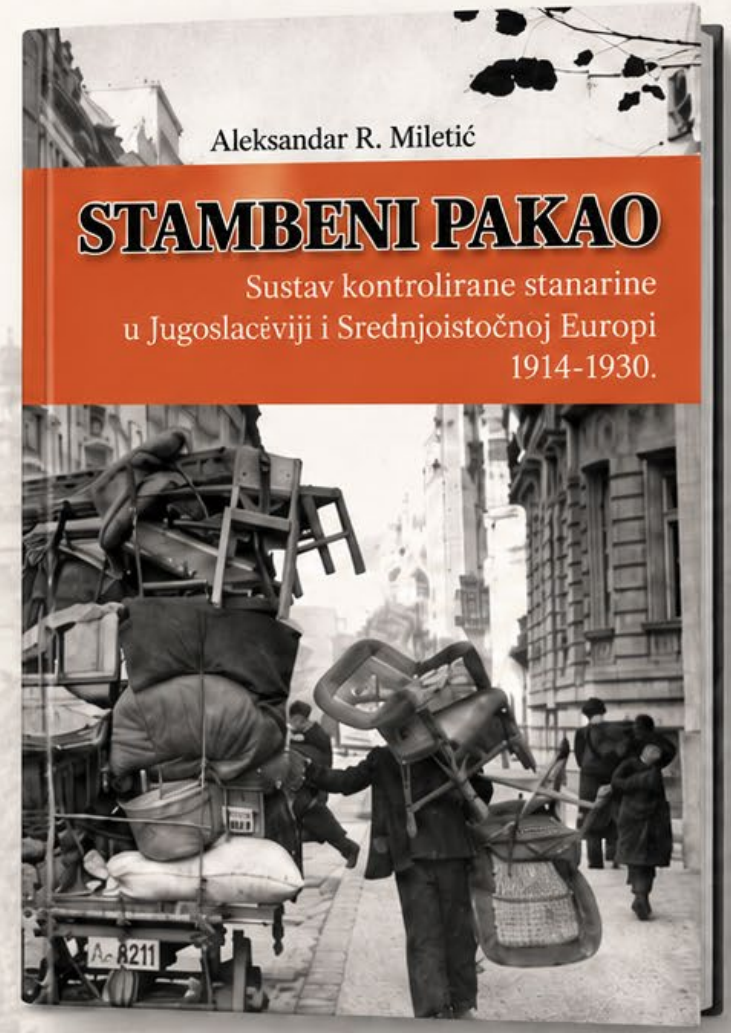
Requisitioning as an (Emergency) Substitute for Social Housing in Interwar and Socialist Yugoslavia, 1914-1958

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Terminological and conceptual issues

1. **Requisitioning vs. confiscation and nationalization**

   Confiscation and nationalization transfer ownership. Requisitioning restricts the use of private property without transferring ownership.

2. **Rent control and requisitioning**

   Rent control limits rents and protects tenants; requisitioning places unused housing under public control. Once allotted, accommodation was generally subject to rent control.

3. **Requisitioning vs. administrative allocation and allotment**

   Requisitioning is the compulsory intervention; administrative allocation and allotment determine who occupies the housing.

4. **Tenancy rights in both periods**

   Tenancy rights and rent control apply to interwar and socialist contexts, despite their different legal frameworks.





Landlords' self-representation (1929)





Research Focus and Chronology

- Rent control and housing requisition as key housing-policy instruments
- Limited scope of social housing construction
- Comparison of interwar and socialist Yugoslavia
- Focus on Serbia / Yugoslavia, 1914–1958



1914
wartime housing emergencies

1927
requisitioning interrupted

1930
rent control interrupted

1941
wartime renewal

1944
expansion of requisitioning / rent control

1958
nationalization of requisitioned stock







Two regimes, similar instruments

Different political practices of intervention

Interwar Yugoslavia

- Plural political arena
- Tenant and landlord lobbying
- Particularistic implementation
- Selective enforcement and clientelism

Socialist Yugoslavia

- Centralized administrative authority
- No autonomous interest-group competition
- More universal intervention
- Equality in distribution remained limited



Rent control and requisition mitigated scarcity, but could not replace a durable expansion of affordable housing.

Belgrade under Housing Pressure

Urban poverty, scarcity, and uneven modernization shaped the housing question across the period.



Overcrowding and poor housing conditions



Persistence of older urban fabric



Coexistence of poverty and modernization