

Igor Vukadinović

*Albanian Rebellion at Kosovo and Metohija 1944 and 1945
in the Light of British Politics Towards Balkan*

Summary

Rebellion of Albanian Quisling Formations at Kosovo and Metohija in 1944 and 1945 significantly disrupted plans of the Supreme Headquarters of the Yugoslav National Liberation Army by the end of the war, since it had to hire 40.000 soldiers for suppression of the rebellion in February 1945. Nazi Germany was directly involved in organization of the rebellion, since while retreating from Kosovo in November 1944 it left diversified net of Quisling formations. Germans equipped those formations known as "Balisti" (Balli Kombetar) with weapons, ammunition, equipment and other war material. These formations, which served Fascist regime of the Great Albania between 1941 and 1944, started the rebellion in 2 December 1944, by attacking the town of Uroševac. The rebellion was organized on the principles of guerllia warefare, it meant hiding in the woods, reliance on concealers and support of local people , attacks on couriers and isolated troops, with occasional major attacks on townsand their occupation. The other great power that logistically supported Albanian rebels was Great Britain, in that time the major ally of Tito's Yugoslavia, besides Soviet Union fighting the Nazi Germany. The main reason for this change of politics towards Yugoslavia was British determination to prevent expansion of communism to the other Balkan countries, especially Greece, which was considered to be a zone of its vital