

Ivan Kramberger

Why everything we were told about the iconic figure and his murder is wrong



As a memorable persona with loads of publicity, Ivan Kramberger needs little introduction in Slovenia and perhaps to some extent even other countries of ex-Yugoslavia. But for all readers who do not know him, I will provide a brief summary of his story as told to us by the media. In the 1970s Kramberger made a career as an expatriate in Germany and was featured in German media as a medical and humanitarian worker. After spending about 20 years there, he returned to his homeland and was all over the Yugoslav media in late 1980s and early 1990s. He was called “a good man from Negova” (Negova being a village in eastern Slovenia) for his numerous humanitarian acts towards the poor and ill. He held [long speeches](#) to crowds and sometimes appeared with his animals, for example a monkey and a swan, or with a replica of a Bugatti that he supposedly built himself (see photo above). In 1990 he ran for president of Slovenia as an independent candidate (he aimed at lower classes), got 18% of the votes and planned to run again in elections to parliament in 1992. But in June 1992, while holding a public speech in a village near his home, he was shot and promptly died due to internal bleeding. His supposed murderer, a local farmer who is said to have had a strong dislike of him, was quickly found, confessed and was sentenced to 12 years in prison. But theories about the wrong person being in jail and Kramberger’s death having ulterior motives (“murder with a political background”, “Intel was involved”, “Slovenian JFK” etc.) appeared soon and did not subside to this day.

Most people, including the “alternative” crowd who like him for supposedly being a rebel against the establishment, are of the opinion that while eccentric, Kramberger was nevertheless sincere, intelligent, independent and a defender of the common man. But as we will see below, he was in

fact an incredibly brazen liar, while his “murder” was evidently just another staged performance of a skilled actor. I was surprised at his shallowness (his whole narrative was basically just “communists are bad”) and now deem his case a testament to just how easy it is for the media to plant whatever story they want into people’s heads.

To begin with, let’s dive into the ridiculous story that purports to describe Ivan Kramberger’s childhood. In his autobiography book *Trnova pot* (meaning “thorny path”) we learn that he was born into an “extremely poor” family, so poor that he and most of his siblings had to leave home early for hard work. When he was only 4 years old, it was Ivan’s turn to go work for a rich farmer who turned out to be evil incarnate. His mother is said to have taken Ivan there and the farmer, smelling of alcohol, greeted them with an evil grin and words of despise: “So here you are, beggars!” His mother then left her son right there, never to come back or inquire about how he is doing. The evil farmer locked Ivan into the barn where he had to sleep with the cows and fed him so poorly that Ivan ate less than he had eaten at home (where they were starving) and lost weight promptly. He survived only because he could drink directly from the cow’s udder when sleeping with the cows at night. Besides Ivan being as dirty and neglected as possible, the farmer also beat him, gave him alcohol so that he was drunk most of the time, and prevented him from attending school which led to him remaining illiterate. When he was 9 years old, so after around 5 years of such torture, Ivan one day finally thought of escaping. He ran away and somehow found his way home. We are supposed to believe that his otherwise immensely caring mother saw him in the horrific state he was in and heard his story, but nevertheless replied, “Ivan, quickly go back, we cannot afford to have so many children at home!” So Ivan went right back and the evil farmer, meanwhile learning of his escape, brutally beat him with a whip, tied his legs with a rope and threw him down a deep well, almost drowning him. Ivan then spent more time at this farm, until his mother heard from local people who noticed something was not right with him. She sent Ivan’s brother to pick him up and take him home where he was cleaned and fed. But after several days he was already sent to work for another farmer, this time a nicer one.

There is not much more exploring that needs to be done about Ivan’s childhood with the main story already being so ridiculous and unbelievable that anyone should see it is fake (but it seems Ivan didn’t care much when he marketed this autobiography book everywhere and told countless variations of the story live). Without much digging one can even find an admission that local people didn’t like Ivan because he was “lying terribly” about his parents and childhood. But I will mention a few other things just for fun. While Ivan’s family was said to be incredibly poor, his father was supposedly proficient in all kinds of crafts – construction, weaving, carpentry, shoemaking, watchmaking, ropemaking, furnace building and more. Around 1935, so about the time of Ivan’s birth, he was also the first village photographer, developing his own photos. He was also an inventor, building planes in spare time just for fun (he crashed them all) and is said to have built a windmill that was a huge attraction in those times. To top it off, he was also an amateur actor, playing main roles in a local theatre (it is said this is where Ivan got his acting talent from). The family was dirt poor and starving despite father’s amazing capabilities, but despite the extreme poverty the father was somehow able to afford a camera, equipment for developing photos, materials and time for his inventions and theatre... All very logical, right?

