

POWER AND CONSENSUS IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT

Pécs, 27–28 August 2025

Program

Hungary



University of Pécs, Institute of History, Department of Medieval and Early Modern Studies



University of Szeged, Institute of History, Department of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Croatia



University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies



University of Zagreb, Catholic Faculty of Theology



Croatian Institute of History (Zagreb)

Bosnia and Herzegovina



University of Mostar, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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University of Pécs, Institute of History

Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Regional Academic Committee at Pécs

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MOMENTUM OF INNOVATION

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Through this conference we would like to contribute to the contemporary research trends concerning the modalities of power and the decision-making processes through which the power is channelled. This topic has preoccupied scholars of various fields and, following these tendencies, we would like to approach it in a multidisciplinary way.

We would also like to emphasise that this conference is organised by universities and research institutes of three countries (Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and four cities (Pécs, Szeged, Zagreb and Mostar). It comes as a continuation of an initially bilateral cooperation between Pécs and Zagreb that started a decade ago. Now, with new partners we aim at establishing a wider network dealing with the institutional history.

During the previous cooperation, we organised various thematic workshops on a regular basis that gave us the opportunity to share the results of our research on the many links between Croatia and Hungary, not only for researchers but also for students. In addition to these minor conferences, we have organized an international conference entitled "Negotiating Authority: Models of Governance in Medieval and Early Modern Times" hosted by the Institute of History (University of Pécs), which was followed by the conference "Authority and Discipline in Religious Communities", held on 16-17 May 2024, in connection with the Faculty of Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb's scientific programme on religious culture. At this occasion, all the institutions of the organising committee of the current conference were represented. It is also our intention to address a broader community of scholars in the countries concerned by raising a curricular theme. This year's conference in Pécs represents a continuation of our collaborative efforts, and will be succeeded by the forthcoming conference at the University of Mostar.

Organizing committee:

Gergely Balint Kiss, Ph.D., Full Prof. (Pécs)

Zsolt Hunyadi, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. (Szeged)

Marko Jerković, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. (Zagreb)

Rudolf Barišić, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate (Zagreb)

Daniel Patafta, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. (Zagreb)

Iva Beljan Kovačić, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. (Mostar)

27 August 2025

9.30 – 9.50 Opening Words

- Dr. habil. Krisztián Bene, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Pécs
- Prof. Gábor L. Kovács, Director of the Local Committee of Pécs of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

9.50 – 10.00 Welcome

- Organizing Committee

I. POWER AND CONSENSUS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

1. Power, Humility, Discipline: Quest for Consensus?

Chair: Dr. Iva Beljan Kovačić

10.00 – 10.20 Dr. Lucija Krešić Nacevski, Assistant Professor
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies

Power And/Or Humility. Examples from the Earliest Latin Hagiographic Texts

10.20 – 10.40 Dr. Marko Jerković, Associate Professor

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies

TU Dresden, Research Center for Comparative History of Religious Orders – Associate
Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb – Research Center for Religious History – Associate

The Formalization of Disciplinary Power in The Early Franciscan Order

10.40 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 11.20 Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Full Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History, Department of
Medieval and Early Modern History

**Power and Consensus in Late Medieval Aristocratic Religiosity
The Újlaki Family**

11.20 – 11.40 Dr. Daniel Patafta, Associate professor

Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

**The establishment of Franciscan Observant custodians and the relationship with the
provincial administrations and the general of the Order until 1517**

11.40 – 12.00 Discussion

12.00 – 14.00 Lunch

2. Power and Consensus in Dynastic Context

Chair: Prof. Endre Sashalmi

14.00 – 14.20 Dr. habil. Gábor Barabás, Associate Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History, Department of Medieval and Early Modern History

**Peace and Betrothals
Dynastic Relations of the Piasts of Poland and the Árpáds of Hungary
in the Early Twelfth Century**

14.20 – 14.40 Dr. habil. László Gálffy, Associate Professor

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary
Institute of History, Department of Medieval Studies

Political Compromises in Relation to Anjou Expansion (12th and 13th Centuries)

14.40 – 15.00 Prof. Dr. Gergely Kiss, Full Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History
Department of Medieval and Early Modern History

**Plenitudo potestatis or consensus?
Boniface VIII and the question of the Hungarian throne**

15.00 – 15.30 Discussion

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee break

3. Power, Consensus and Medieval Norms

Chair: Prof. Gergely Kiss

15.50 – 16.10 Dr. Tomislav Popić, Associate Professor

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of History

Power and Consensus in the Medieval Statute(s) of Trogir

16.10 – 16.30 Dr. Ágnes Maléth, Assistant Professor

University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History

Clement VI (1342–1352) and the Consistorial Benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary

