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The Balkans A Short History Modern Library Chronicles

**By the early-1980s
Kosovo had reached a**

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**state of permanent
crisis and military
occupation, and it
became the main focus
for the revival of
Serbian nationalism.
This book traces the**

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**history of Kosovo,
examining the
Yugoslavian conflict,
and the part played by
Western Europe in its
destruction. 'This is a
profound and important**

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**book, essential reading
for those who wish to
understand either the
complex history or the
present politics of
Yugoslavia.' Hugh Trevor-
Roper, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH**

Page 4/197

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**'A dreadnought of a
book, all big guns,
covering the whole
history of Kosovo, with
an authority that is
often breathtaking and
never oppressive.'**

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**Norman Stone, SUNDAY
TIMES**

**Disentangling a
controversial history of
turmoil and progress,
this Handbook provides
essential guidance**

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**through the complex past
of a region that was
previously known as the
Balkans but is now
better known as
Southeastern Europe. It
gathers 47 international**

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**scholars and researchers
from the region. They
stand back from the
premodern claims and
recent controversies
stirred by the wars of
Yugoslavia's**

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**dissolution. Parts I and
II explore shifting
early modern divisions
among three empires to
the national movements
and independent states
that intruded with Great**

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**Power intervention on
Ottoman and Habsburg
territory in the
nineteenth century. Part
III traces a full decade
of war centered on the
First World War, with**

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**forced migrations
rivalling the great loss
of life. Part IV
addresses the interwar
promise and the later
authoritarian politics
of five newly**

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**independent states:
Albania, Bulgaria,
Greece, Romania, and
Yugoslavia. Separate
attention is paid in
Part V to the spread of
European economic and**

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social features that had begun in the nineteenth century. The Second World War again cost the region dearly in death and destruction and, as noted in Part VI, in

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**interethnic violence. A
final set of chapters in
Part VII examines
postwar and Cold War
experiences that varied
among the four Communist
regimes as well as for**

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non-Communist Greece.

**Lastly, a brief Epilogue
takes the narrative past
1989 into the
uncertainties that
persist in Yugoslavia's
successor states and its**

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**neighbors. Providing
fresh analysis from
recent scholarship, the
brief and accessible
chapters of the Handbook
address the general
reader as well as**

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students and scholars.

**For further study, each
chapter includes a short
list of selected
readings.**

**History, myth, and the
destruction of**

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Yugoslavia.

**A sweeping, illustrated
history of Europe--a
continent whose imperial
ambitions, internal
clashes, and existential
threats are as vital**

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**today as they were
during the conquests of
Alexander the Great In
just a few hundred
years, a modest
peninsula off the
northwest corner of Asia**

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**has seen the rise and
fall of several empires;
served as the crucible
for scientific dynamism,
cultural innovation, and
economic revolution; and
witnessed cataclysms and**

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bloodshed that have almost destroyed it several times over. This is Europe: a continent whose identity emerged not so much by virtue of geographic or ethnic

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**continuity, but by a
long and storied
struggle for power.
Studded with infamous
figures--from Caesar to
Charlemagne and
Machiavelli to**

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**Marx--Simon Jenkins's
history of Europe
travels briskly from the
Roman Empire, the Dark
Ages, and the
Reformation through the
French Revolution, the**

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**World Wars, and the fall
of the USSR. What
emerges in this
thrilling and expansive
telling is a continent
as defined by its
continually clashing**

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**cultural identities and
violent crises as it is
by its tireless drive
for a society based on
the consent of the
governed -- which holds
true right up to the**

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present day.

**From Constantinople to
Communism**

**From the End of
Byzantium to the Present
Day**

Mussolini's Fatal

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**Blunder in the Greco-
Italian War**

Hitler's Empire

**What Everyone Needs to
Know**

The Rose of the Balkans

The Bektashi dervish order is a Sufi

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Alevite sect found in Anatolia and the Balkans with a strong presence in Albania. In this, his final book, Robert Elsie analyses the Albanian Bektashi and considers their role in the country's history and society. Although much has been written on the Bektashi in Turkey, little has

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appeared on the Albanian branch of the sect. Robert Elsie considers the history and culture of the Bektashi, analyses writings on the order by early travellers to the region such as Margaret Hasluck and Sir Arthur Evans and provides a comprehensive list of tekkes

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(convents) and tyrbes (shrines) in Albania and neighbouring countries. Finally he presents a catalogue of notable Albanian Bektashi figures in history and legend. This book provides a complete reference guide to the Bektashi in Albania which will be

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essential reading for scholars of the Balkans, Islamic sects and Albanian history and culture.