Despite his father being the first village photographer, I could only find two old photos of Ivan’s family online, supposedly taken in 1943 when Ivan was 7 years old. The first one is this:



After some digging I could also find this one of the mother Jožefa and father Franc, seemingly taken on the same day at the same scenery:



Upon closer inspection we can see that the first photo was tampered with. People were pasted in – see heads of the boy and girl on the upper right side with different greys and shadows as compared to the rest, and the unusual variation in head sizes. On the wall above the girl standing in the upper right corner there is a white patch indicating that a person was erased from that position. To top this off, the mother's face is actually the same on both photos, with exact same head positioning, hair line, shadows etc. The second photo could be a cut-and-paste job, too, since the mother's face is noticeably darker and lit from a different direction than the father's face. Notice also the fake photo border with the carved look on the first image. We are not told which one of the nine children is Ivan on the first photo, but his presence is problematic since according to his autobiography he was at the evil farmer at age 7, not seeing his family ever apart from the occasion when he escaped.

So we can see the usual signs of Intel messing with the photos, just like they have done in the first case I have looked at of [Fran Saleški Finžgar](#) (I will explain more about Ivan's connection to Intel below). But why are they faking photos of Ivan's family if his father was a photographer?

Biographies say that Ivan spent little time living at home in his childhood years. Later on he used numerous Serbo-Croatian words in his speeches. At first I thought that perhaps he had some strange dialect, but then I read somewhere that Ivan spoke not with a dialect, but with an unusual mix that also included some Serbo-Croatian. Did he really pick up such an accent after just 6 years spent in Montenegro? And why did Ivan claim that his father held a German citizenship? And why did the German media, and even Ivan himself in one of the books, claim that Ivan's family was partly of German blood? It's all a big mess and it's hard to know how to form a coherent story.

Let's see if we can find anything about Ivan's real background. Ivan often bragged about his family being "descended from the counts" and his surname needing the prefix "von". He described the family as very old, going back at least 800 years. This is a memorial put up on Ivan's estate:



On the memorial it is written (my translation): "Coat of arms of Kramberger's ancestors – In the year 1484 they were the owners of the castle in Speyer in Germany – The castle was called Gramburg – In the year 1572 they moved to Styria [region in Austria and Slovenia] – The memorial was made by Ivan Kramberger, 1986"

Given Miles' discoveries it is entirely possible that Kramberger indeed descended from nobility, but there is no castle Gramburg to be found in Speyer or elsewhere. So I will go ahead with a wild guess

that he might have descended from the counts of Lamberg, who were based in Steyr and were important nobility in these areas (a common variant of the surname is Lambergar/Lamberger). In 1641 one line of Lambergs inherited the arms of family Kranichsberg in Bavaria featuring a crane, and the bird shown on Kramberger's memorial with a long beak could also be a crane. In a 2021 documentary about Kramberger called [Beli bojevník v črni obleki](#) (White Warrior In A Black Suit) the coat of arms can be seen clearly:



The crane elements look a bit similar to [the coat of arms](#) of Lambergs from Ortnek:



Both families Lamberg and Kranichsberg are very old, which matches Ivan's claim. Perhaps the surname Kramberger is a variant of Kranberger, deriving from Kranichsberg?

Ivan also claimed to be a distant relative of the former Slovenian archbishop Franc Kramberger. Here they are pictured together in Ivan's house:



Below you can see the coat of arms of Franc Kramberger (notice a similar black cross as pictured on Ivan's coat of arms):



Let's now move on to Ivan Kramberger's unbelievable rags-to-riches story as told in his autobiography and elsewhere. Due to his difficult childhood he is said to have struggled with illiteracy and therefore went on to become a chimney sweeper. He was then called to serve in the Army in Montenegro, where he was given a medal for military virtues. He stayed in Montenegro for 6 years, later again working as a chimney sweeper. He then returned to Slovenia but soon illegally immigrated to Germany. There he worked the lowliest jobs from "cleaning canals full of rats" to "cleaning unbearably disgusting factory toilets." When working in a chemical factory, a social worker, who was incidentally also a medical doctor, noticed his capabilities and gave him a promotion. This mysterious person, whose name is never given despite his importance in Ivan's life, later became a director of a major hospital and invited Ivan to work there. **So this must be where Matt Damon got the idea for Good Will Hunting.** Ivan was assigned to a dialysis section where he learned all he could about the process of dialysis and soon became a dialysis expert. He invented important innovations for dialysis machines and patented them, while also donating dialysis machines to hospitals in various countries. Due to his many donations and all kinds of other humanitarian work he became very famous in Germany and all the media is said to have wanted to

talk about him. He got rich in the process and returned to Slovenia (then Yugoslavia), retired early due to disability and again became a media darling.



