

Culture remembrance of forgotten Roma victims of World War II

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Defining the introductory concepts

"Cultural memory¹ complements tradition and communication but it is not drowning in them. Only in that way one can explain breakdowns, conflict, innovation, restoration, revolution. These are raids beyond the spotlight of awareness, reflection on the past return of the repressed - the typical dynamics of written cultures, which inspired Claude Levi-Strauss the society to name it *hot societies*²". So, this is mainly related to written culture. Roma culture can not be named as written culture because it is traditional culture of this nation even though it was recorded only by non-Roma"

A man may have relationship to the past, according to the above mentioned Asman, the past has to come to mind, which is certainly present in oral cultures such as the Roma. This requires two conditions, according to noted author, namely: the past can not be completely gone, it is essential that there is evidence; the evidence must possess a characteristic difference with respect to "today". Quoted a passage from the book of mentioned Asman fully reflects all that culture of remembrance³ of the victims of the Roma genocide in World War II should be emphasized. The past can not be gone, Roma victims must not be forgotten, the memory of them should be updated in order not to occur the similar crimes again. In the times preceding the beginning of the twenty-first century has not always been so. Roma had developed a culture of memory of the victims, and others are very much trying to own, and Roma culture suppressed memories away.

¹ In **psychology**, **memory** is the process by which information is encoded, stored, and retrieved. Encoding allows information that is from the outside world to reach our senses in the forms of chemical and physical stimuli. In this first stage we must change the information so that we may put the memory into the encoding process. Storage is the second memory stage or process. This entails that we maintain information over periods of time. Finally the third process is the retrieval of information that we have stored. We must locate it and return it to our consciousness. Some retrieval attempts may be effortless due to the type of information.

From an **information processing** perspective there are three main stages in the formation and retrieval of memory: *Encoding* or registration: receiving, processing and combining of received information; *Storage*: creation of a permanent record of the encoded information; *Retrieval*, *recall* or *recollection*: calling back the stored information in response to some cue for use in a process or activity (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory>)

² Asman J. "Kultura pamćenja" Prosveta, Beograd 2011. str. 20

³ Remembering is more or less conscious individual, group / collective relationship to the events of the past, in which individuals and groups use the past to the differences between identity and built (Kuljić, 2006).

Culture of forgetting

There must be evidence in order that the culture memory⁴ survive. The evidence which directly confirms what was happening, the evidence of the cultural memory of genocide against the Roma, the evidence that left huge marks on culture identity of a nation. The culture of memories of Roma has become the "collective memory" as the term is named by the French sociologist Loris Halbvaks which, however, was a student of Bergson and Durkheim, and that his life tragically ended in 16.03.1945. in the camp Buchenwald, the same destiny had a large number of people and this text is dedicated them.

How many hundreds of thousands of Roma were killed in World War II, probably will never be exactly determined, as will never be determined how many Roma were killed in times of numerous other war cataclysm that occurred in the time preceding the Second World War. Many of these casualties have occurred under the command of the government.

Some authors, especially those non-Roma, claim that in the Second World War, in the entire world died between 275 and 500,000 members of this nation. We add that it is the number of those killed Roma whose names are recorded somewhere. What about those, we wonder, who was never been registered in any records before being killed in many different ways.

According to some statisticians in the years forties of the twentieth century in the former Kingdom of Yugoslavia lived 72 thousand people whose native language was a Romani. It was said that Europe there were about a million members of this nation. This, of course, is by no means true, and if it is really true then the answer to the question of the rate of the Roma in the Second World War is horrible.

According to these calculation, on-third or one-half of Roma people died, which can not be sad for any other suffering nation in the World War II. The poets have sad: „Almost all Romani people moved to the roads in the blue rag of the sky.“

Culture of memorizing the yellow lane

Bearing in mind the two previous assumptions presented with a large degree of certainty claim that the Holocaust perpetrated against Roma in World War II is the biggest crime ever committed against the Roma since their displacement to the present time. And that such crimes greatly influenced postwar life and culture of this nation. Of course, these events during the last great war had a very negative impact on the cultural memory of this people.⁵

⁴ The memory is more or less conscious individual, group / collective relationship to the events of the past, in which individuals and groups use the past to the differences between identity and built (Kuljić, 2006).