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

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region's history

"Ben Shepherd ... uses Austro-Hungarian Army records to consider how the personal experiences of many Austrian officers during the Great War played a role in brutalizing their behavior in Yugoslavia. A

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comparison of Wehrmacht counter-insurgency divisions allows Shepherd to analyze how a range of midlevel commanders and their units conducted themselves in different parts of Yugoslavia, and why"--Jacket.

Nutritional and Health Aspects of

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Food in the Balkans s introduces and analyzes traditional foods from the Balkans. Beginning with the eating habits in Balkans, this book unfolds the history of use, origin, compositions and preparation, ingredient origin, nutritional aspects, and the effects on health

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for various foods and food products of the region. Nutritional and Health Aspects of Food in the Balkans also addresses local and international regulations and provides suggestions on how to harmonize these regulations to promote global availability of these foods. A

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***volume in a series co-produced
with Global Harmonization Initiative,
Nutritional and Health Aspects of
Food in the Balkans is sure to be a
welcomed reference for nutrition
researchers and professionals,
including nutritionists, dieticians,
food scientists, food technologists,***

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toxicologists, regulators, and product developers as well as educators, and students. Analyzes nutritional and health claims in the Balkan region Includes traditional foods from the Balkans Explores both scientific and anecdotal diet-based health claims Examines if

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***foods meet regulatory requirements
and how to remedy noncompliance***

***Reviews the influence of historical
eating habits on today's diets***

***History, Myth, and the Destruction
of Yugoslavia***

***Cross and Crescent in the Balkans
Nationalism, War, and the Great***

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Powers, 1804-2011

The Modern Balkans

Nazi Rule in Occupied Europe

With more than 25 years since the collapse of communism, the end of the wars and billions of dollars in aid, the Balkans are

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still characterized by corruption,
state capture, and decidedly
unmodern states that are often
either weak or authoritarian.

Taking the contemporary
Balkans as a starting point,
Making and Remaking the

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Balkans studies the region's history combined with observations based on more than twenty years of field experience. Primarily concerned with current issues in the Balkans since 1989, this book

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explains why the region has endured such a prolonged and fraught transition to democracy and eventual membership in the European Union. The young and educated have largely left. Governmental crisis and

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economic stagnation is the norm and much-needed regional cooperation has been suppressed by renewed nationalism. Wars on corruption have proved to be largely rhetorical. Making and Remaking

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the Balkans offers a systematic study of the issues the entire region faces as it struggles to complete the European integration process at a time when the European Union faces bigger problems elsewhere.

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This is not just another retelling of the Fall of Constantinople, though it does include a very fine account of that momentous event. It is the history of a quite extraordinary century and a bit which began when a tiny force of

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Ottoman Turkish warriors was invited by the Christian Byzantine Emperor to cross the Dardanelles from Asia into Europe to assist him in one of the civil wars which were tearing the fast-declining Byzantine

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Empire apart. One hundred and eight years later the Byzantine capital of Constantinople fell to what was by then a hugely powerful and expanding empire of the Islamic Ottoman Turks, whose rulers came to see

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themselves as the natural and legitimate heirs of their Byzantine and indeed Roman predecessors. The book sets the scene, explains the background and tells the story, both military, political, cultural and personal, of

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the winners and the losers, plus those 'outsiders' who were increasingly being drawn into the dramatic story of the rise of the Ottoman Empire. AUTHOR: David Nicolle is a leading expert on the history of medieval

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warfare, in particular the
Crusades and Middle Eastern
warfare, and he is a prolific writer
of books on these subjects as
well as articles and magazine
articles. **SELLING POINTS:**

