

THE BALKAN PENINSULA OF JOVAN CVIJIĆ:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEMPORARY
TRENDS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY



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GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE "JOVAN CVIJIĆ" SASA, BELGRADE
CULTURAL CENTRE "VUK KARADŽIĆ", LOZNICA

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Jovana Brankov
Marija Drobnjaković

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FOREWORD

This publication is dedicated to the centenary of publishing of the most important work of Jovan Cvijić in the domain of human geography — *La péninsule balkanique: géographie humaine* (1918). In order to honour this publication, the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA from Belgrade and the Cultural Centre “Vuk Karadžić” from Loznica organized the International Conference “The Balkan Peninsula of Jovan Cvijić: Historical Background and Contemporary Trends in Human Geography”, which was held in Tršić (close to Loznica) on 29th and 30th October 2018. Eminent scientists from Serbia and abroad represented their views regarding the anthropogeographical and ethnological issues thoroughly studied by Jovan Cvijić.

La péninsule balkanique: géographie humaine is a significant work where Jovan Cvijić synthesized all relevant results regarding the interactions between people and their natural surrounding which provided a unique, integrated representation of the Balkan Peninsula. Scientific contribution of this Cvijić’s work is manifold and cannot be measured only by the actuality of the results in the time when they were published, thus formulating the new concept of anthropogeography, but also by their universality that intrigues the scholarly sphere for a full hundred years. Since the first publication in French in 1918, through publication in Serbian in 1922 (book I) and 1931 (book II), there were several re-editions till nowadays. This monograph offers an inspiration and a valuable basis for understanding the evolution of all phenomena specific for the Balkan Peninsula, in their entirety and continuity, pointing to the current problems and issues, and predicting the subsequent headway of the “Balkan society”.

This publication offers to the readers various interpretations of different topics and issues that Cvijić opened in *La péninsule balkanique: géographie humaine*. In the authors’ comments, these views are sometimes criticized and sometimes glorified, but also re-actualized in the contemporary context.

LA PÉNINSULE BALKANIQUE BY JOVAN CVIJIĆ —
BACKGROUND FOR GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN THE BOOK BALKAN PENINSULA AND THE SOUTH SLAVIC LANDS OF JOVAN CVIJIĆ (1918–2018)

Dimitrov V. Nikola¹

Abstract: The paper presents a real overview of the most important parts of the book *Balkansko poluostrvo i južnoslovenske zemlje. Osnove antropogeografije* [*Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands. The basics of anthropogeography*] by Jovan Cvijić, where the situation in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia is reflected. We are especially exploring the migration metanastazic movements and the consequences for the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. We analyse the basic anthropological psychic types and ethnic groups (variants) in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. In the end, we draw conclusions from Jovan Cvijić's axiom for the independent political and cultural life of the Balkan peoples and bringing the Balkans together.

Keywords: Balkan Peninsula; Republic of Macedonia; migrations; ethnic groups; peoples

Introduction

Jovan Cvijić (1865–1927) is the founder of the Serbian Geographical Society and Serbian Geography, president of the Serbian Royal Academy (today's SASA), professor and rector of the Belgrade University, honorary doctor at the Sorbonne University and Charles University in Prague, and other references. His research is dominated by papers from geomorphology, geology, anthropology and ethnography of the Balkan countries and regions that were under AustroHungary and Turkey.

For Macedonia, it is important that he directly visited and studied the social conditions and the population, while noting the uniqueness of the Macedonian people. Cvijić published his first objective remarks in the Vienna newspaper *Di Cite* in 1903, and in 1906 in Belgrade in the book *Nekoliko promatranja o etnografiji makedonskih Slovena* (*Remarks on the Ethnography of the Macedonian Slavs*).