16.30 – 16.50 Dr. habil. Zsolt Hunyadi, Associate Professor

University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History

**The Hospitaller Grand Master, the Convent and the Chapter General
Power and consensus in the late Middle Ages (14th-15th centuries)**

16.50 – 17.20 Discussion

18.00 – 20.00 Historical walk in the city of Pécs (optional)

20.00 – 22.00 Dinner

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II. POWER AND CONSENSUS IN MODERN TIMES

4. Power and Consensus: Early Modern Political and Religious Context

Chair: Dr. Marko Jerković

9.00 – 9.20 Prof. Dr. Endre Sashalmi, Full Professor
University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History
Department of Medieval and Early Modern History

The Emblem of Sovereignty and Consent in George Wither's *Collection of emblemes* (1635), and its Provenance

9.20 – 9.40 Dr. Iva Beljan Kovačić, Associate Professor
University of Mostar, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Strength Without Force: Redefining the Perception of Power in Early Modern Bosnian-Herzegovinian and European Catholic Culture

9.40 – 10.00 Bálint K. Bandi, PhD candidate

University of Pécs, Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program, The Carpathian Basin and the Neighbouring Empires 900–1700

The Role of Power in Shaping the Ethnic Structure of Inner Transylvania during the Early Modern Period

10.00 – 10.20 Discussion

10.20 – 10.40 Coffee break

5. Power and Consensus: Early Modern Politics in Local and National Context

Chair: Ágnes Maléth

10.40 – 11.00 Dr. habil. András Forgó, Associate Professor
University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History
Department of Modern History

Debates on precedence of the religious Orders at the Hungarian Diet

11.00 – 11.20 Dr. Eldina Lovaš, Assistant Professor
Croatian Institute of History

The Expression of Testators' Will: Croatian Testamentary Practices in Pécs in the First Half of the 18th Century

11.20 – 11.40 Dr. Rudolf Barišić, Research Fellow
Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb

Navigating Dual Identities: The Bosnian Franciscans and the Challenges of Consensus

11.40 – 12.00 Discussion

12.00 – 12.20 Concluding Remarks (Organizers)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

I. POWER AND CONSENSUS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

1. Power, Humility, Discipline: Quest for Consensus?

Dr. Lucija Krešić Nacevski, Assistant Professor
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies
lucijakresic01@gmail.com

Power And/Or Humility. Examples from the Earliest Latin Hagiographic Texts

This presentation will attempt to show, using several examples from Latin hagiographic texts of different time periods (antiquity and early medieval period) and geographical origins (Carthage, Tuscany), the way in which humility shapes a new paradigm of power. Namely, the humility of the first Christian martyrs contained within itself an unconscious and discreet, yet decisive power. This power referred exclusively to the *vita exemplaria/exempla* and was not tied to the earthly. It was precisely Christian martyrdom that was a particularly powerful means of spreading Christianity, as is particularly evident in hagiographic texts. The presentation will demonstrate this concept in the texts *Acta Martyrum Scillitanorum* (2nd century) and the hagiographic collection *Passionale MR 164* (written at the end of the 10th century but containing *passiones* of very ancient origin).

Dr. Marko Jerković, Associate Professor
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies
TU Dresden, Research Center for Comparative History of Religious Orders – Associate
Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb – Research Center for Religious History – Associate
m.jerkovich@yahoo.com

The Formalization of Disciplinary Power in The Early Franciscan Order

In his study on the Cistercian and Cluniac organization, Gert Melville (2014) demonstrated how the formalization of the controlling procedures was enabling the orders' institutional stability. Building on this conceptual platform, my paper deals with the formalization of the disciplinary techniques in the early Franciscan order. My end-goal is, however, not to reconstruct the Order's disciplinary system, but to unfold the notions of power that needed to be interiorised within each individual. In that way, the paper reveals the strategies to produce consensus on the question of what is a "disciplined individual" in the Order in which there lacked clarity on how to follow the Founder's vision of brotherhood.

Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Full Professor
University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History, Department of Medieval and Early Modern History
fedeles.tamas@pte.hu

Power and Consensus in Late Medieval Aristocratic Religiosity The Újlaki Family

Dr. Daniel Patafta, Associate Professor
Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb
d.patafta@yahoo.com

The establishment of Franciscan Observant custodians and the relationship with the provincial administrations and the general of the Order until 1517

The presentation deals with the issue of the establishment of Franciscan Observant convents, then independent custodians, and finally the reasons that led to the division of the Franciscan Order in 1517. The main issue that will be presented is an attempt to legally regulate the relationship between the Observants, who were gaining more and more independence and numbers in the Order, and the still official, Conventual, administration in the provinces and at the head of the Order. In addition, the Pope's interventions will be shown as an attempt to overcome the visible schism, which was becoming inevitable. In the presentation, these relationships will be followed at the level of the provinces, the administration of the Order and the Papacy. It will be shown how the authority within the Order was changed and how papal authority was ultimately decisive in the division of the Order.

