

Borders and othering at the fringes of the EU in the times of COVID-19 pandemics

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EPIDEMICS AND OTHERING: THE BIOPOLITICS OF COVID-19 IN
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

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Croatia and Serbia after SFRY

25th June 1991 The Republic of Croatia

- ▶ 2000 Croatia started negotiations on the Stabilization and Association (SA) Agreement with EU
- ▶ 2001 SA Agreement adopted
- ▶ 2005 SA Agreement enters into force
- ▶ 2003 Croatia applies for EU membership
- ▶ 2005-2011 negotiations
- ▶ 2011 enters Schengen negotiations
- ▶ 2013 becomes EU member state
- ▶ 2015 begins technical evaluation for Schengen
- ▶ 2019 European Commission concluded that Croatia had met all the technical requirements to enter Schengen

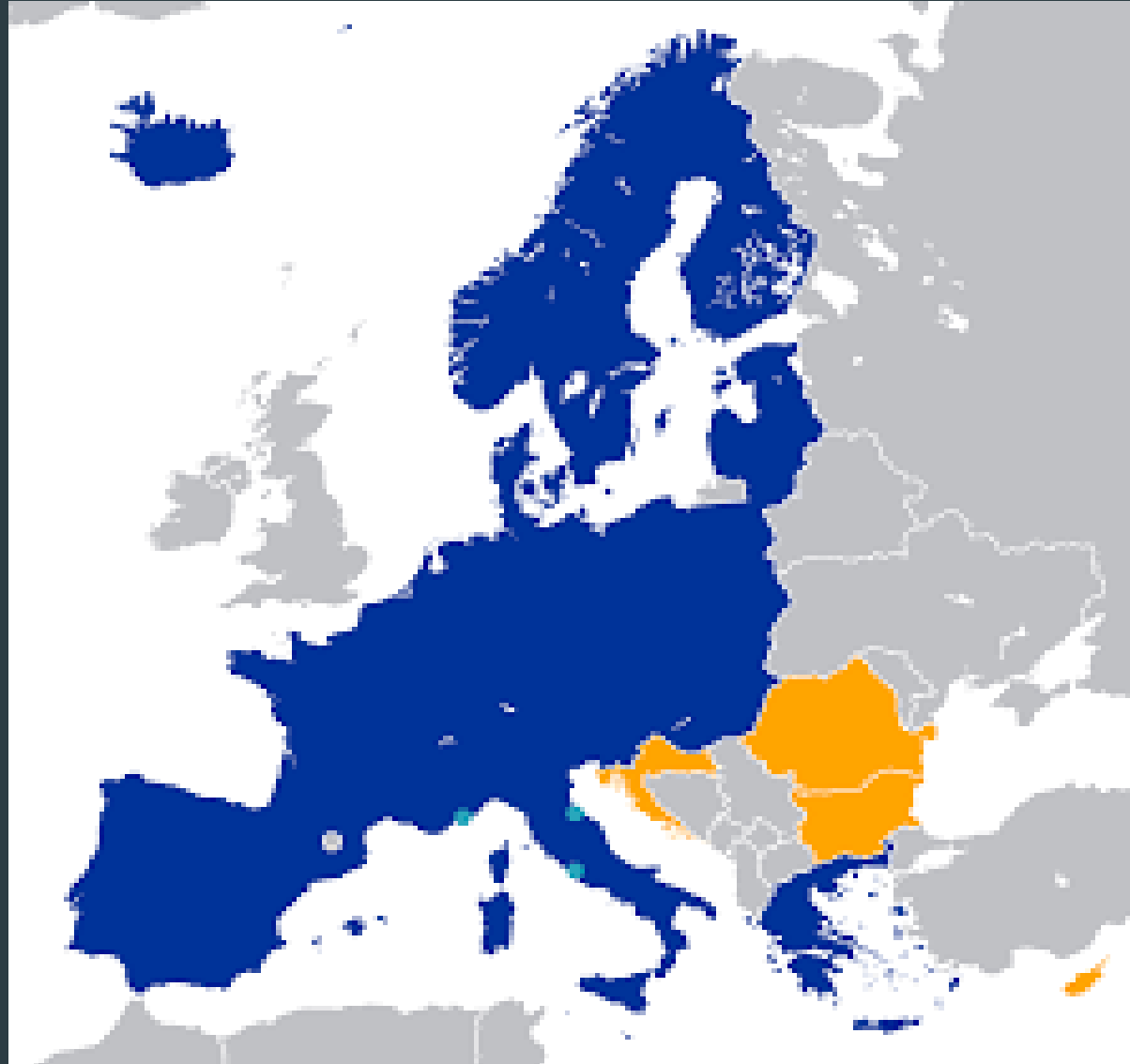
27th April 1992 Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

