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braced diverse discourses, due to fact that other identities – social, political, regional, generational and religious above all – have exerted a considerable influence on that process. Convergence of national projects relating to different communities is to be seen in common elements and patterns of nation building as well as in hybrid or multiple identity constructs.

Boyko Penchev's article *Tsarigrad/Istanbul and the Spatial Construction of Bulgarian National Identity in the 1860s and 1870s* is concerned with the role of Istanbul "as a spatial node, generating different political projects" and identification strategies in the Bulgarian Revival period: being the city with the largest Bulgarian

urban population, Istanbul was perceived as an ethnically and culturally heterogeneous "space of structural homelessness", opposed to the emerging construction of the pure, homogenous 'Homeland', or alternatively, as the political and symbolical centre of the Bulgarian nation.

Aiming to illuminate the complex and provocative issue of diverse processes of ethno-cultural interaction and identity formation in the Balkans, this collection of papers shows different disciplinary approaches (such as linguistics, anthropology, political, cultural and literary history), with noticeably blurred disciplinary boundaries.

JOHN R. LAMPE, *BALKANS INTO SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: A CENTURY OF WAR AND TRANSITION*. NEW YORK: PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2006. PP. 338.

*Reviewed by Aleksandra Kolaković*

John Lampe, Professor of History at the University of Maryland, puts up in this book a picture of twentieth-century political, social, economic and cultural developments in the Balkans, relying on his previous research into the region (e.g. *Balkan Economic History 1550-1950: From Imperial Borderlands to Developing Nations*; *Yugoslavia as History: Twice There Was a Country* and *Ideologies and National Identities: The Case of 20th-Century Southeastern Europe*). In dealing with the events in Greece, Albania, former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania, he devotes most of his attention to war and post-war periods or frequent changes the region has undergone, as such transitions have been influential in the process of accepting or rejecting different European ideologies, institutions and interventions.

The book is divided into eight thematically and chronologically organized chapters: 1. *Balkan States and Borderlands before the Balkan Wars*; 2. *Balkan Wars, First World War, Postwar settlements,*

*1912-1922*; 3. *Struggling with Liberal and National Transitions in the 1920s*; 4. *Illiberal Directions during the Depression Decade*; 5. *World War, Civil War, and the Communist Advantage*; 6. *Communist and Cold War Transitions, 1945-1963*; 7. *Continuity and Contradictions, 1964-1989*, and 8. *War and Transitions since 1989*, and each chapter is enriched with descriptive maps and tables showing text-related statistical data. The book is equipped with an index, and a selective but very useful bibliography, which is thematically arranged: *Balkans to 1918 and Beyond*, *Interwar Parties and Politics*, *Second World War, Transitions before and after 1989*, *National Identities, Societies, and Cultural Politics*, *Southeastern Europe 1945-1989* and *Southeastern Europe since 1989*.

This comparative study seeks to identify and explain the problems affecting the whole region and significantly influencing both intra-Balkan relations and the relations of the Balkan countries with the great powers. In the introductory chapter,

Lampe looks back at the early twentieth century as a period when the peoples of the region, finding themselves divided between vast empires and under the sway of great powers, sought to build the state and national identities of their own but also to win their freedom. Almost equal attention is devoted to the subsequent events in the Balkans during the war, interwar and post-war periods. The last chapter discusses the terminal phase of the collapsing communist system in the Balkan countries, the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia and directions of the region's development at the end of the twentieth century.

Lampe's comparative analysis gives equal attention to all momentous events in the history of each individual country but also of the region as a whole. The fourth chapter, for example, in the section entitled *Royal Regimes, Regional Divisions, Radical Alternatives*, and subtitled *From Aleksandar's Yugoslavia to Carol's Romania and From Boris's Bulgaria to Metaxas's Greece*, deals with the internal political scenes and the development of parliamentary and political life in all Balkan states. Lampe concludes the chapter by addressing the question of the ways and degrees in which the Balkans, i.e. individual Balkan nations, accepted European patterns and models, and the ways and degrees in which they adapted them to their respective milieus prior to the Second World War. To what extent has Lampe succeeded in keeping a balance in looking at the individual nations without losing sight of the region as a whole is best seen from chapter 7: *Continuity and Contradictions, 1964-1989*, made up of thematic subsections: *Socioeconomic Transitions Continued, Greece Survives the Colonels' Regime, Decentralized Yugoslavia and Centralized Bulgaria, National Stalinism in Albania and Romania and Struggling with Reform and Remembrance: Bulgaria, Greece, and Yugoslavia in the 1980s*.