This picture was published in Ivan's autobiography with a caption stating that such were the early stages of his career in Germany. One has to laugh. (When later watching the documentary *Beli bojevnik*, I recognized this same toilet in one of the German press releases about Ivan, but there it was claimed it was owned by a poor Turkish family whom he helped renovate their home.)

So we're supposed to believe that a barely literate chimney sweeper and toilet cleaner who never read a single book in his life (yes, Ivan actually [claimed](#) that in an interview) miraculously turned into a renowned dialysis expert who invented new filters for dialysis machines with special fibers that didn't destroy as many red blood cells. We're also supposed to believe that for his work on dialysis he received so much money that not only was he wealthy (he claimed to be a millionaire), but could regularly donate for various humanitarian causes. He supposedly also received expensive dialysis machines for his patents which he then donated to hospitals in need. He is said to have donated "tons of medication". His son [claimed](#) in one of the interviews that Ivan's donations were estimated to be worth around one billion German marks, which would translate into around half a billion euros at the time of the interview (2008). But he then [contested](#) Ivan's claims of wealth; according to him Ivan has given all the money to the needy and the family was living very modestly, "eating bread that was three days old". So let me get this straight – Ivan gave away a wealth of half a billion euros, while his family was living on a bare minimum?

In the 1970s and 1980s Ivan did appear in the German media (in the documentary we are shown a couple of clips from TV shows where he is presented as a dialysis technician), but he was clearly not “as famous as the German football megastar Beckenbauer” like he later claimed to be. His status of a great German humanitarian seems to have been completely forgotten with nothing to be found online, nor did we ever get any proof for his inventions. As for his donations, we are told that he donated more than 40 dialysis machines to various hospitals, but many people (for example [Srečko Lukovnjak Kramberger](#)) say these machines were simply discarded machines from German hospitals that Ivan forwarded to hospitals in Yugoslavia and other places that were still using older equipment. Srečko also says that the medications Ivan donated to the hospitals were expired and about to be thrown away, and that his claimed inventions were not really his. Well, that sounds a bit more believable to me! (Srečko Lukovnjak Kramberger claims to be a former worker of Ivan’s who took his surname “because Ivan suggested he do so to gain more media attention”. Like many things surrounding Ivan, this sounds very strange – perhaps Srečko is hiding a family relation or is/was an agent who changed his surname for some reason?)

In a book called *Resnica o Ivanu Krambergerju* (*The Truth About Ivan Kramberger*) by a journalist Vlado Paveo one can find many unsavory details about Ivan’s life, said to be narrated by Ivan himself, many of which might not be true. But there seem to be certain truths buried in there, one of them being Ivan’s claim that he owned around 20 expensive cars, including two Bugattis (which turn out to be Bugatti replicas), a Panther Lima, a VW Karmann Ghia and various Mercedeses. In the documentary *Beli bojevnik* we can indeed see Ivan with these cars. Here is one of the early photos showing him with his first wife and a Karmann Ghia:



In Paveo’s book Ivan claims that he was able to afford such cars as a sort of a playboy whom women paid for sexual services, but I find this hard to believe. Ivan also says that if he’s completely honest, he “just knew how to talk well and sound smart” and was therefore “made into an artificial symbol for the public on purpose”. And that is the exact impression one gets of him. My guess is that as a good speaker (his German was very good), Ivan was a media face for certain institutions in Germany, and that also his humanitarian work was done via these institutions. He must have had connections to important people and the media early on. But such humanitarian work can also be a façade for making money. In Paveo’s book Ivan says that he and the media often made it seem that

things were horribly sad and unfair for a case that supposedly needed humanitarian help, when in fact there was nothing special going on. To what purpose were they raising money then?

To this I must add that Ivan Kramberger's books and speeches are full of nauseating self-promotion of the sort that no real humanitarian is capable of in my opinion. Ivan lists story after story of his "great deeds", commonly describing himself in terms such as "a man born once in 1000 years", "an angel on Earth", "a saver of lives" and similar. In one of the books he even claims to be clairvoyant, being able to tell a person's profession, exact diagnosis of health issues and a remedy for them, their destiny and how long they will live, all solely by looking into the person's eyes. In fact, most of the stories in Ivan's books are so ridiculous one can only conclude they are completely made up.

