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FRANCE AND MIGRATIONS FROM THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, REFUGEE POLICIES, AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF SERBIAN IDENTITY

Summary: This paper analyzes migration flows from the former Yugoslavia to France after 1989, positioning them between politically constructed fears of an “invasion” and the reality of diverse, multilayered movements. Particular attention is given to French legal and administrative frameworks (temporary residence and work permits, humanitarian protection, the practice of OFPRA) and their practical consequences for refugees. The study also examines media representations of the 1990s and their impact on the Serbian community—stigma, slowed acculturation, strengthened intra-diasporic solidarity, and the challenges faced by the second generation. Ultimately, the paper argues that, within the French context, transnational patterns of belonging and reconfigurations of Serbian identity emerged that transcend the binary logic of “country of origin” versus “country of reception.”

Keywords: Serbs in France, Yugoslav diaspora, refugee policy, legal frameworks, media representations of the 1990s, acculturation and identity

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