



“Vukovar will never be BYKOBAP”: Serbia-Croatia relations and minority language rights

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Outline

- National minorities, homeland politics, and bilateral relations
- Serbia-Croatia relations: a triadic nexus
- Capturing Cyrillic in foreign policy rhetoric



Credit: Vijesti.ba/Srna

National minorities, homeland politics, and bilateral relations

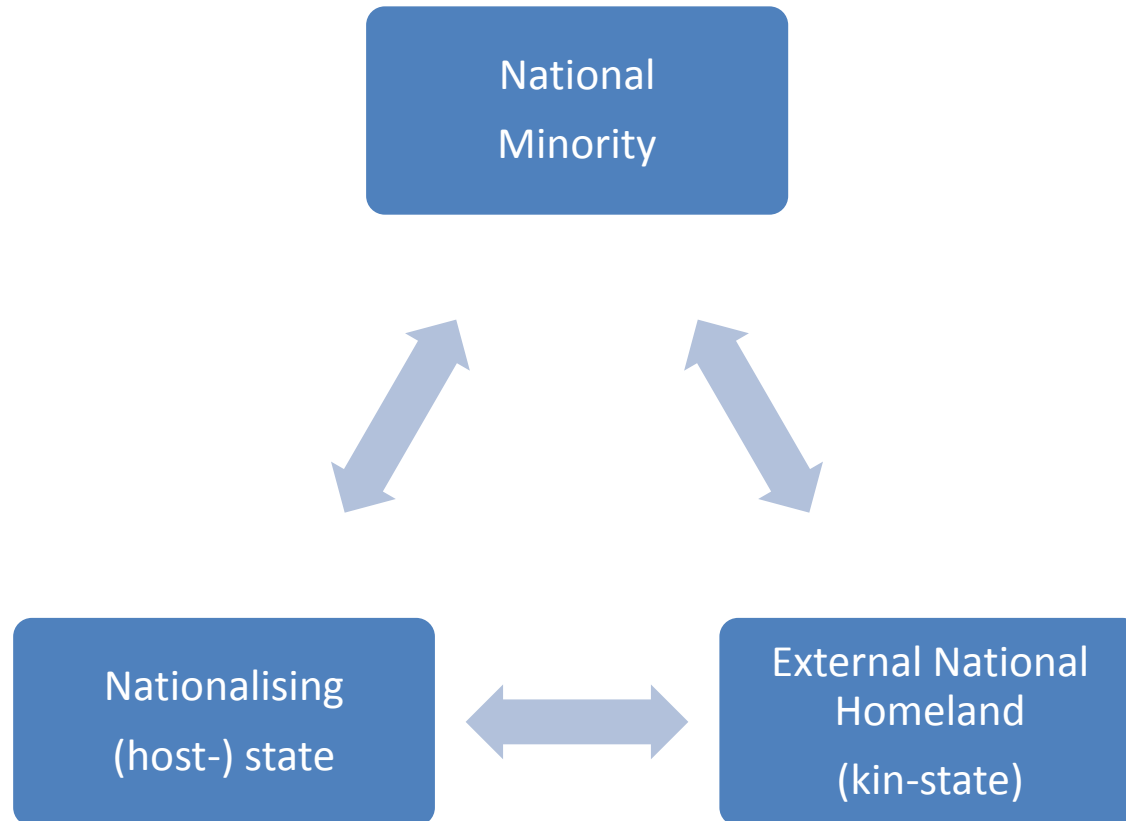


- National minorities understood through Brubaker's 'triadic nexus' (1996)
- The threat of homeland politics
(Davis and Moore, 1997; Saideman, 2001)
- Good bilateral relations as mitigating
(Venice Commission, 2001; Waterbury, 2010; Nagle, 2013)
- RQ: How do kin-state politics manifest through diplomatic relations with a national minority's kin-state?