-Explains how the Ottoman

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Turks conquered South East
Europe -Sets the final fall of the
'Roman' Byzantine Empire in its
full context -Undoubtedly one of
the leading authors in this field
ILLUSTRATIONS 33 b/w
photographs

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From the bestselling author of McMafia and DarkMarket comes this unique and lively history of Balkan geopolitics since the early nineteenth century which gives readers the essential historical background to more

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than one hundred years of events in this war-torn area. No other book covers the entire region, or offers such profound insights into the roots of Balkan violence, or explains so vividly the origins of modern Serbia,

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Croatia, Bosnia, Greece,
Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania.
Now updated to include the fall
of Slobodan Milosevic, the
capture of all indicted war
criminals from the Yugoslav wars
and each state's quest for

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legitimacy in the European Union, The Balkans explores the often catastrophic relationship between the Balkans and the Great Powers, raising some disturbing questions about Western intervention.

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This book explores historical discourses on the various forms of identity production in film that are based on memory and shows how these narratives get 'mediated' by (documentary) film. Most films about the Balkans

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produced in the last two decades were in fact made in response to immediate concerns about the economic crises and political conflicts that struck the region during the 1990s. These new forms of communication about

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history mostly show a rather self-critical approach. The book's case studies give the reader a clear idea of how processes informing identity formations are directly launched and later on maintained in peoples' real and

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everyday lives. Thus, the case studies' principal objective is to integrate the study of 'private space' with existing macro-debates in politics as well as with dominant discourses within the academic community. The

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included case studies focus on several topics, i.e. migration, the reproduction and protection of personal as well as collective identities in post-socialist societies, revolutionary processes towards the official

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end of the Cold War, the
(re-)creation of politically
constructed narratives,
generational conflicts in the post-
socialist period, and the fate of
women during the war. The
multifaceted view of the region

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under focus in this study shows that common grounds and differences co-exist in the Balkan space, be it on a cultural, economic, social or (geo)-political level. Apart from the field of film studies, this work

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is a powerful contribution to
cultural history as well as to the
growing field of visual history.

A Short History of Modern
Bulgaria

The Balkans 1940-41 (1)

The Ottoman Conquest of

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Southeastern Europe (14th -
15th Centuries)

Documents on the Balkans -
History, Memory, Identity

A Novel

Representations of Historical
Discourses in the Balkan

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Documentary Film

Examines the causes of ethnic conflict in the Balkans, discussing how the meeting of European and Asian cultural influences and the blending of Christian and Muslim populations have created a complex

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*and divisive situation. Winner of the
Wolfson History Prize. Reprint.
25,000 first printing.*

*From the assassination that
triggered World War I to the ethnic
warfare in Serbia, Bosnia, and
Croatia, the Balkans have been the*

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crucible of the twentieth century, the place where terrorism and genocide first became tools of policy. Chosen as one of the Best Books of the Year by The New York Times, and greeted with critical acclaim as "the most insightful and timely work on the

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*Balkans to date" (The Boston
Globe), Kaplan's prescient,
enthralling, and often chilling
political travelogue is already a
modern classic. This new edition of
Balkan Ghosts includes six opinion
pieces written by Robert Kaplan*

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about the Balkans between 1996 and 2000 beginning just after the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and ending after the conclusion of the Kosovo war, with the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from power.

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This unique and lively history of Balkan geopolitics since the early nineteenth century gives readers the essential historical background to recent events in this war-torn area. No other book covers the entire region, or offers such profound

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insights into the roots of Balkan violence, or explains so vividly the origins of modern Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania. Misha Glenny presents a lucid and fair-minded account of each national group in the Balkans

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and its struggle for statehood. The narrative is studded with sharply observed portraits of kings, guerrillas, bandits, generals, and politicians. Glenny also explores the often-catastrophic relationship between the Balkans and the Great

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Powers, raising some disturbing questions about Western intervention.

The tragedies of Bosnia and Kosovo are often explained away as the unchangeable legacy of 'centuries-old hatreds'. In this richly detailed,

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*expertly balanced chronicle of the
Balkans across fifteen centuries,
Hupchick sets a complicated record
straight. Organized around the three
great civilizations of the region -
Western European, Orthodox
Christian and Muslim - this is a*

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much-needed guide to the political, social, cultural and religious threads of Balkan history, with a clear, convincing account of the reasons for nationalist violence and terror.