He published the results of the thirty years of research on the Balkan Peninsula when he was a university professor at the Geographical Institute at the

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University "Goce Delcev", Faculty of tourism and business logistics, Štip, Republic of Macedonia e-mail: nikola.dimitrov@ugd.edu.mk

University of Belgrade and an honorary professor at Sorbonne, France, where he taught from 1917–1918. The original title of the book is *La péninsule balkanique — géographie humaine (Balkan Peninsula: human geography)*. “After returning to Serbia,” Cvijić emphasizes, “I came across a translated first half of my book, translated by Borivoje Drobnyaković, professor and curator at the Ethnographic Museum”, the period was printed in 1922. Cvijić did not reach to translate and supplement the second part of the book, although he worked until his death. The translation was made by his oldest student prof. Dr. Jovan Erdeljanović, ethnology professor at the University of Belgrade and prof. Dr. Borivoje Drobnyaković, The second part of the book *Balkansko poluostrvo i južnoslovenske zemlje. Osnove antropogeografije [Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands. The basics of anthropogeography]* was published in Belgrade in 1931.

The re-issuance of the Serbian translation of the book *Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands* was done in 1966, and covers an area of 583 pages. The book is divided into two books with multiple works and heads. In the first book *Geografsko okruženje i čovek [Geographical environment and man]* there are four parts and 18 chapters (343 pages), and in the second book *Psihičke osobine južnih Slovena [Psychological traits of South Slavs]* there are 5 sections and 18 chapters (313 pages).

From today’s distance, Cvijić’s books are a historical source for the geography of Republic of Macedonia, important for comparing the old with modern trends in social and human geography. The book *Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands*, which is the subject of our accents and comments, it provides information on many topics in geography, history, ethnography, sociology, demography, anthropology, architecture and psychology and the which should be analyzed extensively in a separate book. Cvijić’s in the book it examines and migration, urban and rural settlements, types of houses, material culture of the population, folk costume, household furniture, psychological types, etc.

The attractiveness of the monography for Republic of Macedonia

The territory of the Republic of Macedonia in the book Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands of Jovan Cvijić (1918–2018)

In both books, there are a total of 9 works and 36 chapters dealing with the nature of Macedonia, population, migration, ethnography, type of settlements, types of

houses, social and psychological changes and other characteristics (Cvijić, 1966).

From the aspect of actualization and important for Republic of Macedonia, in the first book *Geographical environment and man* (Cvijić, 1966), the first part “Main geographical features” (pp. 9–33), second chapter “Geographical features of joining and separation” (pp. 13–33) in the description “Valley and longitudinal roads” (pp. 15–17), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić’s conclusion that “Morava and Vardar can be transformed into an unbroken river road between the Danube and the Aegean Sea” (p. 16). This idea has not yet been realized for a hundred years. However, for the realization of the idea, a concrete project has been prepared, a river channel — a channel that will pass through the three countries concerned (Serbia, Macedonia and Greece). For the start, the most suitable concessionary country/state would be required to build the river channel.

2. Cvijić’s conclusion that “the most expressive valley Skopje–Ovče Pole–Štip–Radoviš–Strumica, which touches the Orphan Bay, until the construction of the railway in the valley of Vardar, was the main communication between the southern and central areas of the peninsula, which avoided the strains on the Vardar Gorges” (p. 16). Afterwards, Cvijić continues with the statement that with this “longitudinal Vardar valley is doubled”. The situation today has changed significantly, after a long time the Tabanovce–Skopje–Gevgelija highway was built, and in the final phase is the Miladinovci highway–Štip, then to continue the express road from Štip to Radoviš and from there to Strumica, to Valandovo and Dojran. So, the Cvijić conclusion for a short time will be a reality.

In the first book, in the second part, “Natural Areas” (pp. 35–87), the sixth chapter — “Continental Blocks” (pp. 41–87), in one of the three natural areas, is processed in the Central or Moravian-Vardar area, named such as the Vardar region or Macedonia (pp. 65–69), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić’s conclusion that this area is “composed of a series of basins along Vardar and its tributaries. It is bounded to the east with the Rhodope massif, to the west with the mountain ranges of Pind, the lower Struma in the east and the Crni Drim to the west, with the great western Macedonian lakes, the area is closely bound up with the valleys of Vardar and its tributaries” (pp. 65–66). In

fact, Cvijić gives a description of the boundaries depicted by ethnographic Macedonia.

