The Resurrection and Collapse of Empire in Habsburg Serbia, 1914–1918

This book examines the Habsburg Army’s occupation of Serbia from 1914 through 1918. This occupation ran along a distinctly European-centered trajectory radically different from other Great Power colonial projects or occupations during the twentieth century. Unlike these projects and occupations, the Habsburg Army’s occupation sought to denationalize and depoliticize Serbia, to reduce the occupation’s violence gradually and to integrate the country into the Empire fully. These aims stemmed from nineteenth-century conservative and monarchical convictions that compelled the Army to operate under broad legal and civilizational constraints. Jonathan E. Gumz’s research provides a counterpoint to interpretations of the First World War that emphasize the centrality of racially inflected, Darwinist worldviews in the war.

Jonathan E. Gumz is currently Assistant Professor of History at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has held teaching positions at the United States Naval War College, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and the University of Chicago. His articles have appeared in the *Historical Journal* and *The Historian*. He was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship for study in Vienna and a Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.
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Contents

Figures ix
Acknowledgments xi

Introduction
Vanishing Serbia, Vanishing East 3
The War at Home, the War Abroad 10
The Autonomy of War 16
Chapter Outline 23

1 Facing a Serb Levée en Masse: The Habsburg Army and
War on Civilians in 1914 27
The Army of 1848 in 1914 30
War with Serbia: At Home 34
At War with Serbia: In Serbia 44

2 Eradicating National Politics in Occupied Serbia 62
Asserting Gerechtigkeit and Denationalizing the Future 68
The Volk “Led Astray” 78
Security over Gerechtigkeit on the Road from Moods to Mass Internment 89

3 Legal Severity, International Law, and the Tottering Empire
in Occupied Serbia 105
The Domestic Origins of Military Justice in Serbia 109
Everyday Crimes, Exceptional Punishments 116
Impartiality and Legal Particularity 126
The Fall of Legal Severity 133

4 Food as Salvation: Food Supply, the Monarchy, and Serbia, 1916–1918 142
A Famine Averted 145
The Farm Called Serbia 160
Contents

The New Serbia 170
The Scramble for Food 176

5 A Levée en Masse Nation No More? Guerrilla War in Habsburg Serbia 193
The Uprising 195
1917: Year of the Komitadji? 205

Conclusion 231

Bibliography 249
Index 267
Figures

1 General Johannes Salis von Seewische, the first Military General-Governor of Serbia. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Bildarchiv (Kos 2656 D).

2 Komitadijs after their capture. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, Kriegsarchiv, 600, Gefangene Komitatschis.

3 A depiction of the fighting in Šabac. The description below reads: “Austro-Hungarian troops greeted the order to cross the Save River and invade Serbia with stormy enthusiasm. In the night of August 14, the crossing was completed in row boats; the fortifications occupied by Serbian regulars and Komitadijs were taken by storm. Fire came from cellars, barns, sidewalks, yes even from the windows of churches, and every foot of ground needed to be taken with the bayonet. But the bravery of the Austro-Hungarian soldiers decided the struggle; the Serbs were forced to evacuate Šabac with heavy casualties.” Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, Album 406, Bild 67, mit Text.

4 Students from a school in Kragujevac with some of their soldier-instructors. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, 828, Schule in Kragujevac.

5 The Meldeamt of the MGG/S in Belgrade. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, Album 492, Bild 63, Meldeamt.
Figures

6 General Adolf Rhemen von Barensfeld, the final military general-governor of Serbia, appointed on July 1, 1916. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Bildarchiv (Pf 129278 D). 106

7 Bread distribution in Kragujevac. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, 833, Brotverteilung Kragujevac. 157

8 The cattle that the occupation sought. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, 311, Erbeutetes serbisches Schlachtvieh. 167

9 A collection area for animal hides in Belgrade buzzes with activity. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Kriegsbildersammlung-Erster Weltkrieg, 825, Häutesammelstelle, Belgrad. 182
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