The Tiger's Wife

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Dark Continent

Terror in the Balkans

The Balkans Since 1453

A Short History

A Short History of Bulgaria

**In the wake of Italy's rapid
annexation of Albania in April**

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1940, Mussolini's decision to attack Greece in October that year is widely acknowledged as a fatal mistake, leading to a domestic crisis and to the collapse of Italy's reputation as a military power (re-

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**emphasized by the Italian
defeat in North Africa in
December 1940). The Italian
assault on Greece came to a
stalemate in less than a
fortnight, and was followed a
week later by a Greek counter-**

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**offensive that broke through
the Italian defences before
advancing into Albania,
forcing the Italian forces to
withdraw north before grinding
to a halt in January 1941 due
to logistical issues.**

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Eventually, the Italians took advantage of this brief hiatus to reorganize and prepare a counteroffensive, the failure of which marked the end of the first stage of the Axis Balkan campaign. The first of two

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**volumes examining the Axis
campaigns in the Balkans, this
book offers a detailed
overview of the Italian and
Greek armies, their fighting
power, and the terrain in which
they fought. Complimented by**

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**rarely seen images and full
colour illustrations, it shows
how expectations of an easy
Italian victory quickly turned
into one of Mussolini's
greatest blunders.**

The dramatic, tumultuous,

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**often tragic human events that
erupted in the Balkan
Peninsula following the
collapse of communism
between 1989 and 1991 have
captured the Western world's
attention throughout the past**

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**decade. The Palgrave Concise
Historical Atlas of the Balkans
provides 50 two-color, full-
page maps, each accompanied
by a facing page of
explanatory text. These maps
illustrate key moments in**

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Balkans history in a way that is immediate and comprehensible, making it come alive. Students will regard it as a useful reference, and general readers will enjoy it for its clarity and wealth of

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information.

"A useful, important book that reminds us, at the right time, how hard [European unity] has been, and how much care must be taken to avoid the terrible old temptations." --Los

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**Angeles Times Dark Continent
provides an alternative history
of the twentieth century, one in
which the triumph of
democracy was anything but a
forgone conclusion and
fascism and communism**

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provided rival political solutions that battled and sometimes triumphed in an effort to determine the course the continent would take. Mark Mazower strips away myths that have comforted us since

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World War II, revealing Europe as an entity constantly engaged in a bloody project of self-invention. Here is a history not of inevitable victories and forward marches, but of narrow

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**squeaks and unexpected
twists, where townships boast
a bronze of Mussolini on
horseback one moment, only
to melt it down and recast it as
a pair of noble partisans the
next. Unflinching, intelligent,**

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**Dark Continent provides a
provocative vision of Europe's
past, present, and future-and
confirms Mark Mazower as a
historian of valuable gifts.
A history of the modern
Balkans studies its diverse**

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**cultures, portrays its kings,
guerrillas, bandits, generals,
and politicians, and describes
the impact of great power
interference in the region
Nations and States since 1878
A History**

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**New and Updated
Nationalism, War, and the
Great Powers, 1804-1999
The Balkans in World History
The History of Serbia**

In The Modern Balkans,
historian Richard C.

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Hall gives a complete account of the historical events that have shaped the Balkan region of Southeastern Europe. Originally separated from the rest

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of Europe by culture,
politics, and economics,
the Balkans have slowly
been integrating into
Western Europe since the
nineteenth century. But
this process of economic

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and political development, following the Western European model, has been far from smooth in the Balkans. As Hall explains, it has often been marked by

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violence and
destruction, the result
of many wars and
rebellions. Though
Soviet power imposed a
nearly fifty-year peace
in the region, the

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collapse of the Soviet Union renewed conflict that continued through the end of the twentieth century. Hall concentrates here on the significant political

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and economic events that have had the greatest impact on the role of the Balkans in Europe; in particular, he examines the development of national states in

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the nineteenth century,
the influence of the two
world wars, and the
collapse of Yugoslavia.
This clear and concise
history of the Balkan
Peninsula will appeal to

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readers and scholars
interested in European
history and the Balkans'
unique role in it.

