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*Kingdom of Yugoslavia Delegation to the Reparations Commission in Paris
(1919–1930)*

Summary

The Great Powers for the first time punished the defeated powers at the Paris Peace Conference by making them pay for all war damages. The Reparations Commission was also established to deal with enforcing the provisions of peace treaties concerning the reparations and various related issues. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia Delegation attempted to pull off the best for their country, investing great hopes in reparations payments, which were to contribute to the renewal of the war-devastated Serbia and to the economic recovery of the entire country. However, such hopes turned sour. Even though Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria made part of their payments in money and property during 1920s, large economic problems in those countries followed by a grave global economic crisis contributed first to the slow-down in reparations, and eventually led to their completely ceasing.

The importance of the archival material Kingdom of Yugoslavia Delegation's is by no means small. The materials of this fond provide information about the work of the Reparations Commission in Paris and about reparations from the beginnings to the time when this issue dropped from the limelight. Very important for us are the actions taken by our Delegation and their efforts to get the most when it comes to reparations payments and to arrive at the most optimum solutions with regard to reparations burdens, as well as the division of Austro-Hungarian property concerning the parts of the Kingdom having belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Regardless of some deficiencies, the archival materials of the Delegation are an important source for the issue of reparations, an inevitable segment when studying the period after World War One.