

Aleksandar Pavlovic

*A Contribution of the Study of the Economy of Colonists in Kosovo and Metohija
1918–1941*

Summary

The economy of colonist in Kosovo and Metohija from 1918 to 1941 was predominantly rural, prevailingly agricultural, followed by livestock breeding. The conditions for agriculture in many cases were very difficult: under the agricultural reform the colonists were given land unsuitable for crop growing; there were insufficient quantities of water for irrigation; due to lack of food, especially during the first years of colonization, many were unable to keep cattle and because of that ploughing and fertilization of the land was not at the appropriate level. Agriculture was predominantly based on growing grains and vegetables. Fruit, vineyard, tobacco production and industrial crops never considerably flourished throughout this period. Although part of the colonists, despite all this, managed to live relatively well from agriculture, there were no conditions for economic prosperity and meeting all existential needs. In order to survive economically, many sought work on land of other owners or found jobs in public works (road, railway construction, digging canals), services in border military troupes or the gendarmerie, working in mines, bulk horse wagon transport, while some went to look for work abroad.