Throughout history, the
Balkans have been a
crossroads, a zone of

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endless military,
cultural and economic
mixing and clashing
between Europe and Asia,
Christianity and Islam,
Catholicism and
Orthodoxy. Subject to

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violent shifts of
borders, rulers and
belief systems at the
hands of the world's
great empires--from the
Byzantine to the
Habsburg and

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Ottoman--the Balkans are often called Europe's tinderbox and a seething cauldron of ethnic and religious resentments. Much has been made of the Balkans' deeply

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rooted enmities. The recent destruction of the former Yugoslavia was widely ascribed to millennial hatreds frozen by the Cold War and unleashed with the

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fall of communism. In this brilliant account, acclaimed historian Mark Mazower argues that such a view is a dangerously unbalanced fantasy. A landmark reassessment,

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The Balkans rescues the region's history from the various ideological camps that have held it hostage for their own ends, not least the need to justify

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nonintervention. The heart of the book deals with events from the emergence of the nation-state onward. With searing eloquence, Mazower demonstrates

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that of all the gifts
bequeathed to the region
by modernity, the most
dubious has been the
ideological weapon of
romantic nationalism
that has been used again

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and again by the power hungry as an acid to dissolve the bonds of centuries of peaceful coexistence. The Balkans is a magnificent depiction of a vitally

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important region, its
history and its
prospects.

Throughout history, the
Balkans have been a
crossroads, a zone of
endless military,

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cultural, and economic
mixing and clashing
between Europe and Asia,
Christianity and Islam,
Catholicism and
Orthodoxy. In this
highly acclaimed short

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history, Mark Mazower
sheds light on what has
been called the
tinderbox of Europe,
whose troubles have
ignited wider wars for
hundreds of years.

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Focusing on events from the emergence of the nation-state onward, *The Balkans* reveals with piercing clarity the historical roots of current conflicts and

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gives a landmark
reassessment of the
region's history, from
the world wars and the
Cold War to the collapse
of communism, the
disintegration of

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Yugoslavia, and the
continuing search for
stability in
southeastern Europe.
At the turn of the 19th
century, the Ottoman
Empire straddled three

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continents and
encompassed
extraordinary ethnic and
cultural diversity among
the millions of people
living within its
borders. This text

**Read Book The Balkans A
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Chronicles**

provides a concise
history of the late
empire between 1789 and
1918, turbulent years
marked by incredible
social change.

A Brief History of the

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Late Ottoman Empire
The Greek Revolution
The Establishment of the
Balkan National States,
1804-1920

By A. F. Pollard. With
19 maps

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A short history of the
Great War

The Albanian Bektashi

This survey of Bulgaria traces its
history from the liberation from
the Ottoman Empire to 1985.

This highly readable and

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thoroughly researched volume offers an excellent account of the development of seven Balkan peoples during the nineteenth and the first part of the twentieth centuries. Professors Charles and Barbara Jelavich have

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brought their rich knowledge of the Albanians, Bulgarians, Croatians, Greeks, Romanians, Serbians, and Slovenes to bear on every aspect of the area's history--political, diplomatic, economic, social and cultural. It

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took more than a century after the first Balkan uprising, that of the Serbians in 1804, for the Balkan people to free themselves from Ottoman and Habsburg rule. The Serbians and the Greeks were the first to do so;

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the Albanians, the Croats, and the Slovenes the last. For each people the national revival took its own form and independence was achieved in its own way. The authors explore the contrasts and similarities among the

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peoples, within the context of the Ottoman Empire and Europe. Winner of the Wolfson History Prize, this book sheds light on what has been called the tinderbox of Europe, whose troubles have ignited wider wars

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for hundreds of years.