2003 State Union of Serbia and Montenegro

2006 Republic of Serbia

- ▶ 2005 Serbia officially started negotiations with the EU toward reaching SA Agreement
- ▶ 2008 SA Agreement signed
- ▶ 2013 SA Agreement ratified
- ▶ 2008 European partnership for Serbia adopted, setting out priorities for the country's EU membership application
- ▶ 2009 Serbia formally applied for EU
- ▶ 2012 Serbia granted EU candidate status
- ▶ 2016 Frontex Liaison officer for Western Balkans installed in Belgrade
- ▶ 2020 allows Frontex to operate on Serbian territory

EU borders - inside, out, within



“This brutal closure of global borders reminds us how the security systems of many states were prepared for the complete suspension of human traffic. [...] Most countries were well prepared to activate these border systems for the management of human beings, replicating models that have been circulating internationally for the past few years” Adriene Delmas and David Goeury (2020, 16-17).



OTVORENO.hr NAJNOVIJE GOSPODARSTVO MIŠLJENJA I KOMENTARI KULTURA MAGAZIN SPORT VI

dulja čekanja, pogotovo teretnih vozila

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Ilustracija, Ronald Gorsic / CROPIX

Pojačana je provjera na graničnim prijelazima vezano za mjere sprječavanja širenja koronavirusa, pa su moguća dulja čekanja vozila, osobito teretnih, izvijestio je u petak popodne Hrvatski autoklub (HAK).



Encamping “the dangerous ones” in Serbia



Borders as membranes



Ministarstvo odbrane Republike Srbije (Official website)



Violence on the Croatian borders

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Croatian police accused of spray-painting heads of asylum seekers

UN has asked the government to investigate latest allegations of abuse against migrants crossing on Balkan route from Bosnia



▲ NGOs believe the tactic may be an attempt to identify and humiliate repeat border crossers. Photograph: Handout

Croatian police are allegedly spray-painting the heads of asylum seekers with crosses when they attempt to cross the border from Bosnia.

The Guardian has obtained a number of photographs of what has been described by charities as the “latest humiliation” perpetrated by the Croatian authorities against migrants travelling along the Balkan route.

The UN has asked the Croatian government to investigate all the allegations of abuse.

“It is obvious that one of the intended effects of this behaviour is to humiliate refugees and migrants attempting to cross the border,” said Jack Sapoch from **No Name Kitchen** (NNK), an NGO that operates in Velika Kladuša, 2km from the border, and is a member of watchdog organisation the **Border Violence Monitoring Network**.

“As far as I see it, this is the result of either one of two motivations. Either the Croatian authorities committing these acts are using spray paint to identify and humiliate repeat border crossers or, more worryingly, they are using this as a tactic to psychologically traumatise these men - the majority of whom are Muslim - with a religious symbol,” Sapoch said.

On 6 May in Poljana, Bosnia, sources reported to the NNK that a group of people had been pushed back and sprayed with orange paint. The group had

SPIEGEL International

mother” rings out across the river.



Masked men on the Croatian side of the border: Homemade weapons and migrant beatings (Video: DER SPIEGEL/No Name Kitchen)

The metadata show that the video was taken on the afternoon of March 23. The buildings in the background prove that the events unfolded near Poljana on the Bosnian-Croatian border. The masked men can't be clearly identified in the images. However, their presence at the closely guarded border suggests that the men are part of the

Transbalkanska solidarnost dijeli objavu.
Administrator · 7. travnja

Another nightmare. It will never end.

Last night a refugee was brutally beaten by the Croatian police. His friends had to build a stretcher with wood to transport him back to Bosnia.

A local called the Bosnian police because the ambulance refused to pick him up on the border in Sturlic. (Due to a new information, they were in Trzac exactly).

The Bosnian police transported the boy to the hospital.



Closure and militarization of camps in Serbia



Border violence inside Serbia



Omnipresent militarization in Serbia



Conclusions

Risk of infection became new umbrella factor for organizing (im)mobility of people and basis for differentiation and apartheid.

It easily absorbed the existing social differentiations (age, gender, nationality, class, education, etc.).

It legitimized the amplification of surveillance and movement control.

Through bordering and othering, an imagery of order, a particular order, was produced.

Thank you!

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