In the first book, in the third part, “Geographical Influences and Intervention of Social Elements” (pp. 89–190), in the 9th chapter – “Cultural Belts” (p. 113), in the description Adjusted Byzantine or Old Balkan Civilization (pp. 115–118), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. In this connection, Cvijić concludes the following: “Macedonia has a chessboard look at a cultural point of view; border of various cultures where they are more in the eye and overlap with ethnographic borders” (p. 117). It also sets out the oases of the patriarchal regime “in western Macedonia, in the regions of Prespa, Mariovo, Poreče, Kičevo, Debar, Radika, and in eastern Macedonia in the massif Osogovo and the Maleš and Pijanec areas” (p. 116). In fact, what Cvijić noted a hundred years ago, due to a series of circumstances (wars, population displacement, migrations, etc.), today, in the mentioned areas, there is no patriarchal regime, and most of them are depopulation zones.

In the first book, part three, in the tenth chapter — “Metanastazic movements” (pp. 128–143), in the description for the Vardar-Moravian stream (pp. 133–137) and the Epirus-Arbanas areas (pp. 138–140), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić noted the following “Vardar-Moravian or Southern Streams were emigrants from the Vardar basin north to Demir Kapija (in the south of the Demir Kapija the population was very weak in the north), and especially migrants from western Macedonia, origin from Prilep, Bitola, Ohrid and Debar“ (p. 133). Further, he notes . . . “That current flowed mainly after the Vardar-Moravian valley and slowly spread, I uncover insignificant exceptions. There were no major migrations, some families and a group of families moved out, who changed their place of living by going north farther” (p. 134). In fact, Cvijić’s statement is radically changed today, namely, the political, military and economic conditions (in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, then in the FNRJ/SFR Yugoslavia and since 1991 onwards in the independent Republic of Macedonia) caused major migration movements, mainly for the Macedonians towards the former Yugoslav republics, then to western European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, with the scale of an exodus. Namely, migration movements — emigration of temporary or permanent eviction, towards the

mentioned spaces, last for about a century. Today, it is estimated that some 540,000 Macedonians live in overseas countries. (Stojmilov, 2005, p. 90)

2. Cvijić, for the great Arbanic migrations (or Albanian), concluded: “In Turkish times, the Arbanite migrations started. Four main streams can be distinguished: Malisorska, Dukakaginska, Škumbia and Toska The Škumbia migration flow covered the population of central Arbanija (or Albania), and along the old Roman road Via Egnatia penetrated into western Macedonia, where the Arbanas make up more isolated groups; except individually, did not enter the bare and summer-fevered valley of Vardar, as well as on the left bank of this river. Outside Via Egnatia north of Struga and Ohrid, the Arbanite shepherds crossed the Crni Drim and the high mountains and strengthened the Arbanic population in several mountainous areas around Debar They passed the Tetovo valley in the vicinity of Skopje to Kumanovo, and in broken groups and to Vardar” (pp. 139–140). What Cvijić was registering a hundred years ago has changed radically today. Namely, the Albanian movements continued not only internally — locally within the borders of the Republic of Macedonia, but also registered a strong external migration flow from the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija (Serbia) and Albania to Macedonia. Thus, today there are Albanians in all the valleys of western Macedonia, and there are also in the Kumanovo, Veles and parts of the Ovče Pole. How much is their number cannot be said, since 2002 in the Republic of Macedonia. Macedonia has not realized a population census. A non-census-free country has been named a space that produces an antidemocratic process that threatens its future.

In addition to the Albanian movements, we generally note the migration movements:

- From Cvijić’s time to the present in the eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia. A large number of Turks emigrated to Macedonia, and a small number of Yörüks remained, and even fewer Turks.
- With the withdrawal of the border with Greece, the winter nomadic stocking from the mountains (Bistra, Korab, Šara, Galičica and Pelister) has disappeared towards Gevgelija, Voden and Thessaloniki, and today it does not exist at all.
- There are no Šopi or Torlaci in eastern Macedonia, all of them have settled in the cities. Today this population declares itself Macedonians.

