

Memories of War, Memories of Emancipation: AFŽ's Dream for the Yugoslav New Woman

For an entire generation of communist activist girls and women WW2 in Yugoslavia was conceived as the foundation that led to the realization of the women's equality. Already in 1942, Mitra Mitrović talked how gender equality came and "achieved itself." Consequently, the dream of the emerging utopia permeated women's magazines published during the war and in adjusted forms appeared throughout the existence of socialist Yugoslavia.

This paper will focus on the way in which imagery about the woman fighter (*žena borac*) developed following the end of the war. It will analyze how the members of the Antifascist Front of Women of Croatia (*Antifašistička fronta žena Hrvatske*, AFŽH) managed the legacy of the People's Liberation Struggle in the organization's official journal *Woman in Combat* (*Žena u borbi*). The period on which the paper will focus is 1945-1967, i.e. the time in which this journal was published as a means of mass communication with female audiences in Croatia.

Since the vision of the emergence of the New Woman became the foundation of the narrative that the women's organization favored and published about, this paper will emphasize how was their interpretation of this archetype – perhaps it was true that *partizanke* [women partisans] thought that "equality was in the *četa*," but *afežejke* [members of the AFŽ] were certain that it was in the Party organization – reflected in all of their considerations of women's wartime engagement and helped engrain into the collective memory of its readership a narrative about the auxiliary role of women in the war and postwar society.

CV

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