

Viktor Mircic

*The French-Serbian Shareholding Bank Belgrade 1910–1951*

*Summary*

This bank, founded just before the beginning of World War I, was one of the largest and most influential foreign banks in the Kingdom of Serbia. All until the German occupation of Yugoslavia in 1941, it maintained its privileged and prominent status of vital importance for Serbia. With its headquarters in Paris and branch office headquarters in London and Belgrade, the bank's mission was to provide profitable investments and service foreign, above all, French investments. The bank inherited the business of the great *Ottoman Bank*, taking over its business through branch offices in Skopje and Bitola.

The bank managed to establish large and significant French-Serbian economic associations, such as the *French-Serbian Cement and Coal Industry*. The bank also supported other foreign economic associations that had concessions or developed industrial plants on the territory of the Kingdom of Serbia.

The bank based its main activities on state securities trade and stocks issued by large companies. By virtue of the reliance of the Kingdom of Serbia, and later on the Kingdom of SCS/Yugoslavia, on France, it maintained its privileged and favoured status concerning the state and its institutions.

During World War II it was robbed (mainly Jewish deposits), but regardless of that continued its work. After the war, with the coming of the new government and development of a socialist society and economy, it was liquidated in agreement with France.