In Paveo's book one can also find testimony by the above-mentioned Srečko Lukovnjak Kramberger revealing that Ivan's saintly appearance was more or less fake. Srečko says that Ivan was "cunning and stingy towards everyone", lied about many things and was constantly looking for media attention. In order to appear in the newspapers, he had other people write letters to the editor about himself under fake names, while at other occasions he bought all newspaper editions that wrote about him so that next day the newspapers could claim they were sold out because of featuring him. He is said to have done a good deed like buying someone something, but never without the media being present there to record it. Srečko's claims are supported by claims of certain close family members who say Ivan was "not a good man", but was in fact very stingy even towards his own family.

Srečko also explained that Ivan's supposedly self-made Bugatti replica was in reality factory-made and imported by his wife. Ivan's story for the media was that he built this Bugatti from old discarded stuff like a tractor brake, operating table, oxygen bottles (supposedly these were used for headlights), shower pipes, artificial lungs, faucets, flag pole, cash register etc. Now look at the picture below and try to imagine how Ivan and his scriptwriters laughed about people buying this story!



Ivan liked to emphasize that, unlike other politicians, he himself wrote all of his eight books. But Srečko Lukovnjak Kramberger claimed it was Srečko that wrote most of Ivan's first autobiography book, while "a student from Maribor" got the task of writing the second book. Whoever really wrote the books, it probably wasn't Ivan as things written there are very inconsistent. On the other hand, much of what came from Ivan is inconsistent and/or crazy. Let's look at a few cases from various books, press releases and speeches:

- ! According to his autobiography Ivan worked as a chimney sweeper after finishing Army service in Montenegro, while in one of the early press releases he claimed to have spent 6 years there working in the Army.
- ! In several of the early press releases in prominent newspapers it is stated that Ivan spent many months getting educated about dialysis in the US and UK and even patented some of his inventions in the US, while there is no mention of time spent there in his autobiography and newer press releases.
- ! Ivan often told a story of losing two fingertips when being called to serve in the Army – he supposedly deliberately froze them, in order to not be able to shoot, by holding his fingers in a freezing-cold stream for 8 hours. But in one of the speeches he told a different version of the story, namely that he deliberately froze his fingertips as a child after seeing the horrors of WWII.
- ! In speeches Ivan claimed to have met his third and last wife Marjeta when she was 14 and already had two young children. She got pregnant with the first child by being raped and lived in terrible conditions. (So she got pregnant when raped at 12 and then immediately had another child? Hmmm.) Someone told him about her despair and Ivan rushed to her home where he found her crying with two small children besides her. Being such a great

humanitarian, he immediately said “You’re coming with me and I’m going to marry you”, and they went, got married and lived happily ever after. But in another press release Ivan claimed they got married two days after they met and when marrying them the priest said, “Do you know you’re about to marry a woman with two children?”, to which Ivan replied, “I have no idea she has two children, since I have just met her. But I’m happy to marry her regardless!” Well, don’t wonder too hard about which story is true, since in yet another press release it is claimed that Ivan married her when he was 50 years old, so about 15 years later. In one of the interviews on the national radio Ivan [said](#) that Marjeta forbade him to write about her rape experience in his autobiography book, but then immediately proceeded telling the whole nation about it!

- ! Ivan is said to have played an important role during the break-up of Yugoslavia, convincing the masses that communists are bad and that Slovenia should become independent. But some years earlier he was still singing praises to Tito and so-called brotherhood and unity of Yugoslav nations, as pointed out by a rare observant person. He often described Germany as having more poor people than Yugoslavia and life there in many ways being worse, so why then claim the communists are so bad?
- ! We saw above that Ivan owned many expensive cars; in his last years he always showed up in a Bugatti replica or Mercedes. But he still dared to publicly deride other politicians for “driving expensive cars of foreign manufacture that most people cannot afford”. Just how hypocritical can one get?

It seems Ivan’s story was such a lie that even he couldn’t keep up with it all.

As we can see, everything points to Ivan Kramberger being a showman, an actor talking from a script at least partly written by Intel (first in Germany and later in Yugoslavia, where Intel was called UDBA at the time). He was likely never independent as it was claimed, but was paid as a charismatic actor to attract attention to various projects of the establishment. That would explain the insane levels of promotion he got in the Yugoslav media. Perhaps it is telling that in his talks he usually spoke of himself in third person; for example, he used phrases like “if elected, Ivan Kramberger will do this or that”. Supporting my findings is again Srečko Lukovnjak Kramberger, who said that Ivan often stated in the evenings, “Do you think it’s easy for me to have to lie to the people? I’m tired, so I will go to bed.” Who ordered him to lie, if he didn’t lie voluntarily?

