Little Entente of Women and Unity of Slavic Women: Political socialization via international women's organisations in the interwar East Central Europe

In the paper, different tools of political mobilization of women and other supporters of two international women's organizations will be analysed and compared in term of the forms of mobilization and its impact.

Both aforementioned international organisations have been created as a specific regional units of women's activists in the East Central Europe having connections to the male-dominated political and diplomatic-political organisations (mainly the Little Entente, in the case of the feminist Little Entente of Women). While the Unity of Slavic women declared to be "not political nor feminist", its aims and instruments to create an imagined Slavic community "in order to preserve the uniqueness of Slavic culture and the strength of the Slavic race" were political. Both being supported by leading male politicians and diplomats, these women's transnational associations have been seen as a tool of cultural diplomacy helping to promote a positive image of the Czechoslovakia and other new states created after the First World War. At the same time, they have been agents of politization and political socialization of women at the local level.

Using political forms of activism, Little Entente of Women was not able to go in its feminist aspirations far behind the borders of the male dominated politics; therefore, its impact was quite limited especially after its reorganization in 1930s. On the contrary, Unity of Slavic Women focusing also to children and youth, and organising regular public gatherings from lectures to cycles of theatre performances and concerts to popular dance balls in folk costumes held under the patronage of presidents, ministers of foreign affairs and ambassadors of involved countries, received wide audience, supporters and established several local branches at least in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Through cultural and social work, Unity was promoting political ideology and its internal documents show, their leading persons aspired to influence minority policies and diplomacy.

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