2. Power and Consensus in Dynastic Context

Dr. habil. Gábor Barabás, Associate Professor
University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History, Department of Medieval and Early Modern History
barabas.gabor@pte.hu

**Peace and Betrothals
Dynastic Relations of the Piasts of Poland and the Árpáds of Hungary
in the Early Twelfth Century**

In my presentation I will deal with the relations between the Hungarian ruler, Béla II and the Polish prince, Bolesław III Wrymouth in the 1130s. The young blind Hungarian king had to face a strong opposition in his realm, the supporters of the former Hungarian king, Coloman the Learned and his alleged son, Prince Boris. The pretender was aided by Bolesław III, the former ally of Coloman, yet in the end Boris failed to take control of the Kingdom of Hungary. The Polish prince eventually had to put an end to this support and to reconcile with Béla II in 1135 due to his subjection to Emperor Lothar III. The peace resulted in the marriage of Bolesław's son, Mieszko with a Hungarian princess, a problematic matrimony itself. Nevertheless, I think it is very likely that in the 1130s a double betrothal took place between the two dynasties, that I will explore in detail.

Dr. habil. László Gálffy, Associate Professor
Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary
Institute of History, Department of Medieval Studies
galfy@gmail.com

Political Compromises in Relation to Anjou Expansion (12th and 13th Centuries)

The lords of Anjou, one of the most influential counties in medieval France, managed to acquire three separate European kingdoms (Jerusalem, England, and Naples-Sicily) in less than 150 years. This provides a valuable example of how political strategy can evolve in response to such a significant and high-quality transition. My study focuses on the *first generation* of expansion (Fulk

V, Geoffrey Plantagenet, and Charles I of Anjou) and examines the political and other compromises they were forced to make or sought to implement to ensure the lasting success of their conquests.

Prof. dr. Gergely Kiss, Full Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History

Department of Medieval and Early Modern History

kiss.gergely.balint@pte.hu

Plenitudo potestatis or consensus?

Boniface VIII and the question of the Hungarian throne

Since 1290, the Angevins of Naples had constantly emphasised their claim to the throne of Hungary, and the Apostolic See was a strong support in the possible realisation of this ambition. The Papacy made it clear that it had the exclusive right to appoint the person of the Hungarian ruler. In this crisis, however, as early as 1290, and after the extinction of the House of Árpád (1301), a clear claim to the Hungarian throne by election was clearly expressed. The paper shows how Boniface VIII dealt with this question, how these two strong legal ideas clashed, and to what extent the Pope sought or avoided a consensus settlement of the conflict.

3. Power, Consensus and Medieval Norms

Dr. Tomislav Popić, Associate Professor

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of History

tpopic@gmail.com

Power and Consensus in the Medieval Statute(s) of Trogir

Through the example of the medieval Statute of Trogir – a municipal normative collection that, thanks to Ivan Lučić and his transcriptions of various now-lost medieval documents, allows for the reconstruction of at least the broad outlines of the circumstances in which it was created, modified, and ultimately petrified – my paper will focus on key aspects of interplay between historical phenomena of power and consensus. In this context, the creation of the first statute in the mid-13th century was one of the most significant expressions of the commune's corporate authority, emerging as the position of the city bishop in secular governance was starting to completely vanish. The statute was, in effect, a constitutive act of the commune's corporation, which consolidated all secular authority in the city, seeking through this new documentary resource to legitimize its position and integrate it with the city's governing institutions. The new version of the statute emerged in 1322 after the introduction of Venetian rule, seemingly as an attempt to limit the power of the Venetian count by removing provisions related to *podestà* and introducing new ones concerning the count. During the Angevin period, which began in 1357, the relationship between the local ruling class and royal authority was perhaps at its most synchronized, given that the Angevin kings largely relied on noblemen as a stabilizing force of their rule. This dynamic is also reflected in the Statute of Trogir, as it was during the Angevin period that the formal closure of the Great Council took place. At the same time, the council began to be explicitly referred to as the Council of Nobles. Finally, with the establishment of a new Venetian regime in 1420, power and consensus were also intertwined in the city's political life, aiming to create and maintain a balance of power under the dominion of the winged lion. This process unfolds as a delicate interplay between the Venetian count who made and enforced all decisions according to the instructions from Venice, the urban nobility which nominally retained its position in the Council of Nobles, and the commoners who were granted certain privileges to participate in

political life for the first time. In an effort to preserve the centuries-old socio-political order led by the urban nobility – an order that was in reality fading – the statutory text underwent its final petrification. Power and consensus are clearly reflected in the typical Venetian practice of submitting the legal codes of subject territories to Venice for confirmation. This simultaneously signified both the recognition of the community's political and social identity by Venice and its acknowledgment of subjugation to Venice.