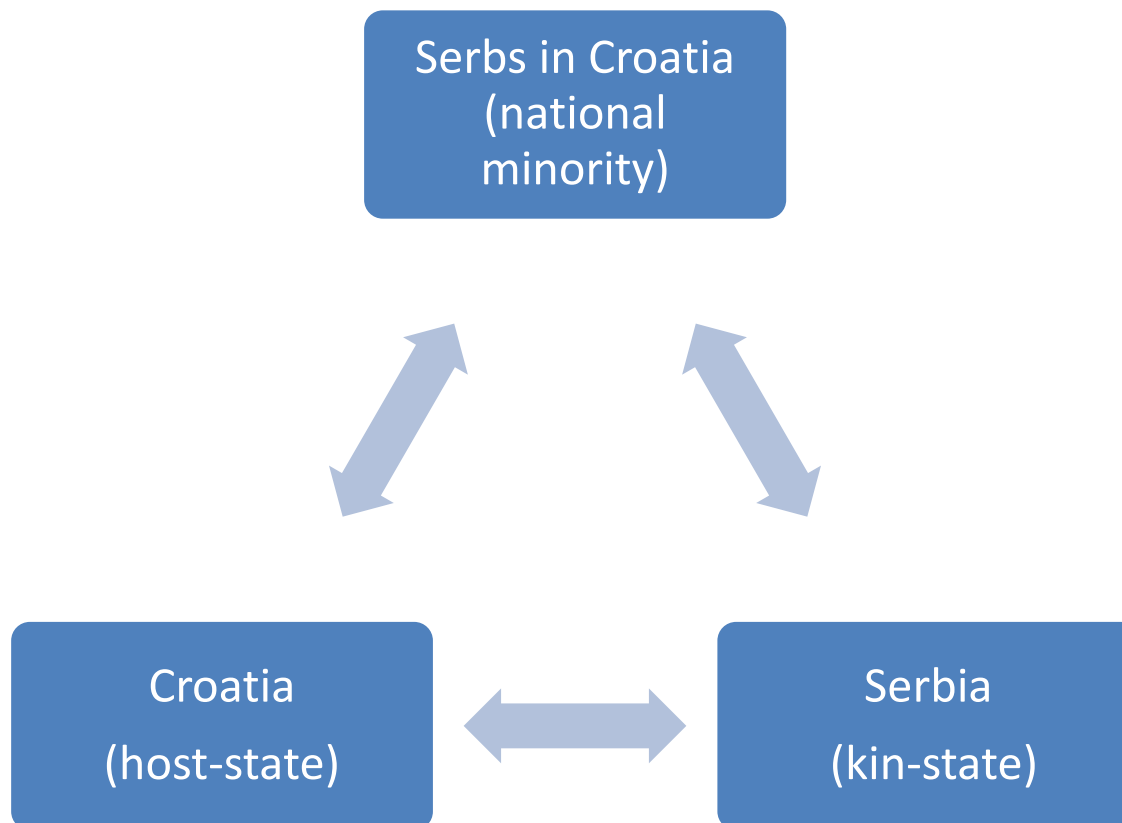


Brubaker's triadic nexus (1996)





Serbia-Croatia relations: a triadic nexus



Capturing Cyrillic in foreign policy rhetoric



Credit: Beta/Hina

- Post-conflict, fragile Croatia-Serbia relations
- Struggle to implement bilingual signs in Vukovar, 2013
- Qualitative content analysis: inductive coding of 86 ministry of foreign affairs statements



Behaviour and Relations



Credit: Twitter/ Aleksander Vucic

Ivica Dačić: “It is very important that various incidents do not cast a shadow on the publically pronounced desire for improving our relations ”
(MFA Serbia, 4 March 2015)



Dealing with the Past



Ivica Dačić: “they can be compared only to the measures taken in the past, at the time of [the] fascist Independent State of Croatia”

(MFA Serbia, 24 September 2015)

**ZA HRVATSKI
VUKOVAR**



**NE
ĆIRILICI**

2. veljače u 12,05



Credit: Uhblptsp-osijek.hr



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National Minorities



Credit: Index.hr

Vesna Pusić: “it [bilingual signs in Vukovar] is Croatia’s internal issue, but we expect support from Serbian authorities as well since it concerns minority rights”

(MFEA Croatia, 26 November 2013)





Quadratic nexus

Bosa Prodanović: “Serbia wishes to develop good relations with Croatia, and expects it, as a neighbouring country and EU member, to prevent any further escalation of the anti-Serb campaign”
(MFA Serbia, 15 November 2013)



Credit: Rtv.rs



Conclusions



- **Responsible homeland politics?**
- **Quadratic nexus?**
- **Good neighbourly relations prioritised over ethnic ties**
- **Limited capture of foreign policy by national minority**

