

## **From Empire to Nation-State: History of the Balkans Syllabus**

History 223

Instructor: Bob Zens

Office hours: M/W 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

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### **Week I:** *The Balkans in ancient times and the coming of the Bulgars, Slavs, and Turks*

A brief look at the Balkans and their native peoples in the ancient times and Turkic and Slavic migrations into the East Roman Empire that occurred from the fifth to the tenth centuries; the effect of migrations on the native population and the existing socio-political structure and the migrants' incorporation into the existing political and religious structure of the East Roman Empire. The conversion of the Bulgars and Slavs to Orthodox Christianity and the role of Cyril and Methodius in the creation of Slavic culture.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 1-37

### **Week II-III:** *Formation of early empires: Bulgarian, Serbian, and the Kingdoms of Croatia and Bosnia; Birth of myths and folklore*

The rise of independent Slavic kingdoms and their ethno-religious challenge to the mighty Byzantine Empire; the Bulgarian and Serbian states and dynasties and their socio-cultural-linguistic foundations as bases of national statehood in the modern age.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 38-94

Stefan Dušan, "The Code of Stephan Dušan"

Albert Lord, "The Battle of Kosovo in Albanian and Serbocroatian Oral Epic Songs"

### **Week III-IV:** *The coming of Islam and Ottoman rule*

Ottoman conquest of the Balkans, the battles of Maritza (1371) and Kosovo (1389) and their subsequent political, social, and economic changes in the region. An examination of the Ottoman land (*timar*) and tax system and administration and the role of the Muslim and Christian elite in the political, social and cultural order on the daily life in the Balkans. The emergence of the millets as bases of socio-political organization.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 101-183

Maria Todorova, "The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans"

### **Week V:** *Religious life in the Balkan, minorities (Jews, Vlachs, Gypsies), national churches, millet system and the Patriarchate*

The history of Orthodoxy in the Balkans and the establishment of national churches in Serbia and Bulgaria after the Ottoman conquest. The role of religion in the Balkans prior to and following the Ottoman conquest. The role of the Habsburgs in the spread of Catholicism and maintenance of balance between Islam and Orthodox Christianity. The impact of European mercantilism, the

growth of trade between West Europe and the Ottoman Balkans and the rise of Christian commercial elites and socio-political changes.

**Readings:** Zoltan Barany, *The East European Gypsies in the Imperial Age*  
B. Djurdjev, "The Serbian Church in the History of the Serbian Nation under Ottoman Rule"  
Bülent Özdemir, "The Jews of Salonica and the Reforms"  
Kemal Karpat, "Millets and Nationality"

## **Midterm exam**

### **Week VI-VII:** *Revolutions and Uprisings: Serbian, Greek, Bosnian, Bulgarian, (1804-1876)*

A background of the uprisings and revolts which ultimately led to the establishment of independent nation-states in the Balkans. Why did they occur when they did? Who was involved? What were their goals?

**Readings:** Hupchick, 189-267

### **Week VIII-IX:** *Nationalism in the Balkans: Rise of semi-autonomous/independent states and memories of empire*

The Treaty of Berlin (1878) and the rise of independent and autonomous states, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, and Bulgaria; the establishment of a national ethnic identity and reformulation (imagining) of national history. The impact of the treaty on national identity in the Balkans; the sources of future ethnic tensions and the rise of national (Serbian, Bulgarian, etc.) churches; the impact of the new intelligentsia and the modern schools on Balkan politics.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 275-308

Kemal Karpat, "The Social and Political Foundations of Nationalism in South East Europe after 1878: A Reinterpretation"

### **Week X:** *The Balkan Wars and WWI*

From 1908 until 1918, that is from the rise of the Young Turks to WWI, the Balkans became the scene of continual warfare, first with the declaration of independence by Bulgaria then the struggle over Macedonia and finally as the starting point for World War I. The effect of these wars on the inhabitants of the Balkans; its demographic, political, religious, and economic impact. The effect of the collapse of the Ottoman state on the Muslims in the Balkans; the cleansing campaigns and migrations of Muslims, Anatolian Greeks and Macedonian Slavs to their "mother country."

**Readings:** Hupchick, 308-352

Primary documents on the South Slavs before WWI

### **Week X:** *WWII: massacres in the Balkans*

Interwar period of national statehood and German and Italian policies in the Balkans to WWI; the developments during the war. The conflict among Serbs and Croats will be especially emphasized.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 352-359

**Week XI-XII: *Communism comes to the Balkans; Truman Doctrine***

Introduction of communism by the USSR in the Balkan states; the rise of Marshall Tito and of Yugoslavia as a socialist state independent of the Kremlin. Tito's successful resistance to Soviet pressures and the formation of Yugoslavia as a multi-ethnic/multi-religious federation and relations with Albania. The role of the Truman Doctrine to protect Greece and Turkey and the start of the cold war.

**Readings:** Hupchick, 369-415

**Week XIII: *Nationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***

A general look at nationalism in the Balkans during the twentieth century. How did the two world wars and communism affect national identity in the Balkans?

**Readings:** To be announced

**Week XIV: *Fall of Communism; revival of a "new" nationalism and of religion: Assimilation of minorities***

With the fall of communism and the establishment of new political systems many of the Balkan countries experienced great turmoil, either directly or indirectly. What new political systems were established? How did these affect the general population and religion? Why did nationalism make such a comeback?

