary

The topic of our study is the place and role of the Balkans within the Bolshevik politics and tactics, as well as the organizational structure, chronology and the ideological framework of the operation in the Balkans, that we are reviewing as a single political area. The Bolshevik operation in the Balkans was most intensive in the first half of the twenties. The operation, because of the specific social and political situation in the Balkans, had to be modified regarding the basic postulates of the revolutionary Bolshevik ideology. This meant shifting the focus of the operation from the social, “class issue” towards the “national issue”, i.e. using this issue with the aim of disintegrating the region by invoking a series of revolutions. Such a disintegrated region was supposed to be reintegrated into a federation of Soviet type states, a specific “Balkan USSR”, under the Soviet patronage. Behind all these complex attempts and ideological combinations stood one of the basic theoretical postulates of the Bolshevik revolution, that of the “world revolution”, which, from the historical materialism position, was considered a historical necessity, but also a prerequisite of the survival of the USSR, the only state of socialism.

In the second part of the study, through a series of concrete examples, we presented what the Bolshevik operation in the Balkans looked like and what were its aims, following the stages it went through, its plans, its main players and methods, but also the reason why it did not succeed in creating the effect that its strategists and implementers hoped for on the ground.

We studied in more details the period that represented the peak of the operation in the Balkans (1922–1925), as well as terrorist plans of the “Vienna Centre” in the spring of 1925.