More support for my findings is Ivan’s link to Marjan Beranič. Beranič was Ivan’s close collaborator and even though they don’t admit it, just a short research tells me he was Intel/UDBA. The latest official story goes that Beranič, like Ivan before him, was a German expatriate and was approached by two UDBA agents who asked him to convince Ivan to run for president in 1990 elections. UDBA is said to have wanted to influence election results by having Kramberger run against another right-wing politician Jože Pučnik, whom they didn’t want to win the elections. So Beranič did as told and succeeded convincing Ivan, and then for an unexplained reason immediately became Ivan’s agent who helped organize Ivan’s campaign, public speeches, books and so on – not at all logical, unless we accept this is just a story and they were in fact both working for UDBA. Beranič turned against Ivan shortly before Ivan’s death and started publicly smearing him as an incredibly corrupted, egotistical and tyrannical “hater of people”. He claimed Ivan’s “promises, lies and creations were just food for a naive populace”. So here we have another close associate of Ivan exposing him in a similar way as people already mentioned above.



By the way, Beranič uses the nickname “Graf von Demark” (which could mean something like “Count of the Mark”) for his social media accounts and in one of the videos we can see a picture of him with this title hanging in his living room. He has an obsession with sculptures, fancy architecture, castles etc., which he “inherited from his father”. On his social media he posted loads of photos of royals and other things related to nobility. Given all this I wouldn’t be surprised if Beranič also descends from nobility. Just like Jewishness, nobility is almost completely hidden in Slovenia. And of course pretty much no-one imagines in their wildest dreams that people in UDBA (i.e. the communists) could be descendants of nobility!

Another indication that Kramberger was cooperating with the ruling regime is the fact that when Slovenia separated from Yugoslavia in 1991, he was the first to appear with a Slovenian flag. He came with a professionally-made flag to Ljubljana to celebrate independence and bragged about “having the flag even before the Slovenian government had one”. But how could he have had the flag made if he didn’t have a connection to the government/UDBA? On these photos we can see him making a big show with the flag:



So let’s now enter the last chapter: Ivan Kramberger’s “death”. This event seems just as big of a lie as the man’s life before it. They managed this well enough that no-one (to my knowledge) ever suggested that his death might have been faked, despite there being lots of rumors going around about it. But as we will see, the truth seems hidden in plain sight, with Kramberger’s death being staged the only theory that explains all the anomalies surrounding the event.

First of all, Ivan had claimed for at least several years before his death that he is being threatened and will surely die at the hands of a fanatical killer. He even had a tomb built for himself at his estate, and also in this case did not forget to add a crazy story for the audience, namely that beneath the tomb there is a big room with a TV, video recorder, LP player... (perhaps hinting at the fact that he will have fun being well-hidden after his death). This suggests to me that his death, or shall we say his character's retirement, was planned years in advance. Here we can see the still living Ivan standing on his tomb:



On the day of the murder, Sunday 7th June 1992, Ivan Kramberger held a public speech in a village Jurovski dol, close to his hometown in eastern Slovenia. The speech was a part of his pre-election campaign. He announced the speech for 7 PM but started about half an hour early. We are not told why he started early, but if his death was staged, it is obvious why – they didn't want too many (uncontrolled) people being present at the event. Ivan is said to have been surrounded by a football team and their president Jožef Holer, his friend who “helped organize the event” and as we will see, was indeed a key player here. According to Holer's testimony, at about 6.40 PM a loud bang was heard and many people, including Holer, said they first thought it came from the loudspeakers (perhaps because it *did* come from them?). Ivan started staggering and collapsing to the floor, one of the witnesses caught him and Holer was immediately there to help out. Holer described feeling Ivan's neck pulse, which was supposedly absent, then reaching under Ivan's jacket to feel his heart, at which point blood started gushing all over his hand (think Holer releasing a bag filled with pig's blood). In a short order someone threw a blanket and a pillow from the terrace above, they wrapped Ivan in the blanket and carried him into Holer's white Mercedes. Holer insisted on taking Ivan to the hospital alone, a fact which many people found suspicious but could not explain in any way. Again this can only be explained by Ivan not really being dead, because why else would Holer not want someone to accompany him, to help him hold Ivan and carry him around? Holer then claimed that Ivan already looked dead in his front seat while he was driving to the local hospital in Lenart. He said an ambulance was standing in front of the hospital upon their arrival and Holer asked “Why didn't you come to Jurovski dol?”, but received a blank stare of the ambulance driver. So apparently they called an ambulance but it simply didn't arrive. It's strange that Holer packed Ivan into his car and drove off instead of waiting for the ambulance – it's well-known that if a person is suffering from a circulatory shock, as Ivan clearly should after such a deadly shot, laymen

moving the person around can be life-threatening. If they would really have called the ambulance, medical professionals would have advised them to put Ivan into a position for shock and keep him in it until they arrive, which should have taken less than 5 minutes given the location.