Accompanied with descriptive maps of the Balkans as well as with tables providing different kinds of statistical data for the Balkan countries, the body of text becomes more readable. The maps help the reader to make a visual identification of geographical, state, political, and ethnic borders, while showing their changes in the course of events crucially affecting the region: wars, post-war changes, military movements, and ethnic groups. The tables provide the data concerning the number of citizens, size of the capitals, population and labour force structures, living standards and the directions of external trade. Such data are exceptionally important, given that Lampe devotes his attention not only to political and ideological developments in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania and the former Yugoslav republics, but also to their economic development, that is to say to all aspects of the region's development as a whole. It is an attempt to shed light on the road the Balkans has travelled in the twentieth century and on the relations between the Balkan nations and the rest of Europe through a comparative and broad analysis that makes this book interesting and significant.

Western reviewers recommend the book *Balkans into Southeastern Europe* as an introductory reading for the history of this, as they put it, problematic region. The author has relied on the knowledge he has gained while working at the Wilson Center, and on his earlier studies at large. Besides his first-hand experience with the region, his consultants have been Roumen Avramov, Ivo Bicanic, Mark Wheeler and Jean Tesche. The absence of cooperation with scholars from Serbia is observable, which also goes for the literature and sources used. The only Serbian publication cited was published in the 1950s (M. Djilas, *The New Class*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1957), and another, recommended for further reading, is a

forthcoming work by Prof. A. Mitrović of the University of Belgrade *Serbia's Great War 1914-1918* (Purdue University, 1 June 2007). Apart from the above-mentioned, Lampe has largely drawn on the research done by Maria Todorova, Charles and Barbara Jelavich, Miranda Vickers, Richard Crampton, Ivo Banac and Richard Clogg.

Lampe looks at the Balkans as a whole, bearing in mind its ethnic and religious

blends, frequent and devastating wars, external interferences and interventions, but also the periods when reforms in the Balkan countries resulted in the adoption of European ideas and institutions. Outlining the history of a region Lampe views as being traditionally separated from the rest of Europe, he nevertheless points to an inclusion of the Balkans, its peoples and countries into European processes at the end of the twentieth century.

RICHARD J. CRAMPTON, *THE BALKANS SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR*.  
PEARSON EDUCATION LIMITED, 2002. Pp. 376.

*Reviewed by* Miroslav Svirčević

*The Balkans since the Second World War* by Oxford University professor Richard Crampton is a valuable and interesting monograph that discusses in detail the political, social and economic development of the Balkan countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, and Yugoslavia and her successor states) during three major periods connected with the rise, reign and collapse of the global communist order: 1) 1944-49/50: from the final agreement of the Great Powers (Great Britain, USA and USSR) on the post-war fate of the Balkans to the establishment of new governments and legal-political orders in the Balkan countries; 2) 1950-89: Cold War; and 3) 1989-2000: from the fall of the Berlin Wall to most recent times. This "historical novel" pays especial attention to post-war Yugoslavia founded on the Marxist political doctrine and the absolute power of the Communist Party and its untouchable leader Josip Broz Tito, to its swings between the NATO countries and the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War and, finally, to its unexpectedly brutal disintegration, accompanied by unparalleled national and religious clashes and ethnic cleansing. There are at least two reasons for this attention: because Yugoslavia strongly influenced the po-

litical configuration of the Balkans from the Second World War, and because its disintegration is seen as the best example of so-called *balkanization*, a term that has derogatory connotations in Western scholarship and publicism.<sup>1</sup> The term is stereotypically used as synonymous with barbarism, absolutism, irrationality, primitivism, intolerance and other dark aspects of man and human society, surfacing in their extreme form since the collapse of the global communist order and bloody civil war in Yugoslavia, and wiping out the basic values of modern civilization. In the last decades of the twentieth century Tito's Yugoslavia witnessed strong processes of retrograde populism, militarism, chauvinism and organized criminal, reducing all the Yugoslav nations (except Slovenians) to pre-civil, pre-political forms of ethnic-tribal existence. This state of affairs is comparable to Hobbes's description: *bellum omnium contra omnes*. It is Krleža's Balkan inn "where no sooner are the light turned off than knives are drawn." Consequently, the writer makes the fate of Yugoslavia and her successor

<sup>1</sup> Cf. M. Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* (Oxford University Press, 1997), 33-37.