Dr. Ágnes Maléth, Assistant Professor

University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History

malethagi@gmail.com, zapala-maleth.agnes.katalin@szte.hu

Clement VI (1342–1352) and the Consistorial Benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary

Pope Clement VI (1342–1352) has traditionally been assessed negatively in Hungarian historiography, as historians have primarily approached his pontificate through the diplomatic issue of the succession to the Neapolitan throne. Little attention has been paid to the pope's ecclesiastical policy, including the reservation and collation of benefices. However, the sources indicate that Clement VI used the reservation and collation of ecclesiastical benefices (and especially that of the consistorial ones) as a tool to create papal authority within the local churches in a way that shows similarities with the system applied by his predecessor, John XXII (1316–1334). The aim of my presentation is to examine how this mechanism functioned in practice, i.e., how the reservations and collations of consistorial benefices were used by Clement VI as representation of papal power within the Kingdom of Hungary. As the papal initiative occasionally met with opposition, I will place a special emphasis on the problematic cases, in order to reveal how consensus was reached.

Dr. habil. Zsolt Hunyadi, Associate Professor

University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History

hunyadiz@hist.u-szeged.hu

The Hospitaller Grand Master, the Convent and the Chapter General Power and consensus in the late Middle Ages (14th-15th centuries)

The study examines the changing balance in the leadership of a military-religious order: the Hospitallers' chapter general, its role of counterbalancing the power of the Grand Master, and the transformation of this decision-making body in the late Middle Ages. By the 15th century two important changes had been introduced. From the middle of the century, convening the general chapter was included in the regulations of the Order, moreover, these meetings became grounds of the constant political conflicts within the Order. The influence of certain tongues (*lingua*) changed significantly over time, and the new power balance was represented at these meetings. In this new "context", the "affiliation" of the Hungarian-Slavonian priory can also be reassessed.

II. POWER AND CONSENSUS IN MODERN TIMES

4. Power and Consensus: Early Modern Political and Religious Context

Prof. Dr. Endre Sashalmi, Full Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History

Department of Medieval and Early Modern History

endresashalmi@gmail.com

The Emblem of Sovereignty and Consent in George Wither's *Collection of emblems* (1635), and its Provenance

The emblem book of George Wither was the most important one among the English emblem books of the 17th century. As it was dedicated to the ruling couple and their sons (Charles and James), it can be interpreted as an emblematic *speculum principis* containing general moral teachings as well as specific political ideas. The paper intends to highlight the provenance of one of Wither's emblems dealing with consent and sovereignty, and interpret it from the perspective of contemporary English political context.

Dr. Iva Beljan Kovačić, Associate Professor

University of Mostar, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

iva.beljankovacic@ff.sum.ba

Strength Without Force: Redefining the Perception of Power in Early Modern Bosnian-Herzegovinian and European Catholic Culture

This presentation starts from the premise that external orders of power – as well as the processes involved in their formation, such as attribution, negotiation, and resistance – have their counterparts in the internal collective sphere, in worldviews and belief systems. Cultural notions of (un)acceptable forms of rule and power correspond to their external manifestations.

Within this framework, the presentation examines the value system promoted by both Bosnian-Herzegovinian and European early modern Catholic culture, with a particular focus on the perception of the relationship between strength and weakness. A key aspect of this relationship is the redefinition of the status of physical strength and dominance, which are diminished and superseded by power rooted in mental capacities. In conceptions of the ideal social order, power based on force and subjugation is contrasted with the notion of power as delegated authority.

These values are closely linked to changes in the early modern Christian system of representations, particularly in representations of God and the saints. The image of God as a powerful king and strict judge, as well as the saints who manifest His power, provide legitimacy to these values. At the same time, the promotion of compassion and the protection of the weak finds its foundation in the representations of Jesus and Mary.