But the weirdest part of Holer's testimony is only about to come. He claimed that after parking his car in front of the hospital, "a lady dressed in blue" came out (he was unsure whether she was a doctor or a nurse), felt Ivan's neck pulse, said "ex" (as in "deceased") and left the scene. Of course none of that sounds even remotely realistic and can once again only be explained by Ivan not really being dead. Probably they had to make up a silly story with a mysterious lady so as to explain why no doctor at the local hospital ever saw the dead Ivan Kramberger.

Holer said that Ivan's son Boris then arrived to the hospital with his own car. Holer expressed his condolences to him and drove away – no word about what happened to the "body". Elsewhere we are told that the autopsy for Kramberger was done in Ljubljana, which is said to be unusual because he was shot close to the second biggest city, Maribor. This fact was mentioned in the context of a conspiracy theory, but it can also be explained by the murder being faked – "autopsy" was done there because Ljubljana was convenient for faking the autopsy results.

Holer also said that the police did not arrive at the scene of crime on time, which is why his football team and firemen had to block all road exits. He, as a former police inspector, was supposedly appalled by such negligence. So both the ambulance and the police were asleep that day, apparently. But a more logical explanation is that the police was not called immediately so that they could clear the "body" from the scene before their arrival.

Below we can see Jožef Holer and his white Mercedes with which he drove Kramberger from the scene of the crime (note the long "Pinocchio" nose):



So Holer's testimony alone reveals to us that the murder was likely faked. By the way, Jožef Holer (also spelled Holler) was a law graduate, chief of police in Maribor, police inspector and a member of the regional parliament in Maribor. He was apparently known for a fighting scene in the parliament, which might have been just more media theater. One of the witnesses interviewed for one of the documentaries spoke about Holer later "poisoning and destroying himself" and therefore not being around anymore to tell us why he insisted on driving alone to the hospital. Poisoning and destroying himself, really? Do these people ever stop with the drama?

But it's not just Holer's testimony that is revealing. One of the anomalies is also that Ivan was shot in a village, a place where homicides are exceedingly rare. So Peter Rotar, a local farmer and "drunkard" who supposedly disliked Ivan, enters the scene. Rotar became a suspect shortly after the murder as according to Holer's testimony one of the policemen was given a mysterious hint to "go look for Peter Rotar". They found him and lo and behold, Rotar immediately confessed to have shot Ivan because his speech was making him nervous or something silly like that. He was detained and next day went with the police to the scene of crime to help them with reconstruction by showing them everything he did in detail. On the picture below we can see Rotar "shooting" out of the window:



So Rotar was the perfect convict, conveniently leaving his hunting gun and binoculars at the site of shooting, confessing immediately, making everything easy by cooperating with the police and seemingly even gladly going to jail (he always gave the impression of being amused and it is said that he even had a smile on when convicted in court). He was supposedly completely sane and normal and no-one who knew him would have expected this from him, but hey, these things happen. The media constantly emphasize his drinking, because alcohol is the only factor that could at least partly explain the mainstream narrative, but according to the testimonies of the locals he was not an unusually heavy drinker, nor did they notice his drunkenness on the day of the murder. He got a sentence of 12 years, but served only 9, during the last 3 of which he was able to leave prison daily to work at his farm. **His trial was of course televised:**



About a year into serving his sentence Rotar suddenly turned around and started claiming that he didn't shoot Kramberger, that he must have been under the influence of strong drugs to have admitted to such a thing, that nothing about him killing Kramberger is logical, that the trial was unfair etc. (see [this documentary](#) for more on this). But in the documentary Rotar still looks kind of amused and not really upset about being in jail... Perhaps because he wasn't really in jail? In the movie they present the story as if they went to interview him in jail, but things look staged and unreal, including Rotar being dressed as a normal person while he should be wearing a prison uniform, and wearing a watch which, as far as I know, is normally not allowed in prisons.