"If the Balkans hadn't existed, they would have been invented" was the verdict of Count Hermann Keyserling in his famous 1928 publication, Europe. Over ten years ago,

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Maria Todorova traced the relationship between the reality and the invention. Based on a rich selection of travelogues, diplomatic accounts, academic surveys, journalism, and belles-lettres in many languages,

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Imagining the Balkans explored the ontology of the Balkans from the sixteenth century to the present day, uncovering the ways in which an insidious intellectual tradition was constructed, became

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mythologized, and is still being transmitted as discourse. Maria Todorova, who was raised in the Balkans, is in a unique position to bring both scholarship and sympathy to her subject, and in a new afterword she reflects on

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recent developments in the study of the Balkans and political developments on the ground since the publication of *Imagining the Balkans*. The afterword explores the controversy over Todorova's

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coining of the term Balkanism. With this work, Todorova offers a timely, updated, accessible study of how an innocent geographic appellation was transformed into one of the most powerful and widespread pejorative

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designations in modern history.

The Balkans: Nationalism, War,
and the Great Powers, 1804-2012

The Routledge Handbook of
Balkan and Southeast European
History

A Journey Through History

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The Palgrave Concise Historical
Atlas of the Balkans

The Balkans

Kosovo

The powerful, disturbing
history of Nazi Europe
by Mark Mazower, one of

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Britain's leading
historians and
bestselling author of
Dark Continent and
Governing the World
Hitler's Empire charts
the landscape of the

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Nazi imperial
imagination - from those
economists who dreamed
of turning Europe into a
huge market for German
business, to Hitler's
own plans for new

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transcontinental
motorways passing over
the ethnically cleansed
Russian steppe, and
earnest internal SS
discussions of political
theory, dictatorship and

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the rule of law. Above all, this chilling account shows what happened as these ideas met reality. After their early battlefield triumphs, the bankruptcy

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of the Nazis' political vision for Europe became all too clear: their allies bailed out, their New Order collapsed in military failure, and they left behind a

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continent corrupted by
collaboration,
impoverished by looting
and exploitation, and
grieving the victims of
war and genocide. About
the author: Mark Mazower

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is Ira D. Wallach

Professor of World Order
Studies and Professor of
History Professor of
History at Columbia
University. He is the
author of Hitler's

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Greece: The Experience
of Occupation, 1941-44,
Dark Continent: Europe's
Twentieth Century, The
Balkans: A Short History
(which won the Wolfson
Prize for History),

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Salonica: City of Ghosts
(which won both the Duff
Cooper Prize and the
Runciman Award) and
Governing the World: The
History of an Idea. He
has also taught at

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Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Sussex University and
Princeton. He lives in
New York.

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country of Kosovo,
including its annexation
by Serbia in 1912 and
incorporation into
Yugoslavia, its
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timeless novel that will
establish her as one of
the most vibrant,
original authors of her

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generation. In a Balkan
country mending from
war, Natalia, a young
doctor, is compelled to
unravel the mysterious
circumstances
surrounding her beloved

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grandfather's recent death. Searching for clues, she turns to his worn copy of The Jungle Book and the stories he told her of his encounters over the

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years with "the
deathless man." But most
extraordinary of all is
the story her
grandfather never told
her—the legend of the
tiger's wife. NAMED ONE

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. a richly textured and
searing novel."—Michiko
Kakutani, The New York

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Times "[Obrecht] has a talent for subtle plotting that eludes most writers twice her age, and her descriptive powers suggest a kind of channeled genius. . . .

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No novel [this year] has
been more
satisfying."—The Wall
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with astonishing
immediacy and presence,
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that seems firsthand,
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the more remarkable for
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observation but of
imagination."—The New
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"That The Tiger's Wife
never slips entirely
into magical realism is
part of its magic. . . .
Its graceful commingling
of contemporary realism
and village legend seems

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even more

absorbing."—The

Washington Post

Imagining the Balkans

Europe's Twentieth

Century

1821 and the Making of

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Turkey's past, from the arrival of the Seljuks in Anatolia in the eleventh century to the modern republic applying for EU membership in the twenty-first. It is an

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account of epic
proportions, featuring
rapacious leaders such
as Genghis Khan and
Tamerlane, the glories
of Sultan Süleyman the
Magnificent, and Kemal

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Atatürk, the reforming
genius and founder of
modern Turkey. For six
hundred years Turkey was
at the heart of the
Ottoman Empire, a
superpower that brought

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Islam to the gates of
Vienna and stretched to
North Africa, the
Persian Gulf, and the
river Volga. Stone
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the astonishing rise and

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the long decline of this
world empire and how for
its last hundred years
it became the center of
the Eastern Question, as
the Great Powers argued
over a regime in its

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death throes. Then, as now, the position of Turkey—a country balanced between two continents—provoked passionate debate. Stone concludes the book with

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a trenchant examination
of the Turkish republic
created in the aftermath
of the First World War,
where East and West,
religion and secularism,
and tradition and

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modernization are
vibrant and sometimes
conflicting elements of
national identity.

