

# The Yugoslav Emigration Problem.

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According to the census of 1921 the population of Yugoslavia amounted to 12,017,323 inhabitants. Beyond that 732,800 reside overseas. This latter figure has been established by the Emigration Department of the former Provincial Government of Zagreb on the basis of all statistical sources available: first, on the 1920 census of the United States of America by countries of birth, then on the census of the United States by the mother tongue, on the census of the British Dominions and on statistical

all Yugoslavs by race, or (of the three nationalities of the Kingdom) 2% of all Serbians, 12% of all Croats and 16% of all Slovenes.

The emigrants specified above left their country in the course of several decades. The Yugoslav emigration began in the 17th century. Of the most prominent emigrants of that time are to be mentioned Baron Ivan Rataj, a famous Jesuit, and Bishop Baraga, devoted to the spreading of civilization among the Red Indians, who published a grammar and dictionary of the language spoken by the Chippewa tribe and wrote prayers in the Ottawa language. His memory lives in the name of the Baraga County, Michigan. The Town of Croatian in the State of North Carolina dates from that epoch. But the great migration, chiefly to the United States, started in the early nineties of the last century. There were periods when solely from the provinces of Croatia and Slavonia more people emigrated in one year than from the whole Kingdom since its birth up to-day. Many of these emigrants returned afterwards. Let us illustrate that migratory movement by some figures: In 1907 59,295 emigrated and 30,529 returned; 1910 46,742 and 7,973 respectively; 1913 48,382 and 13,086. These figures being comparatively high in proportion to the population of Croatia and Slavonia which amounts to about 3 millions only, Croatian public opinion began to consider the question of emigration. But here like in other countries the Government began to consider the necessity of passing an emigration law when the great majority had already crossed the Ocean. Owing to the lesson which the Great War taught all nations, that the life of states, regardless of their political boundaries, depends on the blood and the mind of their subjects, public opinion changed its attitude and began to look upon the settlements oversea as precious parts of its own blood and mind. Anxious to preserve their oversea-settlements, the countries of the emigrants came into conflict with the countries of immigration which are anxious to assimilate them.



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works of various government offices and private organizations of Latin America. According to the statistics of the Emigration Department of the former Provincial Government of Zagreb the 732,800 Yugoslavs residing overseas are distributed as follows: 600,000 or 81.8% in the United States (by nationalities: 108,000 or 18% Serbians, 357,660 or 59.51% Croats and 134,340 or 22.49% Slovenes; by occupation: 42% in the steel and iron industry, 12% in coal mines, 6.5% in the timber industry, 6% in stockyards, 5% in fruit growing, 4% in chemical works, the rest in other activities); 35,200 or 4.8% in the British Empire, of whom 30,000 in Canada, 400 in South Africa, 3,000 in Australia, 1,300 in New Zealand and 500 spread over other parts of the Empire; 47,160 or 16.5% in Latin America, of whom 30,000 in Argentine, 6,000 in Chile, 4,500 in Brazil, 600 in Mexico, 1,500 in Central America and 5,000 in different states of South America; 50,000 or 6.9% in other parts of the world, chiefly in Turkey. Of the total Yugoslav population, wheter they changed their citizenship or not, 6% reside overseas, i. e. 7.05% of

Thus the emigration became a national, social, economic, political and cultural problem. On another occasion I have drawn a schedule showing the consequences of migration in the form of a balance sheet. The following figures are taken from this schedule. Since the end of the Great War till the end of 1923 the number of re-emigrants amounting to 43,068 surpassed the number of emigrants, 34,700, by 8,368. While emigration means an efflux of population, in this country—though this is a paradox—it meant an afflux of 8,368 persons. The following table shows all details:

Year	A. United States		B. British Empire		C. Latin America		D. Other Countries		By years		Total migrations	+ increase of popula- tion; - decrease of popula- tion or net emigration
	Emi- grants	Re-emi- grants	Emi- grants	Re-emi- grants	Emi- grants	Re-emi- grants	Emi- grants	Re-emi- grants	Emi- grants	Re-emi- grants		
From the end of the Great War till the end of 1919 . . .	265	6,968	11	143	15	198	—	15	291	7,324	7,618	+ 7,033
1920 . . .	5,474	16,513	189	318	317	2,145	8	4	5,988	18,980	24,968	+ 12,992
1921 . . .	12,461	7,914	114	139	390	166	—	—	12,965	8,219	21,194	+ 4,746
1922 . . .	5,436	6,259	255	101	395	215	—	—	6,086	6,575	12,661	+ 489
1923 . . .	4,130	1,752	863	65	4,374	131	3	2	9,370	1,950	11,320	- 7,420
Total by groups . .	27,766	39,406	1,432	766	5,491	2,855	11	21	34,700	43,048	77,748	+ 8,348