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*Diplomatic-consular uniforms of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia*

*Summary*

In the past, the absence of existence of clearly defined ranks of diplomatic representatives and their privileges brought about an array of difficulties and even unpleasant scenes at international gatherings. After a long period of conflicts and skirmishes relating to the ranking of diplomats, Regulations on the Ranks of Diplomatic Representatives were finally signed at the Vienna Congress. The Regulations defined three classes of diplomatic representatives: the first - comprising Ambassadors, legates and nuntios, the second - deputies, ministers and others, and the third - charges d'affairs. Later additions to the Vienna Regulations, made in Aachen, resolved centuries old disputes about the rank of diplomatic representatives.

Along with privileges and immunity, diplomatic-consular personnel also had a series of responsibilities, including the wearing of diplomatic-consular uniforms.

As Serbia and Montenegro were Europeanized in the 19th century, official clothing was introduced, including uniforms of diplomatic representatives. All official clothes were a combination of traditional elements and influences of the environment and Europe at large. Even though no written regulations were found (or non-existed) on uniform wearing, it is known (based on photographs) that such an obligation existed in Serbia.

From the time of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the first preserved regulations on the obligation to wear diplomatic-consular uniforms date back from 1931. Four types of uniforms have been established, according to the classes of diplomatic representatives - I class (ambassadors extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary), II class (advisers and consuls general), III class (first secretaries and consuls) and IV class (secretaries, vice-consuls and scribes). Diplomatic-consular uniforms were used in foreign countries on the King's birthday, during church thanksgiving services and upon the decision of the head of the representative office, and in the country upon the decision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Considering certain discrepancies in the appearance of the uniforms, the Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted new regulations on manufacturing and wearing diplomatic-consular uniforms.

After 1945, the diplomatic-consular uniforms were replaced by official suits.