

**Can Multiethnic Societies Work After Civil War? A View from “the inside”:
the Croat Case.**

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(with an input by Jan Kubik)¹

Abstract

In our examination of the question, “Can Multiethnic Societies Work After Civil Wars?” we looked at the interaction between courts and the grievances presented by the members of returning ethnic groups in Croatia. The main finding is that there is little incentive for citizens to return to their homes if they are not convinced that their civil and property rights are guaranteed. Furthermore, economic stability, crucial for return, is also vital in creating and maintaining political stability. Neither can be achieved if disputes between refugee and IDP over the rightful ownership of abandoned and occupied property erupt. The courts and the legal system play a prominent role in dealing with these issues.