



Textbooks, Memory, Revisionism: How We Remember History

Carter McKinzie, Dr. Jedrek Mularski, and Mr. Jun Shen

Laguna Beach Unified School District and Saddleback Community College,



INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the social science community about how collective memory affects how individuals view history. Based on a personal interest in the Balkans' region, this project aims to see how Croatia fits into the larger trend of correlation between historical revisionism and rise of far-right politics in Europe. Since joining the European Union in 2013, Croatia has undergone significant educational changes due to the EU strict educational protocols. Since its independence in 1991, Croatia adopted a revisionist history in primary and secondary schools that were managed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth. In 2013, the Ministry approved additional textbooks for the teaching of history, which can be classified as progressive in comparison to the previous mandated textbooks. Political history in Croatia has gradually aligned with western institutions, such as its membership in NATO and the EU; however, similar to a trend among some European states, Croatia has gradually adopted farther right policies with the conservative party holding the majority in the Croatian Parliament, Sabor.

Political Parties

Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)



- Holds most seats in parliament.
- Economically and Institutionally: Center-Right
- Social Issues and Coalition Partners: Far-Right

Rivers of Justice of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia (SDP)



- Second leading party in parliament.
- Economically and Institutionally: Left
- Social Issues and Coalition Partners: Left

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- **Type:** Cross-Sectional Ecological Study
- **Investigative:** Is there a relationship between 8th Grade History Textbook used in Public Croatian Primary Schools and parliamentary voting patterns in the 2024 parliamentary election.
- **Sample:** SRS of 3 Croatian Districts with historical ties to Croatian Party of Rights.
- **Hypotheses:**
 - H_0 : There is no significant relationship between textbook adoption in public primary schools in Croatia and parliamentary voting patterns.
 - H_A : There is a significant relationship between textbook adoption in public primary schools in Croatia and parliamentary voting patterns.
- **Process:**
 - SRS of 3 Croatian Parliament Electoral Districts.
 - Contacted selected primary schools with several inquiries:
- Textbook adoption process.
- Compliance process with Ministry of Science, Education and Youth
- 8th grade history textbook titles.

CONCLUSION

Although the correlation between textbook type and parliamentary voting patterns was not strongly pronounced, the data from the three districts surveyed indicate a moderate relationship between the two variables. These findings suggest that exposure to revisionist or nationalistic historical narratives can meaningfully shape political behavior, particularly by increasing support for right-leaning parties in national elections. While this study focuses on Croatia, its implications may extend more broadly: educational content that frames national history through an ideologically charged lens has the potential to influence long-term political orientations. These preliminary results underscore the importance of promoting a balanced, critically engaged approach to history education that avoids partisan bias. Failure to do so may contribute to the normalization and potential rise of far-right politics in future generations.



HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

1. Povijest 8

- Nationalistic/Revisionist History
- Most Used Textbook In Croatia
- Publisher: Alfa d.d.



2. Klio 8

- Leans Critical Historical Approach
- Aligns with EU History Standards
- Publisher: Školska Knjiga



3. Vremeplov 8

- Centered Historical Approach
- Neutral Perspective
- Publisher: Profil Klett



4. Moja Povijest 8

- Critical Approach
- Most accurate historiographically
- Publisher: Alka script d.o.o.



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