

*Looking from the Perspective of an Object of a Case Study*

While searching for literature, documents and other references for this chapter, it happened that I came across an elaborate paper, which addresses a phenomenon of the weekly magazine *Mladina* (meaning Youth in the Slovenian language), where I myself happened to be employed from 1976 until late 1986 and where I continued to contribute opinion columns and articles for another five or six years. The article, written by Patrick Hyder Patterson (published in the year 2000), gives a very informed report on the journalism in the magazine and its political context especially at the time before and after 1989. Patterson's article represents an approach to recent history that demonstrates how some case studies of the critical phenomena and some critical moments in the transition might shed some light on what happened, and what were the main driving forces within the events, deemed instantly to be "historical". Since such valuable work as Patterson's is still rather rare and unknown to a wider public, this recent history is often understood in a simplified way, or it is interpreted – or rather appropriated – from a very narrow political or economic perspective. So, let me quote an extensive bit of Patterson's article, where he quotes one of my own opinion columns in *Mladina*. In his observation, which makes use of my article from November 1989, many aspects of society concerning politics and culture and their implication in the processes of change are captured as in a snapshot of the moment before the period, which was later on grasped in the term of transition.

*Especially revealing is a column by Štrajn that appeared in November 1989, as Hungary and Poland were disappearing down their paths away from socialism. Looking on, Štrajn could not help feeling that Yugoslavia, with its incendiary domestic politics and halting progress toward democratization, suffered miserably by comparison:*

Beyond the eastern and western borders of Yugoslavia... formerly unresolvable conflicts are being resolved with rational dialogue, with the introduction of democracy, with a great measure of tolerance, etc. Although, to be sure, events in the socialist world are still marked by the encounter with the spirits of the dark past, events there nevertheless cannot hold a candle to the spectacle of the Yugo-Scene. Let's take for example the end of com-