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## Serbian physician and politician from Ilicevo - Dr. Mihailo Ilic

*Katarina Janićijević (1), Maja Sazdanović (2), Mirjana A. Janićijević Petrović (3), Zoran Kovačević (4)*

(1)DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDICINE, FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA; (2) DEPARTMENT OF HYSTOLOGY, FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA; (3) DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA; (4) DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, CLINICAL CENTRE OF KRAGUJEVAC, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA

Serbian physician and politician, dr. Mihailo Ilic was a historical figure and a famous person with a well deserved memorial at Clinical Center "Kragujevac" in Kragujevac, Figure 1. Famous Serbian doctor was born in 1856 in the village of Meckovac near Kragujevac, which is called Ilicevo today (until 1954, the village was called

Meckovac) (the origin of the population of the village of Meckovac as the City of Vranje - Pcinjski district, according to the book of John F. Trifunovski "Vranjska Kotlina", based on data collected from 1951 to 1955, prepared by an associate of Porekla Milodan) [1].

Figure 1. Monument of serbian physician and politician, dr. Mihailo Ilic (1856-1905)  
Clinical Center "Kragujevac" of Kragujevac



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Dr. Mihailo Ilic was born in the Principality of Serbia, which lasted from 1815 to 1882. It was created after the Second Serbian Uprising and existed until 1882 when it was declared the Kingdom of Serbia [1].

Ilic's birthplace, Meckovac, belonged to the citymunicipality of Pivara from 2002 to 2008, and after that time, the municipalities were dissolved. It is located east of the center of

Kragujevac. Due to immediate proximity of the city, and a large population growth of the village of Meckovac, there was a clear physiognomic fusion of this settlement with Kragujevac. Ilicevo was initially an independent settlement, and in 1991 it was officially dissolved as an independent settlement and annexed to Kragujevac (as a local community in the city of Kragujevac) [1,2]. The settlement was first mentioned as Mickovaz, during Austrian

occupation of Serbia, in the period 1718-1739. Meckovac had been primarily settled closer to the road and before the first Serbian uprising it was translocated. One historical reason for the translocation were frequent devastations caused by janissaries, as the settlement was located on a busy Kragujevac road. Another, demographic reason was a frequent overflowing of Lepenica, which flooded many buildings and the surrounding area. At the beginning of the nineteenth century in Serbian historical sources, this place was mentioned several times, as Meckovac. This was not the case with many foreign authors. By Riddle, in 1810, it was registered as Mescovacz, on Lapi's map in 1822 as Metskovatz, by Fried's in 1829 as Meskovacz, and by Kipert's as Metschkowats [2]. According to the census in 1903, Meckovac had 356 and seven years later - 48 inhabitants. In 1954, Meckovac changed its name to Ilicevo. It was named after a great Serbian doctor and member of Serbian Social Democratic Party, dr. Mihailo Ilic, who was born in Meckovac in 1856. In his

honour, his birthplace changed its name to Ilicevo, which was part of the city municipality of Pivara in Kragujevac [2]. After the first World War, Ilicevo had 515 inhabitants, which was unusual for a , e place on the banks of the Lepenica to have more inhabitants after the first World War. Ilicevo's territory is located in the central part of Serbia, in the eastern part of Sumadija and covers the catchment area of the middle flow of the Lepenica river. Ilicevo also spreads on both sides of a dry stream called Bara, which flows only after heavy rains, otherwise the riverbed has no water. That is why it is called the "Dry Stream". On the northwestern side of the townarea there flows the Lepenica, and on the west side there passes Kragujevac road and Lapovo - Kragujevac - Kraljevo railway, but there is no a train station there [2]. Just next to Ilicevo is the State Road IB 24, Batocina - Kragujevac, which is being turned (final construction in progress) into Kragujevac - Batocina Highway, Figure 2.

Figure 2. Ilicevo

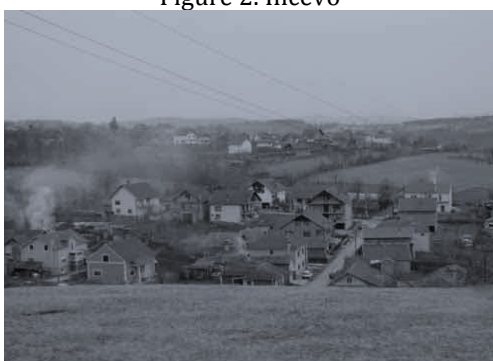


Photo: The origin of the population of the village of Ilicevo (until 1954 Meckovac), City Municipality of Pivara, the City of Kragujevac - Sumadija District. (according to the books by Todor Radivojevic "Lepenica" and "Settlements in Lepenica". Prepared by an associate of Porekla Milodan).

