

PHD ZORAN DJINDJIC – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born in Bosanski Samac (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Srpska)¹, on August 1, 1952, to mother Mila and father Dragomir, while his father was stationed as an officer of the Yugoslav People's Army in that town. He spent his childhood and early youth in different towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and mostly in Travnik in the period from 1961 to 1967. After his father retired in 1967, Djindjic came to Belgrade. Đinđić attended the Ninth Belgrade Gymnasium, subsequently enrolling at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Philosophy, where he graduated in, 1974. He was the head of the Students' Association at the Faculty of Philosophy. On November 1974, due to one "Draft resolution of students' associations of the faculties of philosophy in Belgrade, Ljubljana and Zagreb", qualified by current, communist, authority as "a form of new political program, new political platform, as well as an attempt which leads to creation of political subjects with already existing socio-political organizations", he was sentenced to one year in prison together with six other students. He did not serve the sentence.

At the beginning of 1977, he went to West Germany, where he obtained his PhD from the University of Konstanz, mentored by Albrecht Wellmer, the student of Habermas. He returned to the country in 1979 to serve his military service. After military, he goes back to Germany where he receives the Humbolt Scholarship for the period 1982-1984, on the recommendation of a professor from Yugoslavia. As of June 1, 1986, he started working at the Center for Philosophy and Social Theory, where he obtained scientific title – Senior Scientific Associate. He was a lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad.

Zoran Djindjic was one of 13 Serbian intellectuals who announced their intention to establish Democratic Party (hereinafter: DP) on December 13, 1989, and they acted on it as soon as on February 3, 1990, by electing Dragoljub Micunovic, PhD for the president of the party, and Zoran Djindjic, PhD was elected president of the Executive Board. DS won seven mandates at the first multi-party elections held in Serbia in 1990. At the following multi-party elections held in Serbia in 1993, DS won 29 mandates. The elections in 1997 were boycotted by DS together with about fifteen other parties. At parliamentary elections held after October 5, in December 2000, the coalition Democratic Opposition of Serbia (hereinafter: DOS), part of which was DS, won 176 mandates.

Djindjic was first elected president of DS in January 1994 and two other times as well: at the extraordinary session of the Assembly of the Democratic Party on July 18, 1998, and at the regular session of the Assembly of the party on February 27, 2000.

¹ Until 1991 Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY)
https://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socijalisti%C4%8Dka_Federativna_Republika_Jugoslavija
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia

He was a deputy in all three multi-party compositions of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and Council of Republics of the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

He was elected Mayor of Belgrade on the 21st February 1997, representing the Together coalition, which topped the polls in many Serbian cities in the 1996 local elections. He was dismissed from the position of mayor on the 30th September 1997. The motion for his dismissal was passed by votes from members of the SPO, SPS and SRS parties.

In a court dispute with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Mirko Marjanović, he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment on 20th September 1996, suspended for two years. The Serbian Supreme Court amended the sentence, passing a new one in which he was sentenced to seven months in prison, suspended for three years. Political pressures and persecutions continued during 1999.

In June 2000, Djindjic took on the role of coordinator in the Alliance for Change and then became head of the Central Election Committee and promotional campaign coordinator of the Serbian Democratic Opposition (DOS) for the elections held on the 24th September 2000. Djindjic was elected a member of the Council of the Republics in the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in these elections.

He became Prime Minister of Serbia on 25th January 2001, after the victory of DOS in the Serbian parliamentary elections in December 2000.

In September 1999, the American weekly Time ranked him among the 14 leading European politicians of the third millennium. He was the recipient of the distinguished German Bambi Award for politics in 2000. In August 2002, Djindjic received the Polak award in Prague for his contribution to the development of democracy in Serbia. He was posthumously awarded by the Foundation for International Perspectives and Human Rights of the University Friedrich Schiller in Jena in 2004. On the occasion of commemoration of the second year of his death on March 12, 2005, the President of Serbia and Montenegro Svetozar Marovic posthumously awarded Zoran Djindjic with the Nemanja decoration of the first degree.

He was the author of the following books: Subjectivity and Violence (Subjektivnost i nasilje), An Autumn of Dialectics (Jesen dijalektike) and Yugoslavia as an Incomplete State (Jugoslavija kao nedovršena država). He was Editor-in-Chief of Theoria magazine, the official publication of the Serbian Philosophy Society.

Zoran Djindjic was murdered on March 12th 2003 in front of the Serbian government building. Djindjic left behind his wife Ruzica, daughter Jovana and son Luka.