- Aromatic herdsmen from Šara and other mountain parts disappeared between the two world wars, and ten years after the Second World War and completely.
- From the Cvijić's research to date there have been major changes in the relation village-city. Thus, since the Second World War until 2002 in the Republic of Macedonia 919,052 inhabitants from the villages moved to the cities (according to the census in 1948, the Republic of Macedonia had a total of 1,152,986 inhabitants, of which 838,530 rural, 72.6% and 314,456 urban population, 27.3 %, and in 2002, the Republic of Macedonia had 2,022,547 out of which 1,233,508 urban, 61.0% and 789,039 rural population 39.0%) (Stojmilov, 2005, p. 92). According to the latest census of the population in the Republic of Macedonia since 2002, there are 1,774 settlements, of which 34 are urban and 1,740 villages. Out of the total number of rural settlements, 154 are displaced settlements (8.8%), 953 small settlements to 300 inhabitants (54.8%), 382 are settlements from 301 to 1,000 residents (22.0%) and 251 rural settlements with over 1,001 inhabitants (14.4%) (Dimitrov, 2009, p. 99–100).

In the first book, the fourth part of *The main ethnographic and sociological facts*, (pp. 191) in the 13th chapter — “The geographical distribution of the Balkan peoples” (pp. 193), in the description Population in the Continental Block (p. 201), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić noted that “during the Turkish administration the term “Bulgarian” lost its national significance and in spatial areas it was used as a class or economic name in the sense of “raja”, farmer, peasant and spread even outside the Bulgarian areas in Macedonia, Kosovo and Metohija, and even in the surroundings of Sarajevo in Bosnia, in Dalmatia and Croatia. By the name the Bulgarian was a simplest, and therefore the people from these areas named their simple folk songs as a Bushristica” (p. 203). Cvijić says that the name “Bulgarian” was first given by Greeks and Turks, and in connection with this continues: “The old ethnographic Bulgarian name lost its ethnographic meaning during the Turkish rule, and in most of the peninsula this name was marked by the village a population that lived under the toughest Chiflik regime. Due to the spread of the Bulgarian name in this sense, some old examiners and travellers, not knowing the special circumstances of the population, have fallen into wrongly counting the Bulgarian name as a national one. The ethnographic maps of that time, made according to these erroneous observations, greatly contributed

to the main Balkan flutter between Serbs and Bulgarians, the Macedonian issue” (p. 203). What Cvijić was registering for the Macedonian question was completed with the division of ethnic Macedonia, and today this issue is being reopened, but now all the neighbours of the independent Republic of Macedonia are interested. Such aspirations of the neighbours can easily lead the small Republic of Macedonia to become an “apple of discord” and cause a “domino effect” with unforeseeable consequences. In the interest of the space, we will mention that in the other parts of the first book there are examples that treat the area of Macedonia (for dividing the country, occupations and ways of life, position and types of settlements — urban and rural settlements, types of houses, and for social and psychological changes). In many places, Cvijić points out that the Serbian character of Macedonia, but also speaks of other communities (Greeks, Bulgarians, Vlachs, Albanians, Turks), but also noted that there are other Southern Slavs.

In the second book *Psychological traits of South Slavs* (Cvijić, 1966), Part 3 “Central type” (pp. 437), in the 10th chapter “Specialized Styles of Feelings and Opinions” (pp. 449), in the description Influence of ethnic assemblies, we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić, mentions the formulation “Macedonian Slavs” (p. 450, 463) and concludes that “the Macedonian Slavs originated from a mixture of the Slavs and Aromuni” (p. 450), then notes that “the West Macedonian dialect is not systematically investigated in that direction” (p. 453), and in the description Legends and national consciousness mentions “an amorphous Slavic mass and a Balkan soul between Prilep, Thessaloniki and Places” (p. 461) , as well as the name Macedonians – “Macedonians in Belgrade had warehouses with cotton and a wool and through Belgrade traded with Pesht and Vienna” (p. 463).