Bálint K. Bandi, PhD candidate

University of Pécs

bandi.balint@pte.hu

The Role of Power in Shaping the Ethnic Structure of Inner Transylvania during the Early Modern Period

Transylvania's ethnic composition follows a unique and regionally specific pattern. Although numerous scholars have drawn attention to this phenomenon, our understanding is still limited due to fragmented archival records and the widespread loss of relevant historical sources.

The first detailed overview of the region's population emerged in the early eighteenth century through government-ordered censuses. Although these sources primarily contain economic data, they also provide valuable insights into the ethnic composition of individual settlements. By processing and analysing these documents, researchers can map the region's ethnic spatial structure and trace its development over time.

In my lecture, I will discuss the role of political and administrative power in shaping the ethnic structure of Inner Transylvania during the late early modern period. My focus will primarily be on

the counties of Cluj and Turda, with particular attention to the settlements surrounding the administrative centres.

5. Power and Consensus: Early Modern Politics in Local and National Context

Dr. habil. András Forgó, Associate Professor

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History

Department of Modern History

forgo.andras@pte.hu

Debates on precedence of the religious Orders at the Hungarian Diet

The clergy played an important role in the Hungarian Diet also of the first half of the 18th century. The spokesmen for religious disputes were mainly the delegates of the chapters, whereas the religious orders were more involved in the struggle for position between the clergy. The most prominent of these were conflicts over the establishment of hierarchy. Disputes over the priority within the Estates, or *praecedentia* in the parlance of the time, were to be found throughout Europe during the period. These quarrels, which seem now often grotesque, are based on the symbolic view of the time that the order of political, social, etc., was expressed in the seating order at each ceremony, i.e. whoever occupied the most prominent place at a political or social event had a more prominent position within the Estates.

In the decades following the liberation from Ottoman rule, Catholic religious communities began to repatriate, bringing about the second heyday of monasticism in Hungary. The emergence of new monastic groups, however, was often accompanied by conflicts, not only in the dioceses but also in the national political arena. The superiors claimed seats in both forums of parliament, and the designation of their seats led to the outbreak of the aforementioned disputes, which were only settled after years of power struggles. By the middle of the century, a practice had finally emerged which regulated the position of each superior in the assembly, symbolically marking out their place in the society of the Estates.

Dr. Eldina Lovaš, Research Associate

Croatian Institute of History

eldina.lovas@gmail.com

The Expression of Testators' Will: Croatian Testamentary Practices in Pécs in the First Half of the 18th Century

The Baranya County Archives of the Hungarian National Archives in Pécs hold a valuable collection of 18th-century testaments. Among them is a significant number written in Croatian, reflecting the last wishes of the Croatian inhabitants of Pécs during the first half of the 18th century. These testamentary documents, rich in content and context, serve as important historical sources for understanding not only legal and social norms but also individual choices regarding property distribution.

This presentation explores the extent to which the testators' expressed wills conformed to or diverged from the contemporary norms of inheritance law. Special attention is given to instances of disinheritance and the conditions under which inheritance was granted or withheld. Through the analysis of selected Croatian-language wills, the study aims to shed light on the personal, familial, and legal dynamics that shaped testamentary practice in a multicultural urban environment of early modern Hungary.

Dr. Rudolf Barišić, Research Fellow
Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb
rudolfbarisic@gmail.com

Navigating Dual Identities: The Bosnian Franciscans and the Challenges of Consensus

It has long been accepted that within Ottoman society, religion was the primary identity, even having its legal framework in the millet-system. Even the new autonomous and independent states that were emerging (such as Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece) gradually sought to homogenize their populations by gradually expelling their Muslim populations or treating them as second-class citizens. Religion, as one of the bases of identity, retained its role well after the establishment of secular institutions.

The Catholic population within Bosnia was under the spiritual guidance of the Franciscan province of Bosna Srebrena. Despite harboring deep mistrust of their Muslim and Orthodox neighbors, the Franciscans nevertheless kept a close eye on events within the Ottoman Empire. They also maintained close ties with the Habsburg Monarchy and the Italian states, especially as it was customary for young Franciscans to pursue their studies there. This brought them into contact with new ideas, which many of them attempted to implement within Bosnia upon their return. These ideas centered on questions of identity and began to challenge religion as its primary foundation.

Building upon regional identities and the traditions of medieval statehood, younger generations sought to establish an identity based on the idea of a common language and the shared origin of the South Slavs. This vision, transcending religious boundaries, aimed to unite the South Slavs, ultimately envisioning the liberation of Bosnia. Drawing inspiration from the Illyrian movement in Croatia, these ideas, in their broadest sense, represented a shared belief among the majority of the Franciscans. However, they also sparked various concerns and discontents. This paper aims to examine the main trends and points of discussion surrounding these ideas.