#### A PATRIOT'S BIOGRAPHY

Mihailo Ilic was a famous and good physician. By the end of the 19th century, Kragujevac had changed several district physicians: Filip Tajsic (1865), Leonard Leontkievich (1880), Djura Gavric (1885), Ilija Kolovic (1891), amd Stevan Siber (1897). Dr. Mihajlo Ilić came to Kragujevac at the begining of the 20th century. Besides dedicated, professional medical service at the Military Technical Institute, he became the first deputy of the Social Democratic Party in 1905 [3]. In 1903, dr Mihailo Ilic became a member of the Serbian Social Democratic Party (SSDS). The Serbian Social Democratic Party was a political

party, which operated in the Kingdom of Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, from 1903 to 1919. In parliamentary elections (September 8, 1903), dr Mihailo Ilic was elected a member of parliament (MP) of Kragujevac district. He was the only SSDS-MP in the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Serbia, and the first Social Democrat-MP in Serbian's history. In the short span of its activities and during the annexation crisis (Balkan wars, and the period before the First World War), this party implemented an anti-war program based on the idea of class revolution and unification of the Balkan peoples into a Confederation. The Social

Democratic Party of Serbia entered European history as the only party to vote against the war budget before the Great War [3]. In 1966, "Dr. Mihailo Ilic" Medical Center was established in Kragujevac. From 1975 Medical Center was reorganized into seven BOALs (Basic Organisations of Associated Labour). In 1986, BOAL "Hospital" was separated as Clinical Hospital Centre of Kragujevac, and the others continued to work as the Medical Center "Dr Mihailo Ilić", which in 1991 grew into the Health Center "Dr Mihailo Ilić". Clinical Hospital Centre of Kragujevac grew into Clinical Center of Kragujevac on 4 November 2005, as tertiary level of healthcare [3,4]. Dr. Mihailo Ilic died on October 22 (October 9, according to the Old Calendar) in Kragujevac, at the age of 48. He died at the time of the Kingdom of Serbia (former official name of the state of Serbia), between 1882 and 1918. Serbia was proclaimed Kingdom by the decision of the National Assembly on March 6, 1882, which elevated the Principality of Serbia to the status of Kingdom [4]. Until the Second World War, many private dentists worked in Kragujevac. After the war, along with the development of other outpatient medical services, the dental service developed, too. This service operated within the Health Center and after the creation of the medical center "Dr. Mihailo Ilic" it was formed as one of its services. By the decree of the Government of the Republic Serbia in 1998, a decision was passed whereby the dental service was separated from the Health Center of Kragujevac, as an independent institution, with the name: Institute of Dentistry of Kragujevac [5]. Primary health care in Kragujevac was established as a separate functional form in 1966 as the Medical Center of Kragujevac's. Until 1990, this institution functioned within the BOAL "Dom zdravlja" (Health Center). Since 1990, the Medical Center was established as "Dr. Mihailo Ilic" Health Center, a part of which was the Health Center in Kragujevac. In its present form the Health Center in Kragujevac was established in 1998 by a decree of the Government of the Republic Serbia. The history of health culture in Kragujevac and its impact on contemporary healthcare of this

area was recognizably identified by the stature of "Dr. Mihailo Ilic", a famous figure of a great Serbian physician and politician [6]. And one of the most famous football clubs on the outskirts of the city of Kragujevac - "Serbia" from Ilicevo, has been celebrating more than eight decades since its founding. Nobody knows exactly when this club was founded, but everyone agrees that it was in the summer of 1935. The club was primarily named "Meckovac", which was renamed to Ilicevo in the memory of dr. Mihailo Ilic, the first Social Democrat-MP in the Balkans. In 1970, the club was named "Serbia" (pretty brave and radical move at that time), but with a curiosity, that it is now the only football club of that name in Serbia (not counting Diaspora and other sports teams) [7], Figure 3.

Figure 3. The stadium of the football club "Serbia" in Ilicevo



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In conclusion: Dr. Mihail Ilic's national contribution lies in that many institutions of his time and even today, such as places, institutions, sports clubs, streets in Kragujevac bear his name; and as a token of eternal gratitude, in order not to forget the good deeds of a military doctor, an his anti-war political orientation and the proper policies of the first Social Democrat member of parliament in the Balkans and in Serbian history in general. Dr. Mihail Ilic died as relatively young man, and we cannot rightly judge and analyze other contributions in the field of health culture and healthcare by a famous, Serbian patriot, physician and politician.

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