2. Cvijić, a plastic description for the population, is given in the 11th chapter “Variety of the central type” (pp. 467), especially in the description of the West Macedonian dialect, emphasizes “the Western population in particular is faithful to the preservation of the old Slavic customs. Jacob and his costume are very archaic”. Similarly, he mentions a South Macedonian Variety, which has an “old South Slavic basis with very preserved archaicity in the language and social characteristics of which there are deposits of influences of the old Byzantine culture, the Turkish-Eastern and Greek-Lavantic life” (p. 474).

In the 12th chapter “Several ethnic groups” (pp. 478) have several descriptions for the specific groups: Bitola-Prilep group (p. 478), Mavrovo-Reka group (p. 482), Miacka group (p. 486), Prespansko-Kosturska group (p. 501), StrugaOhrid group (p. 503), Debar group (p. 508) and Polog Group (p. 511), we emphasize and comment on the following:

1. Cvijić, on 33 pages (pp. 478–511), gives detailed descriptions of several ethnic groups in Macedonia, a description of the geographical stretching, characteristics of the population, costume, lifestyle, migration movements, and the share of the ethnic composition of the population. Thus, in the description of ethnic groups and ethnic belonging in the present-day Republic of Macedonia, mention is made of Serbs, Bulgarians, Slavs (Slavic population, old Balkan Slavs), Arbanassi and Aromuni.

From the descriptions of the ethnic groups, the boundaries of their stretching, that is, contours drawn in the ethnic map of the Balkan Peninsula since 1913 can be drawn. In that ethnic map, in most of the ethnic Macedonia, the population is named as Macedonian Slavs. The question arises: Why has not the ethnic map of the Balkan Peninsula been put into the book?

He probably did not want to be compromised because at the end of 1918, the then Serbian government named him as the first expert on ethnographic borders, and in the beginning of 1919, he was appointed president of the HistoricalEthnographic Section of the Delegation of the Kingdom of the SCS at the Peace Conference in Paris. At this Conference, the new state of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SCS) was formed, and the name of the “amorphous mass” concentrated in Macedonia in the ethnic group Macedonian Slavs, will cause a serious problem to the new country.

Answer to this question: Why does the second book of the *Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands* emerge from the press in 1922 and 1931? We get it from the preface of the book *Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands* of 1966, in which the preface of the second part of the the book *The Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Land*, published in Belgrade in 1931, and whose author is Jovan Erdeljanović. In the preface between the other we find the following:

- I changed some Cvijić’s announcements and data because they needed to correspond to current occasions and new scientific results.
- For the same reasons, I had to regard all of what Cvijić sensed, felt or believed on, based on his observations, on this occasion I added a

clearer and certain expression. Therefore, I made the changes taking into account the Cvijić's notions that he had after the First World War and who expressed them in his records of the time after that war.

- I also considered it a duty to correct it and by some coincidence not to miss, who did not carry Cvijić, to continue the Serbian edition of this second book, and he would have saved and corrected himself (because he did not have all the necessary scientific literature, the deliberately South Slavic). In the most important changes of this kind in the note I also presented the reasons from which the change was made.
- Among the manuscripts of Cvijić were found parts for six groups of the central Balkan type, to which Cvijić gave names: Prespa-Kostur, Struga-Ohrid, Debar, Polog, Sirinić-Mediac and the group of Vranjsko Pomorje. It is clear that Cvijić was preparing them to enter into his French act, because in many places more Serbian text was written in French translation (and whole sentences in French); but no doubt at the last hour he gave up his intention to enter it, of course just because he saw that this part about the central type turned out to be more great in relation to the parts for other South Slavic psychic types. Therefore, it was most appropriate for these parts to be given a place in this book, so I examined them and, as far as possible, I adjusted them for printing. All that text was neither definite for printing nor for the shape of sentences, therefore it was necessary carefully, taking into account Cvijić's method of writing and expressing thoughts, to settle it, and despite that, a fair number of sentences were written in short form or only the main parts of the sentences were mentioned, so those sentences had to be supplemented, expanded and sometimes developed into two or three new sentences. In any case, I had to be careful and to keep the thought that Cvijić expressed or wanted to express, and in many cases I assumed that I would leave a sentence even slightly less rounded than to change the whole sense of Cvijić's words. So arranged and filled these parts I added at the end of the head for the central type — at the end because of that, however, it corresponds to those departments that were spotted with the hand of Cvijić himself (Cvijić, 1966, p. 565–566).