The [documentary](#) and [related book](#) by Srečko Logar are supposedly about presenting all evidence and a conspiracy theory: Rotar did not kill Kramberger, there was another shooter and a deeper, political motivation for the murder (i.e. Kramberger was killed in order for the votes to go to some other candidate, or simply in order to silence a person who was too openly anti-establishment). They point out numerous anomalies about the event, for example that Srečko Kovačič, the doctor who did the autopsy, said the bullet travelled through Ivan's body in a straight line, entering the left shoulder at the front and exiting about 6 cm lower at the back (he should know, right?), while the ballistics expert Janez Golja had a different story, namely that the bullet changed direction in the body, seemingly to make the evidence fit Rotar better. The problem is that Ivan should have been bowing down substantially in order for the bullet to travel straight through him from Rotar's house. They also present a problem of police never finding the bullet despite many people searching all over the place, and the then minister for internal affairs Igor Bavčar coming to the scene of the crime with a helicopter from Ljubljana in 15 minutes, which is unusually fast (again the simplest explanation is that there never was any bullet and that Bavčar's arrival was planned beforehand). We hear a silly story about spruce tips being found damaged nearby, which is supposedly a big clue that the bullet came from Rotar's house. We also learn that numerous high-ranking people, as well as most local people, think Rotar is innocent.

Probably Rotar's script was changed and the documentary was done in order to gain more media attention by confusing people with the alternative conspiracy theory. Such things sell well. Perhaps they did it also to whitewash Rotar, who was already very unconvincing in his role as a murderer. In any case, they revealed themselves even further with this documentary, where we are shown photos of the shot wounds on Ivan's body. Below we can see the entry wound. The face is conveniently cut off, but in theory it could be Ivan:



Now let's have a look at the exit wound:



Oops! It's not Ivan Kramberger that's on this photo, that's for sure. The guy here has a balding patch, his hairstyle is completely different, he has much lighter hair (Ivan's was very black) and his body looks too big.

We get more clues with a story about a chair that was found during investigation of Rotar's immediate neighbor Roškar's house (the theory goes that Ivan's killer could also have shot from there). The chair with a footprint on its seat was supposedly standing next to the window when the police arrived. Franc Kangler, a notorious politician who served as a chief investigator in Kramberger's murder case, even claimed that it was a footprint of a military boot. Despite it being an important piece of evidence, the chair soon mysteriously disappeared. In Logar's book from 1995 we find a testimony of ballistics expert Janez Golja, saying that "he knows nothing about this chair or the footprint on it". However, newer press releases claim that four years after the murder (in 1996) it was determined that Golja stepped on this chair during the examination. So we're supposed to believe that soon after the murder Golja could not remember anything about the chair and footprint, but after four years suddenly regained the memory of stepping on this chair.

Let's look at several other issues pointing towards everything, including the conspiracy theory, being manufactured. If this would indeed be a murder to remove a political opponent, why would anyone choose such a prominent and crowded location to shoot Kramberger? Ivan lived at a remote property, in a big house next to a lake surrounded by a forest, so it would be infinitely easier for the shooter to hide in the forest and shoot when he was driving home alone in his Bugatti or something. And how could the shooter know that Ivan's speech would start half an hour earlier than announced? We can see that the conspiracy theory is illogical too.

Perhaps someone could also ask why would Kramberger want to fake his death in such a risky, public way. But as should be clear to anyone following Miles' work, the apparatus behind these people is hungry for media attention and they fake such things all the time. As a daring, extravagant exhibitionist whose appearance had already been changing wildly over the years, Ivan Kramberger seems like the perfect choice for such a thing. Here are a few examples of how Ivan's looks have changed over the years:



The picture below where he looks like a bum shows his appearance during his political campaign. He was aiming at simple people, like farmers and workers, and therefore went around dressed as a simple guy. In this period he also wore a necklace with a big cross and emphasized his belief in God, which I don't doubt for a second was just another pose.

We are also told that Kramberger's monkey was brutally murdered about a year and a half before his death. Soon after finding the monkey stabbed in its cage, Ivan is said to have received a phone call with a warning that he will end up like her too. He also claimed that he had already had many animals murdered like this, i.e. "owls, turtles, japanese hens, doves, golden pheasants..." (he had a small ZOO at his property). Despite all this, he did not report the incident to the police. Of course we are given no photos of these dead animals, so it is much more likely that the monkey didn't want to be a part of Kramberger's media circus anymore and simply ran away.

As pointed out by Miles for numerous similar cases of staged assassinations (including [that of JFK](#)), Kramberger was not killed by Intel/UDBA, as many suggest, but in fact was cooperating with them all along. Intel was likely indeed "involved" (this term is used often in conspiracy theories), but it was involved in his fake assassination, not in a real murder, just like they are involved in thousands of other fake events we hear about in the media.

Let's have a look at a few photos demonstrating that Ivan Kramberger was never really an enemy of the establishment (in his case the communists/UDBA). On many photos he is seen with Milan Kučan, Jože Pučnik, Dimitrij Rupel and other prominent politicians, hugging them and laughing with them. One could even say that these photos symbolically represent the fact that politicians in general are not really enemies, but are simply actors starring in a much bigger play than we realize (or perhaps, as Miles says, are even related). And by the way, the "communist" politicians on these photos mostly all went on to establish successful careers in the new "capitalist" regime. How is that for a change?