⁵ The term "cultural memory" refers to one of the outer dimension of human memory. Memory is conceived primarily as a pure internal phenomenon localized in the brain, as a topic for brain physiology,

Roma traditional, and often the modern culture is still oral culture. Own written culture , Roma are started to get in the thirties of the twentieth century, particularly in the Soviet Union and other parts of the world until the seventies of the twentieth century. Therefore, one should bear in mind that cultural memory which is based on the principles of oral, contains the first-mentioned period (thirty years of the twentieth century) culture under the theme of memory customary life of Roma, which consists of the struggle for survival. Culture of memory after the fifties of the twentieth century, combines with the characteristics related to the impact of the genocide of the people during the Second World War, because to this day, according to some researchers, Roma failed to heal the wounds from the time of World War II. Permanently damaged their culture, especially the shattered their family and group ties. Killing large numbers of elderly Roma, their generational structure is further reduced. As a result of the suffering among Roma has developed categories of fear of "uniform" and "recording in any lists", labeling their nationality, correct labeling in terms of nationalities to which they belong, but also developed a relationship of fear and distrust of other nationalities living in their surrounding . This mainly applies to those nationalities that were in any kind of relationship with the Germans.

War suffering of Roma left a deep mark in the postwar spiritual culture of this nation. Numerous poetic and musical works are inspired by these sufferings. Let us remember songs such as *Gypsy sorrow is too great*, or, a collection of poems "Bibahtale Berša" curated by Donald Kenrick and Gratan Pakson or anthology of poems about Jasenovac, edited by Ali Krasnici. "Adjudicate entire sections of the people because they belong to a different cultural and civilizational group is the greatest crime of our century. Heaven is indifferent, the country received in their underground city all victims of inexplicable terror and massacre, and Rivers Sava and Una are still flowing and filling their insides with dead people. Writers on this subject fit - no sun, no sky, no God. Kovacic's famous "Pit" is printed on the bottom points of the destroyed and degraded human existence, from the point of view of the innocent victims of an ethically and aesthetically superior to the butchers of human-human cry of the Jasenovac Cross. These poetic creations and later emerged, inspired by memories of the cathedral and fate, it seems that today, they are more necessary than ever, now when are resurrecting the ghosts of neo-fascism in many European and other countries "⁶

This crime left a huge trace in the souls of Roma people. , This fact is showed in the versus of the Roma hymn: *Vi-man sas bari familija/ Mudardi la e kali legia* . What in translation means: I had a big family /It was killed by Black Legion.

Previously it was said only as an indication of what I want to say in continuation, which refers to the preservation of existing monuments Roma who died in World War II, as well as raising new ones. In addition, beside these monuments, which by the way, very few in the world, special attention should be paid to protecting the places where the Roma were killed in

neurology and psychology, and not as part of the science of the history of culture. "J. Asman "Culture of memory", education, Belgrade 2011th page. 16č

⁶ Krasnići, Alija. „Jasenovac-Antologija pesama o Jasenovcu – Jasenovac-Antologija e điljendi katar o Jasenovac“, Memorijalni centar Roma za holokaust studije-Gnjilane, Kragujevac, 2000

the war, and which are labeled or not yet. Many of these places are supposed to be discovered and properly marked, it is the task of the individual states and Roma organizations and individuals who are concerned with the preservation of Roma cultural heritage. First of all I refer the Museum of Roma culture, such as the Museum of Roma Culture in Belgrade.

In Serbia, there are a number of institutions dealing with the suffering of various nations. In their domain of activity, unfortunately I have to say, not always for Roma. The same applies to international institutions and provenance.

Extermination in which Roma were killed in Serbia are numerous: Cannon sheds, Fairground, Centar, Jajinci, Jabuka, Arab valleys in Leskovac, Nis Red Cross, a memorial near Mali Pozarevac and many, many others. Only some of them are marked. A large number should be identified and marked. When it would be done by Serbia, it is a question. The task of all of us involved in the preservation and protection of such sites, should be striving to get as much done in conserve it from oblivion, what is being done against the Roma, because they are Roma.

Across Europe, the collective memory of the people there are numerous marked and unmarked execution of the Roma. Of course, there are many more that are not marked by any sign, and the monuments at all. However, in some countries there are monuments of Roma killed in World War II. Here are just a few of them, without pretending to enumerate them all: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Poland, Belarus, Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia. We emphasize that in most European countries, the Holocaust committed against Roma, almost unknown fact, which leads us to present a proposal relating to fostering study and practical action in this area. We believe that the governments of these countries have an obligation to preserve and raise new memorial to Roma victims of the Second World War, and to initiate such action should take national Roma organizations in these countries as well as international Roma organizations.

One of the ways to get the truth about the Roma Holocaust in World War II to preserve the empowerment this topic in the education system at primary, high school and university. This practice is known in all parts of the world, especially among the Jewish people in Israel, so it is necessary to study these experiences and apply them to our situation.