Conclusion

The book by Jovan Cvijić, *Balkan Peninsula and the South Slavic Lands* is an important historical source for comparing the old with the contemporary trends in geography, history, ethnography, sociology, demography, anthropology, architecture, and the psychology of Republic of Macedonia.

The importance of the book for the Macedonian people and Republic of Macedonia is reflected in the objective attitude of the Soviet ethnologist Sergei A. Tokarev, who in the review of ethnographic researches in Macedonia of Cvijić recognized him “the exact objectivity and scientific well-intentioned conscience” (Ćulibrk, 1973, p. 166). Namely, Cvijić was one of the first scientists in Serbia who in his papers presented the thesis about the uniqueness of the Macedonian people. In line with this, he marked the geographical and ethnographic map of 1913 with a special colour. That prompted Tokarev to positively evaluate Cvijić’s contribution to solving the issue of nationality of the Macedonian Slavs: “He is one of the first to recognize the right of national independence to the Macedonian people and this is indisputably a great merit of the Serbian scientist” (Ćulibrk, 1973, p. 166). However, Cvijić did not advocate this thesis when he defended Serbia’s military objectives in the wars of 1912– 1918 (Čubrilović, 1987; 2000, p. 88).

In his book, American George White (2000) claims that in the course of the fighting for Macedonia, Cvijić influenced the international public opinion that in a series of publications and ethnographic maps, Macedonians are actually “southern Serbs”.

Jovan Cvijić’s axiom for the independent political and cultural life of the Balkan peoples and the rapprochement of the Balkan community is accomplished through several periods, and in the near future, it may be fully realized. Namely, after the Paris Peace Conference from 1919 to 1941, the following countries existed in the Balkans: SCS/Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Kingdom of Greece, Kingdom of Romania, Kingdom of Albania, Kingdom of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey (1923).

During the Second World War, the countries of the Balkans were divided between Germany, Italy and Bulgaria. Following the Second World War, the following states were established: FNRJ / SFR Yugoslavia (1945–1992), SR Bulgaria, (from 1944–1989) and Republic of Bulgaria (1990), Republic of

Greece (1924–1935) and Kingdom of Greece (1935–1974) and then Republic of Greece (1975), the Republic of Romania (1947–1989), the Republic of Albania (1946–1990), the Republic of Turkey (1922).

Since 1991, the joint state of the SFRY has broken down first into five, then to six and at the end of seven separate state entities, the Republic of Slovenia (1991), the Republic of Macedonia (1991), the Republic of Croatia (1991), the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992) Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro, 1992–2006), then the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, and finally the Republic of Serbia (2006) and the Republic of Montenegro (2006).

Today, there are 11 countries in the Balkans: Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Turkey. States are connected with modern roads, there are air links and economic progress.

The idea of creating a separate Balkan Federation is not realized, but the idea of a united Europe is gradually becoming a reality. Thus, in the European Community, the Balkan countries are the Republic of Greece (since 1981), the Republic of Slovenia (2004), the Republic of Romania (2007), the Republic of Bulgaria (2007) and the Republic of Croatia (2013). Jovan Cvijić's axiom for the independent political and cultural life of the Balkan nations may be a reality in the European Union of nations and states.

We emphasize, the research of the work of Jovan Cvijić for Macedonia has not been completed yet. Our recommendation to scientific researchers is to engage in the preparation of a separate book on Cvijić and Macedonia, which would analyse all his papers in which territory of the Republic of Macedonia is being processed.

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