So why would Ivan fake his death in 1992? While there might have been more to it, one explanation is that he was simply tired of constant media and public attention, which seemed quite extreme in his case, and 56 was not an uncommon age to retire back then. As for the establishment, the murder certainly served them well since it scared people away from being critical of them openly. In any case, I found it interesting that soon after Ivan's death his wife Marjeta married another guy also called Kramberger, and that their property by the lake, formerly visited by huge crowds of people, was mysteriously shut down for public, including immediate neighbors that used to be close to the Krambergers. And how did a tabloid magazine *Kaj* pay respect to Ivan (or Ivek as they often called him) right after his murder? With an article titled *Ivek ni mrtev*, meaning *Ivek is not dead* in English.



Anton Trstenjak, a PhD psychologist who had some kind of connection to Ivan (they were from the same area, but given that he was prominent himself and often promoted Ivan in the press, their connection might also have been UDBA), presented an interesting theory after Ivan's death. He said that it would be very much in Ivan's fashion to stage an assassination by ordering Rotar to shoot at him but miss, with the goal of creating theatre and raising public sympathy. But after presenting a theory that is in my opinion closest to the truth, Trstenjak veers off by suggesting that Rotar accidentally hit and killed him.

A few interesting claims by journalist Srečko Nidorfer, who knew Ivan well as they must have cooperated on numerous media projects, also deserve to be mentioned. Nidorfer said that Ivan's 18% of votes in presidential elections in 1990 were no accident. He claimed to have heard from many sources that members of the Yugoslav Army and their families were ordered to cast their vote for Kramberger. According to the mainstream story the claim is illogical since Kramberger was supposedly against the Army and promised cutting funding for it substantially, so why on Earth would they support him? But since we know that Ivan may have in fact cooperated with military intelligence, it is quite possible that voting results were indeed adjusted in this way.

Nidorfer also said that when he heard of the murder of a Croatian painter and healer Slavko Stolnik in 1991, "he knew that Ivan would end his life in a similar way". He described Stolnik as Ivan's good friend and said that he himself also knew Stolnik well. So I looked Stolnik up and after reading just [one article](#) on the topic, it was clear to me that Stolnik's murder was very likely faked since we get all of the usual unbelievable fiction. One of the convicted murderers was Renato Vidaček, Stolnik's good friend who claimed Stolnik saved his life by curing him (I know, these stories are hard to follow). The other murderer, "a renowned international criminal" Vlatko Mesek, is said to have been in prison multiple times. In 1970 he escaped from a Croatian prison by "sometimes refusing to eat" and hence losing so much weight that he was able to escape through bars with an opening of 20x20 cm – admittedly a rather unbelievable feat. Later, when locked up in France for another murder, he escaped by throwing himself off a train relocating prisoners and somehow managed to get to Croatia where he continued his life as before, never to be found by French authorities. After murdering Stolnik he managed to escape again, this time to Greek islands where

he hid for 9 years before being caught in Macedonia. Supposedly Vidaček and Mesek killed Stolnik just to rob him of money, but found very little cash in his house. For some reason they were not interested in his rather expensive paintings (some years after Stolnik's death, 80 paintings mysteriously disappeared from his house and it was never found who stole them). To top this off, Slavko Stolnik is said to have had a brother Stjepan who was similar to him, lived in the same place, was also a painter and painted in a very similar style. Sounds like another rabbit hole one could expose easily.

So how come Niedorfer compared Kramberger's death to an obviously faked death like Stolnik's? Because as a prominent journalist Niedorfer likely knew that both murders were faked. Just like CIA placed their own people in the US press according to Miles, people from UDBA must have been running Yugoslavian press.

It might be that Ivan Kramberger really died several years ago because we have seen a recent spate of events related to him in Slovenia. The already mentioned *Beli bojevniki v črni obleki*, a mainstream documentary directed by Maja Weiss in collaboration with his son Ivan Kramberger Jr., premiered end of 2021, and a monument for Kramberger was finally installed in 2022 in Gornja Radgona. Before we have had to put up with another ridiculous story about the monument not being installed because Ivan's supposed murderer Peter Rotar disapproved. Ivan would have been 85 in 2021, of an age when people commonly die. So perhaps now is a good time to present an alternative theory that finally fits all the evidence.



*R.I.P., Ivan Kramberger – “benefactor, innovator, politician”
(pictured with his last wife and two sons)*