

Slobodan G. Markovich  
BRITISH PERCEPTIONS OF SERBIA AND  
THE BALKANS, 1903–1906

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*X*

## NOTES ON TRANSLITERATION OF NAMES AND ON CALENDAR

The Serbian Cyrillic alphabet was reformed by Vuk Stefanovich Karadjich (1787–1864) who was guided by the principle that each sound should be represented by its own symbol. This is why the Serbian language has thirty sounds and an equal number of letters.

Although the principle of the Serbian alphabet is rather simple, there are substantial problems in the transliteration of Serbian names into English. This comes as a consequence of the fact that different principles of transliteration have been used for Serbian names over time. Until the creation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918), the Serbs used various transliterations of their names for different Western languages.

This is why one can find the name of one of the frequently quoted persons in this book, Chedomille Miyatovich, transliterated in various ways. As Mijatovich or Miyatovich (English transliteration), but also Mijatovics (Hungarian transliteration), or Miyatovitch (French transliteration), Mijatowitsch (German transliteration) and Mijatović (Croatian transliteration). After the Great War the Serbs partially accepted that transliteration of their names into the Croatian form of the Latin alphabet was to be used persistently for all languages based on the Latin alphabet (i.e. Mijatović). This became the official practice after the World

War Two when the Serbs accepted the Croatian form of the Latin alphabet as the second official alphabet simultaneously with the traditional Cyrillic alphabet. After the creation of the third Yugoslavia, in 1992, Serbian names continued to be transliterated into the Croatian form of the Latin alphabet but without specific diacritic marks which often confuses readers, because a single word like Čosić, transliterated as Cosic can now be read in eighteen different ways (as Cosic, Ćosic, Čosic, Cošic...). So our hero is now Mijatovic. This is all further complicated by the fact that some Serbian emigrants never accepted the Croatian transliteration and that there was no generally accepted transliteration of Serbian names in England during the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries.

I have decided to use in this work the transliteration proposed by Stevan K. Pavlowitch<sup>1</sup> with one exception. A difference has been made between ‘dy’ (‘ђ’ in Serbian Cyrillic) and ‘dj’ (‘ђ’ in Serbian Cyrillic) two similarly pronounced sounds. It is, however, impossible to avoid confusion since Serbian names were transliterated into English differently in different periods. Since I mostly quote contemporary sources, which more or less used phonetic transliteration, I shall transliterate Serbian names using phonetic English transliteration. However, I shall make one exception regarding the names of modern Serbian historians who have used Croatian or recent Yugoslav transliteration for their works published in English. In this case I shall follow their own transliteration. In order to further facilitate reading of the book, I have added an index of all personal and geographic names at the end of the book with all Serbian names being spelled in various forms of transliteration.

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<sup>1</sup> Stevan K. Pavlowitch, *Anglo-Russian Rivalry in Serbia, 1837–1839: The Mission of Colonel Hodges* (Paris, The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1961).

The titles of works written in Serbian Cyrillic are given in footnotes simultaneously in the Serbian original and in English phonetic transliteration. A translation of the titles of the works is also provided at the end of the book, in the bibliography. Since most of the journals published in Serbo-Croatian have summaries either in English or French, translation is given as in those journals, sometimes in French and sometimes in English.

Geographic names are given in forms that were common in Britain in contemporary sources. For further clarification modern equivalents are added in the index at the end of the book.

Both Serbia and Bulgaria used the old calendar at the beginning of the twentieth century. However, all dates are given according to the new style. Only in cases when some date could cause confusion are both forms given (e.g. the May Coup happened in June according to the new style).

| Serbian<br>Cyrillic<br>letters | TRANSLITERATIONS |                    |                     |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
|                                | Croatian         | Recent<br>Yugoslav | English<br>phonetic | Guide to pronunciation  |
| А                              | A                | A                  | A                   | A, as 'a' in <b>Amsterdam</b>   |
| Б                              | B                | B                  | B                   | B, as 'b' in <b>Belgium</b>   |
| В                              | V                | V                  | V                   | V, as 'v' in <b>Vienna</b>  |
| Г                              | G                | G                  | G                   | G, as 'g' in <b>Gambia</b>  |
| Д                              | D                | D                  | D                   | D, as 'd' in <b>Denmark</b>   |
| Ђ                              | Đ                | Dj                 | Dy                  | Dy, as 'd y' in <b>would you</b> ,<br>close to dj, but softer                   |
| Е                              | E                | E                  | E                   | E, as 'e' in <b>Esther</b>  |
| Ж                              | Ž                | Z                  | Zh                  | Zh, as 's' in <b>leisure</b> , or 'j' in<br>French name <b>Jean</b>             |
| З                              | Z                | Z                  | Z                   | Z, as 'z' in <b>zone</b>  |
| И                              | I                | I                  | I                   | I, as 'i' in <b>India</b>   |
| Ј                              | J                | J                  | Y                   | Y, as 'y' in <b>Yugoslavia</b>  |
| К                              | K                | K                  | K                   | K, as 'k' in <b>Kate</b>  |
| Л                              | L                | L                  | L                   | L, as 'l' in <b>love</b>  |
| Љ                              | Lj               | Lj                 | Ly                  | Ly, as 'l' in the British<br>pronunciation of 'revolution'                      |
| М                              | M                | M                  | M                   | M, as 'm' in <b>Morocco</b>   |
| Н                              | N                | N                  | N                   | N, as 'n' in <b>north</b>   |
| Њ                              | Nj               | Nj                 | Ny                  | Ny, as 'n' in <b>new</b>  |
| О                              | O                | O                  | O                   | O, as 'o' in <b>old</b>   |
| П                              | P                | P                  | P                   | P, as 'p' in <b>paper</b>   |
| Р                              | R                | R                  | R                   | R, as 'r' in <b>radio</b>   |
| С                              | S                | S                  | S                   | S, as 's' in <b>Samoa</b>   |
| Т                              | T                | T                  | T                   | T, as 't' in <b>Togo</b>  |
| Ђ                              | Ć                | C                  | Ch                  | Ch, as 'c' in Italian<br>pronunciation of 'ciao,' similar<br>to 'ч', but softer |
| У                              | U                | U                  | U                   | U, as 'oo' in <b>look</b>   |
| Ф                              | F                | F                  | F                   | F, as 'f' in <b>Finland</b>   |
| Х                              | H                | H                  | H                   | H, as 'h' in <b>Holland</b>   |
| Ц                              | C                | C                  | Ts                  | Ts, like ts in <b>cats</b>  |
| Ч                              | Č                | C                  | Ch                  | Ch, as 'ch' in ' <b>cherry</b> '  |
| Џ                              | Dž               | Dz                 | Dj                  | Dj as 'j' in <b>Jack</b>  |
| Ш                              | Š                | S                  | Sh                  | Sh, as 'sh' in <b>share</b>   |

