

32. YUGO-SLAVIA

(Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes)

Area in sq. miles	.	.	87,000
Population	.	.	12,000,000
Capital	.	.	Belgrade
Population of Capital	.	.	120,000

No official information has yet been received (see Appendix).

By a decree dated 5th February 1919, at Belgrade a State department was created to deal with the protection of children. Under it the State assumed the protection of children up to the age of eighteen years and in case of need up to twenty-one years. To children up to sixteen years of age the State could give material help complete or partial where necessary.

The statutory duties of the department embrace the moral and physical development of youth, etc., and to organise the relations between State institutions and voluntary charitable organisations within its sphere and to give them moral and material assistance and supervision.

The organisation is as follows :

1. Central Protection (State department).
2. Regional Protections.
3. Departmental Protections.
4. Local Protections.

In Croatia and Slavonia offending minors of fourteen years of age or over may be confined in a house of correction.

In Serbia minors who have not completed twelve years cannot be convicted in a court of law but must be handed over to the parents or guardians for them to punish. Between the ages of twelve and sixteen years if an offender is proved to have acted "without reflection" he is not liable to legal penalties; but if the delinquent's act is the result of bad habits, he may be sent to a house of correction until he is eighteen years of age. If the offender is proved to have acted "with reflection," he is liable to legal penalties of a less severe kind than those inflicted upon adults for the same offence.