

Ivan Hofman

Photography and Historiography
– *Some thoughts* –

Summary

Photography is able to accurately reproduce external reality because it is created by the camera lens captured a beam of light that is bounced off of a real object. This makes it an objective historical source, but its objectivity becomes very relative when taking into account the various forms of manipulation that are done with photo, either to itself or if published with a suggestive title or comment. Photography as a historical source has a number of flaws, but that does not mean that it should be rejected. It allows us to see how they looked important historical figures, to “walk” the public space that today is very different than what the camera immortalized decades ago or that no longer exists. Introduced us to the private side of the people in the past, and makes us observers of historical events which it shows. So, despite the shortcomings which still need to be aware of, photography can be taken as a worthy source of faith, which complements the ideas of the past and makes them better understand and interpret more exact.

During the 20th century photography had significant ideological and political role, as can be seen in the example of the construction of socialism in Yugoslavia in the period 1945-1950. It is supposed to justify all the victims filed in the name of revolution and to show how socialist transformation awakens century-dormant creative potential of the Yugoslav nations, to show that the faith in a happy future tames nature and turns her powers to servants of human technological progress. Photography is supposed to prove the falsity of the allegations in the Cominform Resolution and to show to international public about Yugoslavia as a country in which traced the authentic path to socialism, based on properly understood teaching of Marxism-Leninism. Thus understood photographic art was followed by a cultural model of socialist realism, which at that time was required in the USSR and all “the people’s democracy”. The following this model, assuming the individual objects in reality, just the way the visions marxist theorists and party bureaucrats without question one day be realised. In this sense, photography is understood as a visual expression of the ruling ideology of Marxism-Leninism, as evidence its truth.