The Croatian parliamentary session of 1832 was in many aspects new and different from previous ones over the past several decades. To understand this we must go back to the year 1790, when parliamentarism was restored to the lands of the Habsburg Monarchy. The Croatian Estates and Orders, convened on that occasion too, and, fearing a possible new wave of Germanisation and absolutism, decided to join closer together with their Hungarian aristocratic counterparts. Therefore, they decided to accept the Hungarian government, i.e. the Hungarian Regency Council, as the government for Croatia. Truth be said, by doing so they only acknowledged the already existing state of affairs imposed from above many years ago; however, nobody could deny that there was also a wilful element in the decision of 1790, the nobility’s wish to seek alliance and protection from absolutism under the wing of their stronger neighbour. This transfer of authority weakened the position of the Croatian parliament in the long run, turning its future sessions more and more into a formality in the years and decades to follow, and eventually the parliament would convene only before the scheduled session of the Hungarian diet, electing Croatian delegates for that session and giving them instructions, and after the end of the diet session, receiving and confirming the delegates’ official report.

In the same period, due to political circumstances, but also as a result of a conscious effort of the newly emerging Hungarian national movement to

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1 “Status et Ordines Regnorum Dalmatiae, Croatiae et Sclavoniae” represented in the “Congregatio generalis Regnorum Dalmatiae, Croatiae et Sclavoniae,” the parliament, also referred to by its Croatian name, Sabor.
3 In the edict of 1779 by Maria Theresa abolishing the Croatian Royal Council.
4 N. Stančić, Hrvatska nacija i nacionalizam u 19. i 20. stoljeću [Croatian nation and nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries] (Zagreb 2002), 160.
5 ZHS 10 (1808–1814), ZHS 11 (1825–1832).
develop their language, culture and national self-confidence, the Hungarian diet was gaining momentum, offering new ideas and projects and featuring a new generation of young and uncompromising politicians. Although understandable in the process of transforming the Hungarian nation according to new principles, these new ideas and projects were disrupting the centuries-old relations between the peoples of the Hungarian kingdom and were therefore completely unacceptable to non-Magyar peoples of the kingdom, especially Croats because of their long tradition of the Croatian kingdom as a separate political entity. Croats posed a problem for the Hungarian diet as they were the only Slavic nation politically represented in it, and were able to complicate and delay projects that enhanced the position of the Hungarian language above others. The first proposal that Hungarian be made the official language instead of Latin was expressed in the diet of 1790/91, the very session to which Croatian delegates brought their parliament's decision about submitting the Kingdom of Croatia to the authority of Hungarian regency council.

From then on, for almost 40 years the struggle continued, and even though Croatian delegates put up a good fight, the weak Croatian parliament eventually, over the years, had to introduce the Hungarian language into the educational system, first as an optional foreign language and then as an obligatory subject. The culmination was reached in the diet of 1830, when the lower house of the diet proposed the introduction of Hungarian as the official language of public administration in all offices of the kingdom, including Croatia, after a period of three years of adaptation, which meant that the decision was expected to be implemented as of 1 January 1833. With utter desperation, Croatian official delegates wrote in their report to the Croatian parliament: “Hungarians charged Croatian municipal rights with immense vehemence; this time we have still succeeded in defending our home laws, but the next

6 For example, more than 10,000 new words and expressions were coined in the early decades of the 19th century to enrich and modernise the Hungarian language. P. Hanák, ed., Povijest Mađarske [History of Hungary] (Zagreb 1995), 130.
7 Hungarian was an optional subject since 1791 with meagre results. Decisions about introducing Hungarian as an obligatory subject were made in Croatian parliament in 1827 and 1830 (ZHS 10: 59–60, 95). The actual implementation occurred later, in the school year 1833/34. L. Dobronić, Klasična gimnazija u Zagrebu [Classical grammar school in Zagreb] (Zagreb 2004), 187.
8 Minutes of the Hungarian diet 1830, art. 8, § 5. Hrvatski državni arhiv (herein after: HDA) [Croatian State Archives], HR-HDA-1, Sabor KHDS, Prot. Ve/13.
9 Municipal rights were a set of estate privileges which at that time expressed Croatia’s political individuality. See below and also Lav Šubarić’s chapter in the present volume.