

## **Media and collective memory. Analysis of Slovenian media discourse regarding mass grave in Huda Jama**

The main goal of the presentation is to show how Slovenian media create collective memory, which discourse is dominant, and what importance individual magazines or websites attribute to post-war events.

The main research method used to study the problem is discourse analysis. The choice of method was dictated by the fact that the media not only maintain collective memory, but also affect its shape.

With this method it is possible to determine through which of the dominant discourses the Second World War is represented in Slovenian media and how opposing discourses fight for the legitimacy of memory.

Post-war murders for a long time could not be the subject of public discussion. First reports were written by one of the heroes of the Liberation Front, Slovenian writer Edvard Kocbek, who drew attention to the silent fragment of the history, but his texts could not be published. Two decades later, i.e. after the fall of communism, Slovenia began to speak openly about the murders and mass graves and a new historical discourse appeared, depicting the Front as a torturer.

On the tenth anniversary of the discovery of mass graves in Huda Jama, the discussion on post-war events returned to the media. My goal is to analyse articles published in weekly Reporter and Demokracija, dailies Dnevnik and Delo, online magazines Časnik and Domovina and the information sites Nova 24 and e-Maribor. All articles concern the history of Huda Jama and contain interviews with specialists, nevertheless it can be seen that most information is based on ideological and evaluative comments.

Examples show that dominant discourse is the right-wing one, based on portraying the Liberation Front as ruthless torturers who murdered thousands of innocent people in cold blood. In this discourse there is no place to show the motivations of the perpetrators and to admit that the other party to the conflict collaborated with the occupier.

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