

CULMINATING SOVEREIGNTY

The Reasoning Behind Slovenia's Strategy for Recognition

BACKGROUND Slovenian international recognition reached between December 1991 and January 1992 has been studied interchangeably with the Croatian case, and looked on from an external perspective. Here we find an example of understanding the internal strategy that was followed by a key agent: The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dimitrij Rupel, as a representative of both the Slovenian cultural and political elite.

HYPOTHESIS What made Slovenia differ from the Croatian case, and the success in achieving recognition lies in the cultural framework of Slovenia and the personal characteristics of Dimitrij Rupel.

OBJECTIVES Prove through a cultural and psychological analysis of Slovenia and Dimitrij Rupel, that the impact that both factors had in the strategy to find international acceptance and the recognition were key.

International Recognition

Strategy

Culture

Decision-makers' psychology

SITUATION



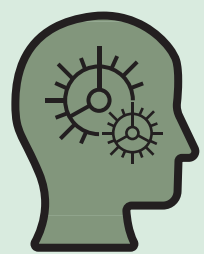
Historical context: International System change with the end of the Cold War. A wave that questioned the socialist model and demanded a liberal democracy came to Europe. In Slovenia a movement against the Serbian homogenization.

Culture: Slovenian identity is defined by the cultural and literary tradition in contraposition to any subjugation. The principal value is sovereignty, but always maintaining good relations with the regional counterparts.

19th – 20th century: against Austro-Hungarian superiority and in favor of integration to the Balkan Slavs.

1980-1991: against *serbization* of Yugoslavia and communist identity. Slovenian in-group, integrated in Kundera's proposal of Central-European nation-states.

CONSTRUCTS



Memories: Revolts in the Eastern Block; Experiences studying and teaching the USA; Member of the Slovenian and Center-European Intelligentsia.

Beliefs: Defense of European integration; Liberal ideology; Rejection of plurinational states as a source of instability.

Values: Democracy, Political freedom, Human Rights defender, Right to Self-determination

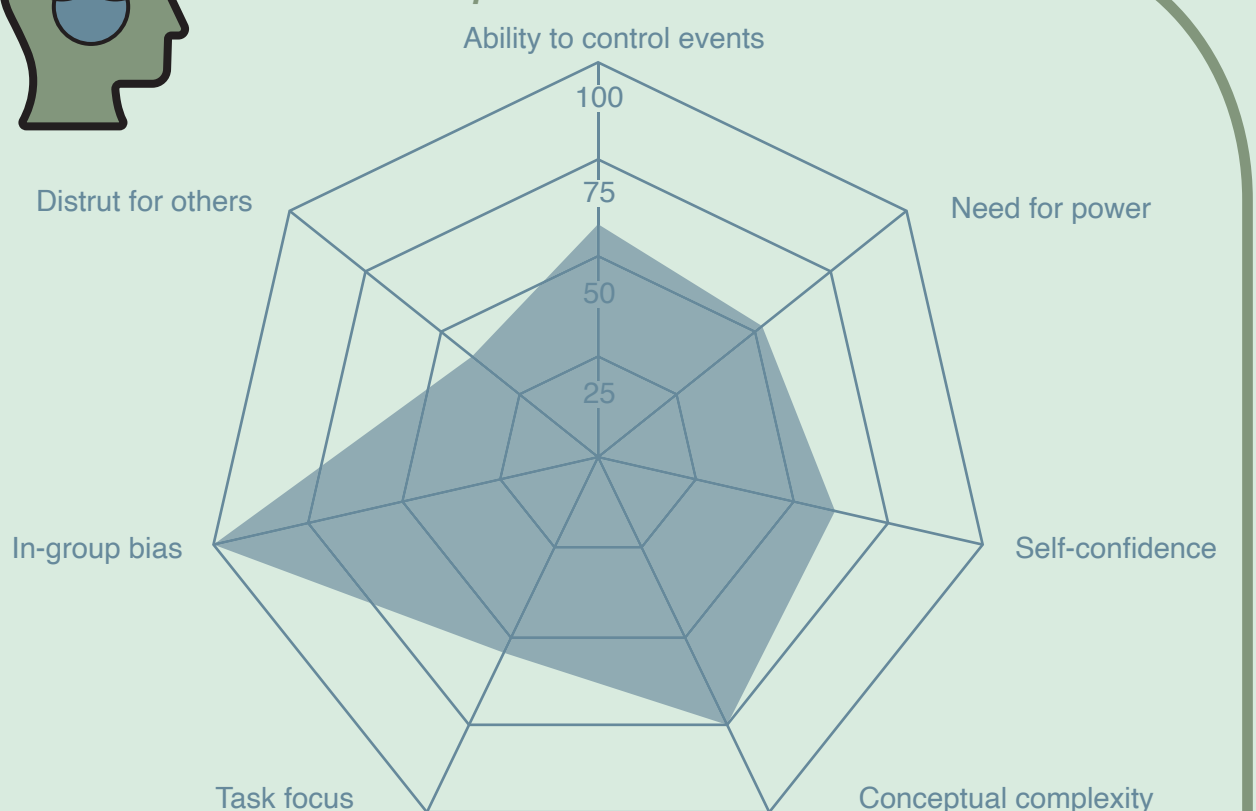
METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

ATTITUDE

DECISIONS

PERSONALITY

Active-Independent



Focused in maintaining the governments maneuverability during the negotiations and open to challenge the international constraints to achieve recognition.

CONCLUSIONS



1. Slovenian culture linked the national identity with the new region to belong to: Central Europe.
2. Dimitrij Rupel as an intellectual was a bridge between the Slovenian culture and the strategy for recognition. Advocating for a peaceful process, that differed from the Croatian case.
3. His trust in western institutions and maneuverability as a negotiator, convinced Germany as a key State that triggered a recognition domino-effect.

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Archival Documents from the Archive of the Republic of Slovenia, retrived during the summer 2020.

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