

RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS  
*John L. Esposito, Series Editor*

# Balkan Idols

Religion and Nationalism in Yugoslav States



Balkan Idols: Religion and Nationalism in Yugoslav States, Vjekoslav Perica, Oxford University Press, 2002, 0195174291, 9780195174298, 332 pages. Reporting from the heartland of Yugoslavia in the 1970s, Washington Post correspondent Dusko Doder described "a landscape of Gothic spires, Islamic mosques, and Byzantine domes." A quarter century later, this landscape lay in ruins. In addition to claiming tens of thousands of lives, the former Yugoslavia's four wars ravaged over a thousand religious buildings, many purposefully destroyed by Serbs, Albanians, and Croats alike, providing an apt architectural metaphor for the region's recent history. Rarely has the human impulse toward monocausality--the need for a single explanation--been in greater evidence than in Western attempts to make sense of the country's bloody dissolution. From Robert Kaplan's controversial Balkan Ghosts, which identified entrenched ethnic hatreds as the driving force behind Yugoslavia's demise to NATO's dogged pursuit and arrest of Slobodan Milosevic, the quest for easy answers has frequently served to obscure the Balkans' complex history. Perhaps most surprisingly, no book has focused explicitly on the role religion has played in the conflicts that continue to torment southeastern Europe. Based on a wide range of South Slav sources and previously unpublished, often confidential documents from communist state archives, as well as on the author's own on-the-ground experience, Balkan Idols explores the political role and influence of Serbian Orthodox, Croatian Catholic, and Yugoslav Muslim religious organizations over the course of the last century. Vjekoslav Perica emphatically rejects the notion that a "clash of civilizations" has played a central role in fomenting aggression. He finds no compelling evidence of an upsurge in religious fervor among the general population. Rather, he concludes, the primary religious players in the conflicts have been activist clergy. This activism, Perica argues, allowed the clergy to assume political power without the accountability faced by democratically-elected officials. What emerges from Perica's account is a deeply nuanced understanding of the history and troubled future of one of Europe's most volatile regions..

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Bosnia and Hercegovina A Tradition Betrayed, Robert J. Donia, John Van Antwerp Fine, 1994, History, 318 pages. This book examines Bosnia's rich historical traditions in light of the conflict that erupted there in 1992. The authors explain the origins of Bosnia's major ethnonational ....

Religious Separation and Political Intolerance in Bosnia-Herzegovina , Mitja Velikonja, Feb 5, 2003, History, 365 pages. Velikonja sees the former Ottoman borderland as a distinct cultural and religious entity where three major faiths--Islam, Catholicism, and Orthodoxy--managed to coexist in ....

The sociology of religion in the former Yugoslav republics , Dragoljub B. Đorđević, 2008, , 178 pages. .

Power and Persuasion Ideology and Rhetoric in Communist Yugoslavia, 1944-1953, Carol S. Lilly, 2001, History, 272 pages. An investigation of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia's evolving--and ultimately failed--attempts to transform social and cultural values, mores, and behavior by means of ....

Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation Literature and Cultural Politics in Yugoslavia, Andrew Wachtel, 1998, History, 302 pages. This book focuses on the cultural processes by which the idea of a Yugoslav nation was developed and on the reasons that this idea ultimately failed to bind the South Slavs ....

Bosnia A Short History, Noel Malcolm, 1996, History, 360 pages. Discusses the different ethnic and religious groups that inhabit Bosnia, and looks at the political and cultural upheaval that have been a continuing part of the region's history.

Contemporary Yugoslavia Twenty Years of Socialist Experiment, Wayne S. Vucinich, 1969, Yugoslavia, 441 pages. .

Church and State in Yugoslavia since 1945, Stella Alexander, 1979, Political Science, 351 pages.

This is a study of the relations between Church and state in a communist regime..

Yugoslavia's Ruin The Bloody Lessons of Nationalism, a Patriot's Warning, Cvijeto Job, Jan 1, 2002, History, 303 pages. This remarkable book combines analysis and memoir to offer the unique perspective of an informed insider who lived through Yugoslavia's demise. Cvijeto Job's powerful and ....

Myths and boundaries in south-eastern Europe , PĐ“Ò•I KolstĐ“Ń“, 2005, History, 357 pages. .

Religious communities in Yugoslavia , Radovan SamardĐ•Ń•iĐ”â€j, 1981, History, 48 pages. .

The Road to War in Serbia Trauma and Catharsis, NebojĐ•ĐŽa Popov, Drinka GojkoviĐ”â€j, 2000, History, 711 pages. The first serious assessment to thoroughly explore the roots of conflict inside former Yugoslavia. The authors highlight major issues which to date had remained neglected..

Nationalism and federalism in Yugoslavia, 1962-1991 , Sabrina P. Ramet, 1992, History, 346 pages. .

Public Religions in the Modern World , JosĐ“Â© Casanova, Jun 15, 1994, Political Science, 320 pages. In a sweeping reconsideration of the relation between religion and modernity, Jose Casanova surveys the roles that religions may play in the public sphere of modern societies ....

Contributions to the Study of Peacemaking, Volume 1 , United States Institute of Peace, 1990, Political Science, . .

The Three Yugoslavias State-building and Legitimation, 1918-2005, Sabrina P. Ramet, 2006, History, 817 pages. Yugoslavia exploded onto the front pages of world newspapers in the early 1990s. The War of Yugoslav Succession of 1991Đ²Đ,â€œ1995 convinced many that interethnic violence was ....

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