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history books of the
year From one of our
leading historians, an
important new history of
the Greek War of
Independence—the
ultimate worldwide

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liberal cause célèbre of
the age of Byron,
Europe's first
nationalist uprising,
and the beginning of the
downward spiral of the
Ottoman Empire—published

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two hundred years after
its outbreak As Mark
Mazower shows us in his
enthralling and
definitive new account,
myths about the Greek
War of Independence

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outpaced the facts from
the very beginning, and
for good reason. This
was an unlikely cause,
against long odds, a
disorganized collection
of Greek patriots up

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against what was still
one of the most storied
empires in the world,
the Ottomans. The
revolutionaries needed
all the help they could
get. And they got it as

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Europeans and Americans
embraced the idea that
the heirs to ancient
Greece, the wellspring
of Western civilization,
were fighting for their
freedom against the

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proverbial Eastern
despot, the Turkish
sultan. This was
Christianity versus
Islam, now given urgency
by new ideas about the
nation-state and

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democracy that were shaking up the old order. Lord Byron is only the most famous of the combatants who went to Greece to fight and die—along with many more

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who followed events
passionately and
supported the cause
through art, music, and
humanitarian aid. To
many who did go, it was
a rude awakening to find

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that the Greeks were a
far cry from their
illustrious forebears,
and were often hard to
tell apart from the
Ottomans. Mazower does
full justice to the

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realities on the ground
as a revolutionary
conspiracy triggered
outright rebellion, and
a fraying and distracted
Ottoman leadership first
missed the plot and then

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overreacted

disastrously. He shows
how and why ethnic
cleansing commenced
almost immediately on
both sides. By the time
the dust settled, Greece

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was free, and Europe was
changed forever. It was
a victory for a
completely new kind of
politics—international
in its range and
affiliations, popular in

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its origins, romantic in sentiment, and radical in its goals. It was here on the very edge of Europe that the first successful revolution took place in which a

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people claimed liberty
for themselves and
overthrew an entire
empire to attain it,
transforming diplomatic
norms and the direction
of European politics

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forever, and
inaugurating a new world
of nation-states, the
world in which we still
live.

In the historical and
literary imagination,

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the Balkans loom large
as a somewhat
frightening and ill-
defined space, often
seen negatively as a
region of small and
spiteful peoples, racked

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by racial and ethnic
hatred, always ready to
burst into violent
conflict. The Balkans in
World History re-defines
this space in positive
terms, taking as a

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starting point the
cultural, historical,
and social threads that
allow us to see this
region as a coherent if
complex whole. Eminent
historian Andrew Wachtel

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here depicts the Balkans
as that borderland
geographical space in
which four of the
world's greatest
civilizations have
overlapped in a

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sustained and meaningful
way to produce a
complex, dynamic,
sometimes combustible,
multi-layered local
civilization. It is the
space in which the

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cultures of ancient
Greece and Rome, of
Byzantium, of Ottoman
Turkey, and of Roman
Catholic Europe met,
clashed and sometimes
combined. The history of

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the Balkans is thus a
history of creative
borrowing by local
people of the various
civilizations that have
nominally conquered the
region. Encompassing

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Bulgaria, Croatia,
Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Serbia, Montenegro,
Albania, Macedonia,
Greece, and European
Turkey, the Balkans have
absorbed many voices and

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traditions, resulting in
one of the most complex
and interesting regions
on earth.

The Balkans A Short
History Modern Library
Bosnia

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Balkan Ghosts

From Pericles to Putin

A Short History of

Europe

Making and Remaking the

Balkans

Turkey: A Short History

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