

*Mihajlo Lanović (1882–1968): Professor of Law at  
the University of Zagreb in the Diplomatic  
Negotiations between the Holy See and the Kingdom  
of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes*

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PROJECT: MODERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMACIES AND THE EASTERN ADRIATIC

# Short Biography of Mihajlo Lanović

- born in 1882
- Gymnasium (1896-1900)
- Faculty of Law (1900-1904)
- Department for Cult and Education of the Provincial Croatian Government (1906–1918)
- head of the Roman Catholic Department in the Ministry of Faith in Belgrade (1919-1927)
- professor of law at the University of Zagreb (1924-1946)

# Law and Diplomacy

- Loyalty to the new regime and his Yugoslav ideological orientation
- Lanovic's proposal of the Inter-confessional Law in 1920
- Liberal establishment of the new Yugoslav state and the Vidovdan Constitution in 1921
- The resistance of the Yugoslav bishops to interfaith law
- Statement of Pope Benedict XV on the old concordat in the new states founded after Great War
- Member of the diplomatic group for the concordat with the Holy See (1922-1925)

# Reflexions on relations between the State and the Church

- Modernist and liberal view on relations between the Church and the State
- The State was the only source of law and its absolute sovereignty
- Ivan Angel Ruspini and Ante Crnica – canonical lawyers of the official Church against Lanović's interpretations
- Lanović distinguished three types of those relations on a theoretical level: theory of coordination (concordat), theory of legality and the third position is separation between the Church and the State (also known as the French model)
- Advocating the theory of legality against the theory of concordat
- Lanović rejected the theory of the concordat as an international agreement, according to him the concordat is a law like any other which is enacted by the State

## Lanović's concordat draft in 1925

- „The Concordat of Yugoslavia with Vatican“, Belgrade 1925
- Concordat draft as he proposed would expand the influence of the State and reduce the influence of the Church
- supported the theory of legality by which "the concordat is a law enacted by the state as the supreme authority on its territory,,
- the great influence of the state in the fields of the Church education and its property

# Conclusion

- As an expert of law Lanovic greatly influenced and legitimized the State policy with his liberal views in understanding of relations with the Church
- Lanović's articulated position shows that the negotiations were not only interrupted in 1925 due to unresolved relations around the property of the Institute of St. Jerome in Rome, but also because of two different and opposite views on the Church-State relations between the representatives of the Church and the State