



Main titles from the study:

- *Federalist experiences in Southeast Europe and post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- *The historical background of the federalism of the region*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina's past experience with federalism*
- *The break-up of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1991-92*
- *Formal reunification of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the post-Dayton regime*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina has reached a crossroads after Dayton*
- *Regional prospects for federal development in Eastern Europe*
- *Bibliography*

Annotation

Modern federalism has emerged and developed more or less successfully in various parts of the world and on all continents, with the sole exception of Antarctica. Southeast Europe has long been one of the regions where modern federalism was adopted relatively late and where the influence of American federalism was weakest, at least until 1995, only indirectly.

The difficulties of the democratic transition have been exacerbated by the constitutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until 1990, this nationally, religiously and culturally highly heterogeneous republic, the miniature of Yugoslavia, functioned as a unifying political system combining an authoritarian one-party monopoly of power with an uncompetitive majoritarian electoral system, a weak and fragmented civil society, and with a strong authoritarian underlying layer present in public policy culture. The Bosnian constitutional system did not recognize the political and cultural autonomy of national groups and did not have an effective tool for inter-communal decision-making at the regional and state levels based on regular agreement. Many proposals to internally federalize or confederate Bosnia and Herzegovina came too late and did not receive unanimous support within the three major political blocs. The above-mentioned characteristic combinations of the political system and the extremely young tradition of Bosnian statehood proved fatal to the country. The moment of realization came rather unexpectedly in 1991-92, when the Yugoslav federation stalled, war broke out in Croatia, and the Serbo-Croatian armed conflict spread to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This coincidence in time was not accidental.