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**FROM THE GREAT MIGRATION TO THE “IMAGINED COMMUNITY”:  
THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND CULTURAL REFORMS AS FOUNDATIONS  
OF MODERN NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE SERBS IN THE  
HABSBURG MONARCHY**

**Summary:** The paper traces the consequences of the Austro-Turkish wars and the Great Migration of 1690, after which a new Serbian community was established north of the Danube and an institutional framework (privileges, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, local administration) was formed within the Habsburg Monarchy. It examines three social environments – the countryside, the Military Frontier, and the free royal towns – and their impact on socio-economic mobilization, education, and the emergence of a civic elite. Special attention is devoted to linguistic and cultural transformations (from Russian Church Slavonic to Slaveno-Serbian), the development of printing and education (Russian influences, reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II), and the works of Orfelin and Dositej Obradović as mediators of Enlightenment ideas. The synergy of these processes shaped a transnational “imagined community” and the first contours of modern Serbian national consciousness.

**Keywords:** Great Migration, Serbs in the Habsburg Monarchy, Enlightenment, Slaveno-Serbian language, Russian Church Slavonic, education, bourgeois class, Dositej Obradović, Zaharija Stefanović Orfelin

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