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*The Position of the Peasantry in Vojvodina after Deregulation Measures in Agriculture
1953–1957*

Summary

Peasantry in Vojvodina, a region with the greatest agricultural potential in Yugoslavia, was particularly affected by political pressures, ideological persuasions and foremost tough economic obligations. Economic consequences of perennial state measures were demotivation, impoverished and reduced work productivity Vojvodina peasantry, which led to a decline in agricultural production in the whole of Yugoslavia. Lack of food and insisting on the bolshevik concept of building socialism in Yugoslavia in the midst of political and ideological conflict with the Soviet Union, led to a deeper political and economic isolation, and potentially threaten the survival of the Communist Party in power. In this situation, it became necessary cooperation with the western capitalist countries, as well as the search for new models of building socialism. In Yugoslavia initiated a process of democratization of the socio-political system. The economy is gradually released from state intervention, paving the way for the development of a free market. Shall be waived favoring collective ownership in agriculture. Leaving the enforcement policy work cooperatives did not mean that the government is privately owned sees the possibility of development of agricultural production. On the contrary, especially in Vojvodina, the cooperative system in agricultural production, which proved to be unsuccessful, it is effectively transformed into the state. Significant land area, now and by law, are plucked from the private property and hand over the state, and the socialist agricultural organizations. These organizations had intended to employ a large number of landless and rural poor. Privately held, freed from administrative constraints, is possible to operate more freely, but only within the 10 acres of land, which has limited its production capacity and prospects for economic development. Law on land maximum sought to facilitate capitalist development in the countryside, or the exploitation of another's labor force, but also to develop a deeper cooperation between private property and socialistic farms. Such expectations were based on the fact that the country is limited holdings, which did not have the proper equipment, they can not survive without government assistance. Individual possession would be associated with various agricultural organizations, thus creating the conditions for the emergence of a new model of development of socialism in the country.

Law on Land maximum was motivated by political and ideological reasons in order to limit the economic potential of private property, but did not compromise the interests of most of the peasantry. The positive effects of deregulation measures were so large that the selective impact of the law on the maximum land could not lead to the kind of level of dissatisfaction with that was in the past. Changing the attitude of the state towards agriculture is reflected into the fact that was reduced gap between industrial and agricultural products, which has enabled households more income from agricultural activities. Also, the possibility of obtaining high wages outside of agriculture has further increased the income of rural households. Although these revenues are not invested mainly in manufacturing but in raising the standards of the rural population, private property has quickly become the dominant producer of agricultural products.