**Readings:** Hupchick, 416-443; Ramet (to be announced)  
Ali Eminov, "There are no Turks in Bulgaria"

**Week XV: Bloodshed in the Balkans**

Examination of the events of the last decade with special emphasis placed on the former Yugoslavia. Will there be peace in the Balkans?

**Readings:** Ramet (to be announced)

The Dayton Accords on Bosnia, 1995

**Course Requirements**

All students will be required to take a map quiz and mid-term as well as write a ten to twenty-five page term paper on a topic of their choice and a review essay of five to eight pages on a book chosen in consultation with the instructor.

3 Credits

Quiz: 5%

Participation: 20%

Mid-term: 20%

Term paper: 35%

Review essay: 20%

**Term Paper**

All students will be required to write an original paper of ten to twenty-five pages. The topic can include any time period or geographic region covered in the course, but the topic must be approved by the instructor. The paper must contain proper grammar and citation of sources. The instructor will provide information on these areas in class. Also,

all students are encouraged to use the Writing Center at Helen C. White. The Center provides students of all levels very valuable grammatical advice.

### **Review Essay**

The review essay will be a five to eight page paper examining a book, scholarly or fictional, dealing with the Balkans. The book can either be chosen from those recommended by the instructor or selected by the student with the instructor's consultation. This essay will examine the representation of the Balkans in the selected work.

### **Books**

There will be two textbooks for the course, Dennis Hupchick, *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism* (Palgrave, 2001) and Sabrina Ramet, *Balkan Babel* (Westview, 2002). In addition, students will be required to read articles which will be available online. All readings, recommended and required, will be available in the reserve room at Helen C. White Library.

## Selected Bibliography

- Anzulović, A. Heavenly Serbia: From Myth to Genocide. New York: Hurst, 1999.
- Banac, Ivo. The National Question in Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984.
- Crampton, Richard. Concise History of Bulgaria. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Djordjević, Dimitrije and Stephen Fischer. The Balkan Revolutionary Tradition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981.
- Emmert, Thomas. Serbian Golgotha: Kosovo 1389. New York: Columbia University Press, 1990.
- Fine, John V.A. Jr. The Early Medieval Balkans. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1983.
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- Gardner, Hall. Central and Southeastern Europe in Transition: Perspectives on Success and Failure since 1989. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000.
- Georgescu, Vlad. The Romanians: A History. New York: I.B. Tauris, 1991.
- Gordy, Eric. The Culture of Power in Serbia. College Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1999.
- Jelavich, Barbara. History of the Balkans: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
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- Lampe, John R. Yugoslavia as History. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
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- Malcolm, Noel. Bosnia: A Short History. New York: New York University Press, 1994.
- Malcolm, Noel. Kosovo: A Short History. New York: New York University Press, 1998.
- Norris, H.T. Islam in the Balkans: Religion and Society between Europe and the Arab World. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993.
- Palairret, Michael. The Balkan Economies c. 1800-1914: Evolution Without Development. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Pavlowitch, Stevan. The Balkans, 1804-1945. London: Longman, 1999.
- Petrovich, Michael B. A History of Modern Serbia, 1804-1918. New York: Brace, Harcourt, Jovanovich, 1976.
- Pinson, Mark, ed. The Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996.
- Poulton, Hugh. The Balkans: Minorities and States in Conflict.

- Preveden, Francis. A History of the Croatian People(2 vol). New York, 1954.
- Ramet, Sabrina, ed. Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture and Society Since 1939.  
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Runciman, Steven. A History of the First Bulgarian Empire. London, 1930.
- Schevill, Ferdinand. A History of the Balkan Peninsula. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1933.
- Shaw, Stanford J. History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey(2 vol). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Stavrianos, L.S. The Balkans Since 1453. New York: Rinehart, 1958.
- Stephenson, Paul. The Byzantine Balkan Frontier. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Sugar, Peter, ed. Eastern European Nationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Lanham, MD: American University Press, 1995.
- Sugar, Peter. Southeastern Europe Under Ottoman Rule, 1354-1804. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977.
- Todorova, Maria. Imagining the Balkans. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Vacapoulos, A.E. Origins of the Greek Nation, 1204-1461. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1970.
- Vickers, Miranda. The Albanians. New York: I.B. Tauris, 1997.
- Vucinich, Wayne, ed. Kosovo: Legacy of a Medieval Battlefield. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1991.
- Winniffrith, T.J. The Vlachs. London: Duckworth, 1987.

### **Possible Review Essay on Literary Works Written by Native Writers**

- Andrić, Ivo. Bridge on the Drina, Bosnian Chronicle or one of his other interesting novels.
- Drakulić, Slavenka. S: A Novel About the Balkans.
- Iovkov, Jordan. Short Stories.
- Kadare, Ismail. Elegy for Kosovo. He also has written many novels dealing with the history and people of Albania.
- Mehmedinovic, Semezdin. Sarajevo Blues.
- Michalowicz, Konstantin. Memoirs of a Janissary.
- Njegos, Peter. Mountain Wreath.
- Pamuk, Orhan, My Name is Red.
- Rebreanu, Liviu. Ion.
- Stoker, Bram. Dracula.
- Todorova, Maria. Imagining the Balkans.
- Folk songs on the Battle of Kosovo, Marko Kralević, the Haiduks
- The list will be expanded to include additional works depending on demand.